



DIOCESE OF TUCSON

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OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Prot.N. 97002724

December 22, 1997

Most Rev. Dario Castrillon Hoyos
Congregation for the Clergy
Piazza Pio XII 3, 00193
Rome Italy

Your Excellency:

On December 18, 1997, (letter dated October 31, 1997) I received the enclosed decision/letter from your Congregation making certain findings concerning Msgr. Robert Trupia and matters that he has had pending before the Congregation. My advocate Mr. Carlo Gullo had contacted me on December 15, 1997, and on December 16, 1997, I filed an appeal to the Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signatura and sent copies of my letter and mandate appointing Mr. Carlo Gullo to the Congregation. I am sending a copy of this letter to the Signatura so that the matters under appeal may be clearly set forth.

As the bishop charged with the care of this diocese, I cannot in conscience submit to the terms offered by Msgr. Trupia and referred to in your letter of December 13, 1997 (Prot. N. 96002965). I have stated heretofore my reasons for not consenting to his retirement on the terms set forth in his communications to me. I again state them here:

1. He requires that if any other diocese in the United States makes inquiry concerning him we are to merely respond that he is in good standing. If I do that and he commits an offense in that diocese both this diocese and myself would be personally liable not to mention the scandal that would be caused among the People of God and the harm that might result to an innocent party.

2. He wishes from time to time to return to the diocese and celebrate Eucharist and other celebrations. The same harms outlined in 1. above could occur here. In addition we have informed you that the mother of one boy (now a man), whose complaint started this process, has threatened to go to the newspapers and I would be in no position to state that the problem would not arise again.

I cannot take these risks with the lives of others and the patrimony of this diocese without an evaluation of Msgr. Trupia which would indicate that he is no longer a threat to the

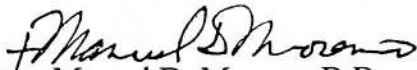
People of God. As I informed the Congregation last week, we have now been served with a lawsuit concerning actions of Msgr. Trupia in the mid 1970's concerning a then minor altar boy. These risks are not just imaginary, but real.

I am at a loss to deal with the finding of the Congregation concerning damages. I have paid Msgr. Trupia a full salary plus his medical and car insurance at all times, as the Congregation was so informed. I have been given no details so that we can even defend what other damages may have arisen. Msgr. Trupia has resigned his office and has no right to it. Besides, offices in our diocese do not carry extra salaries other than the normal salaries of active priests. Msgr. Trupia has been compensated as an active priest with over 20 years seniority the entire time that this case has been in process.

Lastly, at all times in this matter I have followed the canonical advice of my Advocate in Rome as to the nature of the demands that might be placed on Msgr. Trupia in regards of a psychological examination.

I have deep respect for the works of the Congregation for the Clergy, however, I have appealed the decision to the Signatura in this matter.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Rev. Manuel D. Moreno, D.D.
Bishop of Tucson

cc. Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signatura
Mr. Carlo Gullo