



LOURDES ♦ EX-STUDENT ♦ ASSOCIATION ♦ USA

A RESPONSE TO HIS GRACE ARCHBISHOP CORNELIUS ESUA, THE ARCHBISHOP OF BAMENDA

From Leonie Mpafe Samuto, President LESA -USA

Dear Archbishop Cornelius Esua,

I write to you today as the elected president and leader of the Our Lady of Lourdes Ex-Students Association residing in the USA (LESA-USA), in response to your communiqué dated November 1st, 2010. On behalf of LESA-USA, I thank you for your concern and your advice. I regret to inform you, however, that LESA-USA cannot accept your recommendations for the simple reason that they go contrary to stipulations in our by-laws.

As a leader and scholar, I am confident that you understand that by-laws are the backbone of any organization and the mantle that guides the modus operandi of the association. LESA-USA by-laws specifically grant the sole authority of calling an extra-ordinary meeting of the national executive to the President. Decisions made at such a meeting are binding until the Annual General Meeting where they can be voted upon. Our by-laws do not have any provision for an extra-ordinary general meeting (EGM). Consequently, the EGM that you refer to in your communiqué, which is the basis for your recommendation, is illegal and unconstitutional. You can therefore see, Your Grace, why LESA-USA cannot recognize any action that resulted from an unsanctioned gathering of less than thirty Lourdes' ex-students. I am sure that if Your Grace had spoken with the LESA-USA leadership and been advised of our by-laws, you would have called for the so-called EGM leaders to stop their chaotic actions and follow our binding principles. I trust that Your Grace will do the right thing, now that you have a better understanding of our procedures, and recall that recommendation. I am attaching a copy of our by-laws and constitution to this letter.

Like you rightly said, we have been blessed with a solid education that has taught us vision and responsibility. That is why LESA-USA's by-laws have a well defined pathway to problem resolution within the association. I can assure you, Your Grace, that under my leadership, LESA-USA is taking the necessary steps within the confines of our by-laws to address the problems we face. LESANS understand this and are encouraged to follow due process at all times. Creating break-out associations is not a solution and shall not be tolerated. I am sure that Your Grace, in the spirit of justice and peace, can reach out to LESA Cameroon and advise them to refrain from

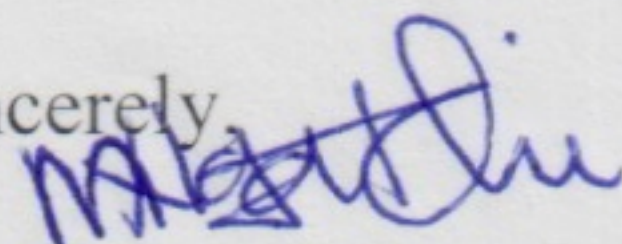
interference that creates chaos within LESA-USA. LESA-USA certainly values counsel from LESA-Cameroon and anyone else, but this needs to be through appropriate channels.

Your Grace, while I applaud your efforts to create stability and peace within LESA-USA, I am disappointed the manner in which you arrived at your decisions. I understand that you did not have all the facts that you do now, and trust that you will do the right thing now. I also regret to inform you that as a legal entity in the United States that enjoys certain tax privileges, LESA-USA is forbidden by law from granting administrative, financial or programmatic oversight to foreign entities. This means that LESA-USA would lose its legal and tax status in the USA, that are the backbone of the benevolent work it does for Our Lady of Lourdes Secondary school, if it takes directives from LESA-Cameroon or the Archdiocese of Bamenda. Such a situation would be bad for the students in Lourdes who stand to benefit from our multiple initiatives such as the scholarship program, water project, and future projects. I am certain that Your Grace wouldn't want this for your beloved Our Lady of Lourdes; or any other catholic school in your jurisdiction. Your Grace can guide LESA-USA in an advisory role without jeopardizing LESA-USA's status, and LESA-USA is happy to seek help and advice from Your Grace when necessary. LESA-USA is also happy to work with LESA-Cameroon in a mutually beneficial and productive way

On behalf of LESA-USA, I thank you for listening and for caring. May the good Lord guide and protect you, and shower you with the wisdom, patience and blessings you need to continue your difficult challenge of stewardship in the Archdiocese of Bamenda.

Given in Silver Spring, MD on November 8th, 2010

Sincerely,



Leonie Mpafe Samuto
President, LESA-USA

Copy:

National Executive Committee (NEC) LESA-USA
The Principal of Our Lady of Lourdes secondary school
The National President of LESA Cameroon

Attachment: LESA-USA Constitution and By-laws