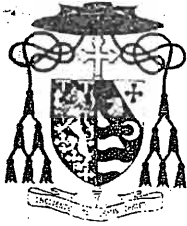


# APPENDIX 1





OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

DIOCESE OF WILMINGTON

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November 8, 2006

William Cardinal Levada  
Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith  
00120 Citta del Vaticano  
Palazzo del S. Uffizio Rome  
Italy

Your Eminence:

I write you with an urgent request for the removal from the clerical state and dispensation from the obligation of celibacy for Fr. Francis G. DeLuca [original Prot. N. 460/2003-20154], a 77 year old prayer and penance priest [Essential Norms 8b], who was just arrested on October 20, 2006 for recent sexual abuse involving a minor [touch, fondling, masturbation, alcohol, pornography] in Syracuse NY [where he retired after being removed from active ministry by then Bishop Robert E. Mulvee in 1993].

I ask that Fr. DeLuca, because of the serial nature of his abuse [all involving his admission] with the most recent abuse occurring repeatedly from 2001 to 2006 be removed from the clerical state and given a dispensation from celibacy immediately and as soon as possible to prevent further scandal [the media coverage in both Wilmington and Syracuse has been intense], and to emphasize categorically to Fr. DeLuca that the abusive behavior will not be tolerated.

I had hoped that Fr. DeLuca could live the life of prayer and penance prescribed by section 8B of the *Essential Norms*. It is clear that that is not possible. Now 77 years old, he will likely live his remaining years of life either in jail or in house confinement.

You will find this votum amply supported by the enclosed summary [according to the directives of the CDF] and relevant appendices. Msgr. John Barres, our Chancellor, alerted Augustine

DiNoia, OP, of the CDF by email on Friday, October 14, 2006 that this case would be sent to the Congregation. I'm grateful to you and the Congregation for your assistance.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*+ Michael A. Saltarelli*

Most Reverend Michael A. Saltarelli  
Bishop of Wilmington

*John O. Barres*

Rev. Msgr. John O. Barres, JCD  
Chancellor

*Patricia S. Bossi*

Patricia S. Bossi  
Notary for the Curia

PATRICIA SLEPESKY-BOSSI  
NOTARY PUBLIC  
STATE OF DELAWARE  
My Commission Expires Sept. 24, 2009

