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Dr. Leon J. Podles  
Crossland Foundation  
305 Washington Avenue, Suite 204  
Towson, Maryland 21204  
<mailto:leepodles@cs.com>

Dear Dr. Podles:

Thank you for your letter of March 15, 2006.

On October 29, 1992, Fr. Real Bourque, O.M.I., entered into an employment agreement with EWTN that became effective on January 2, 1993. This agreement was made with the approval of his Provincial, Fr. George Capen, O.M.I., and Bishop Raymond Boland of Birmingham. At that time, EWTN was not aware of any allegations of improper conduct on the part of Fr. Bourque.

Your letter states that Fr. Bourque "admitted abusing boys both in Maine and at the lay community associated with the Oblates in Natick, Massachusetts" and that "one victim said he thought that Bourque had abused numerous boys at the community in Massachusetts." We state categorically that EWTN had no knowledge of these specific allegations at the time it hired Fr. Bourque.

On December 21, 1994, Fr. Capen informed EWTN that Fr. Bourque was being withdrawn from his assignment at EWTN by the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate.

By letter dated October 4, 1995, Fr. Capen gave Fr. Bourque permission to return to EWTN, disclosed the general reasons for Fr. Bourque's withdrawal from EWTN and informed EWTN of the conditions under which Fr. Bourque would be allowed to return to limited ministry at EWTN.

This arrangement was approved by Bishop David Foley of Birmingham who granted Father Bourque limited faculties on November 30, 1995. In the spirit of compassion, EWTN allowed Fr. Bourque to return to EWTN. At the time Father Bourque returned to EWTN, EWTN had no knowledge of the specific allegations set forth in the third paragraph of your letter. EWTN is not aware of any misconduct on the part of Fr. Bourque that occurred during his tenure at EWTN.

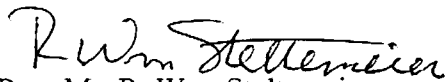
Anthony Cipolla has not at any time been employed by or assigned to ministry at EWTN. Cipolla appeared as a guest on two episodes of the *Mother Angelica Live* program, on August 22, 1984 and October 10, 1990. On both occasions, Cipolla presented himself as a priest in good standing. At no time was EWTN aware of any restrictions upon then-Father Cipolla's priestly faculties.

Following his 1994 appearance at a Mass televised on EWTN, EWTN consulted with the Diocese of Pittsburg and received a clarification on Cipolla's status. He has not again appeared on EWTN.

Due to the extremely sensitive nature of the issues raised in your letter and in this response, and the potential for misleading readers by partial reference or quotation, we respectfully request that this letter not be paraphrased, summarized, excerpted, quoted in part, or otherwise referred to in any work without reproducing or otherwise making the complete letter available to the reader in the same work.

I hope that this information will enable your readers to gain an accurate understanding of EWTN's involvement with Fr. Bourque and Anthony Cipolla.

Sincerely in Christ.



Rev. Mr. R. Wm. Steltemcier  
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

RWS/mfp