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The Most Rev. R.A. Mulkearns D.D.,
Bishop of Ballarat,
BALLARAT VIC.,

My Lord Bishop,

As per your request following our discussion, with respect,
I write to request leave of absence for the personal reasons we spoke of.

As also mentioned I would hope to, in this time to pursue
a D. MIN. program through United Theological Seminary, Ohio, - or at an alternative
Catholic University with an equivalent program.

The D. MIN. offerd is designed to "provide a framework for an
advanced educational experience leading to increased personal growth and professional
competence." Carried out in a context of the ministry it is designed to help others in
the ministry - as a resource or training. Comprized of seminars, related electives,
a major practical project - in association with a lay group, and, a final document (thesis.
the program is aimed at demonstrating a practical use as well as a mastery of the subject
chosen. The program usually takes two to three years.

I would hope to apply this to, and further, the liturgy major
I obtained at C.U.A., hopefully devising a set of practical guidelines for pastors,
parish liturgy groups, schools - covering the wide range of liturgical needs - including
an "easy access" prepared program for ministry training, updates formation etc. - sort
of a "kit form" precis of how to set up and operate a liturgy, plus the necessary precis
of resources. This would be the basis of the project which is at the core of the Program.

I hope to take my annual holidays in late March/early April
and use this time to prepare for the course, as well as have a break.

Yours in Christ the Priest


Paul-David Ryan