



# The Roman Catholic Bishop of Mandeville

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*Office of the Bishop*

July 15, 2006

Reverend Father Stéphane Bouchet, offm  
10, route de Formerie  
Bouricourt  
76220 GANCOURT-SAINT-ÉTIENNE  
FRANCE

Dear Father Bouchet,

His Excellency, Bishop Gordon D. Bennett, S.J. the Bishop of our Diocese of Mandeville into which you are incardinated, has received word that you are no longer doing pastoral work in the Diocese of Beauvais, France.

As a result of this, His Excellency has asked me to remind you of the Policy of our Diocese, published this year, which reiterates that priests incardinated into our Diocese have canonical faculties "until a cleric has definitely departed from the territory of the diocese". This canonical limitation of faculties by our diocesan policy implies by extension that, since you no longer hold canonical Office in the Diocese of Beauvais, the priestly faculties issued by our Diocese no longer apply to you.

I take this time to remind you, on behalf of our Bishop, that sacramental absolution would be invalid if you attempt to celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation unless and until your canonical situation is remedied.

His Excellency bids me to bring to your attention that, should you wish to remain in France, you will have to seek canonical faculties from the Bishop of your place of residence or, of course, from the Pontifical Commissioner, His Excellency Archbishop Terrence Prendergast, S.J., in order to validly administer the Sacrament of Penance.

Lastly, as His Excellency is seriously intending to call you back to apostolic labor in our Diocese, he hopes to hear from you by letter as soon as possible your willingness to accept this mission. Please write directly to him.

Hoping to hear from you and your plans for the future which will need to be discussed with our Bishop or the Pontifical Commissioner,

I remain sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Deacon Dennis Hendriks,  
Chancellor of the Diocese of Mandeville