



CONGREGATIO
PRO CLERICIS

Vatican City, 1 February 2000.

Prot. N. 20000113

His Eminence **EDWARD BEDE CARDINAL CLANCY**
President of the Episcopal Conference
G.P.O Box 368
Canberra, A.C.T. 2601
Australia

Your Eminence,

As you are aware, subsequent to our letter, Prot. N. 99000838 of 25 May 1999, the Secretariat of State, at the request of several anglophone Conferences of Bishops, decided to hold a meeting on the theme of Clerical Sexual Abuse. As indicated in the aforementioned letter, this Dicastery was charged with the coordination of a strictly reserved meeting on the subject.

At this point in time, having heard all interested parties, it appears that the most convenient time for such a meeting would be between the 4th. and the 7th. of April, 2000. It is envisioned that the meetings would run daily from 9 a.m. until 12 noon and then from 4.30 p.m. until 7.30 p.m.. The meetings will take place in the Domus Sanctae Marthae in the Vatican.

In light of the strictly reserved nature of the meeting, we are happy to invite two Bishop representatives of each Conference – the President of the Conference, (or a Bishop delegated by him), and either the Bishop in charge of the issue of Clerical Sexual Abuse on the Conference level, or the Bishop entrusted with the Clergy, on the same level.

Each Conference is requested to present a 25 minute synthesis and “status quaestionis”, encompassing the last five years containing, among other things, the statistics of the same time period under the following headings:

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| Civil activity: | the number of accusations and the number found innocent or dismissed as well as the number of those convicted by sentence and incarcerated; |
| Canonical activity: | the number of cases dealt with by the processes of canon law and the breakdown of the numbers of those handled administratively and judicially and the outcome/sentence imposed by canonical process, |

Proportionality: the proportion between the total numbers of clergy, (both diocesan and religious), and the numbers of those actually convicted, (as distinct from unproven allegations), of sexual abuse, and,

Additions: any other material deemed relevant to the discussion by the Conference of Bishops.

During the meeting, there will be ample opportunity for discussion of the issues involved in this delicate matter with the purpose in view of providing concrete suggestions to the Holy Father for his ultimate disposition.

Please let us know as soon as possible, the names and positions of those who will be participating from your Conference of Bishops.

I take this opportunity to renew my sentiments of esteem and with every best wish, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

David Card. Castrillon H

+ *John Vengal*
Sec.

