

SAINT RITA CHURCH
8709 Preston Highway
Louisville, Kentucky 40219

February 10th, 1981

The Rev. Richard Steinmetz
Chancery, Archdiocese of Louisville
P.O. Box 1073
Louisville, KY 40201

Dear Dick,

I have studied your comments concerning the finances and would like to address myself to a few things you stated.

Perhaps I left something out of the material I sent but I sure do not come to the figures you have indicated, especially the "margin is after provision for modest savings and for social security taxes". As of yet, I have paid no social security nor do I know the amount to be paid. I currently have \$11.00 in my savings account and I'm big on trying to save. I do not have a list of the expenses I sent you but perhaps if you sent it back, I could go over it again.

In the area of stipends, you mentioned correctly "...I doubt this policy is universally followed, since most priests feel such work is done on "their own time". I could not expect my own parish to reimburse outside ministry to other areas. I would also like to mention that the cost of gas is now \$1.21 per gal. My bill for gas from Dec. 15 through Jan. 15 was 53.00 and this was with all the conservation effort I could muster. It is obvious that I did not fully clarify the expense of newly ordained priests. At present time, I have begun keeping books of income and expenses for this purpose.

You mentioned in your comments about my vacation time. I have been in school eight years without a vacation, several of which was spent in parish ministry. It may seem 'more reasonable' to some but it was a matter of necessity to me.

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In a couple of places of your comments, the term 'modest sum' for savings and vacations appeared. It would be helpful to me to know what you consider a modest sum.

Finally, I would like to make comment on the last paragraph of your comments and my own opinion of the whole thing. When I came into Louisville, the policy of the Archdiocese was under change as I recall. My contact with the Archdiocese was limited because I was the only one at the Mount St. Mary Seminary, Ohio. Finances was discussed to the 'general' point that I should do all I could to make it through with the least amount of aid from the Archdiocese. In college, my affiliation with Indianapolis was on a 'trial' basis and I received minimal aid. Prior to college I had worked four years saving money. While in college I received no assistance from family because both parents are disabled. While I was with Indianapolis, they insisted that I do parish ministry during the summers for evaluational purposes. This paid very little and the school years depleted my savings entirely. Upon entering theology, I came to Louisville and for the first year I was allowed to work at a Scout Camp which paid \$150.00 per week for one summer. I found this amount not only covering the expenses of summer but enough was saved to purchase books, supplies through the school year. After that year, I was assigned to work in a parish which paid \$75.00 per week. That barely covered the cost of summer ministry and I returned to school with less than a hundred dollars in savings. Books and supplies, the cost of living such as dental work I had was all paid by loans. In effect, I was living off of \$1300.00 per year with the acceptance of 10 weeks in parish ministry.

I want to make it absolutely clear that I make no demands. I would like to state my feelings. I could simply write a best-seller on what I went through those eight years. I will not go into the grave illness of my family nor the suffering at the Mount. I feel in this

situation I am making apology for making it through the best I could and in effect, apologizing for my priesthood. Therefore I feel a great deal of frustration over the whole matter. I have heard that many priests made it through the studies under greater hardships. I can truthfully say that I doubt that.

In asking the Archdiocese to aid me with the past student loan, in effect, I was asking for charity. I realized that on black and white it is a doubtful situation with consideration to the changes made concerning the financial aid to seminarians. It is most difficult budgeting ministry with the present salary and meeting the inflation and high cost of living. I fail to see how I can achieve payment of this loan and still maintain effective full-time ministry.

Enclosed, please find a list of my personal property and where it came from.

Yours in Christ,



Rev. D. Clark