

ST. JEAN'S RECTORY
253 WATERTOWN STREET
NEWTON, MASS. 02158

Sept 28, 1979

Dear Gil:

Thank you for your letter of July 30 and your kind offer to further discuss the matter of my ineligibility to apply, as other priests do, for other positions within the Archdiocese.

I am, of course, perplexed. I have no way of knowing whether I am being punished for disobedience, heresy, immorality or what. So far as I know there have been no charges, trials or convictions which might justify such an unusual action. The Cardinal no longer answers my letters.

Recently I was told that my name had been dropped from the Kennedy Directory. The Pilot never mentions my name.

Does this ban extend to my applying for Team Ministry assignments? How long is the punishment to last? What other ordinary rights of priests are curtailed in my regard?

Recently I was asked if I would accept a nomination to the Senate. Will this be vetoed, should I be elected?

There seems to be some confusion in the minds of other priests. I am told that one Pastor told a woman that I was no longer in good standing. Another told a woman that I was out of the Church. Yet another has told his assistant that I am not to enter his rectory.

Please do not interpret any of this as a complaint. I am willing to undergo whatever treatment seems just. It is the incertitude which disturbs me. If you can shed any light on this I would be grateful.

With every best wish for your happiness in your new position and with congratulations

cordially
Paul R. Shanley

RCAB 00356