

ST. MARY'S CHURCH

South 304 Adams Road
SPOKANE, WASHINGTON 99216

May 2, 1974

Rev. Robert Pearson
P.O. Box 1453
Spokane, Washington 99210

Dear Bob,

I think it best to put into writing my thoughts concerning a possible transfer of assignment on the part of Pat O'Donnell. In this way, they will be clear for everyone.

I have two thoughts in this regard:

First of all, I would like to have Pat remain here for another year, but only if he is able to recognize the problem, which Father Gill outlined as "a pediatrician complex". I feel that this has some far reaching consequences in relation to his ability to function as a priest in a parish. I also feel that it will be impossible for anyone to assist him in overcoming these problems unless he clearly sees it as a problem and is willing to sacrifice considerably and develop the complete openness that anyone dealing with him would require for success. By asking this, I mean a great deal more than his simply seeing a professional person. I mean seeing someone with the openness spoken of above.

Secondly, I believe that the diocese should assist Father Pat in finding someone who truly can have the insight and skill to be a real assistance to him. This will require monetary assistance naturally. I also feel that the diocese should get someone outside of Catholic Family Service or Catholic Charities to assist Pat. In talking with priests, there is a deep respect for the people in these organizations, but also the feeling that seeing them has not helped priests. Maybe it is the lack of time, etc. However, several excellent men are available in Spokane. I have made some inquiries and can be of assistance in this, if you wish.

Thus, I'm placing the complete openness of Pat and the complete dedication of the diocese in assisting Pat as the two conditions upon which I will agree to work with him for another year. The latter does not mean that the diocese should have to foot the entire bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Faternally yours in Christ,



Walter F. Abel,
Pastor