

CONGREGATIO
LEGIONARIORUM CHRISTI

DIRECTOR GENERALIS

Statement


In the context of recent scandals involving members of the Roman Catholic Clergy, the news media have republished allegations that a group of former Legionaries of Christ brought against me in 1996 concerning alleged events which according to them took place 40 or 50 years ago. Though I have already answered these charges on several occasions, I want to restate my position once more.

Before God and with total clarity of conscience I can categorically state that the accusations brought against me are false. I never engaged in the sort of repulsive behavior these men accuse me of, and nothing could be further from my way of dealing with others, as is evident to any of the thousands of legionaries who know me.

These charges astonish me, because I have always looked for the good of these persons, both while they were members of the Legion and after they left. I have in my possession letters from several of these men from the 1960s and 1970s, expressing in very warm, cordial terms their gratitude and friendship. I cannot judge these men and the motives they have for leveling these false accusations against me. I can only pray for them, so that God may grant them light and peace, moving their hearts so that they will cease these activities.

I cannot hide the fact that these false accusations have caused deep sorrow and moral suffering to me and others. I bear no ill will towards those who are attacking me, and wish rather to unite my suffering to Christ. I wish to express special thanks to all those who under these difficult circumstances have renewed their friendship and support.

22 April 2002


Fr. Marcial Maciel, L.C.