



Office of the Bishop
Diocese of Antigonish
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Press Release
May 16, 2012

I wish to take this opportunity to address the people of the Diocese and all those across our region about the latest information that we have from the Holy See in Rome regarding the former Bishop of the Diocese of Antigonish, Raymond Lahey.

We have been informed that the Holy See has dismissed Raymond Lahey from the clerical state, one of the most serious penalties that the Church can impose.

This will mean that he will no longer function as a cleric, will no longer have the rights and duties of being a cleric, is not permitted to exercise any ecclesiastical offices or functions and is not permitted to preside at any of the sacraments or religious services. However, any sacraments that he performed prior to this decision continue to be valid and effective.

This decision reminds all of us of the serious harms that come from all forms of pornography, especially child pornography. It also means that this action concludes both the criminal and canonical processes that are connected with this matter.

However, much hurt, sadness and anger continue to be present in the hearts of many as we reflect on these events. The lives of many have been seriously altered as a result of the challenges that have arisen. Moreover, the life of Raymond Lahey has been radically changed by his actions and this decision.

While I am announcing this decision of the Holy See, I fully recognize that we as a Diocesan family continue to have much work to do as we try to bring renewal to our Church. We continue to offer opportunities in the parish and the diocese to re-establish and deepen the relationships with all who are connected with our Church. May we all depend on the power of the Risen Lord to bring us hope and new life as we continue to move through this tragic situation that has marked our diocese.

† Brian Joseph Dunn
Bishop of Antigonish