

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

## DIOCESE OF WILMINGTON

POST OFFICE BOX 2030  
WILMINGTON, DE 19899-2030  
(302) 573-3100

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].

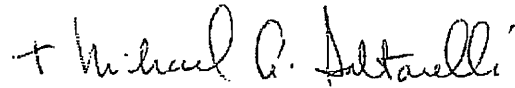
I ask that Fr. DeLuca, because of the serial nature of his abuse [all involving his admission] with the most recent abuse occurring repeatedly from 2001 to 2006 be removed from the clerical state and given a dispensation from celibacy immediately and as soon as possible to prevent further scandal [the 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.

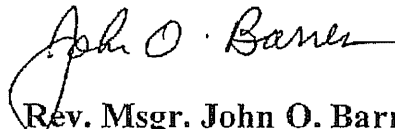
You will find this votum amply supported by the enclosed summary [according to the directives of the CDF] and relevant appendices. Msgr. John Barres, our Chancellor, alerted Augustine

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,



Most Reverend Michael A. Saltarelli  
Bishop of Wilmington



Rev. Msgr. John O. Barres, JCD  
Chancellor



Patricia S. Bossi  
Notary for the Curia

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



**Diocese of Wilmington, Delaware (USA)**

**Bishop Michael Saltarelli**

**CDF Prot. N. 460/03 -18329**

**Rev. Francis G. DeLuca**

**Date of Birth : 8/1/29 Age: 77 years old**

**Ordination: February 3, 1958**

**Removed from Active Ministry: November 29, 1993**

**Years of Ministry: 35 years**

**Original Diocese of Incardination: Diocese of Wilmington, DE (USA)**

**Ministry in/transfer to other Diocese: Not applicable**

**Fr. DeLuca's address:  
Rev. Francis G. DeLuca  
100 Pastime Drive, Apt. 307  
Syracuse, NY 13208-1562**

**Procurator: Msgr. John O. Barres, STD, JCL  
Chancellor, Diocese of Wilmington  
PO Box 2030  
1925 Delaware Avenue  
Wilmington, DE 19899-2030**

**FR. DELUCA'S ASSIGNMENTS:**

- 1958-1961: St. Francis de Sales, Salisbury, MD, Parochial Vicar**
- 1961-1966: St. John the Beloved, Wilmington, DE, Parochial Vicar  
Chaplain at Ferris Industrial School for Boys**
- 1966-1969: St. Elizabeth, Wilmington, DE, Parochial Vicar**
- 1969-1972: Holy Spirit, New Castle, DE, Parochial Vicar**
- 1972-1976: Holy Spirit, New Castle, DE, Pastor**
- 1976-1989: St. Matthew, Wilmington, DE, Pastor  
Serves as Dean of New Castle Deanery, Diocesan Liturgical**

**Commission**

**1989-1993: St. Joseph on the Brandywine, Wilmington, DE, Parochial Vicar**

**1993: Removed from Active Ministry because of the sexual abuse of minors and Retired**

**Current Status: Fr. DeLuca lives in Syracuse, NY in retirement in his own residence. The Bishop of the Diocese of Syracuse, NY had been notified. Fr. DeLuca was arrested on Thursday, October 19, 2006 by the Syracuse police.**

**ACCUSATIONS AGAINST FR. DELUCA**

**Year: Began circa 2001, repeated approximately monthly and continued until May or June 2006.**

**Victim: W-006 [Fr. DeLuca's grand nephew] and apparently [Redacted] witnessed some of the abuse.**

**Imputable Acts: Fr. DeLuca admitted the abuse, claiming it was limited to touch, fondling and masturbation. But also admitted use of pornography when the boy reached 16. [See Appendix 1 and 1a – especially highlighted News Journal of October 26, 2006] DeLuca gave the boy alcohol to drink, bought him jewelry, games and clothes and deposited about \$9000 in a bank account in the youth's name. [Appendix 1a, October 29, 2006 Syracuse Paper]**

**Denunciation: October 2006**

**Year: 1958-1960**

**Victim: W-005 and approximately five other unnamed boys Fr. DeLuca was involved with.**

**Age: Not exactly clear in documentation but they were altar boys so most likely between 10 and 13 years old.**

**Imputable Acts: Psychological report [see Appendix 2] says that [Redacted - Conf. Med. Recs.]**

**Legal complaint [see Appendix 3] states Fr. DeLuca "unlawfully fondled, molested, touched, abused, sexually assaulted and/or battered..." 12-5-93 Notes of Vicar for Clergy Msgr. Lemon [Appendix 4] confirm the physical description in the legal complaint].**

**Denunciation: 1993**

**Year: 1960s**

W-007

**Victim:****Age:** 12 or 13**Imputable Acts:** Sexual abuse occurred 5 or 6 times though the documentation does not detail the nature of the abuse. [see Appendix 5, documentation of Vicar General Msgr. J. Thomas Cini]**Denunciation:** 2004**CIVIL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST FR. DELUCA (Tony Flynn)**

1) October 19, 2006 Arrest by the Syracuse NY police.

2) February 12, 2003 brief issued by Attorney Mark Waterfill [Dann Pecarr Newman &amp; Kleiman]. This legal complaint was not followed up on [see Diocese of Wilmington Attorney Anthony Flynn letter to Insurer Stephen M. Waldorf, Appendix 3, For more detail, see Anthony Flynn's highlighted October 23, 2006 email to Msgr. Barres giving more detail which is included at the back of Appendix 3].

**MEASURES ADOPTED BY THE DIOCESE****December 1993:** Fr. DeLuca speaks with Fr. Benedict Groeschel at Trinity Retreat House, Larchmont, NY.**December 6-9, 1993:** Fr. DeLuca receives an assessment at [redacted - Conf. Med. Re] [redacted - Conf. Med. Recs.] (See Appendix 2)**December 13, 1993** Letter from Bishop Robert E. Mulvee (Bishop of the Diocese of Wilmington) to Fr. DeLuca: "Accepting your resignation and approving early retirement is a very painful duty for me. I remember your years of faithful service to this diocese. Only you can agonize more than I over the tragedy that your actions of so many years ago has caused you and the Church. Having heard the report from [redacted - Conf. Med. Recs.] this is the only way we can address the real grave pastoral concern that confronts us because of those actions. It is understood that you will not function publicly as a priest without seeking specific permission to do so." (See Appendix 6)**September 30, 2003:** Letter from Bishop Saltarelli to Fr. DeLuca applying the Essential Norms (8b) to Fr. DeLuca (See Appendix 7a)

October 2, 2003: Letter from Bishop Saltarelli to Bishop Moynihan, Bishop of the Diocese of Syracuse, informing him that Fr. DeLuca resides in his Diocese. (See Appendix 7b)

October 2006: This petition to the CDF for removal from the clerical state and laicization.

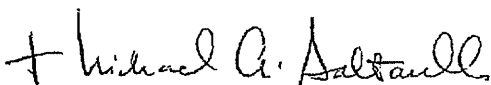
**SUSTENANCE PROVIDED BY THE DIOCESE TO FR. DELUCA**  
What a retired priest of the Diocese of Wilmington would receive.

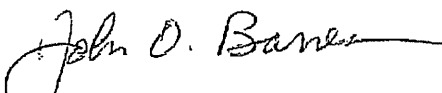
**RESPONSE MADE BY FR. DELUCA**

Fr. DeLuca has made repeated admissions of the sexual abuse of minors. See documentation and appendices above.

**BISHOP SALTARELLI'S VOTUM**

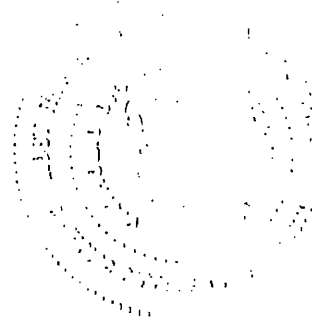
I ask that Fr. DeLuca, because of the serial nature of his abuse [all involving his admission] with the most recent abuse occurring repeatedly from 2001 to 2006 be removed from the clerical state and given a dispensation from celibacy immediately and as soon as possible given the intense media coverage of his case. 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.

  
Most Reverend Michael A. Saltarelli  
Bishop of Wilmington

  
Rev. Msgr. John O. Barres  
Chancellor

11/8/06

seal



**BEFORE THE CONGREGATION FOR THE DOCTRINE OF THE FAITH**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

**REV. FRANCIS G. DeLUCA**

**List of Appendices**

Appendices Relating to Proofs of the Facts of Accusations against Father DeLuca.

Appendix 1: Bishop Thomas Costello October, 2006 memorandum detailing accusations against Father DeLuca.

Appendix 1A: Media coverage of Father DeLuca's arrest .

Appendix 2: Psychological Report.

Appendix 3: Legal Complaint

Appendix 3 A: Memorandum from Msgr. Cini to Msgr. Barres relative to Father DeLuca's admission to abuse

Appendix 4: Notes of Vicar for Clergy, Msgr. Lemon, 12/5/1993 confirming confirming physical description in complaint.

Appendix 5: Memo to File: W-007 detailing the fact of the sexual abuse he experienced.

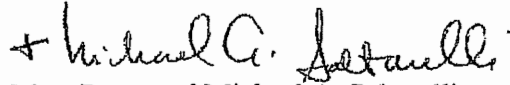
Appendix 6: December 13, 1993 letter of Rev. Francis DeLuca from Bishop Mulvee, accepting retirement from active ministry as a priest.

Appendix 7A: September 30, 2003 letter from Bishop Saltarelli to Father DeLuca applying the Essential Norms.

Appendix 7B: October 2, 2003 letter from Bishop Saltarelli to Bishop Moynihan informing him Father DeLuca resides in the Diocese of Syracuse, NY.

Appendix 8B

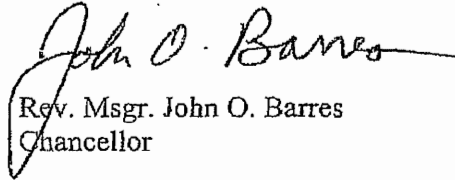
Bishop Saltarelli's previous correspondence with the  
CDF in regard to Fr. DeLuca (Prot. N. 476/2003-20154)



Most Reverend Michael A. Saltarelli  
Bishop of Wilmington



Patricia S. Bossi  
Notary for the Curia



Rev. Msgr. John O. Barres  
Chancellor

October 30, 2006

