

office of the Bishop - p. o. BOX 610 - CROOKSTON, MINNESOTA 56716

Tel: (218) 281-4533

Fax: (218) 281-3328

19 October 2005

Most Rev. Malayappan Chinnappa
Archbishop of Madras-Mylapore
Archbishop's House
41 San Thome High Road
Chennai 600 004 T.N.
India

Your Excellency,

I am writing to you as the Metropolitan of the Diocese of Ooctacamund, to request your assistance in a matter involving a priest of that diocese, Fr. Joseph Jeyapaul. For the past several weeks I have been trying to communicate with the Diocesan Administrator of Ooctacamund, but as yet have not received any response. Given the seriousness of the issues which I wish to discuss with him, I request your assistance in facilitating the necessary conversations.

Until recently, Fr. Jeyapaul was serving as an extern priest in my diocese of Crookston, Minnesota. During his time here he developed an unusual friendship with a young girl from a neighboring town, and that friendship has led to allegations that he committed acts of sexual misconduct towards her. According to both canon law and civil law the girl is a minor, and the alleged misconduct can be categorized as sexual abuse. Thus as is required by both the particular law of the United States and the universal law of the Roman Catholic Church, I have initiated a preliminary investigation into these allegations. I am enclosing a copy of this decree with this letter.

As is the current practice in the United States, I have appointed a laywoman to act as the investigator in this matter. Although she is not a cleric, she has been trained in canon law. Be assured that I have given her very strict instructions as to how the investigation is to be carried out. In addition, you have my assurance that I will keep diligent watch over the investigation to ensure that all is done to protect the rights of Fr. Jeyapaul, as well as to safeguard the dignity of the priesthood.

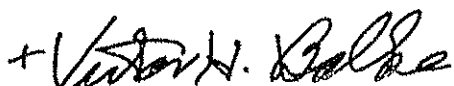
It may be in Fr. Jeyapaul's interest to respond to the allegations that have been brought against him. My initial interest in communicating with his proper ordinary is to inform him of these allegations as well as to enlist his assistance in communicating my decree to Fr. Jeyapaul. I would also ask his ordinary to see to it that Fr. Jeyapaul has no more communication with the alleged victim. Eventually, if the investigation leads me to

conclude that the allegations have basis, further conversation might be called for in order to determine how to proceed.

I am also sorry to say that in addition to the accusations of sexual misconduct, I have reasonable cause to suspect that Fr. Jeyapaul was fiscally dishonest during his stay in my diocese. I have received reports that he borrowed large sums of money from parishioners and other acquaintances which he never repaid. Furthermore, it would appear that he took money from the parish that he was not entitled to. Thus I would ask that you speak with Father and remind him that he has a Christian obligation to repay these debts and any money that he misappropriated, however inadvertently.

I would be very grateful for any assistance you can offer in these matters.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+Victor H. Balke". The signature is written in a cursive style with a cross at the beginning.

+Victor H. Balke
Bishop of Crookston

cc: Very Rev. Msgr. A. Antony Samy
Rev. Joseph Jeyapaul