

Blessed Sacrament Rectory  
Westfield, Mass.  
November 6, 1963

Most Reverend James J. Gerard, D.D.  
362 Highland Avenue  
Fall River, Massachusetts

Most Reverend and dear Bishop,

Bishop Connelly in a letter, written on November fourth, to Father Edward Paquette of your diocese, directed him to request from me a testimonial letter, addressed to Bishop Connelly or yourself.

Father Paquette came to me as the Pastor of his home parish, where he has lived all his life and said his first Mass; immediately after his suspension. He told his whole story and sought advice and help. Father Buckley of New Bedford, a classmate of mine has visited me twice and confirmed the information given by Father Paquette. I am therefore sure that I have the complete story.

After consultation with Bishop Weldon, I assigned him to daily and Sunday Mass at a Sister's institution in charge of this Parish. He has never failed to say Mass and has never been out of town without my knowledge of his whereabouts.

I sent him to the Monastery at Spencer for a week retreat and instructed him to tell his story from the beginning to the Retreat Master. He assures me that he did so. I have also sent him there to consult Father Paul on two other occasions several months apart.

On the advice of Father Paul, he took up treatment with a Catholic Psychiatrist in Boston. He has been going there at intervals of two weeks or a month since February, always reporting back to me the results of each interview.

Several weeks ago, he received an offer from Father Hardy of Palmetto in the Diocese of St. Augustine to act as his assistant on trial basis for six months with the possibility of being incardinated in two years. Further inquiry brought the information from Father Hardy that the Bishop had instructed the Pastors to act in this way, and that after a priest had proved himself the Bishop would act on incardination.

I sent Father Paquette then to consult the Doctor and also Father Paul of the Monastery. They were both very much in favor, and both suggested that it would be much preferable to his present inactivity and would complete the cure. The Doctor said that his tendencies were curbed at present and that he should still report to him on his visits back to Westfield. These facts are not from personal contacts with Father Paul or the Doctor; but from reports made to me by Father Paquette.

Dr  
Rosenheim  
Beacon St

11/10/63

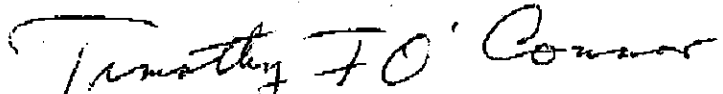
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Father Paquette then wrote on my advice to Bishop Connelly and requested a Celebret which they require of him in Florida. There is no necessity as yet for Papers of Incardination.

We are required in this Diocese in seeking faculties or dispensations to make recommendations for the guidance of the Bishop which may be followed or disregarded. May I presume then to recommend that Father Paquette be given a Celebret and permitted to go to Florida on a trial basis with hope of incardination there when he proves himself to be worthy.

I am convinced that it would be safe. He seems crushed and much more humble than he was in the past. In my opinion he has learned a salutary lesson.

Sincerely in Christ,

  
Timothy F. O'Connor, Pastor