

ST. JOHN THE APOSTLE PARISH

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June 10, 1997

Most Reverend Joseph P. Delaney
Bishop of Ft. Worth
800 W. Loop 820 South
Ft. Worth, TX 76108-2919

Dear Bishop,

I preface these remarks by reminding you that I am forever grateful for your support during my legal ordeal in Rhode Island and accepting me for service in the Diocese of Ft. Worth.

On May 6, 1992 when I was sentenced to serve 2 years in the Adult Correctional Institutions of the State of Rhode Island after pleading guilty to something I had not done in order to spare the Bishop of Providence, the priesthood and the Church further embarrassment, I felt that I would be able to handle any disappointment or humiliation in the future. That was until this past weekend when my hopes of the "Dream Team" for Grapevine were demolished.

When Nolan High wanted me to serve there I was told that the Personnel Board unanimously voted against it because I was "too pastorally oriented" to serve in a school.

When you invited Brother Paul and me to your office to get to know one another and look forward to serving in a parish that could afford both an Administrator and Sacramental Minister, you said it was your "dream" that he serve as an administrator and I as Sacramental Minister. It was pointed out that there was nothing available at the time and we tossed about a couple of ideas, one of which was St. Francis in Grapevine. No promises were made but the seeds of hope were sown.

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A few weeks ago Charlie King told me that the "Dream Team" would never happen. Now it has come true. A dream turned into a nightmare. I marvel at how the Personnel Board takes care of its own. Is it coincidence that Pemberton got to Holy Family, Scantlin to Blessed Sacrament, Rivero to Denton and now Robinson to Grapevine?

Msgr. King told us he suggested this taking over the Sacramental responsibilities at St. George's. He did not ask Dan or me what we thought. He also said someone was needed for Grapevine and since Ken wanted out of St. George's he would get a "substantial" parish. King told the parishioners here Sunday that "we were worried about losing one priest, but the Bishop has informed us that St. John's will take over Sacramental responsibilities for St. George's."

I have cooperated fully with the suggestions of how to bring my monthly expenses and income into line, sacrificing willingly to show that I could do it if given the chance. Mr. Scott MacDonald as well as Msgr. King can testify to my success in this.

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I have for six months now accepted the humiliation of having to make a weekly report of my daily schedule, where I go, with whom, etc., like a child to a parent. At 61 years of age and nearly 37 years as a priest, you have to realize how repugnant this is.

All this I have accepted in the sincere hope of being given a chance to prove I can be the priest I was ordained to be.

Msgr. King also told me during one of my reporting sessions that he would block any suggestion of the Personnel Board to recommend my being assigned to a parish and I have come to resent this to the point that I find it very difficult to continue serving as one of his associates. Dan Kelly wanted to get away from him after only serving a year here. I have put up with four years of his need to be the center of attention and sharing more with lay persons about the running of the parish than with us priests. Actually I feel the only reason he wants me here is because of my favorable rapport with all the parishioners, regardless of age. This offer to serve St. George's insures his keeping two assistants.

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I again reiterate that I am truly grateful for the support you extended to me during and after my legal problems. I cannot help but feel however that something has happened to our friendship and fraternal spirit and that I am destined in your mind to be an associate until the age of retirement.

Asking a remembrance in your prayers, I remain

Fraternally yours in Christ,

Phil

Rev. Philip A. Magaldi

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