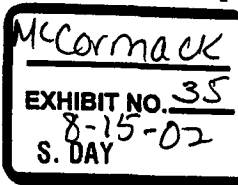


CARDINAL'S RESIDENCE
2101 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE
BRIGHTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02135



December 7, 1989

Reverend Paul R. Shanley
Saint John the Evangelist Parish Rectory
253 Watertown Street
Newton, MA 02158

Dear Father Shanley:

I wish to acknowledge your letter dated November 21, 1989 in which you indicated that you feel that it is best for your health that you resign as Pastor of Saint John the Evangelist Parish in Newton.

In response to your letter and subsequent to our recent conversations, I am writing to advise you that I am acceding to your request and I am accepting your resignation as Pastor of Saint John the Evangelist Parish. The effective date of this course of action will be January 22, 1990.

I realize that this decision is the result of much soul-searching on your part and has certainly not been an easy one for you to make. While we may not arrive at the same conclusions I think you realize that I respect the integrity and thoughtfulness with which you have approached this difficult matter.

Please send written notification to Most Reverend Robert J. Banks, Vicar for Administration, and Reverend James J. McCarthy, Clergy Personnel Director, indicating that you have received this communication.

I need additional time to work out the details of this period of time away from an assignment which we have agreed upon. However, for the sake of the future pastoral care of the people of the parish I felt it important to respond to this particular part of your request which impacts upon the service to the people first. Be assured that I will write again very shortly and respond to the additional matters which you raised.

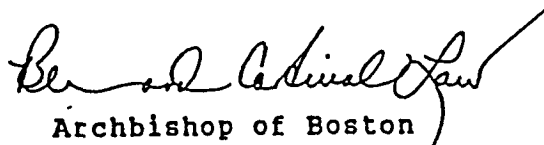
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This letter provides me with an opportunity to thank you in my name and in the name of the people of the Archdiocese for the close to thirty years you have been in the service of God and His people. That is an impressive record and all of us in the Archdiocese are grateful to you for your priestly care.

Without doubt over all of these years of generous and zealous service the lives and hearts of many people have been touched by your sharing of the Lord's Spirit. You are truly appreciated for the efforts you have made. You will indeed be in my prayers and be assured of the inestimable value to the Church of your prayers.

With grateful remembrance and my blessing upon you and all whom you serve so well, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,


Archbishop of Boston