



The Roman Catholic Bishop of Mandeville

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Office of the Bishop

July 15, 2006

Reverend Eric Roy, offm
Superior General
Sons of Mary
626 Route du Sanctuaire
Lac-Etchemin, QC
Canada G0S 1R0

Dear Father Roy,

May the Peace of Christ be with you!

I write to you with a keen sense of paternal concern, both for you and for the Church.

Recently, Most Reverend Terrence Prendergast, S. J., the Pontifical Commissioner for the Sons of Mary, informed me of certain developments which have taken place at Spiri-Maria, the spiritual centre at which you reside. Archbishop Prendergast reports that you concurred in the celebration, by a member of the Sons of Mary under your authority, of a baptism for which permission had been refused; and that, last month, you approved the celebration of a “marriage” without proper delegation, despite, in both instances, prior specific admonitions not to do so. The Archbishop reported to me as well that, in conversations he had with you in March and in June, you indicated no change of heart whatever with respect to such apparent flagrant disregard of canonical norms.

Because this serious matter falls to me, as your Ordinary, to attempt to rectify, let me begin by reminding you of my duty: “... *the Bishop has to be particularly close to his flock and [...] in cases of severe faults [...] that injure the testimony of the Gospel itself, especially by ministers of the Church, the Bishop [...] must intervene immediately, as established by Canonical norms, both for the correction and the spiritual good of the sacred ministry, as well as to repair scandal and re-establish justice [...]*” (John Paul II, Apostolic Exhortation Pastores Gregis, n° 21);

I find that it is now necessary to bring tranquility to the consciences of the faithful and to give clear light to people of good will in the Church who may be troubled, or even scandalized, by

your actions, more specifically, by your apparent persistence in directly disobeying the laws of divine and positive right governing the Church and in disregarding the directives of persons constituted in sacred authority.

And so: Given that, as a cleric of this Diocese of Mandeville, you have been operating with the presumed permission of your undersigned Ordinary to serve as Superior General of the Sons of Mary;

Given that you have, in your task as Superior General, directly entered publicly into conflict with a Representative of the Holy See [the above-named Archbishop Terrence Prendergast, S.J.] by not prohibiting one your subjects from disregarding the laws enacted by the Church for the *“salus animarum”*;

Given that in the Convention you signed with my Predecessor, Most Reverend Paul M. Boyle, C.P., it is indicated that *“in any other point that is not foreseen by the convention /.../ recourse would be made to documents eventually emanated by the Holy See”*;

Given that the appointment of the Pontifical Commissioner and the last letter from the Holy See directed to you must be considered normative;

Given that the Policies of the Diocese of Mandeville Handbook states that faculties are given to the priests incardinated in our diocese who *“... have not definitively departed from the territory of the Diocese”*,

Given that you have not indicated to me, to this date, your desire to return to the Diocese;

Now, in order to forestall any doubt concerning faculties for confession, because of the grave reasons aforementioned, specifically that of permitting Sons of Mary to perform illicit baptisms and assist invalidly at a marriage in disregard to canonical form;

and being your rightful Ordinary;

I hereby REVOKE your faculties to hear confessions.

I remind you that if you do administer the sacrament of Reconciliation – except in those cases where the faculty is given by law – the “absolution” given would be null and void.

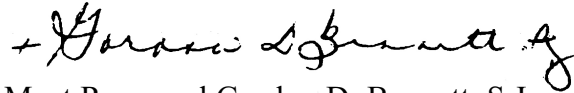
Furthermore, I recall you to the Diocese of Mandeville with a deadline of December 1, 2006, to work for the People of God in observance of your priestly commitments under the direct supervision of the Bishop of Mandeville or that of a priest of his choosing.

Unless the Pontifical Commissioner decides otherwise, this letter is my particular precept to you, anything to the contrary notwithstanding.

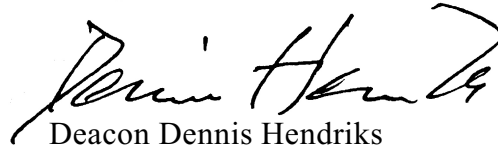
Father Roy, I sincerely hope and pray that the Holy Spirit will reveal to you the enormous potential for harm to the unity of the church your actions betray, and that the Lord will grant you the wisdom and the courage to reunite yourself with the Church through humble submission to her legitimate pastors.

I will certainly ceaselessly pray for you to this end.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gordon D. Bennett, S.J.", with a small cross symbol at the beginning.

Most Reverend Gordon D. Bennett, S.J.
Bishop of Mandeville in Jamaica

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dennis Hendriks".

Deacon Dennis Hendriks
Chancellor