

February 21, 1986

Dennis Jost

History

Dennis Jost was accepted into the Deacon Formation Program in June of 1983. At that time some signs of a lack of maturity showed in psychological testing and his pastor expressed concern in this area. Some of that was laid to the fact that he had never been married. It was also noted that Dennis' primary ministry involvement had been liturgical but the committee felt the program could have impact in helping Dennis to grow and mature and broaden his ministry focus.

In October, 1984, Fr. ██████████ spoke to ██████████ of his deep concern over an incident involving Dennis while he was in St. Peter & St. Paul parish during Fr. ██████████'s pastorate. He asked if Dennis had informed ██████████ of the facts before he entered the Diaconate Program as he felt they should be considered carefully before deciding for ordination as they had ramifications for a public minister in the Church. ██████████ had not been informed.

██████████ had a conference with Dennis during which he stated he had been advised by a "spiritual director" to "forget and move on" and so he hadn't thought it necessary. At that meeting ██████████ explained clearly that ordination is given for the good of the People of God and therefore the people, as well as the Bishop and Official Church, must be protected from scandal wherever possible. She gave clear indication of her hesitancy to continue Dennis' candidacy. He seemed devastated. She insisted that certain steps be taken, i.e., that he seek an evaluation from the counselor whom he had worked with at the time of the incident, and that he confer with Fr. ██████████. He was told at that time that his continuation in the program was probationary, depending upon the outcome of consultations with the psychologist and Fr. ██████████.

Months passed and Dennis had to be reminded several times to locate and consult with the psychologist. There was evidence of lack of maturity on Dennis' part during this time. He seemed to take the child-like attitude that if he just did nothing it would all go away.

In time ██████████ had another conference with Dennis, where she insisted he confer with Fr. ██████████, and Deacon ██████████ and the psychologist. Thus began a frustrating saga of Dennis' inability to hear and interpret what all parties were saying.

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On February 25, 1985, Dennis met with Deacon [REDACTED], Fr. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. At that time it was made very clear to Dennis (or so we thought) that he would not be ordained until he got further counseling. He was given the option to remain in training if he told his classmates he was not intending to be ordained. Dennis' immaturity had become increasingly evident as the months went on. Also apparent was his single-minded focus on liturgical ministry, the training of altar boys, etc. His unhealthy need for Diaconate became very apparent to all of the staff of the program.

It became the consensus of those persons involved as staff and consultants that Dennis was not ready at this time to go FORWARD FOR CANDIDACY or ORDINATION.

Dennis was told this and expressed shock. He claimed he had no idea that this was to be the decision. [REDACTED] REVIEWED WITH HIM the process they had been through since 1984. Again, the sign of immaturity—he apparently had not "heard" what everyone involved had been saying. (Or was not able to accept it.)

In the past few months Dennis has been to several priests and deacons—Fr. [REDACTED], Deacon [REDACTED], and Deacon [REDACTED], among them. He has expressed to Deacon [REDACTED] his anger and his inability to "get over it." He has pleaded with Deacon [REDACTED] to take up his "cause."

Dennis' behavior indicates a disturbing lack of maturity for a man in his forties. His "need" for Diaconate borders on obsession. For those reasons, as well as his other problems, it is the discernment of this committee that Dennis does not have a call to the Diaconate of the Diocese of San Bernardino.

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Director of Permanent Diaconate Formation

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Vicar for Deacons

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Chairman, Curriculum Committee