

Diocese of Down and Connor
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March 8, 2018

Very Rev Eugene O'Hagan,
Vicar General & Chancellor of the Diocese of Down an Connor,

I am writing as a Catholic layman to express my gratitude for your letter of 22nd December 2017 in response to a certain Emmett O'Regan who resides in your Diocese.

You see, for some time now Emmett for years now has gone by what many believe to be an assumed name or a pseudonym, in order to cast false aspersions against others, including Catholic theologians and priests who are in good standing in the Church. I wish to inform you that these false assertions were brought to the attention of a Religious Superior General from Rome, Italy who was compelled to intervene and inform the public of Emmett's calumnies against one of his good priests. Below I share the Roman Superior General's letter with you along with Emmett's false assertions that provoked this letter.

Perhaps you may already know that Emmett's real name is John (Emmett) O'Regan who is 41 years old and lives with his parents at 6 Lake Glen Green in Belfast, Ireland and, for reasons unknown, prefers not to be addressed by his Christian name of John. Two Catholic theologians that reviewed his blog and works have found that he nurtures a penchant for extravagant apocalyptic teachings and makes false assertions which I thought to bring to your attention.

Falsehood: John O'Regan has posted the defamatory statement on his public blog dated Feb. 11, 2018: "*The Oblates of St. Joseph Confirm that Fr. Joseph Iannuzzi is not a Priest in Good Standing.*" He asserts that this information comes from a Fr. Bronzini whom Emmett claims is the OSJ Secretary General and the second in charge of the Congregation. One wonders how Emmett

Falsehood unmasked: In February 2018 Fr. Giocondo Bronzini was informed of Emmett's false blog assertions using his name, and he informed the OSJ Superior General of the Roman Curia of their false nature. This prompted the following official ecclesiastical letter from the Superior General of the OSJ Congregation, thus revealing the falsehood of Emmett's assertions that he still posts on his blog today in Belfast. Consider that this official ecclesiastical letter in defense of Fr. Joseph comes 17 days after Emmett's false blog posting attacking Fr. Joseph without bases:



CONGREGAZIONE DEGLI OBLATI DI SAN GIUSEPPE
CURIA GENERALIZIA
Via Boccea 364 – 00167 Roma, ITALIA

The Superior General

Fr. Joseph Iannuzzi
c/o Mr. Leo Joseph Iannuzzi
178 Beachway Dr.
Palm Coast, FL 32137
USA

Dear Fr. Joseph,

Greetings and peace to you during this Lenten Season. I hope that you are well and the same for your father. It is good that you are there with him and I am happy to have been able to give you permission to say there with him in his time of need. It has come to my attention that claims have been made against you and in particular that you do not have permission from me in your current situation. This, of course, is not true. You are in good standing with the Congregation and in regular contact with the General Curia and for this I am also grateful.

Please be assured of my prayers for you and also for your father.

May God bless you and St. Joseph watch over you.

Yours in Christ,

Rome, 28th February 2018.

Fr. Michele Piscopo, O.S.J.

Father General

May I add that Fr. Dr. Joseph L. Iannuzzi has never met nor communicated with Emmett. Fr. Joseph has obtained 5 post-graduate degrees, including a Licentiate and a Doctorate in Sacred Theology respectively *summa cum laude* and *magnum cum laude* from the Gregorian Pontifical University of Rome, he is respected by the OSJ Roman Curia where he is incardinated, and is currently the *peritus* assisting several Bishops in the review of the theological materials of five Servants of God in their Causes for Beatification.

To Emmett's discredit Fr. Bronzini *is not* the Secretary General of the OSJ *nor* is he the second in command, as Emmett falsely asserts. Indeed, on the blog there is found only Emmett's typed words and the name of Fr. Bronzini that Emmett puts forth – there is no document, no dated letter, no signature and no seal from Fr. Bronzini or from the OSJ Curia.

Falsehood: Emmett promotes himself as a “theologian” and has written several Catholic Bishops and Fr. Joseph's OSJ Roman Superior claiming this title in an attempt to utter false aspersions against him.

Falsehood unmasked: To date, documents show that Emmett has not attended any Catholic University nor studied theology at one. Such documents indicate rather that he only obtained a bachelor of arts from the secular institute of Queen's College.

Falsehood: Emmett falsely asserts on his public blog that Fr. Joseph's theological works have no ecclesiastical approbation.

Falsehood unmasked: To Emmett's discredit Fr. Joseph's Doctoral Dissertation bears two official ecclesiastical seals of approval by the Gregorian Pontifical University *magnum cum laude* and accolades of many Bishops; he has written numerous works, several of which bear the preface and endorsement of Catholic Bishops, the *Imprimi Potest* of the OSJ Superior General, etc.

It is interesting that Emmett presently solicits monies on the internet at a 'gofundme' account and has thus far raised nearly \$2,000.00 (1,381 Pounds). Perplexing is the fact he claims on his gofundme page to be soliciting monies because he has defended Pope Francis which has caused him to gone broke and no longer find people to buy his books; he is moreover soliciting monies with the hope of being accepted into a theology program. This seems unusual, as Emmett has not obtained a customary letter of recommendation to a Catholic University by an ecclesiastical authority.

Falsehood: Emmett falsely asserts that Fr. Joseph violated a moratorium on the Servant of God Luisa Piccarreta's writings contained in his Doctoral Dissertation, which is approved by the Pontifical University of Rome with high honors.

Falsehood unmasked: Had Emmett done his research he would have readily discovered that before embarking upon his Doctoral Dissertation from the Pontifical University of Rome approved with high honors, Fr. Joseph requested and obtained in writing an official ecclesiastical letter from the Archdiocese of Italy that is entrusted with the writings and Cause of Luisa's Cause for Beatification explicitly endorsing his doctoral studies on the writings of Luisa at the Pontifical University of Rome (see footnote 1). Further indicating the falsehood of Emmett's assertion is that nowhere does he provide any documentation of a moratorium, but himself invokes the word moratorium again without documentation or ecclesial support.

Truth be told, the Archbishop of Trani G.B. Pichierri and Fr. Joseph's Religious Superiors have publicly dismissed Emmett's false assertions with official ecclesial letters on Fr. Joseph's behalf. On January 29, 2002 the Archbishop of Trani issued to Fr. Joseph a formal letter formally granting him permission to commence his doctoral studies on the writings of the Servant of God Luisa Piccarreta at the Gregorian Pontifical University.¹ And on November 22, 2012 Fr. Joseph's Doctoral Dissertation was unanimously approved *magnum cum laude* by the Gregorian Pontifical University of Rome, bearing the seals of approbation for publication.² Also, the same Archbishop

¹ On Jan. 29, 2002 the Archdiocese of Trani issued the following written, signed and sealed letter to the Gregorian Pontifical University on behalf of Fr. Iannuzzi's Doctoral Dissertation: "In response to your request for a letter for the moderator of your doctoral thesis... I can assure you that there are no objections for the scientific research on the writings... of the Servant of God Luisa Piccarreta" (*"In risposta alla tua richiesta di una lettera per il moderatore della tua tesi di dottorato... posso assicurarti che non vi sono obiezioni per l'approfondimento scientifico degli scritti... della Serva di Dio Luisa Piccarreta"*).

² On November 22, 2012 Fr. Iannuzzi publically presented before the theological faculty and student body of the Gregorian Pontifical University the Doctoral Dissertation entitled, *"The Operations of the Divine and Human Will in the Writings of the Servant of God Luisa Piccarreta – An Inquiry into the Early Ecumenical Councils, and into Patristic, Scholastic and Contemporary Theology"*. The dissertation was approved with high honors by said university which is authorized by the Holy See.

After the November 22, 2012 successful public presentation of his Doctoral Dissertation on the writings of the Servant of God Luisa, on December 12, 2012 the Pontifical University of Rome authorized Fr. Iannuzzi to publish said doctoral dissertation affirming, "Fr. Joseph Iannuzzi... you shall be called 'Doctor in Spirituality' after you have published your dissertation, consigned the requested copies to the Secretary's Academic Office and obtained approbation from the Censors" (*"P. Joseph Iannuzzi... sarà dichiarato 'Dottore in Spiritualità' dopo che avrà pubblicato la sua dissertazione, ne avrà consegnato le copie richieste in Segreteria Accademica e avrà ottenuto l'approvazione dei Censori"*). In the official signed and sealed document of January 11, 2013, said Censors granted "approbation *magnum cum laude*" to Fr. Iannuzzi's doctoral dissertation on Luisa's writings and authorize its "publication".

In 2013 the doctoral dissertation, with the authorization of the Pontifical University, is published and distributed to Vatican Congregations for the Doctrine of Faith and for the Causes of Saints, and to the 494 USA Catholic Bishops. Also 40 copies of extracts of this thesis were sent to the various Pontifical Universities and to the

of Italy wrote two letters in defense of Fr. Joseph, dated respectively June 15, 2005 and May 2, 2017.

In the light of the preceding, the ecclesiastical letters in support of Fr. Joseph's scholarship and good standing contradict Emmett's false assertions that he is not on good standing and that he continues to spread from his blog in Belfast. The lay faithful who have known John O'Regan (Emmett) and have shared their impression of him, readily acknowledge that he has openly written and spoken against the writings of the Church-approved Servant of God Luisa Piccarreta, several of which bear the Magisterial *Imprimatur* and *Nihil Obstat*, and of another mystic whose writings bear the Magisterium's *Imprimatur* and *Nihil Obstat*. They further contest that Emmett's false assertions against Fr. Joseph is due in part to Fr. Joseph's having successfully demonstrated before the faculty of theology in Rome the orthodoxy of the writings of these mystics that bear the Church's official seals of approbation. Still, one wonders how long Emmett will continue to post public falsehoods against a priest in good standing that appears to violate the Catholic Church's Code of Canon Law 220 and 1390, §2.

I thought to bring this info. to your attention in advance, in the event Emmett may wish to contact you once I inform others of the falsehoods he continues to publicize.

I am once again grateful to you for your letter.

May God continue to bless you and your Diocese,

In JMJ,
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Archdiocese of Trani. From June 2013 – July 2013, more than 45 Bishops express in writing their esteem for Fr. Iannuzzi's doctoral dissertation.

