



MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 18, 1988
RE: Reverend Edward V. Avery (1970)
Assistant Pastor - Saint Dominic Church
Reverend Monsignor Joseph G. Sikora, Ph.D. (1949)
Pastor - Saint Dominic Church

On June 12, 1988, there was some altercation between Father Avery and his pastor, Monsignor Joseph Sikora, concerning his working patterns in the parish. (There should be a memo on that incident on file.)

It was decided that each would send their own letters explaining the issues at hand.

Monsignor Joseph Sikora had returned on July 12, after a vacation and a retreat period. It was decided at that time that they would meet with the undersigned and try to resolve the conflict.

So on July 16, 1988, Monsignor Sikora, Father Avery, and the undersigned met at the Chancery.

At that time Father Avery indicated that Monsignor Sikora said in their altercation that Father had done nothing pastorally in the parish and that he was going to write a letter to the Chancery to get rid of Father Avery.

Monsignor Sikora mentioned that he had had it after some 20 months with Father Avery and he saw no resolutions to the problem.

Monsignor Sikora's stance was that he was speaking only about the whole issue of on call and off call which are contained in the letters of this case. He has known Father Avery for seven years and has never questioned his work in the parish but does have problems with his on call availability.

The undersigned made it clear what the Archdiocesan policy is for priest on call. There has to be an immediate availability and a reasonable distance within the parish boundaries or outside the parish boundaries for any possible sick calls. Father Avery seemed to be willing to accept this but was quite upset that Monsignor had questioned his work habits.

Father then claimed that Monsignor Sikora was like the wind blowing different ways at different times and denying that he had said these things.

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Monsignor Sikora became upset with this characterization of himself and claimed that if this were so he would hand in his resignation as pastor.

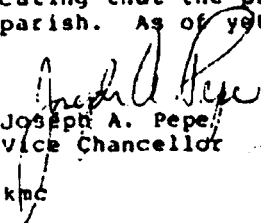
This type of discussion continued on for about an hour.

At the end of the conversation, the undersigned mentioned that both parties seemed to be at loggerheads with one another and some reasonable compromise would have to be negotiated in order for both to work effectively in the parish.

Monsignor Sikora questioned whether or not this was possible and Father Avery saw no problems with resolving the difficulties.

The undersigned suggested that they spend the weekend thinking over what had been discussed at the meeting and contact the undersigned on Monday, July 18, 1988.

On July 18, 1988, Father Edward Avery contacted the undersigned indicating that the problems had been resolved and he would remain in the parish. As of yet, he has not heard from Monsignor Sikora.


Joseph A. Pepe
Vice Chancellor

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