

DIOCESE OF WOLLONGONG

DIOCESAN CURIA

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PWI:mh/815005

27 January 2009

Mr J G Nestor

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL
REDACTED


Dear John

As you are aware, over the past weeks I have made several attempts to arrange for Fr Bryan Jones VG and myself to meet with you but these have been unsuccessful. I encouraged you to have another priest or support person with you when we met, however, you replied that you would attend the meeting alone.

It was my desire and intention to communicate to you in person that His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI, has dismissed you from the clerical state. When you were unable to keep the appointment to meet with Fr Bryan Jones and myself last Saturday morning, 24 January 2009, you asked me on the telephone what the meeting was about. The manner in which you phrased your question, asking what the "bottom line" was, left me no option but to inform you of the Holy Father's Decree on the telephone. At the end of our conversation you made clear that you did not wish to meet with me.

With this letter I enclose a copy of the Holy Father's Decree together with an unofficial English translation. You will note that you are required to sign the Decree. I would be grateful if you could do this and return the signed copy to me in the enclosed envelope. I shall then make a copy of it to forward to the Apostolic See and shall return the original Decree to you.

Consequent upon the Decree, all your entitlements as a member of the clergy will cease. Although ordination does not create a contract of service or for services, I would like to offer you some assistance in charity to support you during the period of transition to lay life. On that understanding, I offer the following:

1. Payment equal to clergy stipend in Diocese to 31 December 2009
 @ \$900 per month: **\$9,900.00**
2. Payment equal to clergy food allowance in Diocese to 31 December 2009
 @ \$500 per month: **\$5,500.00**
3. Loan repayment in lieu of rent assistance to 31 December 2009
 @ \$866.67 per month: **\$9,533.37**

A cheque for \$24,933.37 representing these amounts is enclosed. The responsibility to meet any tax obligations on this amount resides with you.

The Diocese will continue to meet the cost of your medical insurance with *Medibank Private* up to and including the 31 December 2009. It will be your responsibility to meet any gap payment (the difference between actual amount charged by a provider and the amount returned through medical insurance) throughout this period.

Under the Federal Government rules governing the Diocese of Wollongong Catholic Development Fund [CDF], the CDF credit card and cheque book issued for your use are to be returned to the CDF office by the close of business on Friday, 30 January 2009, at the latest.

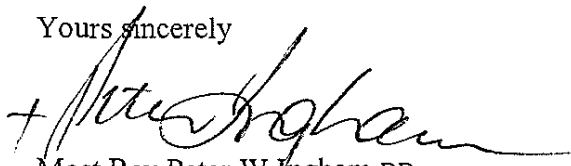
The Curia Office will advise the NSW Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages of your change of status and ask that your name be deleted from the Register of celebrants approved to celebrate marriage according to the rites of the Catholic Church.

It is not my intention to make any public statement in relation to your change of status, John. On your side, it is important that you do not place yourself in any situation that could result in your conduct being interpreted as intimidation. As you are aware, throughout the process the Diocese has sought to make certain that there was no intimidation of any person involved, thus preserving your dignity and that of others.

I recognise that the present situation is not easy for you. I urge you again to contact Fr David O'Brien if there is any pastoral support the Diocese is able to offer over the coming months. Should Fr O'Brien be unavailable, Fr Patrick Faherty is willing to assist you.

I assure you of a continued remembrance in my prayer.

Yours sincerely



Most Rev Peter W Ingham DD
BISHOP OF WOLLONGONG

Enclosed: Copy of Decree
 Unofficial English translation
 Cheque for \$24,933.37
 Stamped addressed envelope for return of Decree