

July 27, 1970

RE: Rev. David A. Holley

Dear Doctor Cleary:

I am writing with reference to the above-mentioned who is at present a patient at your hospital.

Bishop Flanagan and I have had such serious doubts about Father continuing in the priesthood that at one time it was suggested that he seek a dispensation and return to the lay state.

His last three parochial assignments were among those that priests would consider "highly" and in each place Father's difficulty came to the fore and caused us to give him leaves of absence. He was referred for therapy after the first incident and he continued in therapy with Father Jerome Hayden until his hospitalization at Seton. During this time, he was transferred to two other parishes where his problem became even more public and a wake of trouble ensued.

People have been so greatly disturbed by his behavior that we would wonder whether he can avoid his reputation going before him in any area of this compact diocese. We also question whether we can chance the possibility of his having another relapse.

I have spoken with Father Holley's former therapist, Father Hayden, and he suggested that I write to you for your professional opinion of Father Holley in relation to what I have described.

You have our gratitude for any assistance you are able to give us.

Sincerely in Christ,

+Timothy J. Harrington  
Auxiliary Bishop of Worcester

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