



CONGREGATIO
PRO CLERICIS

Vatican City, 6th August 2008.

Prot. N. 20081022

Ms. Carolyn Eaton, et alia
St. Mary's Church
P.O. Box 441
Jamesville, NY 13078
USA.

Dear Ms. Eaton et alia,

This Congregation has received the materials you sent, dated 5 February 2008, proposing "the administrative recourse process against Msgr. J. Robert Yeazel in the Syracuse, New York Diocese".

Please be advised that Hierarchical Recourse, presented at this level, is directed against the administrative acts of Bishops or their equivalents. It is a legal process and as such, is governed by the relevant canons of the Code of Canon Law, (cf. especially canons 1732 ff.). It is not a process that is directed against physical persons but against a specific act of administration.

This Dicastery, being the hierarchical Superior of the Bishop is competent to deal with matters resulting from the exercise of Episcopal administrative authority. For the acts of those who are subordinate to the Bishop, then he is the competent authority in question, not this Congregation, (cf. Canon 1734, §3.1°).

As Msgr. Yeazel is subject to the Bishop of Syracuse, then any "recourse" against his administrative acts should be directed to the local Ordinary.

Least there be any confusion, let it be clear that there is no canonical action pending at this Dicastery as a result of your letter of February 5th, or from the subsequent correspondence on this same subject, for the abovementioned reasons.

With assurance of prayers and cordial best wishes, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

✠Mauro Piacenza
Titular Archbishop of Vittoriana
Secretary

Monsignor J. Anthony McDaid
Department Head