

## MEMORANDUM

### SALVATORE SCUDERI

1. Fr. Salvatore Scuderi was a member of the Companions of the Cross and Passion, a religious order under this communion, until the General Release of members of that order and its subsequent dissolution (no. 30/2011).
2. Fr. Salvatore took steps to dissociate himself from the communication that assented to the General Release and that, while not being sent by him, had had his name appended as a signatory. He wrote to the Presiding Bishop “Consider this as an official request to be accepted per your conditions as I am in full agreement...By this email I shall no longer use any links or connections with the former “alliance” per your orders...I shall cease all activity until I have faculties from Your Grace and +Tony or however that will be decided.” Subsequent communications established that this was indeed his firm intent and there was no cause to believe that he was equivocal on any matter.
3. In response to this communication, the Council of Three determined that it was appropriate to accept Fr. Salvatore as a Priest in this communion subject to the normal conditions, and he expressed his gratitude and willingness to comply with these. On Sunday 5 June he sent the required copies of his Letters of Ordination and educational documents to the Council of Three, and was issued with Faculties as a Priest within EADM. He was invited to put forward suggestions as to the means by which his Passionist vocation could best be recognized and his mission given appropriate canonical standing.
4. At the same time, he submitted the customary Oath of Canonical Obedience for priests (see Appendix), which was signed as required by Fr. Scuderi and witnessed by a member of the Council of Three as arranged. This Oath commits a priest to a period of five years of service before any request for excardination can be entertained. It also commits them to canonical obedience to this communion as is usual in a Catholic church. It is a solemn obligation, entered into before God, and constitutes a binding commitment.
5. A recent Memorandum (no. 34/2011) issued by the Council of Three details the deplorable behaviour of certain ex-members of this communion who have attempted to persuade our clergy to secede to schismatic bodies of their own creation, and our requirement that our clergy refrain from ecclesial contact with these bodies.
6. On Wednesday 8 June, Fr. Scuderi sent email communications to members of the Council of Three stating that he wished to “resign” from EADM and that he wished to be removed from its published list of

clergy. He stated that he was not prepared to enter into any dialogue on the matter. Although a member of the Council of Three was deputed to communicate with him and to seek to prevent such a hasty and destructive act, he refused all attempts at mediation, or towards offering him time to reflect further on his future and discuss the matter fully before arriving at a decision.

7. On Thursday 9 June, notification was sent to the Council of Three that Fr. Scuderi had been issued with “faculties” by one of the schismatic bodies referred to, in violation of all proper canonical order and in an act of deliberate defiance to this communion.
8. This communion remains committed to an unimpaired witness to the Catholic faith. Christian moral teaching requires that when a person gives his word or enters into an obligation, he means what he says. Our Lord says “Simply let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No,’ ‘No’; anything beyond this comes from the evil one” (Matt.5:37, NIV). Proverbs 14:5 tells us “An honest witness does not deceive, but a false witness pours out lies.”
9. The booklet “Information for Prospective Clergy” published by this jurisdiction as guidance for ordinands and incardinating clergy states as follows, “E.A.D.M. is a canonical jurisdiction and can only act in accordance with its Canon Law and understanding of ecclesial governance as a properly constituted communion of the One, Holy, Apostolic and Catholic Church. Although those who are still in the lay state can be discharged from candidacy without canonical consequences (provided they are in good standing), it is not possible for those who have received any of the minor orders to simply “resign” from E.A.D.M., nor to abandon the communion without canonical resolution of their status...Note that this communion expects that all difficulties or disputes will be resolved by means of open discussion and a mediation process between those concerned, focussing on the issues concerned with an emphasis on resolution and assisting those concerned to move forward. Clergy who are not prepared to engage fully with this process will be subject to disciplinary measures...A candidate who is not in good standing, who refuses attempts at mediation to resolve the issues concerned, or who abandons their ministry and is indifferent to attempts to contact them, will generally be administratively laicized after a disciplinary hearing by the Council of Three. This step, which is not reversible, voids the orders that have been bestowed and returns the candidate to the lay state. It is usual that such actions are made public by this communion in order to warn others who may be approached by the person concerned.”
10. It is important to emphasise that the decision to enter into canonical obligations in this communion is made freely by the person concerned, and the Council of Three has never believed that a candidate should in

any way make those commitments rashly or other than after an appropriate period of prayer and serious consideration, points which are emphasised in the aforementioned booklet. There is no ambiguity that the commitments made in an Oath are serious commitments with consequences inherent upon them. We do not treat these matters with the casualness and open disregard for ecclesial order that are regrettably present in certain “independent” bodies.

11. It is clear to us that we must, with regret, reach the following conclusions in respect of Fr. Salvatore Scuderi:

- i. that he is in clear breach of his oath of canonical obedience;
- ii. that his commitment to serve in this communion was undertaken deceptively and without the appropriate intent;
- iii. that it is impossible to place confidence in his statements or trust in his ministry as a Priest.

Accordingly we have taken the following measures:

### ACTIONS

1. Salvatore Scuderi has been deprived of Faculties in this communion and has been removed from the body of clergy for disciplinary cause. He is not entitled to represent himself as a priest of this church, nor to act in that capacity. He has been reduced to the lay state in this communion.
2. This communion formally dissociates itself from all future actions undertaken by the said Salvatore Scuderi and declares him *vitandus*.

*“They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us; but their going showed that none of them belonged to us.”* (1 John 2:19, NIV)

FOR THE COUNCIL OF THREE

9 June a.d. 2011

No. 37



## APPENDIX

### Oath of Canonical Obedience submitted by Fr. Salvatore Scuderi to the Council of Three of E.A.D.M.

#### OATH OF CANONICAL OBEDIENCE

##### Preamble:

In keeping with the teaching and tradition of the Church from its earliest times, the Ecclesia Apostolica Divinorum Mysteriorum requires of its clergy that they execute a formal Oath of Canonical Obedience upon being raised to or incardinated in any of the Major Orders, which in E.A.D.M. are the orders of Deacon, Priest and Bishop. This Oath shall normally be executed during the ceremony at which the candidate is ordained to the first Major Order they receive in E.A.D.M., or, for incardinating candidates, will become effective from the date of incardination. Even in the event that a member of clergy does not execute this Oath in writing, he or she will still be deemed to be bound by its general provisions for as long as he or she serves as a member of clergy under the authority of E.A.D.M.

##### Oath for Deacons and Priests:

Before Almighty God and in the presence of a witness (preferably a bishop) I Salvatore Scuderi, a priest make the following commitments, having the intention that they shall be binding upon me and in the understanding that a breach of any commitment shall incur canonical sanctions.

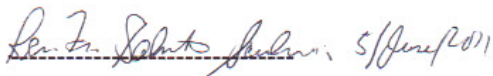
1. I promise to serve in my vocation to the greater glory of Almighty God and to the fullness of my ability, acknowledging and nurturing the Holy Spirit at work within me and ready to offer the best of myself to others.
2. I promise to the bishop who shall be my Ordinary and to his or her successors due reverence and obedience in matters canonical.
3. I promise that I will serve faithfully in E.A.D.M. for a minimum term of five years before any request for excardination to another communion is submitted.
4. I promise that any intention on my part to apply to another communion to serve bi-vocationally in addition to my service in E.A.D.M. will be submitted to E.A.D.M. in advance and will be subject to receiving the formal approval of E.A.D.M.

5. I promise that in the event that I am involved in, aware of, or subject to any matter, whether criminal or otherwise, that has any potentially negative consequence for E.A.D.M. I will seek as an urgent priority to make this known to my Ordinary on the understanding that the matter will then receive consideration by the Presiding Bishop.

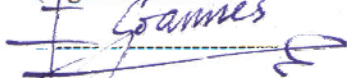
6. I promise that in the event that I am diagnosed with any mental illness or impairment that I will notify my Ordinary on the understanding that the matter will then receive consideration by the Council of Three.

This I undertake of my own free will, without force or fear, and in the love of Christ.

Revd. Fr. Salvatore Scuderi

 5/June/2011

(Signature of Priest)



(Signature of Bishop/Witness)

Date: 5 June 2011