

POOR
ORIGINAL

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Dear Archbishop,

Earlier today, Fr. Thomas telephone 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 so now apply, subject to continuation of my retirement benefits in toto. These benefits, as discussed with Fr. John Doogan, Mike Ryan, and George Thomas are that I always receive whatever age-retired priests receive -- the same income (including increases set by the Board and yourself) and the identical medical benefits. I simply cannot do without this. Fr. Thomas said that would not be at issue.

I wish only to be at peace with God, His Church and myself. The first is always available, the second can best be achieved by laicization, and 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 and confessors 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, your prayers, and your good wishes.

Michael J. Cody

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