



THE
SAINT PETER DAMIAN
SOCIETY

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ROME – The Saint Peter Damian Society applauds the recent news of the removal of Theodore McCarrick from the clerical state. The former-cardinal, deemed guilty of sexual abuse of minors and adults in canonical trials, in the eyes of the Society had no place being a leader in Christ's one, holy, Catholic, and apostolic Church.

In addition, the Society's advice in its open letter published in the University of Notre Dame student newspaper has finally been heeded. Notre Dame has officially rescinded the honorary degree it gave McCarrick in 2008, which the Society called for.

Furthermore, the Society stresses that this is still not enough, and vigorously renews its call not only for public and private penance for enabling this abuse to continue for so long, but also for cooperation with authorities and legal punishment for those guilty. With the canonical process complete, this should not be a problem. The Vatican, without delay, should help law enforcement prosecute any conspirators or enablers involved who would face legal consequences.

It is very important the Vatican uses this opportunity to remove the scourge of sexual immorality from its ranks as the bishops meet in Rome regarding this very issue. The drawn-out process, the prevention of the USCCB vote on sex abuse standards, and now the new appointment of Cardinal Kevin Farrell, who lived with McCarrick for seven years, causes the laity to feel Church leadership is not doing enough or taking the problem seriously. Still, however, the Society appreciates these important and long-delayed first steps.

QUOTABLES:

"The recent news shows the Society's mission has been vindicated. The laicization and removal of the honorary degree are what we have strongly and publicly called for and it's about time they were followed. We are delighted for these first steps." - Anthony Mazur, SPDS Media Director

More information can be found at stpeterdamiansociety.com.

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