

saint brigid's church

4735 CASS STREET

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92109

(714) 488-2875

February 16, 1978

The Most Rev. Rembert G. Weakland, O.S.B., D.D.,
Archbishop of Milwaukee
345 North 95th Street P. O. Box 2048
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53204

Your Excellency:

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my belated congratulations on your appointment as Archbishop of Milwaukee. While I have not met you personally, through your column in the Catholic Herald and through my Milwaukee contacts I feel that the Spirit has indeed favored us with a most beautiful and benevolent bishop.

The second reason for this letter is an appeal to your benevolence. I am one of your priests working outside the Archdiocese of Milwaukee with the permission of your predecessor, Archbishop Cousins. In his wisdom he allowed the restless spirit within me to pursue a ministry that led me to West Virginia for two years where I served as chaplain to the Marshall University Catholic Community and then a brief time at St. Louis University. Finding the latter rather unfulfilling, I was led to California and my present position. All this after serving ten years as an associate pastor in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

At St. Brigid's I have found a warm and loving community, headed by a man whom I love and respect. The California climate is agreeable and I feel a renewed sense of mission. The ministry is varied enough to provide the challenge I need and I would very much like to remain in my present position.

I have made my wishes known to the Archdiocesan Personnel Board and I am hereby seeking your permission to extend my stay in California with a possible view to incardination in the Diocese of San Diego. My only family ties in Wisconsin are my widowed mother, who was thrilled to be photographed with you at the Fond du Lac reception in your honor, and some cousins with whom I have limited contact. A move to California seems a good idea at this time, particularly since the Wisconsin climate has presented some health problems for me.

I would very much like to serve the people of God under your direction, but since you are there and I am here; there is a geographical problem. Your expertise in music is well recognized and our Choir Director here will have occasion to profit from it when he attends the Convention at Scranton. I wish I were also able to attend. St. Brigid's has a very fine choir which is one of the reasons I enjoy being here.

I have had some contact with members of your Community at St. Charles Priory where our Parish Team had a day of recollection. I hope that sometime a visit to the San Diego area will provide time for a personal visit.

I hope you will pardon the informality of this letter, but will rather regard it as a token of heartfelt esteem for your person.

AMIL00251

EX303

saint brigid's church

4735 CASS STREET

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92109

(714) 488-2875

-2-

I do not know when I can arrange a trip to Wisconsin, since my mother recently spent two weeks here. Incidentally she has been the organist at St. Mary's, Woodland since 1933 and will be most appreciative of your musical talents.

Looking forward to meeting you personally and hoping that we can come to a meeting of minds regarding my position I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Franklyn W. Becker

[Rev.] Franklyn W. Becker
Class of 1964

P.S. The new priests' directory has me listed as the Class of 1974. I would be happy to have ten years taken off my life, but since they say "life begins at forty" my California beginnings may be as providential as your "coming to Wisconsin".

AMIL00252