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Can a Catholic Priest be Dismissed from the Priesthood having fathered a child?

COPING INTERNATIONAL ASKED THIS QUESTION OF FR. THOMAS DOYLE, CANON LAWYER, HIS RESPONSE FOLLOWS...

“A bishop can suspend a priest but on his own authority he cannot dismiss a priest from the priesthood. A man can be dismissed only as a penalty following conviction in a canonical trial of a canonical crime that allows dismissal as a possible punishment. A transgression of celibacy is a different matter than committing a canonical crime that amounts to a transgression of celibacy and those crimes are specifically laid out in canon law. Fathering a child may be a transgression of celibacy but it is not a canonical crime. A bishop/religious superior does not have to do anything. He may impose a penance of some sort but fathering a child is not a canonical crime as such and therefore is not of itself a reason for dismissal.”

- Thomas P. Doyle, J.C.D., C.A.D.C. December 2017.