

*7/13 4/11  
What happened in Calif?  
members like being the priest  
station but for many on  
offer but would be required.*

St. Anne Church  
6885 Del Rosa Avenue  
San Bernardino, CA 92404-5699  
March 14, 1991

Rev. John B. McCormack  
Secretary for Ministerial Personnel  
Archdiocese of Boston  
2121 Commonwealth Avenue  
Brighton, MA 02135

ARCHDIOCESE OF BOSTON  
**RECEIVED**

MAR 11 1991

OFFICE OF  
MINISTERIAL PERSONNEL

Dear John:

Thank you for your kindness during your brief visit to the wild west. I have wrestled with your proposal that we diminish the amount of unpredictability in my life by agreeing to have me remain several years out here but as a part-time-diocesan-curate rather than archdiocesan-sick-leave-week-end-supply-priest. I told you that, as it is, I do all the baptisms, youth retreats, penance services and many week-end Masses at St. Anne's.

Not only am I reluctant to disturb the status quo that is working well but your plan would also violate the very same principles that landed me here.

I must protest the oath. Had I enough strength, I would be doing it from the roof tops because it is ultimately destructive of my church. Failing that, I have sought a way to dissociate myself from this abomination of desolation in the temple.

I cannot be a pastor says Rome. I will not be a curate there or here, since that is a punishment and I have done nothing wrong. That most priests are signing and advise me to, is no argument. Most of the bishops of England advised Thomas More that he should sign. Your own Archdiocesan theologian, whom you sent to dissuade me, ended up assuring me that he too could not sign the oath.

Again I tell you: do the decent thing. Allow me, quietly, to retire, or put me on permanent disability. Remove the unpredictability and my health will return. This is cruel and unreasonable punishment. The internist and the psychologist concede my unpredictably precarious health is a function of my unpredictable ecclesiastic future.

This oath will one day be abolished. Then how will you explain or compensate for what you have done to me? You have the opportunity to do it now.

Cordially,  
*Paul*

RCAB 00717

(Rev.) Paul R. Shanley

*P.S. Thank you for acting as go-between with Fred Ryan.  
Here's the latest batch.*