

"To implement everything in order to defend the honor, the memory, the thought, the intellectual, spiritual and human inheritance of father Marie-Dominique PHILIPPE (1912-2006), as regards his person as well as his spiritual commitments."

Information note n°5

Paris, on march 19th, 2017

On December 20, 2016, the Dicastery for Religious issued a decree in response to the appeal filed by the PHILIPPE family against the decree of classification of her complaint issued by Mgr RIVIERE (see Information Note No. 4).

This decree recognizes the defamatory nature of the statements of the Prior General of the Congregation St Jean in the press in May and June 2013. It exonerates him on the grounds that this defamation was considered legitimate and without harmful intent. Harmful intent is characterized by the full consciousness of harming the accused and the will to do so.

This decree constitutes a simple verdict (8 pages). It now officially brings to light new people responsible for the defamation. In fact as in law, this decree is easily questionable. It appears to be the consequence of the absence of independent and contradictory inquiry into the accusers and critics of Fr. MD PHILIPPE and their relationship.

This investigation was officially rejected on 9 occasions during the various steps taken by the PHILIPPE family and the friends of Fr. MD PHILIPPE for almost 4 years: 4 times by Msgr. RIVIERE, once by the ad hoc Commissioner and 4 times by the Dicastery for the religious orders.

This decree is also the consequence of numerous procedural flaws, denying the rights of the defense.

The family was not informed that its appeal was taken over by the Dicastery for the religious orders and discovered it only on reception of the decree establishing the verdict.

The list of lawyers authorized for this Dicastery was not communicated to the family. This list had, however, been duly requested on 3 occasions from the relevant authorities (see Letter to the Nuncio of 27 December 2016). Again, the complainant was not interviewed on her testimony concerning the accusers of Father MD PHILIPPE. Such a hearing would have avoided the misleading and erroneous interpretations of the depositions which gave rise to the decree.

In summary, this decree marks an important step in the rehabilitation of Fr. MD PHILIPPE.

The defamatory nature is recognized and the work of the lawyers and canonists of the PHILIPPE family aims today to show how this defamation was not legitimate and to prove the harmful intent of its main authors. Strong convergent and verifiable indications exist. They are already put into perspective in several consequent and highly structured documents, in fact as in law (more than 100 pages to date).

Since defamation applies equally to the person of Father MD PHILIPPE as well as his teachings, this work will be long and take on various forms since the stakes are high. It is in this sense that your testimonies about his person and especially about his teachings are very important. They contribute directly to their full rehabilitation.