

Blessed Sacrament Rectory

6 Union Street

Westfield, Massachusetts

April 4-1972

Reverend John R. McShweeney
52 Williams Street
Burlington, Vermont.

Dear Father:

Father Edward Paquette is living at the home of his parents in this parish. He is saying Mass each day at the Holy Child Guild which is the responsibility of this Parish. He is leading an exemplary priestly life.

He was brought up here, and I have known him as a seminarian. He was ordained for the Diocese of Fall River in 1957. In 1963, he was sent home by Bishop Connelly on account of an incident with boys. He was incardinated by Bishop Purcell of Fort Wayne. There was another incident a few months ago in 1971. The Bishop sent him to a Psychiatrist.

This Doctor Hillenbrand has recommended that he return to priestly work and explains his lapses as fits of depression. He also said that Father Paquette is not basically a homosexual. It is a latent condition which the Doctor claims to come on in deep depression and he considers it as quite a normal thing.

I do not qualify as having

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any knowledge on the subject, but I do know that Father Paquette is a good priest. His Bishop has given him a celeret, and has written a very kind letter to him. I would recommend him.

Living closer to home, he feels and I agree that he can avoid the depression and discouragement. He is basically an old fashioned, Mass every day priest, and I hope that you can see fit to give him a chance.

Sincerely yours in Christ
 Timothy F. O'Connor
 Pastor