

  
**ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE**  
OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

September 2, 1998

His Excellency  
M. Rev. Tarcisio Bertone, S.D.B.  
Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith  
Piazza del S. Uffizio 11  
00193 Rome, ITALY

Prot. N. 111/96-06888

Your Excellency,

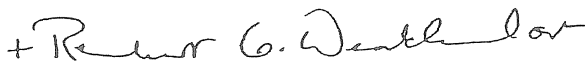
I am writing to inform you that Father Lawrence Murphy, a priest of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee accused of solicitation in the Sacrament of Confession and resident in the Diocese of Superior (cf. your protocol number), died on August 21, 1998, of natural causes. I am writing to inform you that you can now close your files on this sad case.

Although we thought the family had agreed to a private funeral Mass at the chapel of one of our cemeteries and that the casket would be closed, they did just the opposite, defied our agreement, invited people from the deaf community to attend, had the casket open and Father dressed in full vestments. The Mass was celebrated by the Auxiliary Bishop of Milwaukee, His Excellency Bishop Richard Skiba. Bishop Skiba, in his carefully prepared words, alluded to the good work Father Murphy did, but also, in deference to the deaf community present, had to mention that some shadows had been cast on his ministry.

In spite of these difficulties, we are still hoping we can avoid undue publicity that would be negative toward the Church.

Thank you for your help in this matter.

Sincerely yours in the Lord,



Most Reverend Rembert G. Weakland, O.S.B.  
Archbishop of Milwaukee



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