



Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office of the Cardinal
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1229

FILE COPY

DECREE

In the name of God.

Whereas, on June 2, 2003, a preliminary investigation was opened under my predecessor, Anthony Cardinal Bevilacqua, into an allegation lodged against Reverend Edward V. Avery concerning a possible violation *Sacramentorum sanctitatis tutela*, art. 4, that is, sexual abuse of a minor below the age of eighteen years; and

Whereas, the investigation has been sufficiently instructed to enable me to make a prudent and objective evaluation regarding the matter;

I hereby decree and declare, in conformity with the norm of law (*CIC*, c. 1718), the conclusion of the preliminary investigation.

Further, having weighed the elements gathered by the duly appointed investigator, along with his own opinion about the matter, and having heard experts in the law and others possessing expertise concerning these issues, including the Archdiocesan Review Board (*USCCB Essential Norms* n. 4a), I find and declare that the allegation lodged against Reverend Edward V. Avery is credible. Motives for this conclusion are contained in the acts of the preliminary investigation.

Wherefore, by this decree I direct that the acts of the preliminary investigation, together with my own *motus* concerning the matter, be referred to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith as mandated by the norm of universal law (*Sacramentorum sanctitatis tutela*, art. 13).

Given at the Chancery, on the 5th day of December, 2003.

Justin Card. Rigali
Cardinal Justin Rigali
Archbishop of Philadelphia

SEAL

James M. Oliver
Reverend James M. Oliver
Vice Chancellor

AR4S0140

No. 0551 - 00365

