



Catholic Chancery Office
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28th December, 1992.

John Farrell,

REDACTED

ARMIDALE. NSW. 2350.

Dear John,

Following our discussions of 22nd December, I wish to communicate the following to you.

Because of the circumstances you presently find yourself in, I understand you are choosing to take a five year leave of absence from the priesthood.

I cannot emphasise too strongly my continuing concern for your suitability for appointment to priestly ministry. For reasons already explained to you there is no possibility of you having an appointment in the diocese of Armidale in the future. The possibility of some appointment for you in another diocese after your five year leave of absence will greatly depend upon, amongst other things, a positive report from a psychologist of my choosing. That report will have to unambiguously recommend a future appointment.

In addition to the positive report of recommendation from the psychologist, I shall also require significant proof of the possibility of successful ministry before I would be in a position to approach another Bishop regarding an appointment for you.

To assist in the presentation of the proof I require, I must ask you to agree to the following terms and conditions of your five year leave of absence and I require your agreement to these terms and conditions in writing.

1. That your leave of absence from the priesthood for the five year period be total and not partial. As a consequence: -
 - i) You are to refrain from all ecclesial ministry either clerical or lay, either public or private. The only exception is in accordance with the

danger of death situation legislated for in Canon 986 §2.

- ii) You are to refrain from referring to yourself as a priest.
 - iii) You are to refrain from wearing clerical dress.
 - iv) You are to enter into full time secular employment outside the diocese of Armidale. That employment must not be in any Church or Church related agency.
 - v) Any further study you may wish to do must be undertaken outside the diocese of Armidale.
 - vi) You are to have a secular residence. You are not to have residence in a presbytery, monastery, convent or other ecclesiastical residence.
 - vii) Your name will be removed from the list of authorised celebrants under the relevant marriage act for the Commonwealth of Australia. That situation of course will be reviewed at the end of your five year leave of absence.
2. As soon as possible, you are to enter into a programme of assessment and therapy with a psychologist of my choosing. You will be responsible for the costs of such assessment and therapy. Because of his expertise, the psychologist of my choosing at this time is Professor Alex Blaszczynski of Sydney. I expect that you will have entered into sessions with Professor Blaszczynski by June 1993.
3. Once you have gained secular employment, as a gesture of goodwill, I require you to make some attempt to meet some of the costs already expended in previous legal process.
4. Once your place of residence is established, I shall appoint a person who will act as a monitor of your situation over the period of your five year leave of absence. I will require you to report to that person on the regular basis of once a month. That person will report to me regularly on your situation and the progress of your leave of absence.
5. During the five year leave of absence, your life must be free of any re-offence and any semblance of re-offence.

I require you to accept these terms and conditions of your five year leave so that I can have the significant proof that I need to be able to approach another Diocesan Bishop for a possible future appointment for you. I require your acceptance of these terms and conditions in writing.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

+ K. M. Manning.

Bishop Kevin Manning.

I John Farrell accept the terms and conditions of my five year leave of absence from the priesthood as stated above.

Signed:

(John Farrell)

Signed:

(Witness)

Date:

Place: