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July 19, 1977

Reverend John Hanrahan
Office of the Chancery
Archdiocese of Louisville
212 East College Street
P.O. Box 1073
Louisville, Ky. 40201

Dear Jack:

In response to your note about checking out the status of Daniel Clark, I am happy to offer the following report.

Daniel Clark, whose home is Winchester, Indiana, was accepted as a student for the Archdiocese, during the Spring of 1976, when Fr. Nick Rice was on the way out of the Vocation Office and I was on the way in. He had previously been affiliated with the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. As is customary with transferring students, he was accepted with a probationary status; he was assigned to Mt. St. Mary's in Cincinnati.

As can be seen from his report card and his faculty evaluation which was sent to the Archbishop by the seminary rector on 9 June, 1977, Dan has had a less than outstanding year. Academically, he has failed two courses, his cumulative grade point average is less than 2.00 (equivalent of C), and he ranks at the very bottom of his class in scholastic standing. This is made even more disturbing in view of the fact that he purposely avoids pastoral and extra-curricular activities in order to concentrate on studies. As is noted in the faculty report, "he has not been too active in community peer functions or socializing." One faculty member told me that he was erratic in his attendance at liturgy and common prayer.

The faculty evaluation also notes some rather positive elements. It mentions that his major academic problems occurred in the first quarter and that his performance improved as the year progressed. This might help to substantiate the faculty's suggestion that the adjustment from St. Meinrad to St. Mary's was difficult. It is also a repeat of the pattern of his college experience, namely, a poor start and later improvement. The lack of involvement socially might also be the result of the difficulty with moving into St. Mary's; it seems that most non-Ohio students have a similar experience, since they are in such a sharp minority.



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There is, however, no defense for his absence from spiritual exercises, and I called this to Dan's attention in March. Among positive qualities, the faculty statement lists his honesty and openness; they describe him as friendly, gentle; and kind. Finally, they note his strong desire for priesthood, which is mentioned consistently in his recent history.

One final element that I would offer in describing Daniel Clark comes from the report of Dr. Robert Munson, dated 29 March, 1976. This report was the summary of personality testing done as part of the requirements for applying to the Archdiocese. Dr. Munson's evaluation was simple, the most positive psychological report that I have seen regarding any of our students, but other qualities are outstanding. Dr. Munson describes Dan as having excellent ego strength and good ties with reality; he describes him as self confident to a high degree. He is also described as being sensitive to the needs of people and capable of responding appropriately to them. Rather uncharacteristic of his reports, Dr. Munson specifically recommends Dan Clark as an "excellent candidate for priesthood."

Upon receiving the report card and faculty evaluation of Dan Clark, I contacted and made an appointment for him to come and see me. By special permission, he is working outside the Archdiocese this summer. Our meeting is scheduled for Friday, 5 August. I told him to plan on spending a few days here at that time. We have during those days the annual overnight gathering of the seminarians and, on 8 August, the Archbishop's meeting with the seminarians. At our August meeting, I will have this message for Dan: Considering his probationary status, his level of performance this past year could warrant our dismissing him. However, considering some of the circumstances (the changing of schools, etc.), we will keep him as a student for the Archdiocese, with his probationary status continuing. If no substantial improvement is noted this year, we will have to discontinue his affiliation with the Archdiocese. In the meantime, the two courses in which he received failing grades, since they are required courses, will have to be repeated. This will be done at his own expense, and not that of the Archdiocese.

If this course of action is not acceptable or seems inappropriate to the Archbishop, please let me know. If either you, Jack, or the Archbishop need further information or need to discuss this further, I am at your service.

Fraternally in the priesthood
of Christ,

Ben Brown

(Rev.) Ben J. Brown

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