

20 January 1989

Most Rev Raymond G. Huthausen, DD
Archbishop of Seattle
910 Madison St
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Archbishop,

Earlier today Fr Thomas telephoned to discuss my case. I believe it in the Church's best interest, as well as my own, that I seek laicization now. Accordingly, I do now apply, subject to continuation of my retirement benefits in toto. These benefits, as discussed with Fr John Doogan, Mike Ryan, and Bruce Thomas, are that I always receive whatever ~~ecclesiastical~~ priests receive - the same income (including increases set by the Board myself) and the identical medical benefits. I simply cannot do without this. Fr Thomas said this would not be at all.

I wish only to be at peace with God, His Church and myself. The peace always available, the second can best be achieved by laicization & the last I have effectively dealt with by eliminating that stress induced by full time ministry which my manic-depressive disorder simply could not handle. This, as you know, acted out via another disorder. Retirement has eliminated all of the latter. In other words, on my own, I have achieved what psychiatrists & confessions could not. I do not wish this equilibrium to be disturbed. Nor do I wish you or your Diocese any unease or embarrassment caused by me.

I would that it were otherwise, but reality is to be faced.

I ask your blessing, upon prayer, and upon good wishes -

Michael J. Colby

JH-ARCH000258

"Sensitive Information"
Per Protective Order