



For Immediate Release: September 8, 2010

Glenmary Priest Returning to Active Ministry

CINCINNATI—The members of the Glenmary Review Board met on September 7, 2010, and unanimously recommended to Glenmary’s Executive Council that Father Bob Poandl be returned to active ministry immediately. The recommendation was received and unanimously approved by the Glenmary Executive Council on Wednesday, September 8.

Father Poandl was accused of sexual abuse in June 2009. The board reached its decision following a review of all the information gathered during the 14-month investigation, including Judge David Nibert’s order of dismissal of all the charges against Father Poandl that was handed down on Friday, August 27, 2010, in Spencer, W.Va.

In a letter sent to Father Dan Dorsey, Glenmary’s president, the review board chairperson writes that the Board found that “the allegations are not credible and that Father Poandl should be returned to active ministry immediately.”

Effective, September 25, 2010, Father Poandl will resume his pastorate of Glenmary missions in Claxton, Pembroke and Sandhill, Ga.

The Glenmary Review Board, established in 2004, is comprised primarily of lay people charged to be a confidential consultative body to the Glenmary Executive Council. Current members include a clinical psychologist, a lawyer, three social workers, and a member of the Glenmary community.

In April 2010, Glenmary was reaccredited by Praesidium, a national leader in abuse risk management. This reaccreditation means Glenmary’s policies and procedures meet the established criteria set forth by the Conference of Major Superiors of Men in the prevention of and response to sexual abuse of minors. Glenmary Home Missioners was first accredited in 2005.

The accreditation process involves extensive interviews with Glenmary members and men in formation, on-site visitation of missions, analysis of Glenmary policies and procedures, and a visit to Glenmary’s national headquarters in Cincinnati.

“Maintaining this accreditation is just one of the ways we, the Glenmary community, continue to do all we can to make sure children and young people are safeguarded,” Father Dorsey said. “Glenmary has very comprehensive policies that are designed to protect children, and we enforce those policies. We remain vigilant to ensure that Glenmary missions and ministries are safe environments.”