



DIOCESE OF LAKE CHARLES

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LAKE CHARLES, LOUISIANA 70602
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March 7, 1986

The Reverend Gerard C. Smit
St. Raphael Church
Post Office Box 14
Iowa, Louisiana 70647

Dear Father Smit:

Thank you for your letter asking for a sabbatical leave. This request is granted, effective Easter Monday, March 31, 1986, for a period of one year.

This letter will also formalize the arrangements discussed during our recent conversation.

I have written today to Father William D. Perri, s.P., at Villa Louis Martin, Jemez Springs, New Mexico. I have advised him that your expected date of arrival will be Sunday, April 6, so that the regular evaluation program, which always begins on a Monday, can begin the following day.

After evaluation, unless the staff strongly recommends otherwise, you will be at Villa Louis Martin, which is the treatment facility in the same complex. Therapy will be on an "in-patient" basis.

If the recommendations of the staff are positive, then, at the end of the year, I shall be happy to support your application to another diocese. You would probably remain incardinated in this diocese, and payments into your retirement account, insurance coverage, etc., would continue as usual, from the parish in the other diocese where you would be serving, until your retirement.

It would be preferable, when the time arrives, to apply to a diocese as far removed from here as possible, in order to avoid any resurgence of the complaints involved, which would cause even further pain both to yourself and to the diocese. For the same reason, it would not be possible to return to residence in this diocese.

While you are on sabbatical, your salary, in accordance with our diocesan policy, will continue to be paid by St. Raphael's Parish, until other arrangements are made.

I am keeping only one copy of this letter, which will remain in the secret archives.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Be assured of my prayers for success in therapy, and for the beginning of a new and happier life.

With a blessing, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ


Jude Speyrer
Bishop of Lake Charles

JS:ajv