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21 December 2006

His Eminence
Cardinal William J. Levada, Prefect
Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith
P.za del S. Uffizio
00193 Rome
ITALY

Your Eminence:

In November of this year I visited your esteemed Congregation to present a file regarding the matter of **Father Joseph Pavanivel Jeyapaul**, a priest for the Diocese of Ootacamund, India, who was accused of sexual misconduct involving minors in 2005 and again in 2006.

Since that time, I have been visited by representatives of the County Attorney's Office of Roseau County, and they have indicated that they intend to pursue extradition of Father Jeyapaul in light of the most recent allegations. I have provided them with whatever information I had about his current place of residence, and I have pledged to cooperate further in any way that I can.

I wanted to bring this matter to your attention so that you would understand the seriousness of the matter with which he is accused. Moreover, I hope that for the good of the Church you are able to reach a speedy resolution to his case. It is difficult for me to quantify the harm that this man has done to the dignity of the priesthood. If you can offer any assistance to the law enforcement agencies trying to locate Father Jeyapaul, I ask that you do so. I would be happy to assist in relaying any information you have about his current location to the proper officials.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Victor H. Balke
Bishop of Crookston

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