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ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA

SECRETARIAT FOR CLERGY

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

July 12, 1993

Ms. [REDACTED]

Dear Ms. [REDACTED]:

I acknowledge your letter of July 9, 1993 concerning Father Edward Avery and Saint Therese of the Child Jesus Parish.

In your letter, you mention rumors about Father Avery being removed. Let me assure you that is what they are - rumors. Father Avery had requested a health leave from Cardinal Bevilacqua which was granted, and which he is on at the present time. Seeing that Father Avery's request for a health leave would be confidential to him, I would not be at liberty to state any further information. Let me assure you that Father Avery is, as of this writing, still the pastor of Saint Therese of the Child Jesus Parish.

Father Avery has done great work at Saint Therese Parish and it is gratifying to read of your appreciation for his priestly service. May the Lord give you His blessings in abundance.

Sincerely yours in Our Lord,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "William J. Lynn".

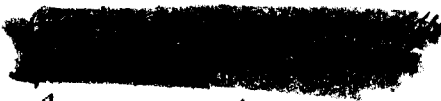
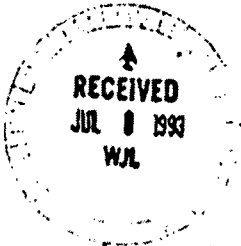
Reverend William J. Lynn
Secretary for Clergy

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July 2nd, 1993

Dear Father Lynn:

I am a parishioner at St. Theresa, Ardleigh and Upsal Sts. I am very disturbed by the rumors that are being circulated at our church about the dismissal of Fr. Edward Avery. I have been a member at this church for 34 years and have never witnessed such behavior by the Archdiocese before. Not seeking information of all members.

There are a few vocal people at St. Theresa, who would like nothing better than to further their own personal agendas by having Fr. Avery removed. It amazed me a loyal member of the church, that a few Johnny-come-lately's can control your decision, without asking the entire church body. It is unfair to us who have worked so hard to make our church great.

Father Avery in his short year and a half have done so much for our church. He looks so hard to maintain the

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upkeep and beauty. He cuts the grass, removes the snow, he has painted the interior of the church, remodeled the community room (Merian Hall) is working on a new kitchen, got a bus for the senior citizens, which he drives himself to pick them up for mass and most of all dedicated a chapel to St. Therese. Don't these things count? There is no one who has ever come to St. Therese with such love and caring of the parish.

I am asking that you be just as fair to all of us who support Fr. Aery. Whatever sins there are, let him be forgiven like any of us in God's sight. "He who is without sin let him cast the first stone."

I would like to hear from you personally and to speak with you in an open forum. I think a lot of us need to have an explanation.

Please send him back to us.

Yours in Christ

CC. Meg. Devlin

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