



Archdiocese of Louisville

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

July 13, 1988

CLERGY PERSONNEL

Miss Female Parishioner 1

Louisville, KY 40215

Dear Miss Female Parishioner 1:

Thank you for your letter of July 6th, expressing your concern over the media's coverage of Father Dan Clark's difficulties and my part in that coverage. I quite agree that Father Clark has done quite well the last couple years in his parish as well as his hospital ministry. Because of your good experience of Father Clark's care, I am sure it has been very difficult for you to hear of his present difficulties.

Dealing with the media in such a situation is a most difficult and delicate task with which one is never completely successful. My remarks were certainly not meant to imply guilt on Father Clark's part; however, I also felt that simple "no comments" would not serve the best interests of either Father Clark or the Archdiocese. Basically, I was trying to say that we had great concern over the situation, especially with regard to any possible victims of child abuse if indeed such acts had occurred. I also tried to indicate that whenever a church employee is accused of child abuse, we try to act responsibly both toward the accused and any possible victims.

The interviews conducted by both Channel 11 and Channel 32 were much more extensive than the footage actually used on the news. In both cases, I read a statement by Archbishop Kelly and talked about the devastating effects child abuse has in an effort to show that we had a sincere concern for all involved when such accusations are made. While I had hoped that more of this footage would have been used, I do not feel I was misquoted, nor was the information used out of context. The media did zero in on the more "sensational" parts of the interview, specifically with regard to my statement about the fact that we had asked Father Clark to get counseling for "some personal problems." However, overall I feel the media treated us reasonably well and did not distort what I said.

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I realize these comments of mine might not have answered all of your questions and concerns. If you would like to talk to me I can be reached at the Catholic Chancery (585-3291) on weekdays usually from 9:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

I am sure Father Clark appreciates your prayers and support. Please continue to pray for us all while this very difficult situation is being resolved.

Sincerely,

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

bcc: ~~Archbishop Kelly~~
Father Breen