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IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SEMINARY

Conception, Missouri

April 19, 1966

Office of the Rector

Rt. Rev. Msgr. George A. Carton
Diocese of Peoria
607 N. E. Madison Avenue
Peoria, Illinois 61603

Thomas Maloney

Dear Monsignor Carton:

I am sorry if my letter concerning Thomas Maloney was not clear. I was attempting to give my impressions of the reasons why a majority of the faculty voted against his promotion to the subdiaconate. From what was said in the discussions preceding the vote, the main problem, it seems to me, was his intellectual ability with the further doubt as to his recognition of his limited capacity in this area. On the question of his lack of prudential judgment, and unwillingness to ask advice, it seems to me there was not so much a positive doubt as a lack of positive evidence for the existence of these qualities to a degree which would compensate for the weakness which is the main area of concern. The reports which you receive annually are made by the priest counselor or prefect of the building in which the student resides, and while they are made in consultation with other faculty members, they basically represent the judgment of that priest counselor. The vote against Thomas was not unanimous, but there were more negative votes than affirmative ones. From the discussion, however, I gathered that some did not wish to vote affirmatively until they knew what his grades would be for this semester, and that the doubts of others might be allayed by the positive evidence of a favorable recommendation after a summer assignment. Your request for a specific incident responsible for the doubt, is difficult to answer, since as I mentioned it is not so much a question as to whether he is conspicuously deficient in these qualities as whether he has them in a degree sufficient to compensate for his intellectual weakness.

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I do not think it would be prudent for me to ignore the majority of opinion of the faculty concerning his promotion at this time, but as I indicated in my letter, I think that they will give a favorable report in the fall, if the suggestions I made are accepted. I do not think there is a serious enough doubt to recommend that he drop out of the seminary, and in my own mind I would feel fairly safe in recommending Thomas for the subdiaconate even at this time. However, I also think the postponement will be helpful in encouraging Tom to greater effort in his studies, and a greater awareness of his weaknesses as well as the possible difficult situation of having to make a recommendation against the majority of the faculty when he comes up for promotion to the priesthood.

I also received your letter about the new student for this fall. We will reserve a place for him and await the further information which you say is coming later this spring.

With cordial regards and best wishes, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Very Rev. Conrad Falk, OSB
Rector

CF:jm

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