



DIOCESE OF WOLLONGONG

DIOCESAN CURIA

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26 February 2009

His Eminence
 Cardinal William J Levada
 Prefect
 Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith
 Piazza del S Ufficio-II,
 00120 CITTA DEL VATICANO

Your Eminence

Re: John Gerard Nestor, formerly a priest of the Diocese of Wollongong

Accompanying this letter is a copy of the signed documentation relating to John Gerard Nestor, formerly a priest of the Diocese of Wollongong.

I had invited John to meet with me and Fr Bryan Jones, my Vicar General, so that I could speak with him about the Holy Father's decision. I encouraged John to bring a support person to the meeting, however John made it clear that he would come alone.

My efforts to meet with John were unsuccessful. When a date was finally set John telephoned me after the meeting was scheduled to commence to say that he could not attend. He asked me to tell him the principal reason for the meeting and I told him that he had been dismissed from the clerical state. Our conversation was brief so I telephoned John again and went through the main points in the Decree. Fr Bryan Jones was with me. Understandably, John did not receive the Decree well.

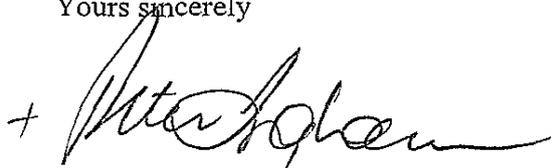
Subsequently, I sent John by registered mail the Decree, an unofficial translation of the Decree, a letter and a cheque to assist him in the period of transition to the lay state. I have been notified by the post office that the letter was collected and signed for by John. The cheque has also been banked but John has not signed the Decree. He is fully aware that his failure to sign the Decree does not affect the force of the Decree.

While I have notified the members of the clergy of John's status, I have not made any public announcement. I have heard no adverse comments or reaction. Please God, it will remain that way.

I thank you sincerely for your assistance with this difficult and sensitive matter.

With sentiments of esteem

Yours sincerely

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Most Rev Peter W Ingham DD
BISHOP OF WOLLONGONG

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