

April 18, 1978

The Reverend Edward O. Paquette  
18 Belleview Drive  
Westfield, Mass. 01085

Dear Father Paquette:

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It was with deep regret that I was forced by your conduct and the reaction of the parishioners to ask you to leave your assignment yesterday. You have so many good qualities as a human being and as a priest, that the people and priests of this Diocese, including myself, have come to regard you with affection. Still, the serious weakness that you have shown and your unwillingness or inability to cooperate with your counsellor at the House of Affirmation has forced this decision upon me.

As I informed you yesterday, I see no possibility of your returning to the Diocese of Burlington as a priest, and I am hereby suspending your faculties within this Diocese. As for the Diocese of Springfield or elsewhere, that would depend upon your own Ordinary - Bishop McManus in Fort Wayne-South Bend - and/or other Bishops in whose dioceses you might request to be active.

Since your membership in the Priests' Benefit Fund will be effective through June 30, 1978, the Diocese of Burlington will assume financial responsibility for counselling for the next several weeks. I shall be in correspondence with Bishop McManus and also visit with him the first week of May in an effort to determine how he may see your status for the future.

I am very grateful to you for the service that you have given to the Diocese of Burlington, and I hope most sincerely that you will be able to get to the root of your problem and one day be able to serve again as a priest.

With an assurance of my prayers and very best wishes for yourself and your family, I remain,

Devotedly yours in Christ,

(Most Reverend) John A. Marshall,  
Bishop of Burlington.

PLAINTIFF'S  
EXHIBIT  
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