

28 September 2004

Dear Archbishop Harry Flynn,
I just returned from the Mala Strana Nursing Home after spending several hours with my Father, he died at 6:55 P.M. I so wanted to be able to celebrate the Funeral Mass of my Dad but cannot do so at this time.

On June 1, 2003 I officially retired from the Active Ministry. At the time I resigned due to an incident involving [REDACTED]

It was an unfortunate incident on my part and I deeply regret that it ever happened. Fortunately it was the only incident of such behavior. At the request of the Archdiocese I went to St. Louis for treatment from the Paraclete Fathers at St. Michael's. After six months of successful treatment I was certified to return to active ministry. I completed the aftercare program as required by both the Archdiocese and St. Michael's. And for seven years I faithfully served in parish ministry without any further incidents. At no time was there any public scandal surrounding this incident with this young person. [REDACTED] never pursued any charges to this day. And there would be no scandal today if I were to return to active ministry.

I am at this time requesting the return of my priestly faculties to be exercised as a retired priest of the Archdiocese. I realize fully what I did with this young person was wrong and I am truly sorry for this sinful action.

However, I also believe in my Church as being one of Forgiveness and Reconciliation. I believe our Church ought to practice and show Compassion even if I may have failed as a priest once in this situation which happened almost thirty years ago.

As I spoke with Bishop Richard Pates this evening who suggested I meet with Father Ron Bowers, one of our renowned canon lawyers, I felt badly I could not offer the Mass for my deceased Father. I thanked him for offering his service to celebrate the Mass for me.

Now I turn to you and ask your kindness and compassion in my request to return to serving the Church again as an active priest.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Clarence
Clarence J. Vavra Retired Priest

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