



James Goold House  
PO Box 146  
East Melbourne Vic 8002  
Australia

30th August, 2012.

**FAXED**

His Excellency,  
Most Reverend Luis F. Ladaria, S.J.,  
Secretary,  
Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith,  
00120 **Vatican City State,**  
**EUROPE.**

FAX: 0011 3906 6988 4532

Your Excellency,

Re: Reverend Wilfred Baker, Priest of the Archdiocese of Melbourne

In Re: Graviora delicta

In December 2010 my delegate, Father John Salvano, sent through the Apostolic Nunciature, the Acts of the preliminary investigation for Father Wilfred Baker, to which was appended my Votum dated 7th ~~September~~ <sup>December</sup> 2010.

I advise that Father Baker has been convicted in the civil court of 18 counts of indecent assault on a minor and one count of gross indecency with a male. He had been sentenced to four years gaol and is currently residing at a residential treatment centre for alcoholic men run by the Church.

In my request to the Congregation to consider the matter I asked that for the good name of the Church he be dispensed from all of the obligations of priesthood.

Currently in the State of Victoria there is a Parliamentary Inquiry into the procedures used by churches and non-government organisations to deal with clergy and church personnel accused of sexual abuse of minors.



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As the Church is making submissions to the Inquiry it would indeed be helpful and assist the good name of the Church if we were able to give a clear indication of the decision of the Holy See re the offences perpetrated by Father Baker.

I would expect that submissions will need to be in the hands of the Inquiry by 14th September 2012.

If it is possible to offer us any clarification concerning the situation I would be most grateful indeed. I do, however, understand the huge burden of work which the Congregation has and I understand if this is not possible.

Should it be desired appropriate to contact me by facsimile I can be contacted on – 61 3 9926 5613.

With renewed thanks for your constant help and all good wishes,

Yours sincerely in Christ,

+ *Luis F. Ladaria*

ARCHBISHOP OF MELBOURNE.