

Archdiocese Warns On Priest's Advertisements

The Archdiocese of St. Louis has cautioned Roman Catholics not to respond to newspaper advertisements offering sacramental services or to become involved with the Community of St. John Bosco.

The founder of the community, the Rev. James Beine, was suspended by the archdiocese in August 1977 and is forbidden to celebrate Mass, administer sacraments, teach in Catholic schools or preach in the archdiocese, an archdiocesan spokesman said.

"We would warn Catholics against contacting him because he cannot offer a valid ministry," said Monsignor Joseph W. Baker, presiding judge of the Archdiocesan Tribunal.

Beine told the Post-Dispatch that Cardinal John J. Carberry gave him the choice of being suspended or entering a psychiatric facility.

The suspended priest said the Community of St. John Bosco was formed with the idea of helping people and giving him a forum for witnessing

marriages. However, he said the group initially would direct persons responding to its newspaper advertisement to priests in good standing. Beine said he would provide sacramental services only to persons unable to receive them through regular channels.

Beine's advertisement, which ran for several days in April and May, was addressed to Catholics with "priest problems." But Beine said the group also is offering youth services such as backpacking trips to the Grand Canyon.