

October 29, 1976

The Reverend Siegfried F. Widera
1078 Salvadore
Costa Mesa, California 92626

Dear Siegfried,

This letter is written to you to follow our telephone conversation Wednesday morning. This relates to the recommendation of the Personnel Board at its meeting of October 26th. After I spoke with you, I called the Archbishop, who is aware of this direction and supports its intent.

The Personnel Board recommends a choice. First, that you pursue significant counseling to assist you in coming in touch with yourself about the action that has brought about a hasty exit from your last two assignments. Specifically, the House of Affirmation was suggested at the Board meeting and such information was given to you via the phone. Subsequent to such therapy, you would be considered for an appointment within the Archdiocese. The alternative would be for you to be released to the services of another diocese; with the permission of the Archbishop, you would request to minister elsewhere. Should you select the second alternative, the Board would ask periodic reports about your status.

You are confronted toward a decision by the Board, in what we hope is very positive toward dealing with your present situation. You may well decide to seek consultation from others like Leo Graham, your brother or others, but basically you will need to decide.

Your present status with the Archdiocese is delicate. Subsequently, your salary, insurance, and all other benefits need to be clarified. We suggest that you contact Father Sampon to finalize your present situation. Be assured that help is available to assist you through all of this. On the other hand, you may need to look to helping out in a priestly way during this duration, to get some method of financial income. The Chancellor, Father Sampon, would be able to direct you relating to faculties and benefits. His address is P. O. Box 2018, 345 North 95th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53201.

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do ask that underneath all of what is stated, that you are assured of our interest in you. You are a generous and loving man, who has served as a priest for almost ten years. ~~At the same time, there is something within~~ you that you need to give adequate attention to, so that you can take away the suspicion and mistrust within yourself that forces you to run away. The Personnel Board is interested in being informed at the earliest possible time of your direction in all of this.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Reverend John J. Waldbauer,
Executive Secretary
Priests' Personnel Board