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## **CATHOLIC CHURCH INVESTIGATES ALLEGATIONS**

Wednesday, May 18, 2022

The Catholic Church acknowledges a report dated December 14, 2021 entitled: ‘Safeguarding children in community residences and child support centres in Trinidad and Tobago’, produced by an independent team appointed by the Cabinet of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to investigate reports of child abuse at Children’s Homes.

We sincerely thank the team for their work in producing this report.

Every child is a gift from God and deserves love and protection from all forms of abuse. These allegations grieve our hearts, and we shall do everything we can to bring healing and justice.

The Church takes seriously any and all allegations of this nature, and in this regard has immediately launched an investigation to now verify the truth of the allegations. We note the statement on page 10 of the report that, “This report aims not to establish the truth of the allegations of abuse, but to acknowledge the allegations, examine the system that facilitates a failure to safeguard children in these spaces and provide recommendations for improvements.”

The Church’s investigative team will include independent and qualified experts in the fields of psychology, childcare/social work, law, and human resource management.

The mandate of the Church is to preach and live the gospel, with concern for the total wellbeing of all persons, especially children, and we give the assurance that every step will be taken to determine the facts and act appropriately in accordance with our public duty. The investigation will also provide recommendations for improvements for the future.

Gratitude is again extended to the Cabinet-appointed team for their investigative work.

**Reverend Charles Jason Gordon**

Archdiocese of Port of Spain

**END**