



CONGREGATIO  
PRO DOCTRINA FIDEI

00120 Città del Vaticano, 17 December 2010  
Palazzo del S. Uffizio

294/2010 - 34067  
PROT. N. ....  
(In responsione fiat mentio huius numeri)

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Your Excellency,

The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith received your correspondence regarding the case of the **Rev. Paul PAVLOU**, a priest incardinated in the Archdiocese of Melbourne, who has admitted to the sexual abuse of a minor and the possession of child pornography.

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. In an audience granted on 10 December 2010, the Holy Father decreed that the Rev. Pavlou 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.

In light of the fact that Mr. Pavlou has been absent from his Archdiocese of incardination for many years, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference should be promptly notified about his canonical status.

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(Enclosures)

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His Excellency  
**Most Reverend Denis J. HART**  
*Bishop of Melbourne*  
James Goold House  
P.O. Box 146  
228 Victoria Parade  
East Melbourne, Vic. 3002  
AUSTRALIA

Furthermore, Your Excellency should notify the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia. 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.

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

Sincerely yours in Christ,

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