

Archdiocese of Boston
Secretary for Ministerial Personnel

MEMORANDUM

TO: Cardinal Law
Bishop Murphy

FROM: Father Miceli

DATE: May 12, 1998

RE: Reverend William Scanlan

Father Scanlan has been on a six-month health leave for cardiac problems. The leave has assisted him in regaining some of his health and he has a desire to return to active ministry. We need to have a confirmation from his physician as to his readiness to return to ministry.

I had a luncheon meeting with him last week and I am happy to report that he expressed gratitude for the health leave and the support which he received from the Archdiocese. I sensed that the time had been good for him on many levels and he used it well to pray and reflect. I found a kinder and gentler Bill Scanlan.

He informed me that he did not think it wise for him to return to a parish assignment and indicated that he had a desire to become engaged in hospital ministry. He further indicated that during his last two years at St. James he had been a spiritual director for a VA chaplain who had encouraged him to think of a VA chaplaincy. He has been reflecting on this and would very much like the freedom to move in this direction.

Recommendation:

I informed Bill that we had many hospital needs within the Archdiocese but I sensed that he wanted to move in another direction. I think that we should build on the goodwill that is present and give him the permission to pursue a VA chaplaincy. If permission is not granted, he certainly would be willing to forgo this desire and be obedient.

I realize that he can be manipulative and I'm certain that the salary component is part of the pursuit. Having said this, I do hope that such a desire is also a movement of grace in his life.

PEM:mo'l
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