

FROM THE DESK OF  
REV. MICHAEL DRISCOLL

Letter to principal  
of St. Pius V School -  
Thanking children  
for writing.

cc. Rev James Reese, pastor

50900201

FROM THE DESK OF  
REV. MICHAEL DRISCOLL

Letter under  
Bishop's signature  
for people of  
Pues V.

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Wipera  
file

509,00202

Widera

March 29, 1977

Saints and Sinners  
St. Pius V Youth Group  
7658 El Caney Drive  
Buena Park, CA 90620

Dear Members of Saints and Sinners Youth Group:

His Excellency, the Most Reverend William R. Johnson, is in receipt of your most recent letter and has asked me to acknowledge it in his behalf.

His Excellency has asked me to inform you that the transfer of any priest is always a source of difficulty to a people of a parish since it breaks relationships which are important to the success of the work of the Church. He also realizes that it is particularly difficult because Father Widera has been with you so short a time. Unfortunately we have over forty parishes in the Diocese which like your own are understaffed and we are not in the position to revoke the decision which has been made in reference to his transfer. I am certain that Father Widera will be very happy to know of your gratitude for his service and His Excellency appreciates your most kind words and your request. He regrets that he cannot respond to it favorably.

Thanking you for your letter of concern and praying God's blessings upon you I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Reverend Michael P. Driscoll  
Chancellor-Secretary to the Bishop

ph

509 00203

*Saints + Sinners Youth Group*

[REDACTED]  
BUENA PARK CA 90620

509 00204

Saints and Sinners  
St. Paul V Youth Group

Buena Park, Calif. 90620

Jon Martinez and Barbara Bain, Advisors.

Dear Bishop Johnson:

The Saints and Sinners Youth Group has heard of your decision involving Fr. Widera. We ask that you reconsider your decision on the grounds that Fr. Widera is the best Spiritual Advisor that we have had since the group was founded 3 years ago.

Father Widera has made a "Big Hit" on the group and we sure need him. Fr. Widera goes out on our activities and participates in/on them. Such activities as roller skating, ice skating and even on a trampoline!

Yes, definitely! Fr. Widera is a "Plus" for our group and we need a person like him especially at this time.

Thank you for considering our decision.

The Saints and Sinners:

P.S: Fr. Widera is scheduled for a Youth Mass April 14<sup>th</sup> at St. Paul V in which all the youth in the other parishes have been invited.

-advisor Barbara Bain -advisor

-President

-vice President

-over please-

50900205

509 00206

*F. Widera*

March 28, 1977



Legion of Mary  
7439 Western Ave.  
Buena Park, Ca. 90620

Dear Mr. Clark,

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of March 22 signed by yourself and your associates to the Legion of Mary in reference to the transfer of Father Widera. The transfer of any priest is always a source of difficulty to the people of a parish since it breaks relationships which are important to the success of the work of the Church. It is particularly difficult because the individual concerned has been with you so short a time. Unfortunately, we have over 40 parishes in the Diocese but most all of which like your own are understaffed and we are not in the position to revoke the decision which has been made in reference to his transfer. I am sure that Father Widera will be happy to know of your gratitude for his service.

With good wishes and appreciation for your kindness in writing to me, I am  
Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend William R. Johnson  
Bishop of Orange

SP

50900207

*File  
Q. Wederia  
(Correspondence)*

March 23, 1977

Most Reverend Bishop Johnson,

We are writing you concerning the transfer of Rev. Siegfried Wederia, from St. Pius V Parish to St. Justin Martyre. Fr. Sieg has only been with us a short while, but in that time he has given many young people a better understanding and closer relationship with God. He plays a major part in the Parish as youth co-ordinator, which is what we drastically needed, and of which always seems to be removed. But through his gift of love he touches not only young people, but the entire Parish. He brings adults to a fuller awareness of God through the Adult Education class he began and now directs. By transferring Fr. Sieg, you are handicapping the hopes and plans he has started within the Parish. That is why we would most appreciate your reconsidering his transfer.

Sincerely,

50900208

50900209

50900210

5090021



50900213

March 22, 1977

✓ Rev. Siegfried Widera  
St. Pius V Church  
7691 Orangethorpe Avenue  
Buena Park, CA 90620

Dear Father Widera:

His Excellency, Bishop William R. Johnson has directed  
me to confirm your appointment as

ASSOCIATE PASTOR

at

ST. JUSTIN MARTYR CHURCH  
ANAHEIM

This appointment will become effective on Monday,  
April 11, 1977.

Praying God's every blessing upon you and your work  
I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Reverend Michael P. Driscoll  
Chancellor-Secretary to the Bishop

ph

cc: Rev. James Pierse  
Most Rev. William E. Cousins

50900214

*Fr. Widera*

ARCHDIOCESE  
OF MILWAUKEE

345 NORTH NINETY FIFTH STREET • P.O. BOX 2018 • MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN 53201 • PHONE 414/476-2101

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

*Fr. Driscoll*

January 25, 1977

His Excellency  
The Most Reverend William R. Johnson  
440 South Batavia Street  
Orange, California 92668

Dear Bishop Johnson,

Your Chancellor, Father Driscoll, has informed me that Father Siegfried Widera of this Archdiocese has been assigned "in hospitality" to St. Pius V Parish in Buena Park, California. He has also informed me of our mutual understanding and that Father Widera will remain a member of the Archdiocese and as such be carried in our health and medical insurance program.

Permit me to express my sincere thanks to you and those involved for this consideration of a priest who has done good work and whose absence from the Diocese is predicated upon the local situation discussed in earlier letters.

I fully expect that upon the recommendation of those professionally helping him at the present time he will be reassigned in our Archdiocese.

With the warmest of personal regards, I am

Fraternally and gratefully yours in Christ,

*W. E. Cousins*

Most Reverend William E. Cousins  
Archbishop of Milwaukee

50900215

Fr. Widera

January 17, 1977

Most Reverend William E. Cousins  
Archbishop of Milwaukee  
345 North Ninety Fifth Street  
P. O. Box 2018  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53201

Your Excellency:

I wish to thank you for your letter of December 20, 1976 and introduction to Reverend Siegfried Widera of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. Father Widera made an appointment to see me on January 10, 1977 and was assigned to be IN HOSPITALITY at St. Pius V Parish, 7691 Orangethorpe Avenue, Buena Park, California 90621. I am enclosing a copy of Father Widera's assignment to St. Pius V Parish for your information.

While Father Widera is living at St. Pius V Parish in Buena Park it is our understanding that he still retains all the benefits of being a member of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee with regard to health insurance. From the Parish of St. Pius V Father Widera will receive a salary of \$175 a month and have the use of a car for parish duties.

Praying God's continued blessings upon you I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Reverend Michael P. Driscoll  
Chancellor-Secretary to the Bishop

ph

Enclosure

503 00216

Ex 100

January 10, 1977

Rev. Siegfried F. Widera  
St. Pius V  
7691 Orangethorpe Avenue  
Buena Park, California 90621

Dear Father Widera:

His Excellency, Bishop William R. Johnson, has directed me to confirm your appointment in

HOSPITALITY AT  
ST. PIUS V  
BUENA PARK, CALIFORNIA

This appointment carries with it the faculties of an Associate Pastor and will become effective on Wednesday, January 12, 1977.

Praying for God's every blessing upon you and your work, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Reverend Michael P. Driscoll  
Chancellor-Secretary to the Bishop

ph

cc: Most Rev. William E. Cousins  
Archbishop of Milwaukee

50900217

# ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE

345 NORTH NINETY FIFTH STREET • MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN 53226 • PHONE 414/476-2101

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

December 20, 1976

His Excellency  
The Most Reverend William R. Johnson  
440 South Batavia Street  
Orange, California 92668

ATTENTION: Father Michael Driscoll

Dear Father Driscoll,

A few days ago I talked by phone to Bishop Johnson about a possible pastoral assignment for Father Siegfried Widera of this Archdiocese. The conversation was very general and the Bishop suggested that perhaps something could be done on a temporary basis. My reason for approaching Bishop Johnson is founded in the fact that Father Widera's brother and family live in Costa Mesa, California. In the course of our conversation the Bishop informed me that he would be absent for a while and asked that I discuss the matter further with you.

I talked to Father Widera this morning and informed him that I was writing to you at the Bishop's request. I learned that he is leaving to visit his brother and will arrive in California on or about January 5th. Under the circumstances I recommended that upon his arrival he immediately get in touch with you or with the Bishop and that in the meantime I would have written to you and to His Excellency.

Father Widera was ordained in 1967 and has done good work for the Diocese in the places to which he was assigned. In his earlier years there was a moral problem having to do with a boy in school. This seemed adequately confronted through treatment and an intense desire upon Father's part to avoid any repetition of a previous offense.

More recently, however, there has been a repetition, and according to our State Laws further psychiatric treatment is mandated with the strong recommendation that no immediate assignment be made in the environs of the Archdiocese.

Father Widera has cooperated in every way and is presently under treatment. His doctor is somewhat in favor of his leaving the scene but expects that there will be continuing treatment. This has already been arranged and a doctor in California will take over at this point. From all the professional information I can gather there would seem no great risk in allowing this man to return to pastoral work, but there are legal complications at present writing. Incidentally, these legal technicalities would permit Father's going to another State as long as treatment is continued.

509 00219

ARCHDIOCESE  
OF MILWAUKEE

345 NORTH NINETY FIFTH STREET • P.O. BOX 2018 • MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN 53201 • PHONE 414/476-2101

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

December 20, 1976

His Excellency  
The Most Reverend William R. Johnson

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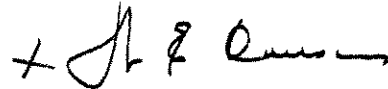
ATTENTION: Father Michael Driscoll

I would not expect Bishop Johnson or yourself to act in this matter without first of all interviewing Father Widera and satisfying yourself that charity will not add to existing personnel problems. If the man could be assigned on a temporary basis or if he could be given some part-time work that would give him the support of living in residence with other priests, half of the problem would be licked. This must be left to the Bishop's discretion and this discretion should not be exercised until pertinent and important questions have been answered. I hope this can be accomplished in a personal interview sometime in January.

There is no thought of incardination involved, and I am quite willing to accept the man back into the Archdiocese whenever circumstances would indicate. Though I anticipate no recurrence of this past aberration, I would certainly want to be informed if the slightest suspicion were to develop. I would like to show fraternal charity to a fellow priest but I cannot be virtuous at the expense of a fellow Bishop.

With the warmest of personal regards and with every good wish for the Holiday Season, I am

Fraternally yours in Christ,



Most Reverend William E. Cousins  
Archbishop of Milwaukee

50900220