



ARCHDIOCESE OF HALIFAX

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Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary
Halifax, August 15, 2006

Sir, Madam,

I read the letter you sent me following the marriage of your son Jean-Gabriel Michaud with Marie-Hélène Têtu last June 10 at Spiri-Maria.

Unfortunately, this marriage was not performed according to the rites of the Catholic Church, rites which are required for the validity of the sacrament of marriage. To declare that the young spouses, after having been informed, “took the decision to follow their path according to the laws of God” is like saying that the Church’s laws do not come from God.

Obviously the young spouses do not have the theological or canonical formation or the proper perspective of history required to evaluate, in the truth, all the elements at stake in this situation. If it is affirmed that they acted freely and in good faith, then we can only deplore the fact that this beautiful project and their good intention were led astray by an entourage and directors who misled them.

In this situation we can see that the young spouses were improperly counselled and that they were given, wrongly, the means to act outside ecclesial communion. Those who acted in this manner bear a much greater responsibility than the young spouses who are more the victims of the misconduct of others.

With all possible care and thoughtfulness and for the good of their spiritual life, it is necessary that the young spouses be informed of the whole truth with regard to what happened at Lac-Etchemin last June 10.

Hoping that you will give to this letter the thought it requires, under the influence of the Holy Spirit who is the source of unity within the Church, I assure you of my prayer for you and the young spouses.

Terrence Prendergast, S.J.
Archbishop of Halifax
Pontifical Commissioner for the Sons of Mary