

OFFICE OF THE SERVANT GENERAL

Jemez Springs, New Mexico

September 26, 1957

His Excellency
The Most Reverend Matthew F. Brady, D.D.
Bishop of Manchester
657 River Road
Manchester, New Hampshire

Most Reverend and dear Bishop:

I wish to thank Your Excellency for your gracious letter of the 23rd, and more especially for your downright honesty in the statement of the case involved. I am going to ask Your Excellency to be patient if I answer with the same forthright honesty which you have manifested to us.

From our long experience with characters of this type, and without passing judgment on the individual, most of these men would be clinically classified as schizophrenic. Their repentance and amendment is superficial and, if not formally at least sub-consciously, is motivated by a desire to be again in a position where they can continue their wonted activity. A new diocese means only green pastures.

We will be willing to receive the unfortunate padre in question as a permanent guest, so long as he makes no move along the lines that have already wrecked his life.

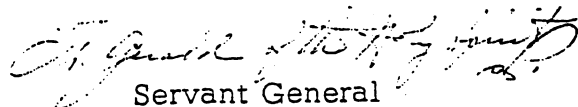
Even as Your Excellency could not in conscience recommend this priest to a Bishop without giving the Bishop a full back-ground, we have adopted a definite policy not to recommend to Bishops men of this character, even presuming the sincerity of their conversion. We feel that the protection of our glorious priesthood will demand, in time, the establishment of a uniform code of discipline and of penalties. We are amazed to find how often a man who would be behind bars if he were not a priest is entrusted with the cura animarum. Whereas a more positive position, such as Your Excellency is taking in this case, would seem to add up to the prevention of these weak and irresponsible men from trailing their unlovely interpretation of the priesthood here and there throughout the country. If the discipline were more

uniform and certain, priests before ordination could be instructed and duly warned, and this would be a deterrent to the initiation of these vicious habits.

To sum up: we are willing to shelter Father with a program that will help him save his own immortal soul. But, should he come to us under these conditions, it should not be with any hope that he will be recommended to another Bishop even after he has spent some months with us. We happen to know quite well the dioceses he mentions. And even though it is true that many Bishops, especially in the West, are in need of priests, yet I do not know any Bishop who would accept a man with his record.

I trust that this does not seem too severe. But I have my own soul to save, and I do not dare recommend such men for the cura animarum.

Most cordially in Spiritu,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. Gerald".

Servant General

Enclosure: