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Sent: Monday, February 15, 2021 3:27 PM

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Subject: REQUEST FOR COMMENT

Dear Editors:

In writing an article critiquing the CNA and CNS articles published in regard to the lawsuit Anthony Gorgia has brought against Cardinal Timothy Dolan, North American College officials and others, I would like to provide you with an opportunity to have input into the attached manuscript.

Please provide any comments prior to 12:00 pm EST on Tuesday, February 16, 2021.

The six questions below would have contributed to a more objective and factual reporting of the lawsuit on your part.

Looking forward to your timely response, I am

Sincerely,

Gene Thomas Gomulka

In 2007 then-Archbishop Edwin O'Brien of the Military Archdiocese was asked about Navy Chaplain John "Matt" Lee who was arrested on charges of conduct unbecoming an officer, aggravated assault, sodomy, and failure to inform sex partners that he was HIV-positive. When asked by reporters about Lee, O'Brien responded,

"When the Archdiocese for the Military Services became aware through Chaplain Lee that there was an accusation against him of immoral behavior with military personnel, we, along with the Archdiocese of Washington, removed his faculties immediately."

The media printed O'Brien's statement and everyone was led to believe that O'Brien acted decisively in removing Lee's faculties. The truth, however, was quite the opposite. O'Brien had been warned in a letter dated May 6, 2002, five years before Lee's arrest, that Lee was preying on young sailors by cohabitating with a "live-in boyfriend." Unfortunately, none of the reporters asked O'Brien, "Archbishop, did anyone ever warn you about the fact that Father Lee was sexually active?"

Question 1: Did either CNA or CNS reporters inquire if any of Father Harman's or Park's ecclesiastical superiors were aware of any allegations of sexual impropriety on their part similar to allegations contained in the Gorgia lawsuit?

Around the time Anthony Gorgia was told by Cardinal Dolan that Father Harman did not want him to return to the North American College (NAC), three seminaries on the East Coast (Holy Apostles, Christ the King, and St. John's) and one inside the walls of Vatican City (Pope St. Pius X) were either concluding or beginning investigations into homosexual predation and behavior, three of which resulted in rectors being removed as a result of whistleblower seminarians.

Question 2: Did the CNA and CNS reporters who interviewed spokespersons from the NAC inquire if any NAC faculty member (like a former Academic Dean) had ever been removed for engaging in homosexual relations with other faculty members and/or students?

The lawsuit alleges that the NAC Rector, Father Peter Harman, is alleged to have engaged in a clerical gay orgy in his Springfield Diocese similar to an orgy that took place in the Vatican in the summer of 2017.

Question 3: In a written response to a LifeSite reporter, Father Peter Harman was reported to have said that the *college* denies the allegations. He wrote: “We contest every and all allegations completely and categorically.” Did a CNA or CNS reporter ask him point blank if he personally ever engaged in homosexual relations with his former bishop or with any priests or seminarians?

Paragraph 70 of the Complaint refers to “credible research suggesting a precedent of members of the NAC Board of Governors discriminating against heterosexuals or retaining faculty members who commit such discrimination or harassment against heterosexuals.”

Question 4: Did the CNA or CNS reporters inquire if any heterosexual seminarians were ever separated owing to their objections to homosexual behavior on the part of faculty and/or students?

Elizabeth Dias of *The New York Times* conducted confidential interviews with a number of gay priests. She reported in February of 2019 that while she read estimates that gay men probably make up at least 30 to 40 percent of the American Catholic clergy, some gay priests told her “the number is closer to 75 percent.” One priest in Wisconsin told her “he assumed every priest was gay unless he knows for a fact he is not.” A March 2019 article recounted an interview with a seminarian studying for the priesthood in Rome who said, “There are about 20 of us in my seminary. Seven are clearly gay. About six others have, we might say, tendencies. That agrees more or less with the usual percentage: between 60 and 70 per cent of seminarians are gay. Sometimes I think it's as many as 75 per cent.”

Question 5: Studies reveal a high percentage of gays in the episcopacy, priesthood, and seminaries that the Catholic hierarchy in particular does not wish to talk about because many of them are themselves homosexuals. Under these circumstances, the allegation that Gorgia, a heterosexual, was coerced into leaving formation by certain gay faculty members is quite plausible. Are Fathers Harman and Park willing to swear under oath that neither of them are homosexuals and would have no fear of being outed by Anthony Gorgia or any heterosexual?

In addition to hiding the number of clergy they knew engaged in the sexual abuse of minors, Church leaders also want to cover-up the large number of cardinals, archbishops, priests, and seminarians who are not only homosexually oriented, but also sexually active with fellow clergy, seminarians, other vulnerable adults and children. Just as ex-Cardinal Theodore McCarrick engaged in double-speak by denouncing clerics who engage in sex abuse while he himself was abusing minors, seminarians, and young priests, so too does the Vatican fail to practice what it preaches. While the Vatican's Congregation for the Clergy decreed that men with “deeply rooted

homosexual tendencies” shouldn’t be admitted into Catholic seminaries, it was that same Vatican Congregation that appointed then-Archbishop Edwin O’Brien to be in charge of a Vatican investigation of US seminaries. O’Brien was reported to have attempted to recruit two avowed homosexuals to study for the priesthood and apply to be chaplains in the military. One of those two men later wrote, “As head of the 2005 seminary visitation, he [O’Brien] told reporters that men with homosexual inclinations should not be admitted to the seminary...Yet he had been recruiting at Courage, a conference for men and women struggling with homosexuality.”

Question 6: Cardinal Edwin O’Brien is a former NAC rector who was accused of recruiting avowed homosexuals to become priests. The Vatican appointed O’Brien to undertake a study of US seminaries that were reported to have been infested with sexually active homosexuals. Unlike O’Brien’s internal whitewash investigation that did not result in any seminaries being closed or rectors being disciplined, two rectors from Buffalo and Boston were removed as a result of being reported for covering up homosexual activity by whistleblower seminarians. Given the fact that these two rectors were fired in late 2018, the same time Gorgia was reprised against by Harman, Park, and Dolan, might these defendants have seen Gorgia as a threat for outing gay clergy and having any of the defendants’ present and/or past sexual behavior come to light?

Just as the reporters were unable to uncover in 2007 that then-Archbishop O’Brien covered up allegations of homosexual predation on the part of Chaplain (Washington Priest) Father John “Matt” Lee that he was informed of five years earlier, so too will reporters today only be able to uncover the truth if they ask the right questions in the right way.

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