



Ottawa, March 23, 2016

Nº 911 /16

Dear Mr. Talach,

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter of February 29, 2016 concerning the case of John Edward Sullivan, a former priest of the Diocese of Sault Ste-Marie, dismissed from the clerical state *pro bono Ecclesiae* by Pontifical Decree on September 5, 2015.

At the same time, I have been asked to acknowledge receipt of the letter which you sent to Archbishop Luis Ladaria, Secretary of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, also dated February 29, 2016 and which was received by the Congregation on March 15, 2016.

In this regard, Archbishop Ladaria has asked that I inform you that:

- 1) The decision to inaugurate a Canonical Process of Dismissal from the Clerical State for Mr. Sullivan originated within the Congregation. The Diocese of Sault Ste-Marie was asked to send any information concerning the various criminal and civil proceedings against Mr. Sullivan. In view of the fact that Mr. Sullivan had not exercised ministry since 1990, the Congregation brought the matter to the attention of the Holy Father who issued the Decree of Dismissal *ex officio*.
- 2) As this canonical procedure was governed by the norms of the Motu Proprio *Sacramentorum Sanctitatis Tutela*, including Art. 30, § 1, which obliges confidentiality, should you wish to examine the aforesaid canonical Dossier you may make your request through the appropriate channels (via an international rogatorial letter) and the Holy See will attentively consider it, and which acts of the Canonical Process can be exempted from the obligation of confidentiality.

With cordial regards, I am,

Sincerely,

✠ Luigi Bonazzi
Apostolic Nuncio

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