



CONGREGATIO  
PRO DOCTRINA FIDEI

RECEIVED  
14 NOV 2011

BY: .....

00120 Città del Vaticano,  
Palazzo del S. Uffizio

15 October 2011

PROT. N. 312/2005 - 36693  
(In responsione fiat mentio huius numeri)

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Your Grace,

I would like to thank Your Grace and the Bishops of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference for your visit to our Dicastery on 10 October 2011, and for your kind words about the assistance provided by this Congregation to the Bishops of Australia.

In light of the concerns and inquiries expressed by numerous Bishops regarding the cases of sexual abuse of minors in Australia and in order to further assist the Bishops in their task to promote *a safer and more wholesome environment, especially for young people*, (Address of the Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI, St. Mary's Cathedral in Sydney, 19 July 2008), the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith would be pleased to receive from the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference a report regarding:

a/ All publicly known cases of sexual abuse of minors involving clerics who have already been prosecuted for their crimes, and all cases of clerics credibly accused of sexual abuse of minors. (Both diocesan and religious clerics);

b/ The canonical status of every cleric criminally and/or civilly prosecuted for the crimes of sexual abuse of minors in Australia, and also of those clerics who have been credibly accused of sexual abuse of minors.

./..

---

His Grace  
Most Rev. **Philip E. WILSON**  
*Archbishop of Adelaide*  
& *President of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference*  
Catholic Diocesan Centre  
G.P.O. Box 1364  
Adelaide, SA 5001  
AUSTRALIA

Furthermore, in the spirit of can. 1316 *CIC* which calls for uniform penal laws in the same region, this Dicastery would be very grateful if the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference could make a proposal regarding the application of the canonical penalties, particularly *ex officio* dismissals in cases deriving from Australia.

With gratitude for your assistance in this sensitive matter and prayerful best wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William Cardinal Levada". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

William Cardinal LEVADA  
*Prefect*