



Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office of the Cardinal
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

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DECREE

In the name of God.

Whereas on December 5, 2003 I, the undersigned Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia decreed the close of the preliminary investigation of an allegation lodged against Reverend Edward V. Avery for an alleged violation of the provisions of *Sacramentorum sanctitatis tutela*, art. 4, that is, sexual abuse of a minor by a cleric; and

Whereas I did then direct that the acts of the preliminary investigation, together with my own *verum* regarding the matter, be referred to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in accordance with the provisions of *Sacramentorum sanctitatis tutela*, art. 13; and

Whereas the Promoter of Justice, having received the acts of the preliminary investigation, has been heard regarding the possible imposition of the precautionary measure of (*CIC*, c. 1722); and

Whereas Reverend Edward V. Avery has been afforded the opportunity to advance his own opinion regarding the imposition of the same precautionary measures;

I hereby decree, to prevent scandals, to protect the freedom of witnesses, and to guard the course of justice, that the restrictions listed below, and as provided for in (*CIC*, c. 1722), be imposed upon Reverend Edward V. Avery, effective immediately; namely, that he:

1. is excluded from the sacred ministry
2. is not to reside in any ecclesiastical residence without the permission of the Archbishop
3. is not to celebrate or concelebrate public Mass or to administer the sacraments
4. is not to wear clerical garb or to present himself publicly as a priest

Moreover, in accordance with the provisions of (*CIC*, c. 284), for his own good and the good of the Church, he is dispensed from the obligation to wear clerical attire and is prohibited from doing so.

Further, I hereby direct Reverend Monsignor William J. Lynn, Secretary for Clergy, to ensure that sufficient provisions are made for the support of Reverend Edward V. Avery during the time in which this decree remains in effect.

In accord with the norm of law (*CIC*, c. 1722), this decree shall cease either when revoked by the competent ecclesiastical authority or, by the law itself, at the conclusion of the penal process.

AR4S0138

No. 0551 - 00151



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

AR4S0139

No. 0551 - 00152

