

SAINT JEAN'S / SAINT JOHN'S

253 Watertown Street, Newton, MA 02158
Tel. (617) 332-0445

November 21, 1989

His Eminence, Bernard Cardinal Law
Archbishop of Boston
2121 Commonwealth Avenue
Boston, MA 02135

Your Eminence:

Thank you for your third patient, kindly attempt to reconcile my conscience with the new oath. I agree with you that I have to stop wrestling with it now to devote full time to recovering my health. Since the oath does not extend to non-pastors (curiously), I can continue to exercise my priesthood during the leave of absence.

I'm not sure how you go about the "survival" aspects of a medical leave - whether you tell me or want me to suggest to you what I anticipate for needs. I receive \$840 plus room and board now and that barely gets me by. Hence, I suggest \$840 plus room (\$650) and board (\$200) (heat, electricity, phone and food) for a total of \$1,690.00. Perhaps you could also help me with air fare (\$400). If you would prefer I get a job, I will, although it would seem counterproductive to the healing process. In this devastating time, I'd rather concentrate on getting well than on earning a living. As I told you, I feel haunted by and pulled into complicity with historical abuses which the oath endorses, betrayed by this new definition of pastor, abandoned after 38 years, shattered and demoralized not only by the oath, but by the reaction to it (most priests counsel perjury!). This has had an inevitably adverse effect on my already precarious health problems and I feel relieved to be laying down the Pastoral Office.

In closing, let me summarize what I hope to receive from you:

1. A letter of good standing/recommendation/celebrat
2. Acceptance of effective date (January 15, 1990)
3. Financial arrangements
4. Storage space - perhaps an empty room in a rectory?

With gratitude for your eminent approachability and availability to me in this catastrophic time in my life, I remain

Yours in Christ,

NOT ACKNOWLEDGED AT
CARDINAL'S RESIDENCE

(Rev.) Paul R. Shanley

RCAB 00373