

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN

POST OFFICE BOX C

BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11202-3604

December 22, 1988

OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

Ms. Bonnie Connor
St. Luke Institute
2420 Brooks Drive
Suitland, Maryland 20746

Dear Ms. Connor:

I wish to confirm the reservation which has been made on behalf of the Reverend Romano Ferraro, a priest of the Diocese of Brooklyn, to enter St. Luke Institute for an evaluation, beginning this coming January 9. His Excellency, Bishop Mugavero, has asked me to express his personal gratitude to the staff of St. Luke Institute, for making arrangements to accept Father Ferraro.

In preparation for your evaluation, I am sending you some material on Father Ferraro which may be able to give you some background of his difficulties. Father Ferraro has written me a letter giving me permission to release the material contained in his files.

Since December 7, 1988, Father Ferraro has been suspended from exercising any priestly functions, with the exception of the private celebration of Mass in his home, and only with the attendance of family members. This was a very difficult step which needed to be taken.

In preparation for the evaluation which Father Ferraro is expected to undergo on January 9, I am enclosing copies of a few sample Memoranda from his file, which give you an idea of the variety of difficulties which he has been experiencing in his priestly ministry. Furthermore, in 1980, Father Ferraro entered the House of Affirmation in Missouri, and was treated for a period of about 10-1/2 months. He continued as an outpatient until the beginning of 1982, when he expressed the desire to return to the Diocese of Brooklyn. His return, however, did not take place until 1983.

Subsequent to his return, he was allowed to seek a ministerial position in another diocese, and served in the Diocese of Metuchen until ministerial difficulties pressured him to leave the assignment: You may recall a

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widely publicized story of a priest who told children at Christmas time that Santa Claus was dead.

A copy of the most recent Memorandum found in his file will give you an idea of the most recent incident in which Father Ferraro has been involved. He has been asked to seriously reflect upon what has happened throughout his ministry, particularly in view of the possibility which may exist of his inability to continue to exercise the priestly ministry.

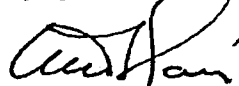
Presently, Father Ferraro is getting therapy from Dr. Louis Padovano, a psychiatrist who provides therapeutic assistance to many of our priests. Father Ferraro's history is rather complex. I trust that the information I have shared with you will help you in your evaluation. I presume that Father Ferraro will be hearing from you as to the arrangements which he must make in order to arrive at St. Luke Institute in time for the evaluation. Father Ferraro may be reached at the following address:

Reverend Romano J. Ferraro
c/o Maria de Paul
Box 267
Kings Park, New York 11754

Should you have any other questions or require any other information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

With gratitude for your kindness, I remain.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Monsignor Otto L. Garcia
Chancellor

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