

7/00

## Some thoughts you might want to use in a Cardinal letter to Fr.

FOLEY

Trying to accomplish:

- Refer to it as the "Archdiocesan Policy", not the Cardinal's. He's not 'stuck' with answering all questions about it.
- Don't defend all the steps....don't have to.
- Take his comments seriously...but 'bad cases make bad law', you don't change things around one case.
- Ask for his cooperation AND.... make it clear that the Cardinal will be involved at the end of the normal procedure...sort of a "Don't call me, I'll call you" statement, without actually being so blunt.

Dear Father FOLEY

I want to acknowledge receipt of your letter of June xxx, 2000. I very much appreciate the fact that these are very difficult times for you and want you to know that you are in my prayers in a very special way. In terms of the application of the Policy of the Archdiocese, I realize that there are times when it can be perceived as formidable. Whenever there are concerns raised about the implementation of the Policy, those who work with it regularly review it's elements to determine if they continue to be relevant and wise. I want to assure you that your comments about your personal experiences with the Policy will be taken seriously by those entrusted with its implementation and review.

At this time, the regular steps outlined in the Policy are serious and it is my hope that you will be able to work with Fr. Higgins in following through on each facet of the review process. As always, I will be involved following the completion of the review process which I feel will be thoughtful and thorough. I look forward to your cooperation during this difficult time.

(Prayers, etc. etc. etc. a sensitive and thoughtful ending, etc.)

Neil H.