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Office of the Chancellor

February 16, 2011

Mr. Ed Herman
33 B Crescent St
Swampscott MA 01907-1010

Dear Ed:

On March 20, 2004, I wrote to you informing you of the results of Deacon John Brennan's investigation of complaints of sexual abuse by Father Thomas Lee. I indicated that the case had been referred to the Holy See. During this time Father Lee was restricted from any public ministry.

Over the course of the next six years, the allegations were further investigated and a canonical tribunal of first instance determined that the reports of abuse did not rise to the level of a canonical crime and were not proven. However, the court described Father Lee's actions as imprudent. This decision was appealed and a court of second instance again, canonical judges from outside the Portland Diocese, upheld the decision of the first court. The matter is now definitely resolved; there are no possibilities of further appeals.

Having heard all the evidence, Bishop Malone has decided to continue to restrict Father Lee from any regular public ministry. Any exceptions will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. This is not meant to be punitive, since the allegations of abuse were deemed not proven, but rather prudential considering his actions and for the good of the Church.

This has been a long and arduous process and I understand this decision may not be all you hoped for, Ed. I pray you find some consolation in the bishop's resolution.

This decision will be made public over the weekend. Please be assured of Bishop Malone's and my continued prayers for you.

Sincerely in the Lord,

(Sr.) Rita-Mae Bissonnette, RSR
Chancellor