
From: Bishop Peter <[DPA]>
Sent: 15 July 2019 09:40
To: [DPA]
Cc: [DPA] [DPA]
Subject: Today
Attachments: Confidential Statement - 11`07.2019.docx

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Dear [RC-A710]

I know that today is a busy and important day for you. So, I am praying that all goes well, and that you are still OK for me to phone after 4 pm.

I thought that it might be helpful to outline the series of events that led to my phone call last Friday. I also thought that it would be useful to copy [Name Redacted] and Angela in.

Following our meeting with Angela last Monday when she informed you that Portsmouth would not issue a statement, I said that I would issue a personal statement.

On Tuesday I met with our Director of Finance and Development, our Safeguarding Coordinator and our Communications Manager who all agreed to me issuing a statement. They suggested that, before the statement was issued, it should be shared with Portsmouth out of courtesy in case they wanted to change their decision.

The confidential statement was sent to Portsmouth on Thursday morning.

Unbeknown to us, Portsmouth contacted Alexander DesForges, Director of News and Information at the Bishops' Conference and Press Secretary to Cardinal Vincent who telephoned our Communications Manager, Neil Roseman, expressing deep concern about the statement being published.

I then phoned Alexander. He accepted that something needed to be done on your behalf, [RC-A710] but it was his opinion that the statement would be used by sections of the media internationally to get at Pope Francis. Alexander then arranged for me to speak with the Cardinal who was willing to come up to Northampton on Saturday which was very gracious of him but I know that he has much on and I was in Luton on Saturday ordaining a Permanent Deacon and then going on a weekend visitation to Buckingham and Brackley. So, we spoke on the phone on Friday at 4 pm.

The Cardinal reiterated the points Alexander made. He said that the statement raised more questions which media agencies like Lifesite News in the States would take up in their campaign against the Holy Father. By the end of that conversation I was convinced that a statement would not be the answer for us.

The Cardinal asked what else he could do. He knows that neither you nor Angela think much of him but he wondered whether you would be willing to meet with Baroness O'Loan, the Chair of the Catholic Council for IICSA, and with him but with the Baroness taking the lead in conversations with you.

I hope that I have represented accurately the sequence of events last week as background. I also attach for information the statement I had prepared.

Speak with you later.

With love and prayers,

+Peter

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