



**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Lay Faithful of the Diocese of Monterey

**FROM:** Most Reverend Daniel E. Garcia  
Bishop of Monterey

**SUBJECT:** Reverend Cornelius (Scott) McCarthy

**DATE:** September 16, 2021

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Bishop Richard Garcia of Monterey, in 2008, conducted a formal canonical investigation into an accusation claiming that Reverend Cornelius (Scott) McCarthy sexually abused a minor, some thirty years before. The investigation ended with the judgment that the accusation was not credible. Father McCarthy continued in priestly ministry for the next ten years. Without any new information, on December 12, 2018, the Apostolic Administrator, of the vacant Diocese of Monterey, issued two decrees to Father McCarthy, and took away his faculties and removed him from ministry. The Administrator informed Father McCarthy that his name would be published in a list to be publicly released on January 2, 2019, of Priests Credibly Accused of Sexually Abusing a Minor.

Father McCarthy appealed this decision to the Vatican. After carefully studying the materials requested and submitted to the Vatican, the Vatican issued a final decision on June 25, 2021, stating, “Fr. McCarthy’s name on a list of clerics credibly accused of abusing a minor is demonstrably false and his removal from ministry is declared invalid, and his name is to be removed from the list of Priests Credibly Accused of Sexually Abusing a Minor.”

The Diocese of Monterey is genuinely sorry for the damage done to Father McCarthy and his personal and priestly reputation by its error in falsely identifying him as “credibly accused of sexually abusing a minor.” The diocese acknowledges that Father Cornelius (Scott) McCarthy remains a priest in good standing with all the rights, privileges, and faculties of the Diocese of Monterey, with no restrictions on the exercise of his priestly ministry.