CONGREGATIO
PRO DOCTRINA FIDEI

00120 Città del Vaticano, 28 September 2012
Palazzo del S. Uffizio

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CONGREGATIO PRO DOCTRINA FIDEI · TRIB. ·

PROT. N. 709/ 2010 - 40253

CONFIDENTIAL

Your Excellency,

The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith received your correspondence, dated 30 August 2012, regarding the case of the **Rev. Wilfred BAKER**, a priest of the Archdiocese of Melbourne convicted in the civil court of numerous counts of indecent assault on a minor and one count of gross indecency with a male.

This Dicastery, after a careful and attentive study of the facts presented, and in light of your *votum*, decided to support your request that the above mentioned priest be dismissed from the clerical state. On 24 September 2012, the Holy Father decreed that the Rev. Baker is dismissed *ex officio et pro bono Ecclesiae* from the clerical state, and is, moreover, released from all obligations of the Sacred Priesthood, including that of celibacy. Any censures, under which he may be labouring, are remitted by this Decree.

Your Excellency should notify the Ordinary of the Diocese where Wilfred Baker's baptism took place of this grave decision. As specified in paragraph 3 of the Decree, the fact that he was dismissed from all the obligations connected with sacred ordination and lost the clerical state should be inscribed in his baptismal record. Furthermore, the civil authorities in Australia should be promptly notified about his canonical status.

./..

(Enclosures)

His Excellency
Most Rev. **Denis J. HART**
Archbishop of Melbourne
P.O. Box 146
East Melbourne, Vic. 3002
AUSTRALIA

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

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ [signature]

✠ Luis F. LADARIA, S.J.
Titular Archbishop of Thibica
Secretary

CONGREGATIO - PRO DOCTRINA FIDEI - TRIB.

CONGREGATIO PRO DOCTRINA FIDEI

(Dimissio e statu clericali ac dispensatio ab oneribus)

Prot. N. 709/2010 COPIA

Melburnensis
(Melbourne, AUSTRALIA)

D.nus Wilfred BAKER

Die 24 m. Septembris a. 2012

Summus Pontifex Benedictus, Papa XVI

audita relatione Exc.mi et Rev.mi Praefecti huius Congregationis circa gravem agendi rationem supradicti presbyteri arcidioecesis Melburnensis (v.d. Melbourne, Australia), qui delicta contra sextum praeceptum Decalogi cum minoribus patravit, praemissis praemittendis, suprema atque inappellabili decisione nullique recursui obnoxia,

decrevit

pro bono Ecclesiae dimissionem e statu clericali dicto presbytero irrogandam esse.

Eidem presbytero etiam dispensationem concedit ab omnibus oneribus sacrae Ordinationi conexis iuxta sequentes rationes.

1. Dimissio ac dispensatio vim habent ab ipso momento decisionis Romani Pontificis.

2. Dimissionis ac dispensationis Decretum presbytero a competenti Ordinario loci notificetur, cui numquam fas est duo illa elementa seiungere. Idemque insuper secumfert absolutionem a censuris, quatenus opus sit.

3. Notitia dimissionis ac dispensationis adnotetur in Libris baptizatorum paroeciae praedicti presbyteri.

4. Quod attinet si casus ferat, ad celebrationem canonici matrimonii, applicandae sunt normae quae in Codice Iuris Canonici statuuntur. Ordinarius vero curet ut res caute peragantur sine exteriore apparatu.

5. Auctoritas ecclesiastica, cui spectat Decretum praefato sacerdoti notificare, hunc enixe hortetur, ut vitam Populi Dei, ratione congruendi cum nova eius vivendi condicione, participet, aedificationem praestet et ita probum Ecclesiae filium se exhibeat. Simul autem eidem notum faciat ea quae sequuntur:

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a) presbyter dimissus eo ipso amittit iura statui clericali propria, dignitates et officia ecclesiastica; ceteris obligationibus cum statu clericali conexis non amplius adstringitur;
b) exclusus manet ab exercitio sacri ministerii, iis exceptis de quibus in can. 976 et 986 § 2 CIC ac propterea nequit homiliam habere, nec potest officium gerere directivum in ambitu pastorali neve munere administratoris paroecialis fungi;
c) item nullum munus absolvere potest in Seminariis et in Institutis aequiparatis. In aliis Institutis studiorum gradus superioris, quae quocumque modo dependent ab Auctoritate ecclesiastica, munere directivo vel officio docendi fungi nequit;
d) in aliis vero Institutis studiorum gradus superioris ab Auctoritate ecclesiastica non dependentibus nullam theologicam disciplinam tradere potest;
e) in Institutis autem studiorum gradus inferioris dependentibus ab Auctoritate ecclesiastica, munere directivo vel officio docendi fungi nequit. Eadem lege tenetur presbyter dimissus in tradenda Religione in Institutis eiusdem generis non dependentibus ab Auctoritate ecclesiastica.

6. Ordinarius curet, quantum fieri potest, ne nova condicio presbyteri dimissi fidelibus scandalum praebeat. Attamen, si adest periculum minoribus abutendi, Ordinarius potest factum dimissionis necnon causam canonicam divulgare.

7. Notificatio dimissionis et dispensationis fieri potest vel personaliter per notarium aut ecclesiasticum actuarium vel per «epistulas perscriptas» (*registered*). Sacerdos dimissus unum exemplar restituere debet rite subsignatum ad fidem receptionis et acceptionis eiusdem dimissionis ac dispensationis ac simul etiam praeceptorum, quod si non faciat integer manet effectus huius Decreti.

8. Tempore autem opportuno, Ordinarius competens breviter ad Congregationem de peracta notificatione referat, et si qua tandem fidelium admiratio adsit, prudenti explicatione provideat.

Contrariis quibuscumque minime obstantibus.

Ex Aedibus Congregationis, Die 24 m. Septembris a. 2012

+ Gerhard L. Müller

✠ Gerardus Ludovicus Müller
Archiep. – Episcopus em. Ratisbonensis
Praefectus

+ [signature]

✠ Aloisius Franciscus LADARIA, S.I.
Archiep. titularis Thibicen.
a Secretis

Dies notificationis 12/10/2012

Alfred J Baker — Subsignatio Presbyteri in signum acceptionis

[signature] — Subsignatio Ordinarii