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6th December, 1994

Most Reverend Crescenzo Sepe  
Secretary  
Congregazione per il Clero  
VATICAN CITY STATE  
EUROPE

Your Excellency,

Thank you for your letter of 28th October, 1994 (N. 94003556), concerning Michael Charles Glennon, a priest of this Archdiocese of Melbourne.

There is abundant evidence of Michael Glennon (a) baptising into the Christian Church; (b) administering the sacrament of confirmation to adult converts; (c) celebrating Mass publicly; (d) hearing sacramental confessions; despite the fact that all his priestly faculties have been removed by me, including his permission to celebrate Mass even privately.

I certainly consider him irregular as regards the exercise of priestly orders. In the highly unlikely event that he would approach me after a release from prison for a restoration of priestly faculties, and in the equally unlikely event that I was advised at that time that his paedophilic condition had been cured and that he was no longer a risk to young people, I would consider myself incapable of dispensing him from the irregularity incurred. Instead, I would direct him to seek from the Holy See a dispensation from his irregular status because of the prescriptions of Canon 1047, §2, 1°.

Michael Glennon believes and states openly that he was ordained a priest forever according to the order of Melchisedech, and that no one is able to remove his priesthood. However he fails to appreciate that his ministerial priesthood should be exercised only in union with the diocesan bishop of the particular church into which he is incardinated, that is myself. Therefore, in so far as he has many times presented himself as a Christian priest, rather than a Catholic priest, and has administered the sacraments, celebrated Mass publicly, and preached, lacking all priestly faculties, and considered himself as an agent quite independent of me, I believe that he is certainly in schism.

Archbishop of Melbourne: Glennon

6 December 1994

Recently, I have been named a defendant in a number of cases before the civil Courts in which several of Michael Glennon's victims are seeking large sums of money as compensation for the damage that he has done to them. The fact that he is still a priest incardinated in the Archdiocese of Melbourne is very difficult for me to explain to the enemies of the Church, and to the general public.

I am very grateful for the consideration that you are giving to my letter of 27th September, 1994, and I look forward to receiving a response from you concerning the matters I raised in that letter, as soon as possible.

With cordial greetings and every best wish, I remain,

Yours sincerely in Christ,



ARCHBISHOP OF MELBOURNE