



DIOCESE OF LAFAYETTE

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OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

March 13, 2024

Deacon Scott Peyton
859 Hicks Road
Washington, Louisiana 70589

DECREE

Dear Deacon Peyton:

I responded briefly to your email of December 4, 2023, indicating that I would be in contact with you after I had the time to give your communication prayer and further consideration.

I am disappointed that you have come to a decision to not only leave ordained ministry but also, more importantly, the communion of the Catholic Church. I had hoped that there could have been a path forward, if not in sacred ministry, as a member of the lay faithful. Yet, at the same time I must respect your avowal that you have given these decisions "deep reflection," yet praying all the while that you will return to the apostolic communion of the Church.

As a cleric you will likely understand that your decision has theological and canonical effects beyond your own private intentions. Whether these matters are of any more concern to you, I hope you understand that I have duties which cannot be omitted.

You have indicated your decision to maintain faith but to sever your communion with the Catholic Church, notably in the area of Church governance which *de iure* removes you from all ecclesiastical offices (canon 194 § 1 n. 2). By virtue of canons 1044 §1, 2° and 1041, 2°, I must hereby declare that you are irregular for the exercise of the sacred order of the diaconate and hereby remove all faculties to function as a cleric.

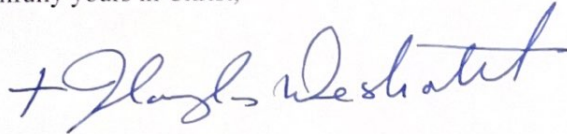
The dispensation from this irregularity is reserved to the Apostolic See (canon 1047 §2, 1°). To this end, I will communicate your decisions to the Dicastery for Clergy and await further guidance. I must also sadly declare that, in keeping with the earliest Councils of the Church, that by virtue of canon 1364 §1, and your written decision of December 4, 2023 to "sever" ties with the Catholic Church, that you have incurred the *latae sententiae* censure of excommunication effective on the day you receive this letter.

A bishop never wishes to communicate a censure to anyone. I am aware that your family has suffered a trauma but the answer does not lie in leaving the Most Holy Eucharist. We are not Catholics because the Church on earth is perfect but because the Lord has entrusted us to a mystery greater than ourselves, which He established as the means to our salvation. The censures of the Church are intended to be medicinal, perhaps as much for those who impose them as for those who are subject to them. It is with this objective that I mournfully must declare them.

I continue to pray for you and your family and that one day your communion with the Church may be restored. I humbly ask that you continue to pray for me and the faithful of our Diocese.

With every good wish, I am

Faithfully yours in Christ,



Most Reverend J. Douglas Deshotel, D.D.
Bishop of Lafayette

JDD:lrI

Cc: Very Reverend Monsignor W. Curtis Mallet, Vicar General
Very Reverend Jared G. Suire, VE, Vicar for Clergy
Deacon Jim Kincel, Director of Permanent Diaconate



Mrs. Maureen K. Fontenot, PHR, SHRM-CP
Chancellor

