

June 2nd, 1986

Dear Archbishop Kelly,

I debated quite awhile prior to writing you. I have always been able to talk to you and feel at ease. In the time I have been in the Al-Anon program, one of the difficult hurdles is the ability to let go and let God. This was my intention when I first came to you about my return to active ministry and when the meeting occurred with Bill and Dr. O'Conner. It was most difficult not to assume a defensive role at the meeting. There was no need. I am very much at peace with God and self over my actions of the past three years ... since I left Our Lady of Peace. Nothing I could have said then or now would give the desired assurance. My concern is my growth towards the Lord. The rest is in His hands and that is the reason why I am writing.

Throughout my life experiences there has been frustration, self-anger and depression. In the past three years and especially this last year I've found that depression is in direct proportion to one's distance from God. I will admit that for the past couple of weeks I've had many sleepless nights. The options Bill presented was a return to somekind of ministry in an institution or a return to the laity. There is a third option that was not discussed. This is the option of a continued leave of absence until such time as some assurance can be given to the concerns of the Church. The 'outside world' is indeed hard ... harder than those in the priesthood realize, I believe. I am certainly not afraid of it.

It was determined by Dr. O'Conner that I would be a 'liability' to the ministry and Church. I feel in my heart I can offer a great deal ... especially from my experiences in my life and the love of God. I would like to accomplish good and holy events with my Priesthood and the time I have left in this world. Perhaps it may sound strange but I would like to experience death as a Priest of the Lord ... it is as simple as that. I would like my life to be an example of the Lord's love, forgiveness and power to heal. I have a lot of growth to experience but I know Christ is with me and that is all that is necessary to me no matter the outcome.

Bill's task was most difficult ... I tried to put him at ease but I was concerned for him. He is very much in my prayers. As always now, I pray for you in my daily Office.

God Bless,



Rev. Daniel C. Clark

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