

CONGREGATION FOR THE DOCTRINE OF THE FAITH

Prot. N. 281/2005-12-12

Armidale, AUSTRALIA

The Reverend John J Farrell, priest of this diocese humbly petitions a dispensation
from all obligations connected to Sacred Ordination

**Pope Benedict XVI, Summus Pontifex
on 18th day of November 2005**

having heard the matter from Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith
assented to the petition of the aforementioned priest,
bearing in mind the following reasons:

1. The Rescript of Dispensation is to be notified to the petitioner by the competent Ordinary as soon as possible:
 - (a) The dispensation has effect from the moment of notification.
 - (b) The Rescript embraces inseparately dispensation from sacred celibacy and at the same time loss of the clerical state. It is never lawful for the petitioner to separate the two elements or to accept the first and refuse the second.
 - (c) If the petitioner is a religious the Rescript grants also a dispensation from vows.
 - (d) It also grants, over and above, as far as necessary, absolution from censures.
2. The Notification of the dispensation can be made, either by the Ordinary himself, or by his delegate, or by the Church notary, or by registered mail. The Ordinary is to return one copy, duly signed by the petitioner testifying to the receipt of the Rescript of dispensation, and also of the acceptance of the very conditions.
3. Notice of granting dispensation is to be noted in the Baptismal Register of the parish of the petitioner.
4. What pertains, if applicable, to the celebration of a canonical marriage, the norms of the Code of Canon law are to apply. Indeed, let the Ordinary take care that things are done with caution and without pomp and display.
5. Let the ecclesiastical authority to whom it pertains to notify the petitioner earnestly exhort him that he take part in the life of the People of God in a way fitting his new situation, give edification and show himself as an upright son of the Church. At the same time let him know the following:
 - (a) The dispensed priest loses the rights proper to the clerical state, dignities and ecclesiastical offices; he is no longer bound by the other obligations of clerical state.

- (b) He remains excluded from the exercise of sacred ministry with the exception of those mentioned in Canons 976 and 986 §2 of the Code of Canon Law; he is not able to give the homily nor can he carry out any directive office in the pastoral sphere nor any pastoral administrative function.
 - (c) He cannot fulfil any undertaking in Seminaries or equivalent Institutes. In other institutes of higher studies in any way dependent on ecclesiastical Authority he is not to carry out any directive work.
 - (d) In other institutes of higher studies whether dependent on ecclesiastical authority or not he cannot give any discipline strictly theological.
 - (e) In institutes of study at lower level dependent on ecclesiastical authority, he may not carry out any directive work or have an office of teaching. A dispensed priest or dismissed priest is bound by same law from in giving Religion in institutes of this kind that do not depend on ecclesiastical authority.
6. Let the Ordinary, in his prudent judgement, take care that the dispensed priest, because of the departure from priesthood, does not give scandal to the faithful. This pastoral solitude is gravely urged upon the Ordinary, if there is present a danger however remote of mistreatment towards minors.
7. At a suitable time, the competent Ordinary should briefly inform the Congregation that notification has been made, and if there has been any *admiratio* of the faithful provide a prudent explanation.

All things to the contrary notwithstanding.

From the Offices of the Congregation, 18 November 2005.

+ William J Levada
Prefect
+ Angelus Amato SDB
Secretary