

Most Rev. Thomas J. Mardaga, D.D.
2500 West 17th Street
Wilmington, Delaware 19899

February 11, 1971

Dear Bishop Mardaga:

I recall your telling Bishop Harrington that you would be willing to consider with your Personnel Board the possible acceptance of priests who have had a problem. We have a priest who we do not feel should resume his ministry here after spending about 15 months at Seton Institute, where he has been receiving therapy for a homo-sexual problem. Previous to his hospitalization, there were at least two incidents which, though they did not evoke wide public scandal, did become known to several priests and lay people. In this very compact diocese, it is practically impossible to transfer a priest to a place where his previous history is not known--at least by the priests of the diocese.

For this man's own peace of mind and the good souls, we have determined that he should seek an opportunity to work elsewhere.

Father David A. Holley is 42 years of age and was ordained in 1958 for the Order of St. Benedict (St. Benedict's Abbey, Benet Lake, Wisconsin. He obtained an Indult of Excommunication in 1962 and was accepted here on triennial experimentum. In 1967, he was incardinated. Apart from the incidents which prompted us to send him away for psychiatric care, his work in the parishes to which he was assigned was satisfactory. I would rate him at least average in priestly zeal and ability to perform priestly functions, above average in intelligence.

The enclosed letter from the Doctor at Seton gives a rather guarded prognosis, as one would expect where this problem is concerned, and indicates the importance of continuing therapy. Father is quite willing to follow this directive. Presently, he is living with his sister in the Boston area and giving week-end assistance in the local parish. He is most anxious to continue to work as a priest (which is something these days) and, since his home is in Pittsburg, he would prefer, if possible, to find this opportunity in an eastern diocese.

If you have any interest in pursuing the appeal of this priest, he would be willing to go down for a personal interview. On our part, we will be ready to provide any further information you may desire and which it is possible to supply. Meanwhile, let me assure you of my appreciation of any consideration which you may be able to give this priest.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Bishop of Worcester