

Status report  
February 2, 2005

Mr. Franklyn Becker  
Person L # 1

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On Wednesday, February 2, 2005 at 11:25 AM I met Mr. Franklyn Becker at Spinnaker's Restaurant located in Oconomowoc.

We discussed a number of issues during our time together.

He is extremely concerned about not having any health insurance. He said that he had called someone in State government. He asked about applying for a disability and was told he didn't qualify. He asked about some type of welfare or governmental health insurance and was told that he didn't qualify either because he was too young, too old, or had too high an income.

I asked if he had spoken to anyone in Catholic Charities. He previously mentioned he was going to call the Fond-du-Lac office. He said that since he lives in Dodge County he had to call the Beaver Dam office. He said he had done so and had spoken to someone, name unknown, who had taken some information. He has not heard back from this person. He didn't remember exactly how long ago he had called.

I said that I had spoken to Diane Knight the Executive Director of Catholic Charities about his situation. She was quite sure he would qualify for some type of health coverage under some type of assistance program. I said I would contact her and let her know that he had called someone at the Beaver Dam office. I would ask her to call and assign someone who knows the system inside and out to his case. I would ask that the person call him in the morning before 10:30 AM or in the latter afternoon or evening. I would further ask that this person be instructed to call Diane and/or myself back to let us know what, if anything was done for him.

He said he had called his dentist recently to ascertain how much a routine visit would cost since he has no dental insurance. He was told \$60.00 for a cleaning and \$91.00 if he saw the dentist. He scheduled an appointment with the hygienist for a cleaning.

He is still trying to find someone to buy his car or to assume his lease payments. He spoke to the car dealer where he got the car to see if he could get out of the lease and was told that he could not.

He asked if there had been any change with his compensation. I said that I tried to see the archbishop after receiving his letter dated January 21 but found out he was in Miami on vacation. I said that I would have an answer for him by Monday or Tuesday next week at the latest.

He said that he had applied for several jobs. He had gone to a state job facility to seek assistance. He never saw a person. He was directed to a computer and told to enter his information. He was then told he should go to a library or use his home computer, he doesn't have one, to access the system each day to see if there are any jobs he wanted to send his resume to. He can't believe they wouldn't have people to help you.

He has checked the computer for several days but hasn't found anything. He questions his applying for any position anyway because of his age, 67 years, and his past history. An employer can go on line and find out about his past. It probably even says that he has been laicized.

I told him I knew the archdiocese wasn't advertising that he had been laicized and unless he told people I didn't believe it was out there on the internet.

He said he would really like to work in a library but because of his involvement with kids that will probably never happen. He has applied at several grocery stores and other places but hasn't heard back as of yet. He is not hopeful.

He said that he had started to get things ready to take his taxes in. He asked whether or not he had to claim the \$10,000.00 settlement Fr. Curt (Fredrick) and I had given him when we met with him? Is this income or a settlement like insurance or what? I said that I thought he was

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going to have to claim it. He asked if taxes had been withheld from the \$10,000.00. I said that I didn't now but would check and let him know the answers to the above questions.

I asked what his days looked like. He said that he gets up and leaves the house around 10:45 AM to go to the library to check the jobs postings. Then he submits resumes. He is usually home in the afternoon after lunch. He goes to a senior meal program for his big meal, lunch, almost everyday. He has to sign up ahead of time. They only ask for a donation. Currently they are asking for \$2.20 per day. For breakfast he has a piece of fruit and for dinner he has a can of Slim-Fast and a few crackers. He said he should be losing weight but doesn't even eating that small amount. But he said he is satisfied. He never was a real big eater.

He said when he was in Florida in December and January he saw several priests. One was Don Peters. He said they went to Epcot at Disney World. He said Don and his sister love it there. She plays the organ there for Mass sometimes. He said Don is having trouble doing a lot of walking and rented an electric scooter. Don said that when he gets back to Wisconsin he will have to look into getting one because of the difficulty he has walking.

Mr. Becker asked numerous times why one priest got laicized and another didn't? Who made the decision? What was the reasoning for one to get laicized and one not to.

I said I wasn't privy to these decisions but thought they might have been based on age, health and individual cases. He bemoaned the fact that the archbishop never once sat down with him and told him anything, nor did he answer any of his questions. He was never given a chance to defend himself. His case was just sent over to Rome.

He asked about several other cases. I was non-committal. He did know I had met with Dan Bodzynski and wondered why he had been laicized and if Ray Adamsky would be laicized. He asked about a priest currently living in Florida that he says has AIDS and wondered if he was going to be laicized. I said I didn't know the man. He said the man used to be the pastor at St. Francis Cabrini and was an assistant at St. Dominic's in Brookfield with Vince Silvestri.

I asked about his brother in Muncie. He said they speak on the telephone periodically. His brother and sister-in-law are doing some housework and then are going on a cruise for their 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

He said he missed going on cruises but brought up some priest from California that used to schedule priests for cruises stating he was arrested and taken off a cruise liner during a cruise because of an allegation. That coupled with all the sickness that has been reported lately on cruises, he doesn't know if he would want to go on one again. This California priest was the same one that he used to book cruises through.

I asked if he had been walking or exercising. He said that he had not. I told him that we both needed to do so.

On Wednesday, February 2 at 1:05 PM I called Diane Knight and left a detailed message on her answering machine regarding Mr. Becker and the assignment of someone knowledgeable to his case. I will also follow-up regarding his tax question.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Deacon David L. Zimprich

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