



vocation
office
archdiocese
of
louisville

Don Clark

19 June, 1979

Most Reverend Thomas J. McDonough, D.D., J.C.D.
Archbishop of Louisville
212 East College Street
P.O. Box 1073
Louisville, Kentucky
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Most Reverend and dear Archbishop:

Back in February of this year, the faculty of Mt. St. Mary's Seminary in Cincinnati, in its report on Dan Clark, expressed what might be called a tacit disapproval of any call to diaconate before January of 1980. As you know, Dan has completed third theology, and it has been our plan that he be called to orders with two others on 22 December, 1979.

Our response to that February faculty report was a detailed analysis of the entire situation, which was prompted by my meeting with seminary officials in early April. I prepared this report, which called for a faculty vote before the conclusion of the present school year, and presented it to the rector and faculty in mid-May.

A faculty vote was indeed taken on 4 June, with a very favorable result. The rector reported to me by phone, that the comments were positive and that the actual vote was 11 in favor, 1 opposed, and 1 abstaining. The rector gives me to understand, that, barring any subsequent difficulty, Dan Clark now has the seminary's approval and recommendation to be called to Holy Orders at the time when the Archdiocese proposed to, namely, December, 1979.

I am enclosing the report just as I presented it to the seminary staff. This letter to you explains the significance of the report, but your reading of the actual report would be worthwhile, I believe.

I expect to be away for about ten days in June, and, I believe you customarily are away in July; perhaps, then, in early August, we might plan to confer about Dan and a few other students particularly, as well as vocation matters generally.

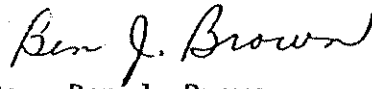
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In the meantime, applications for next year look very good. The projected enrollment for 1979-80 is 39, an increase of 11 over last year's 28.

Finally, I appreciated the copy of your sensitive letter to Patrick McGrath. I followed it with one of my own to Pat and another to his pastor, Msgr. Horrigan.

Be assured of my good wishes for a pleasant summer, and know that you are daily in my prayer.

Fraternally in Jesus the Priest,



Rev. Ben J. Brown
Archdiocesan Vocation Director

BJB:pk

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