

505 North Townsend Street
Syracuse 3, New York
September 4, 1953

Dear Msgr. Sweeney,

I received from the Rector of St. Bernard's Seminary in Rochester, New York, a letter informing me that the Seminary Faculty decided that I should not return to St. Bernard's to continue my studies. They are dissatisfied with my grades, and they find little in my attitude toward the rule to compensate for my deficiencies.

My pastor, the Rev. Louis Riello, PSSC, wrote to the Rector requesting a detailed explanation for my dismissal. The Rector gave the following explanation and I quote my pastor's letter to me:

"I received from the Rector a response to my letter. From his reply I deduced that he does not oppose the continuance of your studies. Moreover, he made it definitely clear that your dismissal 'was not prompted by any grave moral defects.' However, both he and the Faculty were dissatisfied with your general conduct -- such as carelessness, indifference, lack of responsibility -- coupled with poor results in your studies, especially in the major subject. And so it was that the Rector and Faculty deemed it 'advisable to act before entering the course in theology.'

I spoke with the Chancellor this morning and he informed me that it was the policy of the diocese to abide by the decision of the Seminary authorities. Bishop Feery leaves it up to you to make application to another diocese."

After reviewing the details of my case, it is my sincere hope and prayer that you will consider accepting me as a student for the Diocese of Wilmington, granting me the opportunity to prove that, with God's help, I shall be able to overcome my deficiencies.

Realizing the little time that remains before the coming scholastic year, but due to the late notification by the Rector, I was unable to make application before this date. I trust that you will give my petition kind consideration and a prompt response, I remain,

Yours most respectfully,

Francis G. De Luca

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My pastor's address:

St. Peter's Church
128 North State Street
Syracuse 2, New York