

1970	[REDACTED]	17	Sexual contact (multiple)	July 1988
1985	[REDACTED]	18	Sexual contact	May 1, 2002
1985	[REDACTED]	17	Sexual contact	May 1, 2002
1985	[REDACTED]	15	Sexual contact	May 1, 2002
1972	[REDACTED]	11	Genital fondling	April 25, 2002

CIVIL PROCEEDINGS

Year	Type/case	Conviction	Sentence
2002	District Attorney ordered criminal investigation	Cases beyond statute of limitations	
2002	Civil suit filed by victim	Settled out of court	
2002	Counter suit filed by Hanser	Settled out of court	

MEASURES ADOPTED BY THE DIOCESE

Year	Action
1988	Asked to take personal leave while allegations studied; substance of allegations acknowledged and resignation from office accepted; professional counseling and spiritual direction ordered
1991	Permitted to make personal arrangements to provide chaplain services with no appointment to office at a hospital with restrictions and monitoring providing no contact with minors
1995	Precept restricting all public ministry, revoking faculties, and ordering no contact with minors (May 25, 1995); modification of precept allowing exercise of ministry and restoration of faculties but only in a hospital setting with no contact with minors (September 13, 1995)
2002	Precept reinstates all restrictions on public ministry (April 3, 2002)
2004	Case referred to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith

SUSTENANCE PROVIDED BY THE DIOCESE

Father Hanser is independently wealthy with a luxury home and automobile and considerable assets. Nonetheless, because he is eligible he receives a monthly pension check from the priests' pension plan and is provided the same health benefits as any retired priest.

RESPONSE / RECOURSE BY THE CLERIC

Year	Action
1988	Admitted the substance of the allegations by the [REDACTED] family, submitted resignation from office, paid the major part of the settlement with the family
2002	Confronted by [REDACTED] parents; admitted substance of allegations and asked for "confidentiality" from them, offered to write letters of apology but letters deemed inadequate due to "excuses" for behavior

INVESTIGATION PROCESS:

The 1988 claims were taken to Father Hanser by the Vicar for Clergy and acknowledged. Subsequent claims have been consistent with the reported pattern. Most of the victims were from large families. Father Hanser became friends with the family and subsequently invited the male children in the family to his lake cottage where the assaults took place.

ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE

NAME: David John Hanser

DATE OF BIRTH: [REDACTED] AGE: 72
 ORDINATION: May 31, 1958 YEARS OF MINISTRY: 30 years (Not in any formal assignment since 1988)

ORIGINAL DIOCESE OF INCARDINATION: Archdiocese of Milwaukee

CLERIC'S ADDRESS: W330 N6385 Hasslinger Drive
 Nashotah, WI 53058

PROCURATOR: Unknown

PROCURATORS ADDRESS:

ASSIGNMENT HISTORY:

- Assistant – Christ King Parish (Wauwatosa, WI) – June 20, 1958
- Assistant – Sacred Heart Parish (Racine, WI) – July 7, 1960
- Faculty – Catholic Memorial High School (Waukesha, WI) – July 6, 1961
- Faculty – St. Joseph High School (Kenosha, WI) – June 16, 1970
- Associate Pastor – St. John Vianney Parish (Brookfield, WI) – June 13, 1972
- Associate Pastor – Holy Family Parish (Whitefish Bay, WI) – June 13, 1978
- Pastor – St. Mary Parish (Pewaukee, WI) – February 9, 1982
- Leave of Absence – July 14, 1988
- Resignation – November 30, 1988
- Awaiting Assignment – December 1, 1988
- Unassigned with restricted ministry – September 1, 1995
- Restricted from all public ministry – April 2002
- Retired – May 6, 2002

ACCUSATIONS:

Year	Victim	Age	Alleged acts	Denunciation
1975	[REDACTED]	Teen	Genital fondling	November 1975
1968	[REDACTED]	12	Sexual assault; genital fondling	May 4, 2002
1969	[REDACTED]	11	Sexual assault; genital fondling beneath clothing	May 4, 2002
1969	[REDACTED]	18	Attempted sexual contact (once)	July 1988
1970	[REDACTED]	16	Sexual assault (once)	July 1988
1968- 1973	[REDACTED]	11-16	Sexual assault (25 to 40 times)	July 1988
1970	[REDACTED]	17	Sexual contact (multiple)	July 1988
1985	[REDACTED]	18	Sexual contact	May 1, 2002
1985	[REDACTED]	17	Sexual contact	May 1, 2002
1985	[REDACTED]	15	Sexual contact	May 1, 2002
1972	[REDACTED]	11	Genital fondling	April 25, 2002

CIVIL PROCEEDINGS

Year	Type/case	Conviction	Sentence
2002	District Attorney ordered criminal investigation	Cases beyond statute of limitations	
2002	Civil suit filed by victim	Settled out of court	
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1988	Asked to take personal leave while allegations studied; substance of allegations acknowledged and resignation from office accepted; professional counseling and spiritual direction ordered
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SUSTENANCE PROVIDED BY THE DIOCESE

Father Hanser is independently wealthy with a luxury home and automobile and considerable assets. Nonetheless, because he is eligible he receives a monthly pension check from the priests' pension plan and is provided the same health benefits as any retired priest.

RESPONSE / RECOURSE BY THE CLERIC

Year	Action
1988	Admitted the substance of the allegations by the [REDACTED] family, submitted resignation from office, paid the major part of the settlement with the family
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INVESTIGATION PROCESS:

The 1988 claims were taken to Father Hanser by the Vicar for Clergy and acknowledged. Subsequent claims have been consistent with the reported pattern. Most of the victims were from large families. Father Hanser became friends with the family and subsequently invited the male children in the family to his lake cottage where the assaults took place.

May 17, 2004

ADOM012243


ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE
OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

May 17, 2004

His Eminence Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger
Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith
Piazza del S. Uffizio 11
00193 Rome, Italy

Your Eminence:

In accord with the norms of *Sacramentorum sanctitatis tutela*, I am submitting for your consideration the case of a priest of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. Reverend David John Hanser has been accused of multiple acts of sexual abuse of minors. The summary of these allegations is enclosed. Father Hanser has admitted that a number of these acts of sexual assault occurred.

Over the years, efforts were made to provide spiritual and psychological interventions that would rehabilitate Father Hanser. It was thought that a non-parochial assignment might be possible. With our current understanding of the nature of his condition, it is clear that he will never be able to assume any public ministry.

As we have reviewed the various files, it is clear that he consistently abused his office both to gain access to vulnerable boys and to elicit the trust of their parents. He used his personal and family wealth as a way to approach families of similar status and befriend them. He manipulated those friendships into opportunities to take the young males to his lake cottage where the sexual contact occurred.

The impact on his various victims has been significant. The Archdiocese of Milwaukee is paying ongoing therapy costs for several of them and has done so for a number of years. Our new found awareness of the severity of damage caused by sexual abuse at the hands of clergy makes it impossible for us to ignore this situation.

The notoriety of this case became even more serious in 2002 with the announcement of a criminal investigation. While no charges were filed because of the statute of limitations, the district attorney concluded that, in his professional judgement, the assaults did occur. Additional publicity arose with the filing of civil suits. Rather than take a humble and remorseful stance, Father Hanser occasioned more scandal by suing the individuals who filed the suit. Because of his financial status, he was able to arrive at a monetary settlement the details of which have not been shared with me.

His Eminence Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger
Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith

page 2

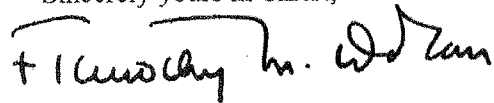
Given the nature and frequency of the alleged and admitted sexual abuse, along with the serious abuse of office, I have pondered long and hard to arrive at an opinion about the most appropriate action to be taken. In order that justice may be made manifest and healing of the victims and the Church may proceed, I am asking that Reverend David John Hanser be dismissed *ex officio, ad poenam* from the clerical state. Father has sufficient financial resources to care for his personal needs and will continue to receive his pension. He owns his own home where he is currently residing.

If the judgement of Your Eminence is that this case should proceed to a dismissal by decree of your Congregation, I would cede to that judgement. Furthermore, if it is your judgement that this case should proceed through a canonical penal process, I humbly request a dispensation from prescription as well as a sanation of any procedural errors that may have occurred during the years this case was under investigation. The severity of the offenses is such that it is my opinion that these requests are justified.

I look forward to your further instructions in this matter.

With sentiments of deepest esteem, I am,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Timothy M. Dolan". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized script.

Most Reverend Timothy M. Dolan
Archbishop of Milwaukee

ADOM012245

ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE
 NAME: David John Hanser

DATE OF BIRTH: May 6, 1932
 ORDINATION: May 31, 1958

AGE: 72
 YEARS OF MINISTRY: 30 years (Not in
 any formal assignment since 1988)

ORIGINAL DIOCESE OF INCARDINATION: Archdiocese of Milwaukee
 CLERIC'S ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

Nashotah, WI 53058

PROCURATOR: Unknown

PROCURATORS ADDRESS:

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1985	[REDACTED]	15	Sexual contact	May 1, 2002
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ADOM040215

CIVIL PROCEEDINGS

Year	Type/case	Conviction	Sentence
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SUSTENANCE PROVIDED BY THE DIOCESE

Father Hanser is independently wealthy with a luxury home and automobile and considerable assets. Nonetheless, because he is eligible he receives a monthly pension check from the priests' pension plan and is provided the same health benefits as any retired priest.

RESPONSE/RECOURSE BY THE CLERIC

Year	Action
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INVESTIGATION PROCESS:

The 1988 claims were taken to Father Hanser by the Vicar for Clergy and acknowledged. Subsequent claims have been consistent with the reported pattern. Most of the victims were from large families. Father Hanser became friends with the family and subsequently invited the male children in the family to his lake cottage where the assaults took place.



CANON LAW PROFESSIONALS

February 18, 2005

His Eminence Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger, Prefect
Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith
Piazza del S. Uffizio
00193 Rome Italy

Reverend David J. Hanser, Archdiocese of Milwaukee

Your Eminence:

I write to you today as the advocate and procurator for Father David J. Hanser, a priest of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. I am enclosing a copy of the mandate.

Father Hanser contacted me on February 9, 2005, after he had just received a letter sent from the Archbishop of Milwaukee, the Most Reverend Timothy M. Dolan, on February 5, 2005, which indicated the Archbishop's intent for the laicization of Father Hanser. The Archdiocese has not yet provided any information or explanation about the allegations made against Father Hanser. The only source of information has been the media. I have requested the opportunity to review Father Hanser's file and am waiting to arrange a specific date.

I understand that his current situation stems from incidents that allegedly occurred a number of years ago. It is also my understanding that Father Hanser is living in retirement and has had his faculties restricted. Further, I have spoken briefly with Ms. Barbara Anne Cusak, the Delegate of the Archbishop of Milwaukee, the Most Reverend Timothy M. Dolan, who informed me that Father Hanser's case has already been forwarded to the Doctrine of the Faith along with the Archbishop's *votum* asking for an involuntary dismissal from the clerical state.

Father Hanser has been retired since May, 2002. His ministry has been restricted. The Archdiocese has sought little contact with Father Hanser since that time. Father Hanser is well over seventy years of age.

Father Hanser does not want to be laicized. He wishes to remain a priest in his retirement, but he does not seek to be active. He is concerned about the supplemental health insurance provided by the Archdiocese – something very understandable for a man of his age.

I ask you to allow me time to review Father Hanser's files and the information which the Archdiocese has so that I can provide an appropriate defense statement on his behalf.

Sincerely,

J. Michael Ritty, J.C.L., Ph.D.
Advocate and Procurator for Father

encl: canonical mandate

✓ cc: Most Reverend Timothy M. Dolan; Father David Hanser

March 5, 2005

His Eminence Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger
Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith
Piazza del S. Uffizio 11
00193 Rome, Italy

Your Eminence:

I am in receipt of a copy of a letter sent to you by Mr. Michael Ritty on behalf of Reverend David Hanser (copy enclosed). The matter being addressed was sent by the archdiocese to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in May 2004. Since Mr. Ritty is being given incorrect information by Father Hanser, I thought it important to correct some statements contained in the letter you have received.

Father Hanser has apparently informed Mr. Ritty that he does not know the substance of allegations against him because the archdiocese has not "provided any information or explanation about the allegations." This statement is false. Father Hanser was informed when these allegations first came forward in 1975 and again in 1988. In 1988 one family with multiple victims came forward and he admitted the veracity of the reports. He resigned from office at that time. Again, in 2002, when he was confronted by the parents of three members of a family who were abused, he again admitted the abuse and offered to send them a letter of apology. He was a party to a settlement and provided a portion of the monetary compensation in the first instance. Father Hanser filed suit against that same family in 2002. Clearly he knows what allegations have led to canonical action against him.

Thank you for your attention to this case. If there is any further information I can provide, please do not hesitate to contact me.

With sentiments of esteem and much gratitude, I am,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Timothy M. Dolan
Archbishop of Milwaukee

ADOM012260

LAICIZATION RESCRIPT - UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION
Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith

Prot. N.: 247/04

Milwaukee

Father David John HANSER

September 30, 2005

The Supreme Pontiff Pope Benedict XVI

having heard the opinion of this Congregation concerning the serious actions of the above named presbyter of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee (Milwaukee, USA), with the proper documentation having been sent and finding this final decision to be beyond appeal and not subject to recourse,

has decreed

that the penalty of dismissal from the presbyterate be imposed.

This same presbyter is also granted a dispensation from all of the obligations connected with sacred Orders in accord with the following consideration:

1. The dismissal and dispensation take effect at the very moment of the decision of the Roman Pontiff.
2. The decree of dismissal and dispensation are to be communicated to the presbyter by the competent local Ordinary and no one has the right to separate those two elements. Indeed, further, it carries with it, insofar as it is necessary, absolution from censures.
3. Notice of the granting of the dismissal and dispensation is to be inscribed in the baptismal register of the aforementioned presbyter's parish.
4. With regard to the celebration of a canonical marriage, the norms set down in The Code of Canon Law must be applied. The Ordinary, however, should take care that the matter be discreetly handled without pomp or external display.
5. The ecclesiastical authority, to whom it belongs to notify the priest, should earnestly exhort him to take part in the life of the People of God, in a manner consonant with his new mode of living, to give edification, and thus to show himself a most loving son of the Church. At the same time, however, he should be informed of the following points:
 - a) the dismissed presbyter automatically loses the rights proper to the clerical state, as well as ecclesiastical dignities and offices; he is no longer bound by the other obligations connected with the clerical state;
 - b) he remains excluded from the exercise of the sacred ministry, with the exception of those functions mentioned in canons 976 and 986, §2, and, as a result, he may not give a homily nor is he able to hold a directive office in the pastoral field nor to exercise the function of parochial administrator;
 - c) similarly, he may not discharge any function in seminaries and in equivalent institutions. In other institutions of higher studies, which are in any way whatever dependent upon ecclesiastical authority, he may not exercise a directive function;

ADOM012017

- d) in those institutions of higher studies which are not dependent upon ecclesiastical authority, he may not teach any discipline which is properly theological or closely connected with the same;
 - e) in institutions of lower studies, which are dependent upon ecclesiastical authority, he may not exercise the function of teaching a discipline which is properly theological. A dismissed and dispensed presbyter is held by the same rule in teaching Religion in an institution of the same kind not dependent upon ecclesiastical authority.
6. The Ordinary is to take care lest the dismissed presbyter, because of a lack of prudence, exhibits scandal to the faithful. This pastoral solicitude of the Ordinary is most important if a danger of abuse of minors, although remote, is present.
 7. Notification of the dismissal and dispensation can be made either personally or through an ecclesiastical notary or through registered mail. The dismissed priest ought to retain a copy properly signed attesting to his reception and acceptance of this dismissal and dispensation and also its precepts, but if he does not it does not impede the effect of this decree.
 8. At an opportune time, the Ordinary is to send a brief report to the Congregation on his completion of the notification, and, if there is any wonderment on the part of the faithful he is to provide a prudent explanation.

All things to the contrary notwithstanding.

From the Offices of the Congregation, the 30th day of September, 2005.

/s/ William L. Levada
Archbishop Emeritus
of San Francisco in California
Prefect

/s/ Angelus Amato, S.D.B.
Titular Archbishop of Silens
Secretary

Date of notification: _____

/s/ _____
Signature of presbyter as sign of acceptance

/s/ _____
Signature of Ordinary

LAICIZATION RESCRIPT - UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION
Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith

Prot. N.: 247/04

Milwaukee

Father David John HANSER

September 30, 2005

The Supreme Pontiff Pope Benedict XVI

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5. The ecclesiastical authority, to whom it belongs to notify the priest, should earnestly exhort him to take part in the life of the People of God, in a manner consonant with his new mode of living, to give edification, and thus to show himself a most loving son of the Church. At the same time, however, he should be informed of the following points:
 - a) the dismissed presbyter automatically loses the rights proper to the clerical state, as well as ecclesiastical dignities and offices; he is no longer bound by the other obligations connected with the clerical state;
 - b) he remains excluded from the exercise of the sacred ministry, with the exception of those functions mentioned in canons 976 and 986, §2, and, as a result, he may not give a homily nor is he able to hold a directive office in the pastoral field nor to exercise the function of parochial administrator;
 - c) similarly, he may not discharge any function in seminaries and in equivalent institutions. In other institutions of higher studies, which are in any way whatever dependent upon ecclesiastical authority, he may not exercise a directive function;

ADOM039714

- d) in those institutions of higher studies which are not dependent upon ecclesiastical authority, he may not teach any discipline which is properly theological or closely connected with the same;
 - e) in institutions of lower studies, which are dependent upon ecclesiastical authority, he may not exercise the function of teaching a discipline which is properly theological. A dismissed and dispensed presbyter is held by the same rule in teaching Religion in an institution of the same kind not dependent upon ecclesiastical authority.
6. The Ordinary is to take care lest the dismissed presbyter, because of a lack of prudence, exhibits scandal to the faithful. This pastoral solicitude of the Ordinary is most important if a danger of abuse of minors, although remote, is present.
 7. Notification of the dismissal and dispensation can be made either personally or through an ecclesiastical notary or through registered mail. The dismissed priest ought to retain a copy properly signed attesting to his reception and acceptance of this dismissal and dispensation and also its precepts, but if he does not it does not impede the effect of this decree.
 8. At an opportune time, the Ordinary is to send a brief report to the Congregation on his completion of the notification, and, if there is any wonderment on the part of the faithful he is to provide a prudent explanation.

All things to the contrary notwithstanding.

From the Offices of the Congregation, the 30th day of September, 2005.

/s/ William L. Levada
 Archbishop Emeritus
 of San Francisco in California
 Prefect

/s/ Angelus Amato, S.D.B.
 Titular Archbishop of Silens
 Secretary

Date of notification: _____

/s/ _____
 Signature of presbyter as sign of acceptance

/s/ _____
 Signature of Ordinary



CONGREGATIO PRO DOCTRINA FIDEI
(Dimissio e statu clericali ac dispensatio ab oneribus)

Prot. N. 247/04

Milvaukiensis

D.nus **David John HANSER**

Die 30 m. Septembris a. 2005

Summus Pontifex Benedictus, Papa XVI

Audita relatione huius Congregationis circa gravem agendi rationem supradicti presbyteri archidioecesis Milvaukiensis (v.d. Milwaukee, U.S.A.), praemissis praemittendis, suprema atque inappellabili decisione nullique recursui obnoxia,

decrevit

poenam dimissionis dicto presbytero irrogandam esse.

Eidem presbytero etiam dispensationem concedit ab omnibus oneribus sacrae Ordinationi conexis iuxta sequentes rationes.

1. Dimissio ac dispensatio vim habent ab ipso momento decisionis Romani Pontificis.
2. Dimissionis ac dispensationis Decretum presbytero a competenti Ordinario loci notificetur, cui numquam fas est duo illa elementa seiungere. Idemque insuper secumfert absolutionem a censuris, quatenus opus sit.
3. Notitia dimissionis ac dispensationis adnotetur in Libris baptizatorum parociae praedicti presbyteri.
4. Quod attinet si casus ferat, ad celebrationem canonici matrimonii, applicandae sunt normae quae in Codice Iuris Canonici statuuntur. Ordinarius vero curet ut res caute peragantur sine exteriori apparatu.
5. Auctoritas ecclesiastica, cui spectat Decretum praefato sacerdoti notificare, hunc enixe hortetur, ut vitam Populi Dei, ratione congruendi cum nova eius vivendi condicione, participet, aedificationem praestet et ita probum Ecclesiae filium se exhibeat. Simul autem eidem notum faciat ea quae sequuntur:

ADOM039716

- a) presbyter dimissus eo ipso amittit iura statui clericali propria, dignitates et officia ecclesiastica; ceteris obligationibus cum statu clericali conexas non amplius adstringitur;
- b) exclusus manet ab exercitio sacri ministerii, iis exceptis de quibus in can. 976 et 986 § 2 CJC ac propterea nequit homiliam habere, nec potest officium gerere directivum in ambitu pastoralis neve munere administratoris paroecialis fungi;
- c) item nullum munus absolvere potest in Seminariis et in Institutis aequiparatis. In aliis Institutis studiorum gradus superioris, quae quocumque modo dependent ab Auctoritate ecclesiastica, munere directivo vel officio docendi fungi nequit;
- d) in aliis vero Institutis studiorum gradus superioris ab Auctoritate ecclesiastica non dependentibus nullam theologiam disciplinam tradere potest;
- e) in Institutis autem studiorum gradus inferioris dependentibus ab Auctoritate ecclesiastica, munere directivo vel officio docendi fungi nequit. Eadem lege tenetur presbyter dimissus ac dispensatus in tradenda Religione in Institutis eiusdem generis non dependentibus ab Auctoritate ecclesiastica.


6. Ordinarius curet ne presbyter dimissus, propter defectum debitae prudentiae, fidelibus scandalum praebat. Haec pastoralis sollicitudo Ordinarium a fortiori gravissime urget si adest periculum quamvis remotum minoribus abutendi.

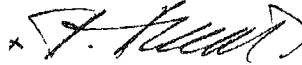
7. Notificatio dimissionis et dispensationis fieri potest vel personaliter per notarium aut ecclesiasticum actuarium vel per «epistulas perscriptas» (*raccomandata, certificada, enregistrée, registered, Einschreiben*). Sacerdos dimissus unum exemplar restituere debet rite subsignatum ad fidem receptionis et ~~acceptationis~~ eiusdem dimissionis ac dispensationis ac simul etiam praepceptorum, quod si non faciat integer manet effectus huius Decreti.

8. Tempore autem opportuno, Ordinarius competens breviter ad Congregationem de peracta notificatione referat, et si qua tandem fidelium admiratio adsit, prudenti explicatione provideat.

Contrariis quibuscumque minime obstantibus.

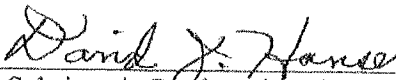
Ex Aedibus Congregationis, die 30 m. Septembris a. 2005


+ 
 ✠ Gulielmus J. LEVADA
 Archiep. Emeritus
 Sancti Francisci in California
 Praefectus

+ 

✠ Angelus AMATO, S.D.B.
 Archiep. Titularis Silensis
 a Secretis

Dies notificationis January 19, 2006


 Subsignatio Presbyteri in signum
 acceptationis *DJH*

+ 
 Subsignatio Ordinarii

*My signature is not a sign of acceptance of laicization
 but I intend to abide by the effects of the rescript.*

ADOM039717



CONGREGATIO
PRO DOCTRINA FIDEI

00120 Città del Vaticano.
Palazzo del S. Uffizio

27 October 2005

PROT. N. 247/04 - 21722
(In responsione *sui merito huius numeri*)

CONFIDENTIAL

Your Excellency,

I write with regard to the case of the **Reverend David John HANSER**, a priest of your Archdiocese, who has been accused of multiple acts of sexual abuse of minors and concerning whom Your Excellency has requested dismissal from the clerical state *ex officio et in poenam*.

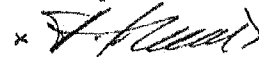
This Dicastery, after a careful and attentive study of the facts, and in light of the faculty granted to this Congregation by the Supreme Pontiff on 7 February 2003 to dispense from Article 17 of the *Motu proprio "Sacramentorum sanctitatis tutela"* requiring a penal judicial process, has decided to support your request that the above-mentioned priest be dismissed *ex officio et in poenam* from the clerical state.

In an audience granted on 30 September 2005, the Supreme Pontiff decreed that the Reverend David John Hanser is dismissed *ex officio et in poenam* from the clerical state and is, moreover, released from all obligations of the Sacred Priesthood, including that of celibacy. Any censures under which he may be labouring are remitted by this decree.

Your Excellency is asked kindly to inform Father Hanser of this grave decision according to paragraph 7 of the enclosed decree. A signed and notarized copy of the decree should be returned to this Dicastery at your earliest convenience.

I take this opportunity to express my sincere respects and I remain,

Yours devotedly in the Lord,

× 

✱ Angelo AMATO, SDB
Titular Archbishop of Sila
Secretary

(Enclosures)

His Excellency
The Most Reverend **Timothy M. DOLAN**
Archbishop of Milwaukee
Office of the Archbishop
3501 South Lake Drive
Milwaukee, WI 53207-0912, U.S.A.

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