S. JAMES' CATHOLIC RECTORY

The Most Reverend T.F.Little, S.T.D., K.B.E.,
Archbishop of Melbourne,
P.O.Box 146,
EAST MELBOURNE, Vic. 3002.   18th day of March, 1993

My dear Lord Archbishop,

Would you very kindly accommodate and grant this my earnest and long considered application for early retirement.

For some time now, Your Grace, I have been unable to give to your people and mine of this local Church community, that service I have the duty and delight to give and they the right to expect. I have tired somewhat prematurely to find myself unable to cope with those pressures and stresses which are the to be expected downside of the greater joys of an apostolic dedication and ministry.

Somewhat sadly, dear Archbishop, I ask your kind and paternal permission to relinquish the care of this parish of S. James, Gardenvale, and return it to your pastoral custody.

May I ask for appointment as Pastor Emeritus in your Archdiocese, Archbishop? I have a property in Hobart to which I plan to retire. My present housekeeper, Miss Maureen Wright, is, thank God, ready to go with me to there, where she will have private quarters.

My physician and friend, Doctor Philip Tiernan REDACTED EAST BRIGHTON, Vic. 3187, REDACTED will supply a medical report in support of this application under separate cover. I asked the good Doctor to do so for the obvious reason that he should not have to send such a document to me for enclosure.

It would please me greatly, Your Grace, if you would accept this totally inadequate expression of gratitude for your consistent support of me at my best, here in Gardenvale, and your evident and oft repeated fond accomodation of me when I added to your burdens and regretted soul sadnesses.

With esteem, much affection and a thousand apologies, I am,
Yours most gratefully,

Ron Pickering .
Priest.

P.S. If you are able to grant this request, Archbishop, would you consider dating the same retirement from mid- June or at the end of that month, please.