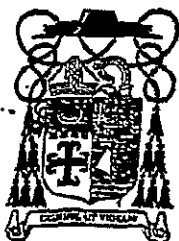


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ST. BENEDICT'S ABBEY
ATCHISON, KANSAS 66002

OFFICE OF THE ABBOT

June 12, 1979

Most Rev. Raymond G. Hunthausen
Archbishop of Seattle
Office of the Archbishop
907 Terry Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98104

Personal and Confidential

Dear Archbishop Hunthausen:

Thank you for your thoughtful letter concerning Father John Forrester. I am deeply shocked and grieved for him and embarrassed for our community that one of our members should have been such a source of scandal in your archdiocese.

I had had no hint of his difficulty in the past, although he had been restless and impatient with the restraints of monastic life, and I had continued to hope that he could use his considerable talents in the service of the Archdiocese of Seattle.

I am trying to contact Father William Maat, O.S.B., now at Assumption Church, Seattle, who has befriended Father Forrester in the past. He may have some idea of his whereabouts and be able to get in touch with him. I will be most anxious to get him into competent therapy if he can be persuaded to accept it. If you receive further information, I would appreciate receiving it.

My sincere gratitude, dear Archbishop, for your allowing Father Forrester an opportunity for priestly ministry, and my deepest regrets for the very appalling consequence.

Sincerely in Christ,

+ *Brendan Downey, O.S.B.*
(St. Rev.) Brendan Downey, O.S.B.
Abbot

BD/cp

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