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Bishop Michael Sheridan’s statement on Special Master Robert Troyer’s report on past cases of clergy sexual abuse in Colorado

COLORADO SPRINGS. Bishop Sheridan issued the following statement regarding the release of the Special Master’s report on clergy sexual abuse of children in Colorado from 1950 to 2019:

I am thankful to Attorney General Phil Weiser and to Robert Troyer and his investigative team for their thorough, honest, and forthright investigation of all of Colorado’s Catholic priest files. As difficult as this report is to read, it is an important step for the healing of abuse survivors. It is also an important reminder that we must never become complacent in defending our children and must always seek to protect the most innocent among us. Jesus admonishes us that it is better for a millstone to be placed around one’s neck and be cast into the sea, than to lead a young one astray (Luke 17:2).

One victim of the horrific crime of child sexual abuse is too many; the Diocese of Colorado Springs must own the consequences of having three. One predator priest is too many; the Diocese of Colorado Springs must recognize and repent of two. Mr. Troyer’s investigation found that the latest of these incidents occurred around 1986. With Archbishop Aquila and Bishop Berg, I commit on behalf of this Diocese to fully embrace and implement each and every recommendation made by the Special Master. Again, I commend his thoroughness and his dedication to transparency and truth. I and my staff were honored to work with Mr. Troyer in an effort to identify and exhume our past misdeeds, and we commit to making meaningful improvement to better protect every child. I have every confidence that, working in conjunction with our Office of Child and Youth Protection, these recommendations will become a reality.

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