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“This report should provide a significant contribution to the record.”

Vatican Report on Former Cardinal McCarrick: Introduction

Vatican Secretariat of State

Although dogged for years by rumors of sexual impropriety, Theodore E. McCarrick was able to rise up the Catholic hierarchical structure based on personal contacts, protestations of his innocence and the failure of church officials to report and investigate accusations, according to the Vatican summary of its report on the matter. In choosing then-Archbishop Theodore E. McCarrick of Newark in 2000 to be archbishop of Washington and later a cardinal, St. John Paul II likely overlooked rumors and allegations about McCarrick's sexual misconduct because of a long relationship with

him, McCarrick's own strong denial and the pope's experience with communist authorities in Poland making false accusations to discredit the church, the summary said. One hour before the release Nov. 10 of the 449-page "Report on the Holy See's Institutional Knowledge and Decision-Making Related to Former Cardinal Theodore Edgar McCarrick," journalists were given the report's 14-page introduction, which described the two-year investigation that led to the report's compilation and summarized its findings. In June 2018, the Vatican suspended McCarrick from ministry after an investigation by the Archdiocese of New York found credible a charge that he sexually abused a teenager. McCarrick resigned from the College of Cardinals that July, and in February 2019, after a canonical process, Pope Francis dismissed him from the priesthood. The introduction of the report follows, copyright © 2020 by the Vatican Secretariat of State.

A. Scope and Nature of the Report Related to Former Cardinal Theodore Edgar McCarrick

On Oct. 6, 2018, the Holy Father ordered a thorough study of the documentation present in the archives of the dicasteries and offices of the Holy See regarding McCarrick in order to ascertain all the relevant facts, to place them in their historical context and to evaluate them objectively.

The examination of documents was undertaken in compliance with the instruction *continued on page 438*

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