

*Letter to Mark Fleming File*

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May 15, 1986

Most Reverend Odore J. Gendron, D.D.  
Bishop of Manchester  
153 Ash Street - P.O. Box 310  
Manchester, New Hampshire 03105

Dear Bishop Gendron:

As you know Father Mark Fleming, a priest of the Diocese of Manchester, completed his work at the House of Affirmation here in St. Louis in September of 1984. Upon his request and in consultation with you and Bishop Mulvee we extended the faculties of the Archdiocese to Father Fleming for a period of one year so that he remain in St. Louis to complete his counselling with a private counselor and serve at a parish in the St. Louis area. I now write to you after consultation with Archbishop May.

During the twenty months that he has served in our Archdiocese there have been no big problems, and certainly to our best knowledge no hint of a recurrence of the problem that originally brought him here. Nevertheless the pastor to whom Mark was assigned has found the continuation of small problems with Mark so aggravating that he has terminated Mark's residence as of June 1st, 1986. We have informed Mark that the faculties of the Archdiocese of St. Louis will be terminated at that time and we feel that now is the time for him to move on and make a more permanent decision about his priestly future.

The problems between Mark and his pastor should not be overestimated. Mark has his own way of doing things and in many instances refuses to change his ways in order to fit into the needs of a parish and a rectory. While his ministry has been well accepted by many people in the parish he has needlessly antagonized many others. The pastor feels that the final episode occurred this month when Mark refused to permit a three minute tape prepared by Archbishop May to introduce our Annual Archdiocesan Development Appeal to be used at his Mass. The pastor told Mark that if the tape couldn't be played that the pastor would have to celebrate all the Masses himself and this was the option that Mark chose. The pastor feels, and we agree, that he accepted Mark per misericordiam and that he does not need this extra aggravation.

We sincerely hope that Mark can find the right area to exercise his priestly ministry and to use the talents that he has.

My best to you and the people of Manchester.

Sincerely in Christ,

The Most Reverend Edward J. O'Donnell  
Auxiliary Bishop of St. Louis