



CONGREGATIO .
PRO DOCTRINA FIDEI

00120 Città del Vaticano,
Palazzo del S. Ufficio

June 21, 2005

PROT. N. 858/2004-21530
(In response fiat mentio huius numeri)

CONFIDENTIAL

Your Excellency,

On November 20, 2004, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith received the documentation regarding the Reverend Michael John CODY, a priest of your Archdiocese who has been accused of the sexual abuse of minors.

This Dicastery, after a careful and attentive study of the facts, and in light of the faculty granted to this Congregation by the Supreme Pontiff on 7 February 2003 to dispense from Article 17 of the *motu proprio Sacramentorum sanctitatis tutela* requiring a penal judicial process, decided, at its Particular Congress of June 10, 2005, to support your request that the above mentioned priest be dismissed *ex officio* from the clerical state.

On June 17, 2005, the Supreme Pontiff decreed that the Reverend Michael John CODY is dismissed *ex officio pro bono Ecclesiae* from the clerical state, and is, moreover, released from all obligations of the Sacred Priesthood, including that of celibacy. Any censures, under which he may be labouring, are remitted by this decree.

Your Excellency is asked kindly to inform Father CODY of this grave decision according to paragraph 7 of the enclosed decree. A signed and notarized copy of the decree should be returned to this Dicastery at the earliest convenience.

With fraternal regards and prayerful best wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

* Angelo Amato, SDB
Titular Archbishop of Sila
Secretary

(Enclosures)

His Excellency
The Most Reverend Alexander J. BRUNETT
Archbishop of Seattle
910 Marion Street
Seattle, WA 98104-1299
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JH-ARCH000292

"Sensitive Information"
Per Protective Order