

St. Rose Rectory
601 BROADWAY
CHELSEA, MASS. 02150

February 12, 1992

Rev. James McCarthy
Clergy Personnel Office
1 Lake Street
Brighton, MA. 02135

Dear Father McCarthy:

I am writing to you to make a proposal concerning the Parish of St. Rose of Lima in Chelsea. I have been in contact with Fr. James Fratus and have discussed the proposal with him. I have also spoken with Fr. Wendell Verrill about the proposal and received a positive response from him about the concept. The proposal is the following: that Fr. James Fratus and myself be appointed as a Team Ministry to the parish. I am aware that this proposal is not standard for the Archdiocese, but I do feel that this proposal is best for the parish and takes into consideration the uniqueness of the situation in Chelsea. I feel that this proposal is in the best interest of the parish for the following reasons.

- 1.) The parish has undergone a lot of instability over the past few years. The city of Chelsea is undergoing political turmoil and change. By the formation of this team we would be able to provide a sense of continuity and stability. As you are aware since August 12, 1991, I have been responsible for the administrative operation of the parish and have been able to keep the parish running. I have had, of course, previous experience in the field of administration; having been a Facilities and Maintenance Supervisor for [] Corporation. I bring that wealth of experience to the position. I also have been here in the parish alone since December 31, 1991, and have been able to keep things going.
- 2.) I have worked effectively with Sister Eleanor Marie Hubner, Principal of the elementary school, and have received her vote of confidence to continue in the role of acting-pastor. I have been able to draw on my six (6) years of experience as a School Committee Member of a Regional Vocational Technical High School, three (3) years of which I served as Chairman. On that board I was responsible for the supervision of a \$ 6.5 million budget, far greater than our \$ 420,000 budget. I have a strong commitment to education and the experience needed to deal with the school and issues generated around it.
- 3.) I have worked in the placing of the sisters from the Dominican Republic in the Convent at St. Stanislaus Parish, at the bequest of Bishop Gonzalez. I negotiated the lease which was agreeable to all parties involved and executed the lease on behalf of this parish. The sisters are a tremendous asset to the parish and their presence must be maintained. We have worked together well and they too are supportive of my role in the parish.
- 4.) I do speak Spanish and have worked long and hard with the Hispanic community. I have worked to empower them in taking an active role

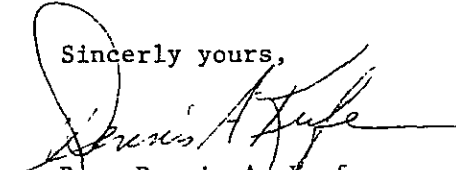
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in the parish, not to rely solely on the priest who works with them. This needs to continue and to be fostered by the priests of the parish.

- 5.) I have worked with Jim Fratus over the past five (5) years and have found him to be a valuable resource, someone who makes sound judgements and carefully thinks out problems. He is a healthy person both physically and mentally. He is open to the Hispanic community and brings a sense of reconciliation and unification to divergent groups. He would be the ideal candidate to complement myself in adding years of service in pastoral field. I have had to maintain all the pastoral coverage in the parish and have turned to him on several occasions to help in making pastoral decisions. He has proven to me by his advice that he has an excellent pastoral sense. We have worked as a team on Juvenile Court Ministry and our styles are most compatible. Jim has a proven track record of being able to manage in a very stressful environment, i.e. the prisons, and has been recognized by the Commonwealth for his abilities.

I hope Father McCarthy that you will take all of these factors into consideration as you ponder this proposal. I have more information to share, but think that it would be too much at this time. If this information at least gets you to think about the proposal and perhaps discuss it with His Eminence, I would be grateful. I have thought long and hard over the proposal and continue to pray over it. I really want the best for St. Rose Parish. Thanks for your time and consideration on this matter. I remain,

Sincerely yours,



Rev. Dennis A. Keefe,
Parochial Vicar

CC: Rev. Kevin J. Deeley

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