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for immediate release

Diocese of Springfield issues statement on Seeds of Hope

SPRINGFIELD- A diocesan team, charged last November with looking into a Springfield based prayer group known as the Seeds of Hope, has completed its review. Based on the findings of the diocesan team Springfield Bishop Timothy A. McDonnell has informed Mr. Neil Harrington, Jr. the leader of this group, of the following measures;

- *The authenticity of the “messages, stories and devotions” purportedly made by Our Lady and St. Francis “via Neil Harrington, Jr.” has not been proven. Therefore, the content of those “messages, stories and devotions” is not to be disseminated by word, writing or any other means to any person.*
- *The publications of “Seeds of Hope” are not approved for use in any way, shape or form publicly or privately in the parishes, institutions and among the people of the Diocese of Springfield and no solicitation on behalf of “Seeds of Hope” is to be made within this diocese.*

Bishop McDonnell also informed Mr. Harrington that the Diocese of Springfield, in fulfilling its obligation to the faithful, would provide public notification of these actions. He concluded by reminding Mr. Harrington of his very own pledge to abide by the Bishop’s final decision and his expectation that Mr. Harrington will respect and follow this decision.

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