

#### CHANCERY OFFICE

153 ASH STREET
P.O. BOX 310
MANCHESTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE
03105-0310



DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

February 2, 1984

TO: File

FROM: Father Francis J. Christian, Chancellor

RE: Father Philip A. Petit

On January 31st, I received a phone call from a sailing expedition to Merrimack. She claimed that in August, while on a sailing expedition to Northwood Lake with her son. Father Petit revealed to her son that he was homosexual. Her son, some some sort of verbal solicitation. She claims that she and her husband met with Father Petit shortly after the incident and that her husband was asked to meet with him again shortly after Christmas. In both instances Father Petit admitted that he was homosexual, but that he was not actively involved with their son or anyone in the parish. The had approached Father Richard in Merrimack to help them in this matter. He had spoken to Father Petit, but the parents were still concerned that maybe enough was not being done.

On January 31st, I met with Father Robert Carty, the Pastor of Our Lady of Mercy in Merrimack, to explain the situation to him and what our plans for Father Petit were. I asked him to discuss the whole incident with Father Petit after I had met with him.

On February 1st, I met with Father Petit. He admitted that he had brought up the subject of homosexuality, but only because he felt the young man already was concerned that Father Petit was homosexual. He claims that there was no verbal solicitation intended. I told Father Petit that I was concerned about a recurring pattern. The same sort of thing had happened in Dover two years ago. A similar incidence had happened in St. Jean the Baptist Parish several months ago, and now this incident. (Father Petit did not deny that he had brought up the subject of homosexuality with a young man from Saint Jean's. He indicated he had done this only because he had heard that some of the young people of Saint Jean's were talking about him). I told Father Petit that this pattern was disturbing and asked him to explain it. His explanation was that he needs to be accepted in spite of the

fact he is homosexual, and this fact forces him to reveal his problem even though he knows it is not appropriate. I told him that I could understand his need for acceptance, but that he was certainly being indiscreet in revealing his problem to the wrong people. I also indicated that he could be facing serious legal problems if anyone ever wanted to charge him with verbal solicitation. I mentioned that even if he was not convicted, the public scandal would irrevocably damage his priesthood. If convicted, he could go to jail. I indicated that there were two immediate problems we were facing. One was to placate the parents as much as possible by showing them that both he and we took the problem seriously. Secondly, was the necessity of examining more carefully the repeated pattern of his behavior even though he has been in therapy. As a result, I told him that we wanted him to go to the House of Affirmation for a series of psychological tests. The dates for that testing would be February 28th to March 2nd. Once we had the results of the tests we would sit down and discuss the recommendations of the professionals to see what the next step should be, if any. Father Petit would have preferred to have the testing done by his psychiatrist, Dr. Desjardins. I told him this was not possible for two reasons; first, if the parents pressed the issue and found out we had sent him back to a psychiatrist with whom he was working, they could charge us with collusion because he had done the activity while under the care of this psychiatrist, and secondly, that we really needed a second opinion in this matter. Father Petit eventually agreed to my request.

On the evening of February 1st, I called Father Carty to explain what had happened in my interview with Father Petit. I also called the mily, who showed no vindictiveness and were pleased with the steps that the Diocese was taking.



#### **CHANCERY OFFICE**

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DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

February 22, 1984

#### PERSONAL/CONFIDENTIAL

Richard J. Gilmartin, Ph.D. Director. House of Affirmation, Inc. 120 Hill Street Whitinsville, MA 01588

Dear Dr. Gilmartin:

In response to your letter of February 2nd of this year, I am pleased to offer you the following information regarding Father Philip Petit, who is scheduled to undergo your assessment program on February 28th through March 2nd.

Father Petit is thirty-one years old and was ordained in the Spring of 1980. Shortly after his ordination, while serving in a temporary assignment in the city of Manchester, he picked up a young man and brought him to the rectory, where they engaged in homosexual behavior. This event became known to the Diocese through a confidential contact from the police department of the city, to whom Father Petit had gone to report that he had been robbed by this same young man. Apparently, Father Petit had had to give them some of the details of why he was in the rectory, etc. When confronted with this information, Father Petit admitted to the fact and agreed to undergo extensive psychological testing and whatever follow-up therapy was required with Dr. Ernest Desjardins of Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Dr. Desjardins's reports indicated that Father Petit did have a sexual problem, but that he felt with ongoing therapy it could be controlled. Father Petit has been seeing Dr. Desjardins regularly up until this time. Dr. Desjardins has periodically reported some improvement in Father Petit's difficulty.

There have been, however, several recurring similar sorts of behavior which continue to cause us concern and necessitate the need for a second opinion in his regard. About three years ago, while he was serving in a parish in Dover, New Hampshire, Father Petit openly discussed his homosexuality with a young man of the parish who reported it to his parents. The parents interpreted this as some sort of verbal solicitation, necessitating Father Petit's transfer to another parish. During the year or so he was in Berlin we had no reports of any difficulties. About nine months ago, however, a report was received by the Chancery that Father Petit, who was now stationed in Merrimack, New Hampshire, had approached a young man in another Manchester parish where he had served as a deacon, and again openly discussed his homosexuality with him. It has further

come to our attention just recently that during this summer he again approached a young man with whom he had become friendly in the Merrimack parish about his homosexuality. In this case, the young man reported it to his parents who, in time, decided to report it to the Chancery. They also interpreted Father Petit's conversation as some sort of verbal solicitation. In my conversation with Father Petit I mentioned our concern at this recurring pattern of behavior where he would (a) arrange to be alone in the company of a young man, and (b) discuss openly his homosexuality with him. Father Petit's explanation to this is that he needs people's affirmation in spite of his homosexuality, and is looking for that. I explained to Father Petit that, whatever his intentions, he was in grave jeopardy in regard to his credibility as a priest and, potentially, even with the law. In at least two of the cases mentioned the young man in question was a minor. I explained to Father Petit that his ability to live a celibate life was the primary concern of the Diocese, and that given his repeated similar difficulties, and particularly in light of the parents' concerns in the last case, it would be necessary for him to undergo a further assessment from an independent source to see if there is anything more that can be done to be of assistance to him. I explained that this assessment would both satisfy the demands of the parents in the latter case, as well as provide the Diocese with a second opinion on the source of his problem and his ability to control it.

I trust that this information will be helpful to you. Please do not hesitate to call upon me if anything more is required. In closing, let me assure you of the gratitude of the Diocese to you in being of assistance to Father Petit.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely,

Rev. Francis J. Christian Chancellor

April 4, 1984

Ms. Mary Ann Fay House of Affirmation 120 Hill Street Whitinsville, Ma. 01588

Dear Mary Ann:

I am in receipt of your report regarding Reverend Philip A. Petit, priest of the Diocese of Manchester who recently underwent a testing program at your facility. I have studied the report in detail and am grateful for your assessment of his situation. I am pleased that you conclude that he can continue to deal with his problem by on-going therapy with Dr. Ernest Desjardins, with whom he has been consulting over the past three years. It is my intention to recommend this course of action to Father Petit for the time being.

In closing, let me thank you again for your kind assistance in his regard. With every good wish, I am

Cordially in Christ,

Bishop of Manchester



DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

#### CHANCERY OFFICE

153 ASH STREET
P.O. BOX 310
MANCHESTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE
03105-0310

December 23, 1985

#### <u>CONFIDENTIAL</u>

REPORT ON FATHER PHILIP A. PETIT BY FATHER FRANCIS J. CHRISTIAN, CHANCELLOR

The following information has been obtained from Father Philip A. Petit himself, in his conversations with Monsignor John E. Molan, Vicar General, and Father Francis J. Christian, Chancellor.

On or about October 5th, Father Petit stopped to offer a ride to a good and a young man in his late teens or early twenties (he is definitely older than 18 years of age). In the course of their brief conversation Father Petit revealed that he was homosexual. According to Father Petit, who at the time was not addressed as a priest and did not identify himself as a priest, This revelation upset the young man, who asked to be let out of the car, which Father Petit claims that he did. Approximately a week and a half later this same young man was admitted as a patient at the Portsmouth Hospital. In the course of his rounds Father Petit stopped to see him and did not recognize him in any way. The young man, however, recognized him. Apparently, upon being discharged from the hospital, he revealed to his mother that the man who had offered him a ride was a priest. This upset the mother and the young man, who then placed charges against Father Petit.

On or around October 18th Father Petit was questioned by a Detective Demo of the Portsmouth Police Department. Father Petit then obtained the services of an Attorney Tony McManus, who met with the detective in question and the attorney. Father Petit related to the detective the story detailed above. The young man, however, was claiming to the police that Father Petit attempted to touch him sexually. He therefore accused Father Petit of simple assault, which is a misdemeanor in the State of New Hampshire. Father Petit steadfastly maintains that he made no such attempt on the young man and did not touch him in any way.

At this point,
, there has been no notoriety of any sort about the matter. On December 23rd, Father Christian received a call from the Manchester Police Department to notify him that the Portsmouth Police Department had been making inquiries as to whether or not Father Petit had any record. They were told by the Manchester Department that he did not.



Father Christian discussed with Father Petit in some depth the difficult public relations problem that could surface

Father Christian pointed out that while it is true that Father Petit has no criminal record, he does have several instances of similar problems which might surface if the people with whom he was involved came forward in anger at a public disclosure of the continuing nature of the problem. Father Petit realizes this danger, but is so convinced as to his innocence in this particular case he feels he has no other choice because anything else would be to admit guilt where he is not guilty. Father Christian pointed out to him that as in the other instances where the Diocese has tried to be of assistance, while at the same time demanding that he receive the appropriate psychological testing and help, the Diocese would do what was possible in any public notoriety. He pointed out, however, that the Diocese could not defend him unconditionally out of fear of something from his past surfacing.

Dr. Ernest Desjardins, the psychologist with whom Father Petit has been treating for some years believes that the present instance is simply a "slip", and that Father Petit is really doing quite well. He believes that Father Petit has made real progress.

even if there is no bad publicity, the Diocese must review Father Petit's situation to decide whether he should be simply allowed to continue treatment with Dr. Desjardins, or whether, in light of what appeared to be just repeated "slips", something more is required if he is to be allowed to continue to function.



#### SECRETARIAT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE AND CANONICAL AFFAIRS

Diocese of Manchester, 153 Ash Street, P.O. Box 310 Manchester, NH 03105-0310

603-669-3100

January 24, 1986

#### CONFIDENTIAL

#### **MEMORANDUM**

FROM: Reverend Francis J. Christian, Chancellor

RE: Father Philip A. Petit

At the request of Bishop Gendron, I spoke today with Father Philip Petit and informed him that,

the Bishop feels he must relieve Father Petit of his ministerial responsibilities at this time. He is doing this because of the and also because the public notoriety involved will make it difficult for Father Petit to serve fruitfully. While Father Petit was somewhat disappointed in the Bishop's decision in this regard, he appeared to understand its rationale and agreed to accept that decision.

I proceeded to discuss with him the advisability of his temporarily residing elsewhere than Immaculate Conception Parish. This was occasioned particularly by the discomfort of Father Michael Kerper, the Associate Pastor, with Father Petit's presence. Father Petit was quite angry that he would be asked to leave, but appeared to understand that the Bishop had no other alternative at this time, given Father Kerper's intransigence. Father Petit agreed to temporarily reside at Saint Michael's Parish in Exeter, if the Diocese could confirm that possibility with the Pastor, Father Lennon.

### January 25, 1986

I spoke on this date with Father William Quirk, Pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Portsmouth. He agreed to convey to the administration of the Portsmouth Hospital Bishop Gendron's decision regarding Father Petit, and that temporarily Immaculate Conception would assume responsibility for the hospital. He indicated he would do this the first thing Monday morning, January 27th.

#### Monday, January 27, 1986

I spoke with Dr. Gilmartin at the House of Affirmation in Whitinsville and brought him up-to-date on the involving Father Petit. I asked him whether or not inpatient care might now be considered for Father Petit. He indicated that the initial report of the House of Affirmation which had recommended outpatient care would need to be resubmitted to the Staff for further evaluation, in view of the new situation. He felt, however, that inpatient care would be desirable and a possibility.

#### January 31, 1986

On this date I spoke with Dr. Ernest Desjardins, Father Petit's psychotherapist. He indicated a real concern for Father Petit's depressive attitude and inquired about inpatient care for him, which he was now recommending and Father Petit had agreed to. He asked us to have Father Petit's name put on the waiting list at the House of Affirmation, with the understanding that Father Petit be allowed to remain in the area until was resolved.

On February 5th, Father Paul Bouchard, the Assistant Chancellor, called Dr. Gilmartin at the House of Affirmation to ask that Father Petit's name be placed on the waiting list, given the circumstances and the request of his therapist. Dr. Gilmartin indicated that Father Petit's name would be put on the waiting list.

February 13th. Miss Murphy from the House of Affirmation called Father Bouchard to indicate that there was an opening at the House of Affirmation in Clearwater, Florida, as of March 12th. Father Bouchard indicated he would discuss this possibility with Bishop Gendron and Father Petit and would confirm that date.

On speaking with Father Petit, it became clear that he was hesitant to commit himself to that particular date before knowing if in fact his situation would be clarified by that time.

February 20th. Father Bouchard called Miss Murphy at the House of Affirmation to inform her that we did not want to reserve the date of March 12th for Father Petit, given the lack of assurance that He indicated that we would want his name retained on the waiting list, and that we would contact the House of Affirmation as soon as his situation was clarified so that he could have as early an entry into inpatient care as possible.

February 5, 1986

Rev. Philip A. Petit Immaculate Conception Rectory 98 Summer Street Portsmouth, New Hampshire 03801

Dear Father Petit:

This letter will confirm our agreement that you are presently on a temporary leave of absence

you

will be in residence at Saint Michael Rectory in Exeter. I am grateful to Father Lennon, Father Thibeault and Father Majka who have extended their welcome and hospitality to you. My main concern is that you be in a place where you feel comfortable.

Please be assured of my prayers, Phil, as you experience this difficult time of waiting. If I may be of assistance to you in any way, do not hesitate to contact me.

With every good wish, I remain

Cordially in Christ,

Bishop of Manchester



## SECRETARIAT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE AND CANONICAL AFFAIRS

Diocese of Manchester, 153 Ash Street, P.O. Box 310. Manchester. NH 03105-0310

603-669-3100

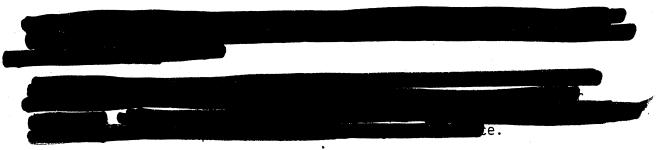
March 6, 1986

### $\underline{\mathsf{C}}\ \underline{\mathsf{O}}\ \underline{\mathsf{N}}\ \underline{\mathsf{F}}\ \underline{\mathsf{I}}\ \underline{\mathsf{D}}\ \underline{\mathsf{E}}\ \underline{\mathsf{N}}\ \underline{\mathsf{T}}\ \underline{\mathsf{I}}\ \underline{\mathsf{A}}\ \underline{\mathsf{L}}$

#### MEMORANDUM

FROM: Reverend Francis J. Christian, Chancellor

RE: Father Philip A. Petit



I spoke today with the House of Affirmation, who assured me that Father Petit's name was still on their waiting list. They would probably be able to place him in inpatient care at one of their facilities

#### PERSONAL/CONFIDENTIAL

Martha L. Campbell, C.S.J., Psy.D. Psychotherapist House of Affirmation, Inc. 11 Williams Street Hopedale, Massachusetts 01747

RE: Reverend Philip Petit

Dear Sister Martha:

I have received your letter of July 3rd, in reference to Father Philip Petit, a priest of the Diocese of Manchester, currently undergoing resident therapy at the House of Affirmation in Hopedale. Please excuse the delay in my response, but I was on vacation when your letter arrived and only returned to the diocese within the past several days. I am pleased to offer you the following personal perceptions in regard to Father Petit. I hope these may be of some assistance to you.

As I perceive things based on the problem Father Petit has had in his ministry, I would underline three areas which are a cause for concern to him and to me: (a) his homosexuality, (b) his rigidity and harshness with people on occasion, and (c) his questions about priesthood, and particularly secular priesthood as a viable vocation for himself.

Please allow me to comment briefly on each of these points. I became aware of Father Petit's homosexualibrientation shortly after his ordination in 1980. He brought a young man back to the rectory where he was stationed and engaged in homosexual activity with him. The young man subsequently robbed Father Petit, and it is through the local police that the matter was brought to my attention. At that time Father Petit entered into psychological testing and counseling with Dr. Ernest Desjardins, Portsmouth, New Hampshire, a therapist he has seen regularly up until his entry into the House of Affirmation. Dr. Desjardins's occasional reports to me indicated that he felt that Father Petit was making progress and gaining a better control in the area of his homosexuality as time went on. However, on several occasions in the last few years I have received accusations from people who were verbally solicited by Father Petit. The pattern used seemed to be one of indirect solicitation, that is, for no apparent reason when in the company of a young man (this man might have been a perfect stranger or someone known to Father

Petit) he would reveal his homosexuality. The people involved interpreted this as an invitation.

In this case the young man in question alleged that there had been some attempt at sexual contact by Father Petit. Father Petit denies that, while admitting that he did reveal his homosexuality to the man. In sum, it would seem to me that Father Petit has found it very difficult to maintain a celibate lifestyle. On the other hand, I believe that this inability has been a real source of anguish and pain to him, and that he has struggled seriously with it. There is no doubt that his lack of capability for celibacy has been a serious problem to him and the diocese.

In several of his parish assignment Father Petit has also found it difficult to establish a friendly and harmonious work relationship with the lay people involved in ministry in the parish. He alienated many of these people by his insistence that things always be his way, and by being unable to accept their suggestions or criticisms. Apparently, when he was challenged in any fashion he became very angry and defensive, and simply hardened in the position he was trying to impose. It would appear that the people found him an excellent liturgist, homilist, and teacher, but on a personal level they found it very hard to relate with him, and found the rigidity mentioned above counter-productive to the life of the parish.

Finally, for some time Father Petit has been struggling with whether or not he should remain a diocesan priest, given his failure to find a happy ministry in parishes. He mentioned to me on several occasions his question of whether or not he would be better suited to religious life and perhaps a teaching vocation. I do not know whether he has explored in any depth this question. Neither do I know whether or not, given the pointsgI have mentioned above, he is now perhaps questioning whether the priesthood is an appropriate vocation for him. Certainly, these are important questions for him to clarify.

I hope that these comments are of some assistance to you. Please do not hesitate to call upon me if I can be of any further assistance. I am grateful to you and the rest of the Staff for your kind efforts on Father Petit's behalf. I assure you of my prayers that your work with him will be blessed by God, and enable him to find peace and contentment within himself. Assuring you of my prayerful best wishes, I am

Cordially in Christ,

Bishop of Manchester

28 August, 1986

Most Rev. Odore J. Gendron, D.D. Bishop of Mancester

Dear Bishop Gendron:

As you know, my involvement in the residential program at the House of Affirmation includes periodic progress reports to you as my Ordinary. It is now time for the first report, and this raises a serious concern I have regarding the confidentiality of my psychological reports.

In signing release forms in the past I named you as the recipient of my reports, and it was my intention that you alone have access to those reports. I now believe that others on your staff have had access to my reports. I am very concerned about who will have access to my reports in the future.

I will feel safer if I have your personal assurance that from now on you alone will have access to any of my psychological reports. If you, or your successor as Ordinary, want to share any information from my reports with anyone else you should request my express written consent.

I appreciate your genuine concern for me, and I thank you in advance for your response to my request.

Peace Thelip A Petit

September 8, 1986

Reverend Philip A. Petit 11 Williams Street Hopedale, Massachusetts 01747-1212

Dear Father Petit:

I have received your letter of August 28 in which you express concern regarding the confidentiality of the psychological reports I will be receiving from the House of Affirmation. Let me clearly state, first of all, that I share your concern for confidentiality. something that you certainly have a right to expect. I believe I can confidently state that, since I have been Bishop, I am unaware of any breach of confidentiality emanating from my office or my staff. On the other hand, I believe that your request that I, and I alone, have any sort of access to the facts of your treatment is unreasonable. There are times when in your best interest, and the best interest of the Diocese, I must consult with my staff people. Furthermore, if something should happen to me or if I am out of the Diocese on the occasion of a critical situation, Bishop Gerry and my other staff people who, at that point, would represent the Diocese, must be able to do so in a professional and knowledgeable fashion. That means that they must have some kaowledge of your situation (or for that matter the situation regarding any priest).

I assure you that I do not routinely circulate, even to my staff, any psychological report I receive. When necessary I do share certain facts with my staff people who need the information for the above-mentioned purposes. As you know, all of these priests are bound by the oath of confidentiality they take when \$\frac{1}{2}\$ share some of my responsibilities as Bishop with them. I believe it would be a very administratively unwise situation if I were to accede to your requests, and certainly unwieldy if I needed written permission from you each time I felt it necessary to consult on certain specific facts. As a result, I request that the release form prepared and signed by you with the House of Affirmation read as follows:

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"I, Philip A. Petit, authorize the release of any and all information regarding my treatment to Most Reverend Odore J. Gendron, Bishop of Manchester, with the understanding that Bishop Gendron may, at his discretion, share such information with those persons he deems necessary in the performance of his pastoral responsibilities as Bishop."

I trust, Phil, that you understand that this agreement does not in any way undermine the confidentiality with which I will treat the sensitive materials which come to me. Your good name and reputation are very important, and I will preserve them carefully while at the same time acting responsibly on behalf of the Diocese.

Cordially in Christ,

Bishop of Manchester

24 October, 1986

Most Reverend Odore J. Gendron, D.D. Bishop of Manchester

Dear Bishop Gendron:

I very much appreciated your honesty and sensitivity during our dialogue last Wednesday. While I know that my future as a priest is far from resolved, I am now more at ease about my relationship with you personally. I hope that you now have a better understanding of why I am so hurt, frightened, and angry.

As you requested, I am providing you with a written statement of my requests concerning the confidentiality of my written psychological reports which are kept in diocesan files.

- 1) Regarding my psychological assessment and reports which were prepared by Ernest C. Desjardins, Ph.D.:
  - a) that all documents, and/or photocopies and notes of the same, be immediately removed from diocesan files and destroyed;
  - b) that all written notes of conversations with Dr. Desjardins be immediately removed from diocesan files and destroyed.
- 2) Regarding my psychological assessment and reports as prepared by the House of Affirmation, Inc.:
  - a) that you alone be the recipient and have access to these documents;
  - b) that you have permission to share verbally with your staff about my therapeutic progress, but not to read verbatim from the documents;
  - c) that if a future incident involving me be reported to you, a member of your staff would have access to these documents only if you are out of the diocese for an extended period of time;
  - d) that all documents, and/or photocopies and notes of the same, will be removed from diocesan files and destroyed within one year of my termination of residency at the House of Affirmation.

I think these requests are reasonable in that they respect both your need for administrative discretion and my right to confidentiality. If these requests are acceptable, I would appreciate a letter from you stating that the points in #1 have been complied with, and that you will abide by the points in #2.

In closing I must say that your visit meant a great deal to me. It is important for me not only to presume that you care, but to experience it. Your visit was just such an experience, and helps me to believe that you are genuinely interested in my future well-being. I would welcome your visiting again if your schedule permits.

Peace

Rev. Philip A. Petit

28 October, 1986

Most Reverend Odore J. Gendron, D.D. Bishop of Manchester

Dear Bishop Gendron:

Just prior to beginning residency at the House of Affirmation I submitted to you a listing of my expenses in order that you might determine how much I should receive as a monthly stipend.



I am requesting that my monthly stipend be increased to \$500.00, which was my salary when I went on leave. I further request that this increase be made retroactive to June.

Thank you for your consideration of this request, and for your continued concern for me.

Peace Hulip A. Petit

2 December, 1986

Most Rev. Odore J. Gendron, D.D. Bishop of Manchester

Dear Bishop Gendron:

I sent two letters to you at the end of October, one outlining my requests with regard to confidentiality and the other requesting an increase in my monthly stipend. To date I have not received a response to either letter.

In the letter regarding the increase in my monthly stipend

If there is any way I can clarify my requests in either letter, I am more than willing to do so. I thank you again for your continued concern and support, and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Peace

Philip a. Petit

December 3, 1986

Reverend Philip A. Petit House of Affirmation 11 Williams Street Hopedale, Massachusetts

Dear Father Petit:

Please excuse the rather lengthy delay in replying to your letter and proposal of October 24th, and your subsequent request in your letter of October 28th. I simply did not have sufficient time until recently to go through your file to see how it would be affected by the proposal we discussed during my visit.

At this point, however, I am happy to notify you that I am agreeable to the proposal as outlined in your October 24th letter with one exception. I will certainly destroy all documents, notes, etc., referring to your treatment with Dr. Desjardins. I feel it important, however, that I keep one letter from him dated July 24, 1982. This letter was written after the situation in Dover requiring your transfer to Berlin. It basically indicates Dr. Desjardins' assessment of your continuing progress and his feeling that the Dover incident was isolated. It was basically because of his feeling in that letter that your reassignment was effected, and I feel I need to retain this document for legal protection should any questions ever surface about your reassignments in the Diocese. With the exception of this particular document, everything else has been destroyed. I also agree to your proposal regarding reports prepared and sent to me by the House of Affirmation, that is, I alone will receive and read them, although it is understood that I may share with a member of my staff orally any pertinent information I feel they need to be It is underaware of for the good administration of the Diocese. stood further that a member of my staff may have access to these documents in relation to a further incident that might be reported if I am out of the Diocese at that time. I will remove and destroy those documents from the House of Affirmation a year after your termination.

Page 2.

I trust that these are substantially the provisions we discussed and agreed to as outlined in your letter, and I appreciate your willingness to allow me to be sensitive to your personal needs while at the same time see to the good administration of the Diocese.

I would like to take this occasion as well to inform you that I have authorized an increase of \$50.00 a month in the stipend the Diocese is providing you. This will take effect with the check you receive in December.

In closing, Phil, let me assure you of my continued prayers for you in the hopes that you will be able to make continuing progress in your therapy. Please do not hesitate to call upon me if I can be of any further assistance. I will remember you in a special way during my prayers in Masses during this holy season, and hope that Christmas will bring you many blessings.

Cordially in Christ,

Bishop of Manchester

16 January, 1987

Most Reverend Odore J. Gendron, D.D. Bishop of Manchester

#### Dear Bishop Gendron:

I regret any inconvenience as a result of my delay in responding to your letter of 3 December, however I had not anticipated its content and it has taken me this long to phrase my thoughts. I had hoped that the matter of confidentiality was resolved by our discussion here in Hopedale on 15 October. I think I told you then that my concern about confidentiality goes beyond the content of any one report.

I agreed to release those psychological reports to you because I believed you were genuinely interested in my well-being. I now get the impression that your concern for me is overshadowed by your concern for the legal defense of the diocese, and that my psychological reports are important to you for this reason. To date I am aware of no legal action against the diocese as a result of any activity of mine. It seems to me that if there were going to be any such litigation it would have been initiated by now. My attorney does not expect that I will be sued now or in the future, and I do not understand why your attorney thinks you will be sued on my account. If there is a particular incident which is the basis of your concern, I want to know about it. However, in the absence of a real threat of a lawsuit the need to defend the diocese remains hypothetical.

It is my understanding that federal law prohibits you from making any disclosure from my psychological reports without my specific written permission. In spite of this, I am aware that Fr. Christian referred to the 1981 assessment by Dr. Desjardins

This action seems to demonstrate your willingness to use such documents without my consent, but with gross disregard for the impact I believe I am justified in my anger about this, and understandably vigilant about protecting my right to confidentiality in the future.

A particular phrase of appears in quotation marks and is attributed to the 1981 assessment. I compared the quote with the assessment report only to discover that the alleged quote is a paraphrase/synthesis of phrases in the assessment. This misrepresentation is quite disturbing both to Dr. Desjardins and to me. It is all the more egregious since Dr. Desjardins warned Fr. Christian not to refer to any psychological reports when speaking

Most Reverend Odore J. Gendron, D.D. 16 January, 1987 page 2

A further concern of mine is the question of diocesan files being subject to subpoena in the event of a lawsuit. I raised the issue with Mr. Cook and Fr. Christian during my meeting with them on 11 March. Mr Cook assured me that the diocese would take every measure to defend itself against such an order. He also stated, however, that in his opinion even an appeal to the U. S. Supreme Court would fail and the documents would have to be surrendered. If this ever happened I think we can agree that the prosecution would use the information against us both. On the other hand, reports which are kept in the therapist's files are far more defensible against subpoena. Dr. Desjardins will keep all documents on file, and in the event of a lawsuit against either or both of us will very much want to be of assistance. As long as he has the only copies of the reports he can better manage the dissemination of information for which he is ultimately responsible.

In view of all this, it is still my opinion that keeping any of my psychological reports from Dr. Desjardins in diocesan files is ill advised. To continue to do so places me at a real jeopardy which outweighs the potential benefit to the diocese. In the event of a lawsuit against the diocese on my account, I will instruct my attorney to cooperate with the diocesan attorney and Dr. Desjardins in coming to a mutually beneficial approach.

I therefore reiterate my request as specified in my letter to you of 24 October. I hope this detailed explanation of my concerns is helpful to you. I appreciate your patience in this matter, and thank you for your continued concern and encouragement.

Sincerely,

Rev. Philip A. Peti 11 Williams Street

Hopedale, Massachusetts

01747-1212

February 19, 1987

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Reverend Philip A. Petit 11 Williams Street Hopedale, Massachusetts 01747-1212

Dear Father Petit:

Please excuse my delay in responding to your letter of January 16th. During this time I have been praying over your concerns, as well as consulting at some length with our diocesan attorney. After much consideration, I now feel better able to address the impasse at which we seem to have arrived in regard to the 1981 report of Dr. Desjardins.

Let me clearly state, Phil, that I am genuinely interested in your wellbeing. If you do not believe that, then perhaps my saying it will not convince you. I would hope that my actions toward you over the years speak clearly enough in this regard. I trust you can understand, however, that I also must have a concern for the Diocese, not only its legal status but the reputation it enjoys in terms of the correctness of our actions. In this regard it is imperative for me to be able to clearly demonstrate that everything the Diocese has done in your regard was proper. In my mind these two issues, your welfare and the welfare of the Diocese, are not an either/or proposition. They are both concerns and I intend to continue to do my best in regard to both of them.

I also feel it important to seriously question your statement that Monsignor Christian or anyone else in the Diocesan Office made direct reference to the 1981 document in dealing with I would specifically question whether the quotation you refer to is clearly attributed to this office and clearly referring to that 1981 report.

But you must remember

A has spoken with many people about your situation, and unless the quote in question is directly attributed to the Diocese, I cannot take seriously your claim that

Rev. Philip A. Petit February 19, 1987 Page 2.

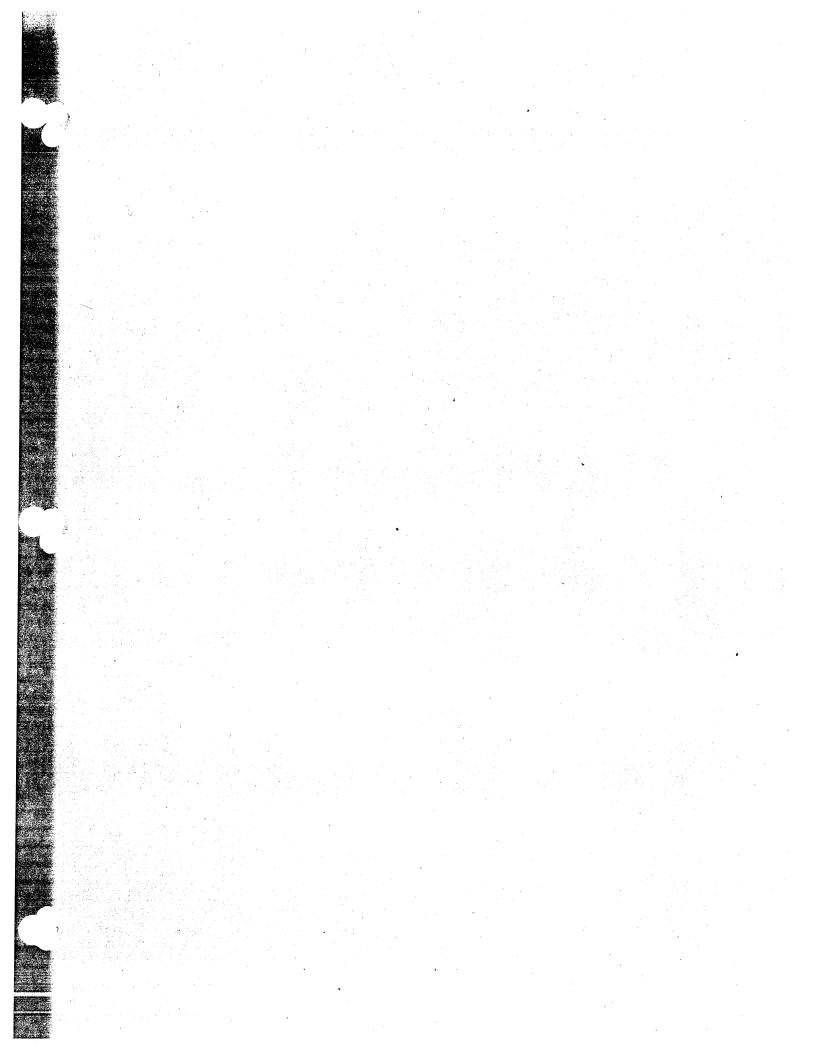
is one brief phone call during which three questions were asked: whether we had previously been aware of a problem on your part, whether we had previously encouraged you to receive psychiatric care, and thirdly whether or not we were willing to assume the cost of inpatient care should that occur. The answer given by the Diocese was a simple "Yes" to each of those questions. Again, our recollection in no way substantiates your feeling that any other information was given to the Office by us.

Having said these things, I need now to share with you the feeling of our diocesan attorneys in reference to the 1981 document. It is their assessment that this is the only concrete evidence in the possession of the Diocese which clearly demonstrates that (a) we were requiring psychological care for you, and (b) that the psychological care was proving beneficial, and (c) that a specific incident, that is, the Dover situation, was in Doctor Desjardins' estimation not indicative of an ongoing pattern of behavior and that you were continuing to develop greater and greater control in the problem area. Obviously, that assessment played a great role in the decision of the Diocese that you should continue in pastoral ministry. Should any questions about the rectitude of the diocesan decision to continue to assign you be raised, that document becomes very important. It is our attorney's opinion that it is not enough to assume that such a document would be available to us in any legal action (no matter how remote a possibility that might be), simply because it is in Dr. Desjardins' file. If Dr. Desjardins relocates in another part of the country, if he should pass away, or in any other number of possible scenarios, that document might not be available to us if we destroy our copy. For this reason I am determined that the 1981 document remain part of your confidential file here at the Chancery Office.

As much as I wish to be sensitive to your concerns, Phil, I must ask you in turn to be sensitive to mine. I do not feel Icaan negotiate any further on this particular point. I must simply ask you to abide by my decision that this document will be treated according to all the conditions we have already agreed to in our previous correspondence. In this regard as well, I expect that I will begin to receive in the near future reports from the House of Affirmation regarding the status of your treatment. Please be aware of my continued concern and prayers. With every good wish, I am

Cordially in Christ,

Bishop of Manchester



MATA

Re: Mr. Philip Petit

#### I. Experiences Available in the Parish

#### Visitations

Hospital Nursing Homes Shut Ins

#### Liturgy

Preaching
Music - Choir & Folk Group
Para Liturgical Services
Altar Boys
Lector
Eucharistic Minister
Prayer Group

#### Religious Education

Sacramental Preparation (Penance - Communion - Marriage - Baptism) Grades 1-8-Grades - High School Adult Education

#### Parish School

#### Home Visitations

#### Parish Organizations

St. Ann's

#### Parish Council

#### Committees

Religious Education Finance - Ground and Maintenance Liturgy - Choir & Folk Group Community Affairs

#### School Board

Catholic Parents Association

#### Youtn Ministry

#### Campus Ministry

#### Ecumenism

#### Deanery Meeting

#### II. Experiences the deacon may be involved in

#### Personal Needs

Hospital and Nursing Home Ministry Youth Ministry Campus Ministry Sacramental Preparation Liturgy

Preaching
Prayer Group
Para Liturgical
Music - Choir & Folk Group

#### Parish Needs

Visit to Shut Ins Nursing Home

Home Visitations

4 -

Hospital Liturgy

Music - Choir & Folk Group

Altar Boys Prayer Group

Sacramental Preparation

1. Adult

2. Youth

Grades

7-8

High School Adult Education

Parish Organizations & Meetings

High School Youth

Campus - Mass - Involvement during the week

**Ecumenism** 

Deanery Meetings

#### Contract Involvement

Shut Ins
Nursing Home
Hospital Visit
Parishioners
Para Liturgical Ceremonies
Music - Choir & Folk Group
Preaching - Rotation
Baotismal Catechesis
Marriage Preparation
Youth Ministry
Parish Council
Community Affairs

#### Future Options

Liturgy

Prayer Meeting Home Visitations

#### III. Frequency of Meetings

Monday Morning Meeting - Every Week

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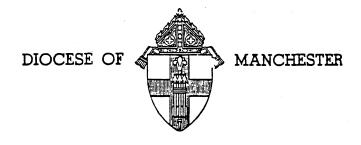
Diocese of Manchester Office of Communications 153 Ash Street Manchester, New Hampshire 03105 1-(603)-669-3100

Full Name: Philip Atthur F	etit Date of Birth: 12-20-52
Parents' Names (if deceased, p	please indicate):
Gedeon N. Petit, J	r. (Deceased) - Estelle (Boisvert) Petit
Home Address:	ox 57-1 Pembroke Hill Road, Concord, N.H.
Home Parish: <u>St. John the I</u>	Saptist Suncook, N.H.
Education: Elementary School:	St. Jean Baptiste - Suncock
Secondary School:	Bishop Brady
College(s):	St. Anselm's
Seminary(½żeś):	St. John Seminary - Brighton, Mass.
	list parish and dates of service):
Ordination to Diac	onate .
Ordination: Date and Hour:	Sunday, February 18, 1978 3:00 p.m.
Church: <u>s</u>	St. John the Baptist
Address:	Suncook, N.H.
First Mass: Date and Hour:	
Church:	
Address:	
	•

Please return this press questionaire with two (2) glossy partrait-photographs to the Diocesan Communications Office.

Thank you!

NAME PETIT. Philip Arthur	
PLACE OF BIRTH Pembroke, New Hampshire DATE OF BIRTH 20	December, 1952
PLACE OF ORDINATION St. Joseph Cathedral Church DATE OF ORDINATION	26 April, 1980
NAME OF ORDAINING PRELATE Most Rev. Odore J. Gendron, D.D., Bishop of Man	chester
DATE OF INCARDINATION (IF EXTERN)	
ACADEMIC DEGREES A.B., cum laude; M. Div.	
colleges attended St. Anselm College, Manchester, New Hampshire (1974)	
SEMINARIES ATTENDED St. John the Evangelist Seminary, Brighton, Massachu	setts (1978)
APPOINTMENTS AS ASSISTANT St. Theresa, Manchester, June 18, 1980;	t. Joseph, Dover
3/2/81; Guardian Angel Parish, Berlin, 6/15/82; Our Lady of	Mercy, Merrimack
June 15, 1983; Leave of absence 6/1/86;	
APPOINTMENTS AS PASTOR	
DIOCESAN OFFICES	



#### APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION TO THE SEMINARY

1.	Name	Philip	Arthur	Petit	•
		First	Middle		Last
2.	Residence	e? <u>167</u>	Main	Suncook	N.H.
		Number	Street	Town	State
3.	Parish?	St. John the	Baptist	Town Suncook	
4.	Pastor?_	Rev. Roland V	<u>eillette</u>		
/	~ ,				,
	dirthplac	e? <u>Manchester</u>	<u> </u>	When? 12/2	0/52
		•			
6.	If not bor	n in the Diocese of Ma	nchester, when did you loc	ate permanently in this I	Diocese?
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7	What Gran	nmar Schools did you a	attend? St. Jean Ba	ptiste duncal	
, •	what Gran	ilinai senoois did you z	ittenu.	1	
8.	Durine wh	nat years? <u>'58</u> -	. 166		
9.	What Coll	ege did you attend?	St. Anselm's		
•		· ·	ars? Freshman & S	ophomore '70 -'	72
			btain?		
				,	
10.	If your stu	udies were interrupted,	, state when, for how long,	why, and at what occupa	ation?————
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lı.	How many	years of latin did you	have (if any) 2, High	School	
	I.Q. Test		•	Discovery of the second of the	

Please TYPE or PRINT...

Diocese of Manchester Office of Communications 153 Ask Street Manchester, New Hampshire 03105 1-(603)-669-3100

Full Name: Philip arthur	Redit Date of Birth: 12-20-52
Parents' Names (if deceased, pleas	e indicate):
Gedeon N. Peti-	- Sn Estelle (Boisient) Petit
Home Address:	
Home Parish: St. 30ho H	ie Baptist
Education: Elementary School: Sy	Sean Baptiste, Suncools
	ishop Brady
	r. Anselm's
	L.O.I. Q. Birnhin
Seminary (Spesi:	1. Sohn Sem Brighton
Deacon Assignment(s) (Please list	parish and dates of service):
Ordination: Date and Hour:	
Church:	
Address:	
First Mass: Date and Hour:	
Church:	
Address:	

Please return this press questionaire with two (2) glossy portrait-photographs to the Diocesan Communications Office.

Thank you!

					-
4. I can provide for all my to	uition expenses in College				
I can provide partly					
I can provide parery					
5. If from an outside Dioces	e please state, in a separate lett	er, why you prefer th	is Diocese?		e de la companya de l
	*****				
	Certificates And Other Docume With This Applic				
1.					
a) Your certificate of Bar	orism and Confirmation.				
b) The certificate of your			•	•	
c) Are both your parents	•			•	
		A A			
d) Recommendation from			•		
	your School or College Superior.	0.000		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
	your spiritual advisor (if you hav	e one).			
High School reports fo					
h) College reports for each					
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## Paroisse Saint Jean-Baptiste

Suncook, New-Hampshire (Allenstown)

# Certificat de Baptême

Philip /	Arthur Pe	tit
Date de naissance Dec. 20, 1952	Date	du baptême Dec. 25, 1952
Rev. A. J. Les	merises iciant	
Père Gedeon N. Petit Jr.	Parrain	Gustave Sanschagrin
Mère Estelle C. Boisvert	Marraine	Esther Sanschagrin
Copie conforme au régistre		012 11/1/24
June 14, 1972	•	Rev. Roland Necletto Pastor



## Paroisse Saint Jean-Baptiste

Suncook, New-Hampshire (Allenstown)

WOOK HE-WEST	Certificat
Philip	Arthur Petit
<u>M</u>	ay 29, 1960
(date)	Première Communion
	ch 24, 1963 ate) Confirmation
D'après les régistres de la paroisse	
June 14, 1972	Rev. Foland Veilletto.
Suncook, New-Hampshire	Pastor

xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
Certificate of Matrimony  Gédéon Petit and
were united in the bonds of Holy Matrimony according to the rite of the Holy Catholic Church
by the Reverend A.A. Sylvestre, Pastor in the  Sacred Heart Church  Concord, N. H. 03301
50 Pleasant St. Concord, N. H. 03301  witnessed by Albert Petit and  Béatrice Normandeau
on March 29, 1937  Sorung J. Soccase  issued by Rev. Msgr Lorenzo J. Lacasse

June 15, 1972

To whom it may concern:

Philip Petit, a parishioner, has requested a letter of reference to enter the Seminary.

I find Mr. Petit of a good character, devoted and always anxious to help at all times.

He is of an excellent catholic family and I believe he should be given an opportunity to study his vocation and to help actively in the Lord's vineyard.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

(Rev.) Roland Veillette

Pastor.

St ansolmo College 4305 Munchater, n. H. June 14 1972 To Whom at may Concern; I wish to recommend Der Philip Putit, a student at St anselm, As One enumently qualified to pursue studies for the priest hood, and to sevote his life and talents to the Church. I consider him to be thus qualified, physically, emotionally. Intellectually, morally and spiritually. I have been one of his touchers and advisors for the two years that he has been at It lenselms. I have some to know him much better than I get to know most students. and transport this period I have been repeatedly impressed, as he revealed

one after the other of week unusuax Justites to me, in this class work, 4306 en attetute, and in informal contacts. He has shown a firm and unequivoid commitment to his chosen vocation, which I could hardly imagine him abandoning at any time! Cent his performance in his studies, rubich I can speak most authoritation about, simply supports I stoned for the prestly rocation, et is Rhilip Petit Philip Petit Has philosophical studies show him to be outstandingly competent in this orla, as he probably is in all others There is no one whom I could recommend more anthuseastricky and more confidently, four admission to Saurdolal studies and preparation. Sincerely your Joseph B. Men Donald Chairman of Philosophy.

## Manchester, New Hampshire

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Date June 13, 1972.

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## STUDENT INFORMATION

#### SCHOOL INFORMATION

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### Manchester, New Hampshire

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Less 167 Main Street, Suncook, New Hampshire

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Withdrew

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Grading:

A-Excellent

B-Good

C-Satisfactory

D-Poor

E-Failure

F--Failure because of Absence

I-Incomplete

.W-Withdrew

WF-Withdrew Failing

Date 7.-11-74

- luard I Cuy lung

# August 10, 1972

To whom it may concern,

We, Mr. Gedeon N. Petit, Jr., and Mrs. Estelle B. Petit, do state that:

- a) we are both baptized, practicing, Roman Catholics, and that,
- b) our son, Philip, is not indebted to anyone for the education he has thusfar received.

- Jedeon n.

Mrs. Catelle B. Fetch

September 19, 1972

Mr. and Mrs. Gedeon Petit 167 Main Street Suncook, New Hampshire

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Petit:

It gives me great pleasure to welcome your son Philip as a candidate for the priesthood into the Diocese of Manchester. We are pleased that he has responded to this call from God and it is my fervent hope and prayer that he may persevere in his vocation to the priesthood.

We are also most grateful to you for your fine Christian example which has played such an important role in leading your son to this decision.

May God bless you for your generostty and for the many sacrifices you have made in behalf of your son Philip.

With every good wish, I am

Cordially in Christ,

Bishop of Manchester

March 21, 1974

Mr. Philip A. Petit
C-191
St. Anselm's College
Manchester, N.H. 03102

Dear Philip:

This will acknowledge your letter of the 18th.
It goes without saying that we would be more than delighted to have you attend the Mass of Chrism at the Cathedral again this year.

How feasible it would be, however, to have all the seminarians present at that ceremony I do notkknow. Not all of the seminarians are on vacation during Holy Week and I do not think that they would want to have a special day for the Bishop when everyone would not be at home. May I suggest that you contact Fr. Bresnahan or Msgr. Gendron concerning some alternative dates for a seminarian date for the Bishop. Be assured of my cooperation in any way I can.

With prayerful good wishes, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

Rev. Magr. Robert E. Mulvee

cc: Msgr. Gendron Fr. Bresnahan Hear Monignor,

It occurred to me that since the Bishops a resignation, the seminarians of the Directe have not had nor will have it seems, an apportunity to see him before he leaves. Many were looking forward to seeing him at the Christman get-together, and were disappointed that he could not be with us.

Lost year, at Fr. Fournier's suggestion, I ettended the Chrism Mass on Hely Hunday. I found this to be a good experience, and felt quite comfortable, even though I was the only seminarian other than the Deaema.

I was wondering how feasible it would be to suggest to the other seminarious to be present at the Hon this year. The informal coffee + doughouts after would be an inexpensive yel effective way of seeing Bishop Primeau III

I am suggesting this to you rather than & Busnahon, seeing that you are

in charge of ceremonies of the Catheden \$16 and you would be more in the know is to wither this is possible or next. I think it would be worthwhile, ond may set a precedent for future years.

I would to hope to hear from you regarding this. In any case, I myself hope to be able to attend the Chrism Hose again this year.

Severely Philip A. Betit Pear Father.

better, but even as I write, I cannot say that I am sure of myself.

My first preference is Louvain. I have then catalogue, and I think it is recognized as a very solid theological preparation. I have been in contact with Pat Dubreuil, and he does not regret his choice. Swould be able to take some courses in french, and as you know I am very interested in keeping what ability I have in french. The of my professors, Mr. Roger Blais, has done his masters and PhD in France, and feels the cultural change would be invaluable. Ho has had me in class and feels Iwould be able to handle the academies. Ihave a major in Philosophy, 2 yrs of greek, 2 yrs of later (trigh School) and is 18 credits in theology. all considered, I would be quite pleased & go & Louvain.

My second choice is Ottawa, again because of the possibility of choosing some courses in french.

I spoke to my own Postor. In Laguery, ondbee seemed satisfied. I received their catalogue, and it seems & he a good program. Many of the monks here at It. Anselm's have done studies there, and consider it & he a fine school.

I know little of It. Meinrad or It. Mary's. I know little of It. Meinrad except that it has a strong seadenic program, and emphasizes the importance of good liturgy. Again, through none of the montes have studied there, some are familiar with it and some professors. They highly recommend it - as you might appeal.

I risited St. Mary's lost year, and was not terribly impressed. It seemed very loosely organizer and impressonal. It is hard to judge though. It Mary's has given mony fine priests to the St. Mary's has given mony fine priests to the Diocese, so it connot be all that bad.

On the question of finances, my parents. have borne the expense of four years of college bese at St. As. I do have a job during the summer, but earn hardly enough for a year at school. I would hope the Diocese would be

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willing to finance my studies, and I would be willing to make agreements for seinbursement

long. I hope this does not create difficulties in making application for next year. I am done school (finals and all) on april 30, and would be willing to see you at your convenience thereafter.

leace in the bism Ind Philip A. Petit