

June 19, 1978

Most Rev. Thomas J. Connolly
Bishop of Baker
P.O. Box 826
Baker, Oregon 97814

Dear Bishop Connolly:

I am wondering whether it would not be possible for us to work out an exchange whereby I could send you a good priest for a year for an assignment in the Diocese of Baker for a priest from Baker to serve in the Archdiocese of Portland. The priest I have in mind is a Father Ronald Warren, pastor of St. Helen Parish in Junction City, a town in the vicinity of Eugene, Oregon.

Father Warren has no problems with his priesthood, or even with his assignment, but he does have some allergies which the doctor thinks are caused by high humidity west of the Cascades. The doctor is not completely sure that the priest's problems would be at an end if he were in a drier and less humid climate, but he is anxious to see what a drier climate would do for the priest.

The Archdiocese of Portland can ill afford to let a good priest go, but I would like to give him a chance to receive some relief from his allergies. I am trying to "have my cake and eat it, too."

Perhaps we could work out an even switch: Father Warren could exchange parishes with a pastor in eastern Oregon. I would very much like your reaction to this suggestion, and I do hope that you think well of it.

Father Warren will be taking weekly treatments throughout the summer months, and would be ready to accept an assignment in the Baker Diocese sometime toward the end of September. I have not consulted with the members of the Personnel Board, but I will do so when I have some response or reaction from you.

PD 0229

Most Rev. Thomas J. Connolly
June 19, 1978.

Thanking you for your serious consideration of this request,
and with kindest personal regards and best wishes, I remain

Fraternally yours in Christ,

+Cornelius M. Power
Archbishop of Portland

June 28, 1979

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The Most Reverend Thomas J. Connolly
Bishop of Baker
2215 First Street
Baker, Oregon 97814

Dear Bishop Connolly:

Archbishop Power referred your letter of June 8 regarding Father Dave Hazen and Father Ron Warren to me; however, I did not receive it prior to our meeting in Bend, so did not bring the topic up for discussion then.

I have talked with Father Warren and Father Hazen, and the three Bishops here have discussed the situation and were agreeable to continuing the arrangement for another year.

However, in the past week I have become aware of a conflict that has arisen between a couple and Father Hazen that is rather disturbing (if true). I talked with this couple on the phone, met with the man in Eugene and will enclose a copy of a statement from them in this letter.

They gave me the name of another couple, whom they say are separated because of Father Hazen's counseling. I have not checked this out with Father Hazen or anyone else and hope such is not the case. I am not sure how to proceed, and if you have any suggestions, please let me know.

Otherwise, I have not heard any complaints about Father Hazen's ministry in Junction City and know that he has associated himself with the clergy of the Eugene area.

I will keep in contact about this matter. May God bless and reward you for the great work you are doing.

Faternally yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Kenneth D. Steiner
Auxiliary Bishop
Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon

KDS:gg

Enclosure

PD 0231