

Archdiocese of Detroit

Note to the Media: The following letter from Bishop Walter Hurley, delegate of Cardinal Maida, was shared with the priests of the Detroit archdiocese:

May 25, 2005

Dear Father:

For some time now, we have been hoping to bring closure to a number of cases involving priests placed on administrative leave. In every instance, the appropriate canonical procedures have been followed including referral to and the responses of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. We have been dealing with painful and complex issues. We are now able to let you know that we have been able to resolve a number of cases over the past months. It is our hope that other remaining cases will soon be resolved. It is further our hope that with closure on these matters, we can all move forward.

This week's [Michigan Catholic](#) will include the following announcement:

"In accord with the provisions of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* and the *Essential Norms for Diocesan/Eparchial Policies Dealing with Allegations of Sexual Abuse of Minors by Priests or Deacons*, the following priests have been permanently removed from ecclesiastical ministry, are prohibited from wearing clerical clothes and publicly presenting themselves as a priest: Robert N. Burkholder, Michael J. Daly, Jude T. Ellinghausen, Joseph P. Femminineo, Robert W. Haener, Walter J. Lezuchowski, Peter J. VanderLinden, and Robert F. Wyzgoski. Ralph Quane has been dismissed from the clerical state in accord with the provisions of the above mentioned documents."

We are awaiting the disposition of our remaining cases from Rome. The canonical trials have been completed and the decisions are in Rome for confirmation. At this time, we have no current cases under active review.

As difficult as this matter has been for all of us and the Church, I am confident that we will be a stronger and more vibrant Church. Should any of you have any particular questions with regard to this matter, as always, please do not hesitate to contact me. I will be happy to answer whatever questions I can and provide whatever explanations that are possible, respecting the privacy of individuals and the requirements of Church law.

With gratitude for your patience and understanding during this long and difficult process, I am

Sincerely yours,

Most Reverend Walter A. Hurley
Delegate of Cardinal Maida