

Memorandum by Archbishop Viganò, approved as accurate by the same archbishop

CARD. THEODORE MCCARRICK ALLEGATIONS OF HOMOSEXUALITY [6 December 2006]

- 1) His Excellency Msgr. Pietro Sambì, Apostolic Nuncio to the U.S.A., by a personal and confidential report to the Cardinal Secretary of State, having mentioned and forwarded some writings sent to him by Card. Theodore McCarrick on China, Cuba, Iran and the White House, goes on to address a particularly serious problem concerning Cardinal McCarrick himself. The Nuncio writes: the Cardinal “keeps us all on edge for the possibility that at any moment he might become involved in sexual scandals”; and adds: “writings and rumors about this have circulated in the past” and for this reason the Congregation for Bishops had given me instructions to identify the successor for Washington as soon as possible.
- 2) In this respect, among the writings and the rumors to which Nuncio Sambì appears to refer and about which this Secretariat of State is also aware, I draw attention to the attached memo, regarding a letter, dated 22 November 2000, of Fr. Boniface Ramsey, O.P., written at the request of the late Nuncio Montalvo, in which Father Ramsey, formerly professor at the diocesan seminary in Newark from the late 1980s until 1996, states that there was a recurring rumor in the seminary that the Archbishop “shared his bed with seminarians”, inviting five at a time to spend the weekend with him in his house by the sea. Fr. Ramsey adds: “I know a number of seminarians, some of whom are now Priests of the Archdiocese of Newark, who had been invited by Archbishop McCarrick to the house by the sea, and that they were well aware of what used to happen there, and at least one ex-seminarian who shared the bed with the archbishop; this ex-seminarian, who is now a layman, attributed his having been sent to Rome for studies to the fact of having been in the archbishop’s bed a few times.” (Attachment).
- 3) Nuncio Sambì thereafter transmitted the text of a Memorandum of accusation against Card. McCarrick by 45 year-old [Priest 1] of [another diocese], reduced to the lay state after accusations of having abused minors. The document was delivered to the Nuncio by the Most Reverend John J. Myers, Archbishop of Newark. Attached to the Memorandum are two documents: the first is a 1994 letter to the Most Reverend Edward T. Hughes, then Bishop of Metuchen, in which [Priest 1] recounts to the bishop his sad story of sexual abuse by then-Archbishop McCarrick, and by various other priests and seminarians; the second consists of four pages of notes, relating to the years 1986-7, in which [Priest 1] describes, providing every

circumstance and detail, the abuses regarding then-Archbishop McCarrick. The facts attributed to the Archbishop by [Priest 1], as set forth in the two aforementioned documents, are of such gravity and are so nefarious as to provoke in the reader a sense of disconcert, deep sorrow and bitterness. I will limit myself to saying that they amount to the crimes of entrapment, solicitation of seminarians and priests to commit wicked acts, repeatedly and simultaneously with more than one person, making a mockery of the young seminarian who tried to resist the Archbishop's seduction in the presence of two other priests, absolution of the accomplice to these wicked acts, and sacrilegious concelebration of the Eucharist with the same priests after committing such acts.

- 4) The Memorandum in question had already been forwarded last June to about twenty people, between civil and ecclesiastical judicial authorities, police, and lawyers. It is therefore to be feared that the news will soon enter into the mix of public opinion.
- 5) Nuncio Sambri adds: "Card. McCarrick has not spoken to me yet of this matter; I asked to meet with him in the next few days, since the Congregation for Bishops would like him to leave the Neo-Catechumenal seminary, where he lives, and stop travelling 'to lead a reserved life and of prayer.' I know that the Cardinal chose an attorney for his own defense; it is to be hoped that this time as well, whether with a lot of money or a little, he succeeds in obtaining silence."

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1. To the many scandals in the Church in the United States, it seems that another of particular gravity concerning a Cardinal is about to be added.
 2. Because it regards a Cardinal, according to the Can. 1405 § 1, N. 2 °, "Ipsius Romani Pontificis dumtaxat ius est iudicandi." [It is solely the right of the Roman Pontiff himself to judge in the cases mentioned in canon 1401];
 2. Si vera et probata sunt exposita [if what is asserted be true and proven], it would require an exemplary measure that might have a medicinal function that would soothe the serious scandal for the faithful, who nevertheless continue to love and believe in the Church. For once, it might be healthy if the ecclesiastical authorities were to intervene before the civil authorities and if possible before the scandal erupts in the press. This would restore a little dignity to a Church so

tried and humiliated for so many abominable behaviors on the part of some pastors. In this case, the civil authority would no longer be required to judge an Eminent Cardinal, but a pastor in whose regard the Church had already taken the measures it deemed most opportune. S.m.i.

[Salvo meliore iudicio]