

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of the Archbishop



Post Office Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

April 11, 2007

Parole Commission in Wisconsin
Alfonso Graham, Chair
3099 East Washington Avenue
P.O. Box 7960
Madison, WI 53707-7960

Dear Mr. Graham:

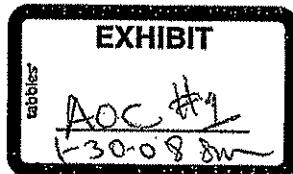
I am writing to you as the Catholic Archbishop of Chicago about Norbert Maday (#278632), a priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago, who is presently serving time for crimes he was convicted of committing in your jurisdiction; he is about to complete his sentence. I am his ecclesiastical superior.

In May of 1999, the Vicar for Priests, an official of this archdiocese, wrote to the Wisconsin Parole Commission saying that this archdiocese 'would be pleased to receive Norbert Maday into the Archdiocese of Chicago system'. However, the situation has changed. Given the manner in which Norbert Maday has addressed his incarceration and the comprehensive program of monitoring that society would now reasonably demand, the Archdiocese of Chicago is not capable of receiving him back into our system. This conclusion is based, in part, on information from those who have dealt directly with Norbert Maday and his situation, including the descriptions of interactions that Vicars for Priests and the Archdiocesan Director of Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review had with him while visiting him. Shortly I will approach the office in Rome responsible for overseeing priests who have abused minors, requesting that Norbert Maday be dismissed from the Catholic priesthood. If granted, this action would sever the legal relationship in Catholic Church law that exists between the bishop of a diocese and a priest of the diocese. He would once again be simply a Catholic layperson; I would no longer have the authority over him that a bishop has over a priest.

I bring my recommendation to you, and I will bring my request to the authorities in Rome, for several reasons.

My first reason is the protection of the vulnerable. For the safety of young people and for the peace of mind of the citizenry, Norbert Maday would require a comprehensive program of monitoring. This Archdiocese lacks the resources to monitor him. Equally significant, this Archdiocese lacks the coercive police power to effectively enforce such monitoring. This is also why I am seeking to have him dismissed from the priesthood.

CB5/MAD 00724

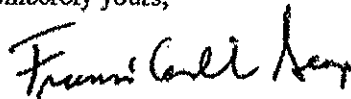


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My second reason is that the ministry and life of this Archdiocese would be gravely affected by simply receiving Norbert Maday back into our system as a priest, albeit with restrictions and conditions. The position of a Catholic priest is a position of public trust, not just for Catholics but for all people. To have him present in the midst of the Archdiocese as a priest, even though permanently withdrawn from public ministry, undermines the credibility and ministry of all priests.

Finally, given the history and the widespread knowledge of his situation, it would be a cause of scandal to the Catholic faithful and to all people if he were to return to the Chicago metropolitan area and remain a priest. Because the facts of his case are so public, it is no longer possible for this Archdiocese to house him at an ecclesiastical facility.

Sincerely yours,



Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.
Archbishop of Chicago

CB5/MAD 00725