

[REDACTED]
February 22, 1980

Rev. Raymond E. Vint, Pastor
St. Margaret Mary Parish
3930 North 92nd
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53222

Franklin Becker

Dear Father Vint,

It has come to our attention during the past few weeks that Father Becker has been involved in an incident which could cause consternation in our parish. In talking with him regarding this matter we have been impressed with Father's knowledge of himself and his openness and honesty. The incident which occurred in December is an isolated one, an incident which perhaps was not so much an inappropriate act but a concern for a teenage boy who might be struggling with his own identity.

Further discussion of the actual event is unnecessary at this time. As a member of St. Margaret Mary Parish we would like to offer support for Father Frank and hope that the incident will not be cause for him to be removed from the parish. Many have grown to respond to him, to respect and trust him. It would appear to us that in seeking therapy he has taken the necessary step to prevent a recurrence of the incident.

Father Frank's continuation in the parish would mean to us that our parish is willing to support one another in whatever crisis each is experiencing. We could foresee much growth occurring within a parish which had come to grips with a problem and stood behind a fellow human being.

As we look at the total parish we can see other problems which exist and which have not meant a change in personnel. We ask that the same lenience and understanding be demonstrated in this case.

We have been Catholics all of our lives, have been closely and intimately connected with the Church for many years and now feel a real commitment to be actively and humanely a part of the Christian Community. We would like to see the Church (all of us) continue to live up to its standards, "Let him who is without sin cast the first stone."

When a member of a family is in error it is a sad and unfortunate turn when that member is rejected and turned away from the family unit. Surely the family name is tarnished, there is a certain amount of

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embarrassment, but the family that stands behind such a person and works through the problem is to be admired and commended. If the priests in this parish were to stand together in support, it is our guess that the rumors would slowly dwindle and the incident forgotten.

Jesus was not afraid to be identified with every type of person in society. He cared about them, felt their pain, recognized their humanity and loved them. This is truly an example for all of us to follow.

Thank you for your time in considering our opinion. We trust you will make the best decision for everyone concerned.

I would be happy to discuss this matter with you personally. If you would like to do so, please call me in the evenings at [REDACTED]

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

cc: Father Frank Becker
Father Joseph Hornacek
Father Dick Mirsberger
Father Tom Wittliff
Most Reverend Archbishop Rembert Weakland

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