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Archbishop of Lipa

COMMUNIQUÉ
From Archbishop Arguelles

May 31, 2016

"Therefore, having carefully examined the matter and having, in summary, put forth the reasons behind the definitive decision made in 1951, the Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith hereby

DECREES

that, in the light of the fact that the declaration of 1951 was a decision confirmed by the Supreme Pontiff and therefore definitive, consequently, the matter of the phenomenon of Lipa is not subject to the authority of the local Diocesan Bishop (cf. CIC can 333). Therefore, the decree of Archbishop Arguelles dated 15 September 2015 is null and void.

Furthermore, this Congregation confirms the definitive nature of the 11 April 1951 decree by which the phenomena of Lipa were declared to lack supernatural origin.

The authority on which this declaration was made not that of the Bishop members of the Special Commission, but rather of the Supreme Pontiff.

Furthermore, the Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith repeats its instruction that any and all commissions studying the question of the alleged supernatural phenomenon of the alleged apparitions in the Carmel of Lipa be immediately disbanded."

The above are the concluding lines (*italics mine*) of a four and one-fourth page, sixteen paragraphs, document from the Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith headlined: *PROT. N. 226/1949 PRESUMED APPARITIONS OF THE BVM AT THE CARMELITE CONVENT IN LIPA, PHILIPPINES (italics NOT mine)*. The document was dated Rome, December 11 2015 and signed by Gerhard Card. MÜLLER, Prefect and +Luis F. LADARIA, S.I., Titular Archbishop of Thibica, Secretary. A copy was handed to me last Saturday, May 28, 2016, in Lucena City and the Original and official copy was given me yesterday, May 30, 2016. Today, albeit the Feast of the Visitation (formerly Feast of Mary, Mediatrix of All Grace), I deem it my duty to let all know. My hope and prayer is that, this document notwithstanding, we will never doubt the love of God and the Blessed Mother for all of us -Their zealous devotees from the entire world- but remain steadfast and determined to bring hope and blessings to many in this troubled world.