

Lorraine Tobin

From: Biguzzi [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 17 July 2003 12:13 AM
To: bishop@chancery.woll.catholic.org.au
Subject: Fr. John Nestor

My Lord Bishop Hingham,

Greetings from Sierra Leone, West Africa.

I am a missionary bishop in Sierra Leone. Sometime ago a Xaverian missionary from America recommended to me Fr. John Nestor.

Fr. Nestor, in turn, sent to me a long letter with several documents relating to his troubled history and judicial cases. He expressed his desire to work in the diocese of Makeni, Sierra Leone.

I am Italian by birth, but I worked for several years in America and I am fairly familiar with the American scene. Although I do not know Australia, I can easily imagine the impact of such cases on the victims and on the church.

The Congregation of the Clergy, however, in view of the fact that Fr. Nestor was declared innocent in the civil court and that the other charges were not substantiated, requested that Fr. Nestor be reinstated in his own diocese. The Apostolic Signature, to which you had recourse, granted a temporary suspension of the Clergy's decree.

It is not my intention, nor my business, to enter into the merit of the case and of the ongoing discussion. What I wish to submit to you is the following: Sierra Leone is a totally different environment and culture from what obtains in the Western World. In view of the fact that Fr. Nestor has been declared innocent in a civil court and that he still enjoys his faculties, I would be open to receive him in the diocese. Of course I would NOT want to expose our minors to the slightest danger of exploitation. However, if Father is not guilty and if it is only a question of a cultural environment and of possible harm to the church (barring, I repeat, harm to minors), I would consider giving Fr. Nestor a chance to exercise his ministry in our diocese.

Kindly let me know your opinion and any other information relevant to the case.

I thank you cordially for your attention and wish you God's blessings.

Sincerely yours,

+George Biguzzi
 Bishop of Makeni

Diocese of Wellengong		
17 JUL 2003		
Bishop	Chancellor	DFA
Refer		
File	Reply	

17/07/03