



DIOCESE OF LAKE CHARLES

P. O. BOX 3223

LAKE CHARLES, LOUISIANA 70602

(318) 439-7400

March 7, 1986

To the People of St. Raphael Parish
Iowa, Louisiana

My dear Catholic People:

I am writing to inform you that I have approved Father Smit's request that he be granted a Sabbatical for professional study and prayer. A Sabbatical is a period of time granted to priests usually after being ordained for a long time to take part in study and renewal. Father Smit has been a priest for 36 years.

To serve the parish of St. Raphael I have asked Father Becnel and Father Mead to take charge, effective Monday, March 31, 1986. Both priests will move to the rectory in Iowa; however, from there they will continue to look after the missions of Lacassine and Chloe. I invite you to welcome them and offer them your full cooperation.

I ask too that your prayers accompany Father Smit as he leaves to begin his Sabbatical. I am deeply grateful to him for the time and effort he generously expended on your behalf.

With the assurance of my prayers for a good Holy Week and Blessed Easter, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,


Jude Speyrer
Bishop of Lake Charles

JS:im