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August 1, 2008

VIA U.S. MAIL AND EMAIL

Mary Anne Hackett
President, Catholic Citizens of Illinois
106 Calendar Court
P.O. Box 122
LaGrange, Illinois 60525-2325
mah@theramp.net

Re: Tom Roeser blog

Dear Ms. Hackett:

I am writing to address certain statements regarding the relationship between St. Mary of the Lake Seminary, Mundelein and the Diocese of Rockford published on your website, CatholicCitizens.org.

On July 30, CatholicCitizens.org published Tom Roeser's blog entry, "Personal Aside: Rockford Diocese Drops Mundelein for Seminarians – Guess Why?" In that blog entry, Mr. Roeser states that "the Rockford, Illinois diocese will not send seminarians to St. Mary of the Lake, Mundelein for training" and that "the Rockford diocese has decided it is finished with Mundelein." In light of your website's publication of this blog, I am compelled to bring to your attention the enclosed memorandum from Penny Wiegert (Director of Communication for the Diocese of Rockford) to Colleen Dolan (Director of Communications for the Archdiocese of Chicago), which addresses Mr. Roeser's statements. I bring this to your attention so that your publication can take any steps you deem appropriate.

Thank you in advance for what I trust will be your prompt attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,


John C. O'Malley
Director of Legal Services

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Enclosure

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July 30, 2008

TO: Colleen Dolan, Director of Communication, Archdiocese of Chicago

FROM: Penny Wiegert, Director of Communication, Diocese of Rockford

REGARDING: TomRoeser.com

Yesterday we were alerted to some erroneous information posted on a blog at the above web site. The posting date was 7/29/2008. While it is not our policy to engage in a debate or exchange on diocesan or any Catholic matter with bloggers, our administration felt it necessary to both alert you and provide you with our response to the conversation on this blog. We are not posting any public response to these falsehoods at this time, however we wanted to provide a response to you as another party affected by this information. This blog states that the Rockford Diocese "will not send seminarians to St. Mary of the Lake, Mundelein for training." It also makes the statement, "Thus the Rockford Diocese has decided it is finished with Mundelein."

The Rockford Diocese is going on record with you, the Archdiocese of Chicago, to state that the above statements are completely false and have no foundation from any official source in this diocese.

Bishop Thomas G. Doran made it very clear in our conversation about this matter yesterday that he has not "pulled out of Mundelein." Bishop Doran said:

"We have had an educational relationship with Mundelein for decades and sent our seminarians there as the need presented itself. I wish to assure Cardinal George that we have no reason to discontinue that relationship. We find it reprehensible that this blog presumes to present information with no validation whatsoever."

"I want to assure the archdiocese that the author of this blog does not speak on behalf of any truth or any official source from the Diocese of Rockford and if we are contacted about this online falsehood by any reliable media source, we will not shirk our responsibility to set the record straight." Bishop Doran said.

If you have any questions about this, please feel free to give me a call at 815/387-3395.

Thank you, God Bless.
Penny