

January 15, 2008

Prot. No. CDF 406-04 -- 19047

Most Reverend Angelo Amato, SDB
Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith
00120 Citta del Vaticano
Palazzo del S. Uffizio

Your Excellency,

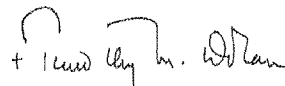
With regard to the above-captioned case, I have pondered long and hard about your suggestion that we impose a ten-year precept on Reverend Thomas Trepanier and then consider his return to ministry. I respectfully submit that such a resolution is not tenable. Ten years will not eradicate the facts in this matter; Father Trepanier sexually abused a minor and can never, therefore, function as a priest again. There is no such thing as a "safe" ministry when his background is publicly known by his own admissions.

I respectfully implore you to reconsider and confirm the results of the administrative process that was conducted here and grant the administrative laicization. This was a decision reached only after serious deliberation with some of my most trusted canonical consultants. There is currently pending civil legislation in Wisconsin attempting to abolish the statute of limitations on sexual assault retroactively. Such legislation would seriously compromise the Archdiocese's ability to exercise its mission. The more we can demonstrate our seriousness about purifying the priesthood as the Holy Father has implored us to do, the more we can speak credibly about the adverse effects of such legislation. Our critics challenge us on the fact that known abusers have still not been laicized. If word got out that the Holy See had left the door open for a reconsideration of Father Trepanier's case in ten years, our credibility would be seriously damaged.

Thank you for your reconsideration of this case.

With sentiments of 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 style with a large initial 'T'.

Most Reverend Timothy M. Dolan
Archbishop of Milwaukee

ADOM046674