

C + R 8/8/1



CONGREGATIO
PRO CLERICIS

Vatican City, 18 March 2000

Prot. N. 20000493

His Eminence
Cardinal **Edward Bede CLANCY**
President of the Australian Catholic
Bishops' Conference
Canberra, A.C.T. 2601
G.P.O. Box 368
AUSTRALIA

Your Eminence,

I am writing you in reference to the next meeting planned for the exclusive participation of representatives of Anglophone Episcopal Conferences with some Dicasteries of the Roman Curia from the 4th to the 7th of April this year at the *Domus Sanctae Marthae* in the Vatican.

The purpose of the meeting, in agreement with the Eminent Cardinal Secretary of State, will be the following: a) **evaluate the complex situation**, just as the Episcopal Conferences and the Dicasteries of the Roman Curia directly involved see it;
b) **exchange various points of view and experiences**, in an open and frank manner;
c) **elaborate various proposals of concrete action**, which subsequently will be presented to the consideration of the Supreme Pontiff, in view of his eventual decision.

Therefore, the body will function on an advisory level rather than on an executive one. It should present practical suggestions to the Church's Legislator regarding how to confront the problem while considering the well being of the individuals - clerics and their victims - and the common good. The Holy Father's task, one exclusively reserved to him, will be to decide on how to handle such this question burdened with pastoral consequences for the entire Church.

I take this opportunity to renew my sentiments of esteem and look forward to having a fruitful personal encounter with you,

rely yours in Christ,

PROGRAM
MEETING OF ANGLOPHONE EPISCOPAL CONFERENCES
ON CASES OF CLERICAL SEXUAL ABUSE

Dicasteries to attend: Secretary of State, Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, for Bishops, for the Clergy, for the Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, for the Evangelization of Peoples, for Catholic Education; Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signature, Pontifical Council for the Interpretation of Legislative Texts.

Episcopal Conferences invited: Antilles, Australia, Canada, England and Wales, New Zealand, Scotland, South Africa, United States of America.

Tuesday, April 4th

First day: listening to the local situations

- 9:00 -Recitation of the Midmorning Prayer and opening address given by the Eminent Prefect of the Congregation for the Clergy;
- 10:00 -Addresses delivered by the individual Episcopal Conferences (the approximate duration of each talk should be 30 minutes)
- 11:00 -Break (refreshments will be served)
- 11:15 -Continuation of the individual addresses
- 12:30 -Angelus - end of the morning session
- 16:30 -Opening Prayer - continuation of the individual addresses
- 19:30 -Conclusion of the first day's afternoon session

Wednesday, April 5th

Second day: reflection and study

- 9:00 -Recitation of the Midmorning Prayer
- 9:15 -First Reflection: Moral aspects of the problem
- 10:00 -Second Reflection: Psychological aspects of the problem
- 10:45 -Break (refreshments will be served)
- 11:00 -Discussion with the two moderators
- 12:30 -Angelus - end of the morning session
- 16:00 -Opening Prayer
- 16:05 -Third Reflection: Canonical aspects of the problem
- 16:45 -Fourth Reflection: Pastoral aspects of the problem
- 17:30 -Break (refreshments will be served)
- 17:45 -Discussion with the two moderators
- 19:30 -Conclusion of the second day's afternoon session

Thursday, April 6th*Third day: listening to the Dicasteries*

- 9:00 -Recitation of the Midmorning Prayer
- 9:15 -Addresses given by the Representatives of the individual Dicasteries (the approximate duration of each talk should be 20 minutes)
- 11:00 -Break (refreshments will be served)
- 11:15 -Continuation of the talks
- 12:30 -Angelus - Conclusion of the morning session
- 16:30 - Opening Prayer - continuation of the talk given by the individual Dicasteries
- 17:30 -Break (refreshments will be served)
- 17:45 -Open Discussion
- 19:30 -Conclusion of the third day's afternoon session

Friday, April 7th*Fourth day: elaborating concrete proposals of action*

- 9.00 -Recitation of the Midmorning Prayer
- 9.15 - Work in groups begin (approximately 4 groups will be formed according to geographic proximity, with the goal of elaborating various concrete proposals on the manner of confronting the problem)
- 11:00 -Break (refreshments will be served)
- 11:15 -Continuation of the work groups
- 12:30 -Angelus - conclusion of the morning session
- 16:30 -Opening Prayer - Presentation of the reports from each group
- 17:30 -Break (refreshments will be served)
- 17:45 -Final address given by the Prefect of the Congregation for the Clergy
- 19:30 -Conclusion of the final session of the last day