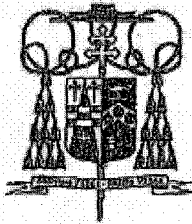


POOR
ORIGINAL

Document 44



ALEXANDER
BY THE GRACE OF GOD
AND
THE AUTHORITY OF THE APOSTOLIC SEE
ARCHBISHOP OF SEATTLE

DECREE

In July 2003, I, the undersigned Archbishop of Seattle, received a complaint against the Reverend Michael J. Cody, a priest of this archdiocese, alleging that he had committed an act of sexual abuse of a minor below the age of eighteen years in violation of the norm of *Sacramentorum sanctitatis tutela*, art. 4. Following an initial review of the allegation, I have found that it is neither manifestly frivolous nor false. Rather, I have determined that the allegation carries with it the semblance of truth.

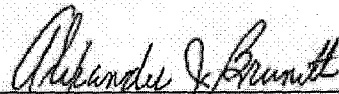
Accordingly, I hereby decree that a preliminary investigation is to be conducted in conformity with the provisions of universal and particular law (*CIC* cc. 1717ff [*CCEO*, cc. 1468ff]; *USCCB Essential Norms*, n. 6). During this investigation, elements are to be gathered to assist in determining whether or not Father Cody may have committed the delict alleged, and if so, to what extent he was legally responsible (imputable) for it.


The investigation will be conducted promptly and objectively. Moreover, the right of all persons to a good reputation will be maintained assiduously throughout the process (*CIC*, c. 220 [*CCEO*, c. 23])

Given at the Chancery
Of the Archdiocese of Seattle, Washington

This 15th
day of September

In the year of our Lord, 2004.

+ 
Most Reverend Alexander Joseph Brunett
Archbishop of Seattle


Very Reverend Stephen C. Rowan
Vicar General

JH-ARCH000399

"Sensitive Information"
Per Protective Order