



DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Diocese of Grand Rapids' Office of Communications has issued the following statement from Bishop David J. Walkowiak in response to the Holy See's announcement that former Archbishop McCarrick has been dismissed from the clerical state.

I stand in solidarity with our Holy Father in his decision to dismiss former Archbishop Theodore McCarrick from the clerical state based on the former Archbishop's actions.

Cardinals and bishops, like priests and deacons, must be held accountable for any actions that cause harm to the most vulnerable in our communities. I encourage all individuals to report such instances to both the Church and civil authorities so that the appropriate steps toward justice and healing may be taken.

The Church must continue to seek forgiveness for its previous actions and I pray that this decision will provide a source of healing to the former Archbishop's victim-survivors. I, along with the Catholic faithful, will continue to pray for all survivors of sexual abuse and provide assistance to promote healing.

As the presidents of the world's episcopal conferences meet in Rome this week, I pray that the meeting will bear fruit to help cleanse the Catholic Church and restore the trust of the faithful.

The Diocese of Grand Rapids serves more than 191,000 Catholics, 80 parishes and 31 schools in an 11-county area of West Michigan. For additional information visit our website grdiocese.org. Connect with the diocese on [Facebook](#) (Diocese of Grand Rapids), [Twitter](#) (@GRDiocese), and Instagram ([@GRDiocese](#)).

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