



Diocese of Worcester

Diocesan Tribunal

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Judicial Vicar

Vicar for Canonical Affairs

Reverend John B. McCormack
Secretary for Ministerial Personnel
Archdiocese of Boston
2121 Commonwealth Avenue
Brighton, Massachusetts 02135

Dear Father McCormack:

I write to clarify some aspects of the regularization which took place at St. Anne's House in Still River this past February.

Mother Theresa, Superior of the community, has expressed concern about your letter of 7 March 1988 to Mr. Douglas Bersaw who had asked Cardinal Law for a clarification of the Church's teaching on the doctrine extra ecclesiam nulla salus. It is Mother Theresa's feeling that your letter implied a "walking away" from Father Feeney's teachings on their part.

Several clarifications might prove helpful:

- 1) The Sisters were asked to "understand" the letter of the then Holy Office dated 8 August 1949. They were not asked to "accept" its contents.
- 2) The Sisters were asked to make a Profession of Faith. Nothing else was required.

It would seem that the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith holds the doctrine to have been defined and consequently definitive. It is its theological interpretation and speculation which they see as problematical.

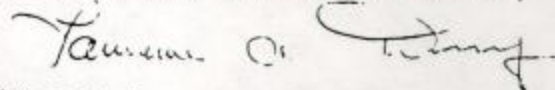
In our discussions with the Congregation it seemed rather clear that proponents of a strict interpretation of the doctrine should be given the same latitude for teaching and discussion as those who would hold more liberal views.

Summarily, Mother Theresa and her community in no manner abandoned Father Feeney's teachings. Consequently the Sisters do a good deal more than keep the memory of Father Feeney. They now actively proclaim his teachings as they did before the regularization.

I do hope this information helps to clarify the status of these Sisters and their apostolate.

Along with the above I send warm regards and good wishes.

Fraternally yours in Christ,



(Rev.) Lawrence A. Deery, J.C.L.
Vicar for Canonical Affairs
Judicial Vicar

May 4, 1988
LAD/gps

cc. Mother Theresa