

613-D Mesilla S.E.
Albuquerque, N.M. 87108
August 11, 1986.

Most Rev. Timothy J. Harrington
49 Elm Street
Worcester, Mass. 01609

Dear Bishop Harrington:

It has been two years since I last heard from you when you asked that I inform you of my situation and plans for the future. I have recently completed a Clinical Pastoral Education course at St. Joseph Hospital here in Albuquerque. It is a Catholic institution run by the Sisters of Charity from Cincinnati, Ohio. The program is considered the best and toughest in the Southwest.

Shortly after arriving in Amarillo from San Angelo, I saw that the diocese was having serious financial and personnel problems. After sound advice, I applied for the C.P.E. course in Amarillo but was told there were no immediate openings. The director suggested, however, that I apply in Albuquerque and I was accepted the following week. I was settled here only ten days when I was informed by the director from Amarillo that there was an unexpected opening due to a cancellation and he was willing to accept me there. Since I had already made the move, I decided to remain in Albuquerque for which I am happy.

The C.P.E. course has been very beneficial and growthful for me although it was painful and stressful throughout. As an adjunct to the program, all the interns had to consult weekly with a psychotherapist. We learned about self-awareness, peer relationships, authority and many other professional subjects. The most difficult time for me was getting in touch with my painful childhood when I was frequently beaten, burnt and cut by my stepfather and lived in isolation and rejection. I can now see, however, that God never abandoned me.

Presently, I am working as a chaplain just a few hours each week at St. Joseph Hospital and at Vista Sandia Hospital. During my internship, I was given a monthly stipend of \$400 from which I had to pay a monthly rent of \$300. I also had to pay \$750 to the C.P.E. program as a tuition. Upon successful completion of the program, I now have certificates from the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education and the United States Catholic Conference. I intend to join the National Association of Catholic Chaplains in the near future.

Last week, I was interviewed by the Catholic chaplain at the local Veteran's Administration Hospital. He plans to retire this Fall and has shown much interest in my application. I would be very pleased to get that position since I am a three year veteran of the Navy. I am not covered at present by any hospitalization plan and am concerned about this situation. My supervisors at St. Joseph assure me of a good recommendation if they are contacted. The V.A. chaplain said that I would be in the newly formed military archdiocese. I believe you will be contacted soon about my application and I hope and pray that you will recommend me for the position.

Respectfully yours,

David A. Holley