



Jemez Springs, New Mexico 87025 (505) 829-3586

March 16, 1990

The Most Reverend Donald Pelotte, S.S.S., D.D.  
Coadjutor Bishop of Gallup  
Post Office Box 1338  
Gallup, New Mexico 87301

Your Excellency,

Enclosed please find the reports from a holistic evaluation which The Reverend James M. Burns experienced at Foundation House, Servants of the Paraclete, Jemez Springs, New Mexico from March 5th through the 9th, 1990. We are still awaiting the medical reports from the Clinic and will forward them as soon as they arrive. Otherwise, the enclosed reports are complete.

In my judgement as Executive Director of Therapeutic Programs, the enclosed reports accurately reflect Father Burns' personality style and present psychological status.

From my own interview with him, and from my review of the enclosed documents, I assess Father Burns to be struggling with the following therapeutic issues.

**Psychosexual Issues:** (identify confusion and need for integration of his sexuality with the rest of his person).

Guilt/shame based issues.

Adult Developmental Issues.

Priestly renewal issues.

Potential (remote) for legal issues.

A weight issue.

A strong, negative self-image.

In general, significant inner turmoil.



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I would note that Father Burns was quite cooperative and open in the evaluation process. While he has understandably mixed feelings about coming to a residential therapeutic program in Jemez Springs, he nonetheless is disposed to seek and make use of the resources and help available here. It was the consensus the Evaluation Team, based on their experience of him during the week he was with us, that Father Burns is capable of doing good therapeutic work in this milieu.

Our unanimous recommendation is that Father Burns enter one of the residential therapeutic programs offered by the Servants of the Paraclete in Jemez Springs. Two options present themselves.

1. Father Burns could enter the Villa Louis Martin Program relatively soon, either on April 2nd or May 1st, depending on which date would work best for the Diocese and Father Burns himself. If you and Father Burns determine that he should enter the Villa Louis Martin Program, please contact Father Peter Lechner, s.P., as Director of that Program as soon as possible.
2. Toward the end of his evaluation week, Father Burns expressed to Father [REDACTED] (spiritual director) that he was inclined toward the Foundation House Module which begins July 16, 1990 and ends December 7, 1990. If you and Father Burns choose the Foundation House Module, please contact my Administrative Assistant, Fr. [REDACTED] s.P., at your earliest convenience to make those arrangements.

We do not assess Father Burns to be at high risk of acting out sexually in the coming months. Accordingly, while definitely recommending one of the Jemez Springs Programs, we would leave the decision as to which program and the time table up to yourself, Your Excellency, and Father Burns.

As is reflected in the reports, Father Burns has led a tortuous existence due to the inner conflict he experienced regarding his sexuality, and has dealt with this largely in isolation. At the sametime, he appears to be a dedicated priest who has been effective despite the energy drained off by his inner turmoil. This clearly bespeaks significant personal, inner strength. We are optimistic about Father Burns' prognosis. Accordingly, as his

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inner turmoil, confusion and conflict are addressed and find resolve, his potential for a more satisfying personal life and more effective ministry is great.

As in the situation of another priest from the Diocese who is currently at Foundation House, we are aware of the scarce financial resources of the Diocese. Accordingly, the Servants of the Paraclete would offer a scholarship to cover the costs of board, room and the therapeutic program for Father Burns, while asking the Diocese to provide for Father Burns' personal spending money and health insurance.

If any of the above, or anything in the enclosed reports, raises questions or concerns for either yourself or for Father Burns, please feel most welcome to contact me. I will be in Rome from March 24th through April 1st. Otherwise, I will be available in Jemez Springs.

The Servants of the Paraclete are grateful once again to you, Your Excellency, for your confidence and support of our ministry to fellow priests and Brothers in personal difficulty.

Sincerely in Christ for His priests and Brothers,



(Very Rev.) Liam J. Hoare, s.P., M.A., C.A.C.  
Servant General  
Executive Director of Therapeutic Programs.

cc: The Reverend James M. Burns

Encs. 6.