

having carefully weighed the evidence and the proofs,
having afforded the accused the right of defense through his legitimately mandated
Advocate,
having listened to the Reverend Promoter of Justice, and
having consulted two experts in the law who have served as Assessors,
I, Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I., Archbishop of Chicago,
having only God before my eyes,
and invoking the name of the Most Holy Trinity,
do hereby **declare, pronounce, and decree:**

Reverend Raymond Skriba has been found guilty of the delict described in c. 1395§2; namely a sin against the sixth commandment of the Decalogue with a minor under the age of sixteen years of age. I have reached moral certitude that Father Skriba has committed this delict by carefully weighing the evidence that has been presented, as well as the opinions of Father Skriba's advocate and the two assessors. The difficulty in the case is that the accusers and the accused are trying to remember things that happened many years ago. It is to be expected that some of these memories may be inexact. But it has also been shown that in cases of childhood sexual abuse, although the details are often not precise, the fact that the child was abused is accurate. I find this to be the case with Father Skriba's accusers. I have also taken into account Father Skriba's admission to guilt during the investigation carried out by my predecessor.

Because of the seriousness of the offense, taking into account the circumstances of persons and things, and keeping foremost in my mind my obligation, enunciated by the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*, to provide for the protection of children and young people in my diocese, I have determined that some canonical penalty is warranted in this case. I do not believe, however, that the actions of Father Skriba warrant dismissal from the clerical state.

However, because of the seriousness of the offense and the scandal that has resulted among the Christian faithful, I make the following provisions in this case:

Father Raymond Skriba's faculties to minister as a priest of the Archdiocese are removed for a period of five years. At the end of that period of time, this decree will be reviewed to see if it must be renewed or can be revised. However, Father Skriba is permitted to celebrate Mass alone in his home, with no one else present. He may also celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Anointing of the Sick in danger of death only. Requests for other liturgical services should be directed to the Vicar for Priests.

Father Skriba is enjoined from being present in any way at any time on the property of St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church or School in Round Lake, Illinois. He may not exercise any pastoral ministry for the faithful of the parish and should not visit or stay within the territorial boundaries of the parish.

Since Father Skriba is already a retired priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago, he will receive the benefits as any retired priest.

I also direct the Vicar for Priests, in conjunction with the Professional Responsibility Administrator, to work with Father Skriba in determining his living arrangements and a monitoring protocol that should include quarterly meetings with the Vicar for Priests.

I also dispense Father Skriba from the obligation to wear ecclesiastical garb (c. 284), and strongly urge that he not wear such attire. Furthermore, he is not to represent himself as a priest to those unknown to him nor to act as an agent of the Archdiocese of Chicago.

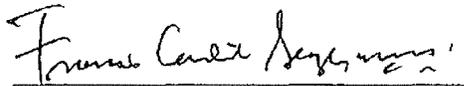
I encourage Father Skriba to observe the prescriptions of canons 273 to 289 concerning the rights and obligations of clerics. That is, he is to show reverence and obedience to the Supreme Pontiff and to his Ordinary (c. 273); to unite himself with the presbyterate of Chicago and promote the mission of the laity (c. 275); to pursue holiness of life, especially by availing himself of daily prayer, monthly spiritual direction and an annual retreat; to pursue opportunities for continuing education (c. 279), to foster simplicity of life (c. 282); and to foster peace and harmony based on justice (c. 287)

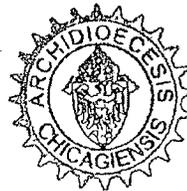
I further urge Father Skriba to refrain completely from all things which are unbecoming or foreign to the clerical state (c. 285) and which could bring further scandal upon the Church.

Most especially, because of his actions in the past, I remind Father Skriba of his obligation to observe perfect and perpetual continence for the sake of the kingdom and to behave with due prudence toward persons who could endanger this obligation (c. 277).

This decision shall be made known to Father Skriba and to his Advocate at the earliest possible moment, as well as their right to appeal any decision of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith to the *feria quarta* of that same Congregation.

Given at Chicago, Illinois on the 4th day of August, 2005.


Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.
Archbishop of Chicago




Ecclesiastical Notary