



CONGREGATIO  
PRO CLERICIS

Vatican City, 25 May, 1999

**FAXED** 801.13004.0024  
5-6-99  
TO C. CLANCY  
BP ROBINSON

Prot. N. 99000838

Your Eminence,

The Secretariat of State has transmitted your letter to this Congregation requesting a formal meeting of your Conference of Bishops with the Holy See regarding cases of sexual abuse by clerics. A similar request has been forwarded by other Conferences of Bishops of the English-speaking world.

This idea concurs with plans which have been developing over a period of time in this Dicastery. The matter has now been entrusted for action to the Congregation for the Clergy by the Eminent Cardinal Secretary of State, and we will be proceeding in the following fashion.

As Your Eminence is well-aware, the Congregation for the Clergy has already gathered ample documentary material dealing with the subject by collecting the policies used in various ecclesiastical jurisdictions. The Congregation is presently at the latter stages of a study of this material, which in turn will lead to the involvement of other interested Dicasteries at the Holy See.

Following that consultation, it is hoped to have a meeting with representatives of the Conferences of Bishops in March or April of next year. Aware of the many obligations on your calendar for the Holy Year, I would be most grateful to Your Eminence if you would be so kind as to submit several options of four or five days duration during March or April which would best suit your schedule for such a meeting.

I am certain that with prayer and the effort to work in fruitful collaboration, we can come to a concrete proposal to submit to the Holy Father, which will assure the good of the Christian community, heavily burdened with this painful phenomenon, as well as the sanctification of priests and the efficacy of their pastoral ministry. With this confidence then, I take this opportunity to renew my sentiments of profound esteem as I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

His Eminence **Edward Bede Cardinal Clancy**  
President of the Episcopal Conference  
G.P.O Box 368  
A.C.T. 2601  
**Canberra**  
**AUSTRALIA**

*David Card. Castrillon H*

+ *John Kennedy*  
*Secr.*