



SAINT PATRICK CHURCH

44 East Central Street, Natick, MA 01760

(508) 653-1093

Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul, 2001

Rev. Charles J. Higgins
Archdiocese of Boston
2121 Commonwealth Ave.
Brighton, MA 02135-3103

Reverend dear Father Higgins:

Received your letter of June 28 and thank you very much for the same. It was good of you to communicate with me. I am very grateful for your clarification of certain issues in my regard.

If you don't mind, I would like to let you know why I have been unclear on some very important issues. Please remember that in June of last year you told me that the board wouldn't make a recommendation until I had had six more months of therapy with a therapist of your choosing. You then assigned Dr. Vincent Lynch, Ph.D. to me whom I have been seeing regularly since. Then in October, only three months later and while I was in Southdown for my first connections workshop, Neil Hegarty told me that the board had already recommended that I be removed from ministry indefinitely. When I saw you in the Chancery two weeks later you gave me a memo saying in fact that I had been removed from ministry, but, you said, the final decision wouldn't be made until December. Since then I heard nothing from you until your letter of April 11.

In December of 1999 I was placed on sick leave for six months, and then again in July 2000 I was put on sick leave for another six months. I received letters to this effect in both instances. I have heard nothing since the second installment ended. Consequently I still do not know my official status.

In August of last year I told you in Fr. Bob Hennessey's hearing that it might be a good idea if I live with Fr. Dan Twomey at St. Patrick's in Natick. Perhaps you'll recall that I could no longer live at Most Holy Redeemer in East Boston. You said that Fr. Twomey was your classmate and that you would call him in two weeks after you returned from vacation. Again, when I was in Southdown in October of last year, I was asked why I wasn't seeing an M.D. or why I didn't have an O.A. sponsor. I explained that I was living in N.H. with my brother and was waiting for you to contact me about where I would be living in the archdiocese. I explained that I wanted to choose a doctor and sponsor close by and not have to travel hundreds of miles every week to see a therapist and a sponsor and that I felt better having a doctor close by. When I returned from Southdown, Fr. Hennessey told me that he had called Fr. Twomey on his own and that he was willing to have me live in St. Patrick's and that he had never heard from you. In three months of waiting for you to call me and Fr. Twomey I never once heard from you, Father, even though I had told you that my living with my brother and his family would eventually become difficult.



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In October of last year you told me that if I wanted I could go to the cardinal to discuss my situation and your handling of my case and that you would make the appointment. I have yet to hear from you. I wrote to the cardinal on January 8th and March 9th, and you responded with a letter on April 11th. I responded to that letter on April 19th, a letter that has yet to be answered.

Also, Father, the cardinal called me two weeks after I entered Southdown and told me that he was looking forward to my returning to Boston where he would put my skills and talents to use. He went on to say that he first had to wait to see what the professionals at Southdown had to report; and as you know they gave me the highest possible recommendation.

You might from the above understand why I needed some clarity concerning my current situation, and for that reason needed canonical counsel.

In reference to the board and their recommendations to the cardinal, kindly allow me to state once again and unequivocally that I did not do what [REDACTED] says I did. The act of which he accuses me is absolutely bizarre and something beyond my imagination. I wish also again to state that I did not say the things that he said I did. I am still amazed that the same person who wrote to me and thanked me for all that I did for him is the same person who has accomplished this injustice.

Thank you again for your letter of June 28.

Sincerely,

Rev. James J. Foley