

September 23, 1957

Very Rev. Gerald Fitzgerald, S. P.
Superior General
Via Coeli
Jemez Springs, New Mexico

Dear Father Gerald:

I have in the diocese, what is an old story to you, a problem priest for whom I am at loss to find a place to serve. He is Rev. John T. Sullivan. His ~~problem is not drink~~ but a series of scandal-causing escapades with young girls. There is no section of the diocese in which he is not known and no pastor seems willing to accept him. He is at present suspended since July 11, 1956. He is 40 years of age and 15 years ordained.

At times I have considered him insane, diabolically cunning, and again, as at present, sincerely remorseful. The enclosed letter from him is a sample of it. I happened to be on the same retreat with him last June and he seemed to be making the most devout retreat of any priest present.

The solution of his problem seems to be a fresh start in some diocese where he is not known. It occurred to me that you might know of some bishop who would be willing to give him that opportunity. I would hesitate to write to a bishop myself without giving him all the details of the past life of this priest. Perhaps if he went to Via Coeli for a while you might be able and willing to recommend him to some bishop on the grounds of his good conduct there and his promise for the future.

In any case, Father, please let me hear from you.

With admiration for your splendid labors and with most cordial good wishes, I remain

Devotedly yours in Christ,

Matthew F. Brady
Bishop of Manchester

Enc.