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Ealing Abbey

From Father Abbot · Rt. Revd. Martin Shipperlee OSB

Ealing Abbey · Charlbury Grove · Ealing · London · W5 2DY ·

DPA

Email:

DPA

1st February 2011

Dear Tony,

Enclosed are copies of the documents you requested: the restrictions placed on DD Laurence, **RC-F41** & David, and Mr Pumfrey's response to our meeting.

I will email our present Safeguarding policy for you to forward to Mr P.

Regards,

DPA



Supervision Plan for Dom Laurence Soper, O.S.B.

Introduction

This *Supervision Plan* is directed by the Abbot of Ealing Abbey, the Rt. Rev. Martin Shipperlee, O.S.B. to Dom Laurence Soper, O.S.B, [henceforth Fr. Laurence] for whom allegations of sexual misconduct have not been found to be manifestly false or frivolous. The rights and obligations of Fr. Laurence as a capitular of St. Benedict's Abbey and member of the English Congregation are not diminished in any way by this *Supervision Plan*.

History

Fr. Laurence's history of allegations of sexual misconduct date back to 2004 when a former pupil of St. Benedict School reported to civil authorities sexual abuse by Fr. Laurence. The abuse is alleged to have taken place at the school in 1973-74. A second allegation of sexual abuse appeared in a web blog in 2010 by an anonymous former pupil. Subsequently, the former pupil contacted the Abbot of Ealing Abbey about his allegations. Civil authorities were notified. Some of these allegations have been noted in the media/web. Both allegations of sexual abuse have been with post-pubescent males. No formal complaints were filed at the time. No other allegations have surfaced to date. Fr. Laurence denies both allegations.

Fr. Laurence has a history of depression and was under the care of a physician regarding medication to manage his depression. In addition to this, concern has been expressed to the Abbot of Ealing about a reliance on the use of alcohol while at the Primatial Abbey of St. Anselm.

Risk Reduction Strategies

1. Fr. Laurence is assigned to reside at the Primatial Abbey of St. Anselm in Rome, Italy, and is under the direct supervision of the Prior, Father Elias R. Lorenzo, O.S.B. [henceforth Prior].
2. Fr. Laurence shall not make contact with minors in any way or in any capacity on or off campus.
3. Fr. Laurence shall not use alcohol, except when in the presence of a member of the supervision team.

4. Personal psychotherapy is available to Fr. Laurence with a licensed professional to discuss the stresses of this new situation in his life. There are to be periodic reports to the Abbot of such sessions, with the appropriate waivers from Fr. Laurence.
5. A support group of residential monks at St. Anselm is also available to Fr. Laurence to offer pastoral support regarding this supervision plan. The members of the support group are to be approved by the Abbot of Ealing.
6. A spiritual director and confessor are also available to Fr. Laurence.
7. Fr. Laurence is expected to participate in the communal life of the Primatial Abbey of St. Anselm, with regular attendance at choir and meals. Only with the express permission of the Prior may Fr. Laurence absent himself from these common functions.
8. Fr. Laurence shall inform the Prior each time he leaves campus, indicating the nature of each trip in a written log found in the Prior's office.
9. Fr. Laurence requires the express permission of the Abbot of Ealing in advance of any overnight trip and shall note the nature of these trips in the log found in the Prior's office; the Abbot may impose additional ad hoc conditions on such trips.

Work & Ministry Assignments

10. Fr. Laurence is assigned to work in the treasurer's office at the Primatial Abbey of St. Anselm in Rome, Italy.
11. Fr. Laurence is hereby granted "conventual faculties" by the authority of the Abbot to function as a priest for the residents of the Abbey. This means that Fr. Laurence may preside and preach at the daily Conventual Mass, or concelebrate the same; he may also concelebrate the Sunday Conventual Mass but may not preside or preach. He may hear confessions or celebrate the anointing of the sick for residents who make such a request. These faculties are not extended to anyone other than Benedictines, including guests or visitors to the Abbey. These faculties may be revoked for a just cause.

12. When attending a funeral or some other ecclesiastical or liturgical function outside St. Anselm, Fr. Laurence shall ordinarily have a companion monk; he may not ordinarily vest as a concelebrant at external ecclesiastical functions.

13. Fr. Laurence may not present himself as a priest outside St. Anselm without the express permission of the Abbot. The Abbot shall first seek the permission of the Vicariate of Rome and record the decision of the Vicariate. Fr. Laurence shall not celebrate the sacraments outside St. Anselm, except in emergency cases and, after having administered penance and/or the sacrament of the sick he shall subsequently report the action directly to the Prior.

Supervision & Compliance

In addition to the Prior of St. Anselm, the Subprior, Father Stefano Visintin, O.S.B. also has knowledge of this *Supervision Plan*. Together the Prior and Subprior form the supervision team with monthly meetings to facilitate compliance with the terms and conditions of this *Supervision Plan*, which expires in three (3) years. The Prior is primarily responsible for the aforementioned risk reduction strategies unless otherwise noted. The Prior is also responsible for providing a monthly report to the Abbot of Ealing regarding compliance. Failure to comply with the terms of this *Supervision Plan* may result in additional restrictions, including but not limited to the revocation of "conventual faculties," a change in work assignments, change of residence, to name a few.

Canonical Waiver

By signing this *Supervision Plan*, Fr. Laurence acknowledges in particular that the above numbers 4, 5, and 6 involve a compromise of his canonical right to privacy but voluntarily complies nonetheless.

Supervision Plan Agreement

DPA

+ Martin Shipperlee, O.S.B.

1/5/10

Date

DPA

Laurence Soper, O.S.B.

1/5/10

Date

DPA

Elias R. Lorenzo, O.S.B.

1/5/10

Date

DPA

Stefano Visintin, O.S.B.

1/5/10

Date