



Archdiocese of Louisville

212 EAST COLLEGE STREET • P.O. BOX 1073 • LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY 40201

March 27, 1987

CLERGY PERSONNEL

Dr. Robert R. O'Connor
2120 Newburg Road
Louisville, Ky. 40205

Dear Bob:

I am writing concerning the future ministry of Dan Clark. Assignment time for the coming year is fast approaching and we once again are trying to discern the next step for Dan. He will finish his second unit of CPE at Highland Baptist in the next few weeks and has also been serving as Catholic chaplain for the hospital since October 8, 1986. Since September, 1986 he has been living with and serving as chaplain for the Holy Cross Brothers at Holy Cross High School. Dan has also been filling in regularly on weekends at parishes as I have requested.

Dan wishes to continue at Highland Baptist as Catholic chaplain and we are inclined to permit that. Time commitment should be no more than 1½ days per week equivalent. The Holy Cross Brothers are moving out of their residence at Holy Cross High School so that arrangement must be terminated. In addition, Dan has had enough CPE for a while and has requested re-entry into parish work.

His experience in CPE at Highlands has been overall positive according to his first unit supervisor, Reverend Jim Pollard. Jim has picked up on Dan's "authority problem," his sometimes inappropriate speech that shocks people and Jim states that "at times in his work with staff Dan has wanted to be friend and has moved to talk to them as if he is not a man of the cloth." Jim also believes Dan has been open to growth in these areas and has at least attempted to deal with some of them.

In a conversation on March 17, 1987, Reverend Pollard states that while "Dan is doing okay during his second unit, he has very little capacity to learn from his mistakes; he can be empathetic to people but in the long run has very little to offer people that will be truly helpful to them in decision making, dealing with personal issues, etc." Dan is generally supportive but not generally very helpful. While Reverend Pollard states that Dan is "slow and limited in capacity," he feels it is important for him to have a place to "be priest."

CLARK.DOC 0411

PRODUCED 10/17/02

Dr. O'Connor
March 27, 1987
Page 2

At this time we are considering leaving Dan as Catholic chaplain at Highland Baptist and assigning him in June as associate pastor at SS. Simon and Jude Parish with Father Tom Gentile. Father Gentile has been told of Dan's problems and would like to be helpful to him. Father Gentile is not normally very directive as a supervisor but has said he is willing to be more directive with Dan. Tom is very outspoken and will not hesitate to speak his mind to Dan.

Since we are obviously still concerned about risking Dan in a parish setting I am writing to:

- a. Ask your opinion about his readiness for a parish assignment from your dealings with him;
- b. Discuss what kind of continuing therapy might be useful for Dan;
- c. Ask what kind of supervision on my part might be necessary for Dan.

Since we will begin working on associate pastor assignments very soon, I will call you in a few days to talk over these points.

Once again, thank you for the work you do to help the priests of our archdiocese.

Sincerely,



(Rev.) William L. Fichteman
Director
Office of Clergy Personnel