

File

October 3, 1983

Rsv. John P. Feeney
St. Mary of the Seven Dolours Church
Box 8
Stockbridge, WI 53088

Dear Father Feeney:

Writing this letter in the twilight of my resignation as the Bishop of the Green Bay Diocese saddens me very much. Humanly speaking, I could have hoped to leave the problem to my successor, but that would not be fair. As I go through the total file of the hearings, your meetings with the Personnel Board and your response, the conclusion seems to be that in your best interest another diocese, another atmosphere, new people and new faces might be the answer to your problem.

It is a pity that serving the Diocese of Green Bay for thirty years ends in this way, but, really, haven't we all tried? Again and again there were so many assignments. In my case, I am capable of forgetting about all this and writing a good letter of recommendation for you to a new Bishop, and I hope and pray you will find one.

Summarizing, therefore, the recommendations of the Personnel Board to me I would concur with that Board that I support your request to be released from assignment in the Green Bay Diocese for work in another diocese. To this end, you have my permission to seek a meeting with another Bishop, and as I said above, I will be happy to be in contact with such a Bishop.

As for particulars, you have until January 1, 1984, to find such an assignment. If you feel that you need to devote all of that time to such a search, the diocese would provide you with an appropriate salary and benefits for that three month period. This, of course, would necessitate a replacement for you at Stockbridge.

However, if you desire to remain at the parish as Administrator until January 1st, and working in the meantime on making arrangements for a new assignment, the parish would be responsible for your salary and benefits.

The Personnel Board has set January 1st as the deadline and has advised me that if you do not find a Bishop willing to accept you by that time you would need to report to a treatment center to begin a program to assist you with your problems. I think you see the wisdom of this alternative since time and time again I have been advised by civil servants, specifically the Attorney General, that unless the diocese promised to provide for treatment you would be prosecuted.

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You have indicated to yourself, and we all tend to agree, that it is impossible to successfully reassign you in the Diocese of Green Bay. As for other details, you have the option of participating in the Diocesan Insurance Program or selecting coverage through your new assignment. The same would hold true for the LBA, wherein the new assignment would provide for you or you would need personally to make the appropriate contribution toward your retirement program, or, as you note, I believe you have vesting rights in the LBA.

Therefore, John, I do believe that the course you have chosen is the right one, and believe me, I shall pray for your success in finding happiness and the fulfillment of your priestly desires in another place. I am sure you have tried to be a very good priest, and indeed you have given wonderful talents, gifts God has given you. I truly hope that you will now, out of the experience of all the years in the Green Bay Diocese, turn those gifts toward the many good things you can do for people.

With every blessing and good wish, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Aloysius J. Wycislo
Apostolic Administrator

cc: Rev. Msgr. Roy M. Klister
Personnel Board

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