



CARDINAL'S RESIDENCE  
2101 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE  
BRIGHTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02135

December 3, 1986

The Reverend William Scanlan  
St. Mary of the Angels Rectory  
377 Walnut Avenue  
Roxbury, MA 02119

Dear Father Scanlan:

I want to thank you for your visit today which I found most helpful.

Once again I want to express my gratitude to you for all that you have done at Pilgrim Center, particularly under the trying circumstances which have developed since Father Curley's heart attack. I have written to you concerning your letter in which you ask me to accept your resignation as Acting Director of Pilgrim Center. While my response to that letter was purposefully vague, as I think you now understand, I would like to assure you that I do indeed accept your resignation as a member of Pilgrim Center, and I do this effective December 31, 1986. I will, for the record, send you an accompanying letter which I will copy to the personnel office and to Father Earley to this effect.

Concerning the future, Bill, I would want you to take the time you need to reflect on what that might be. I see you as a priest highly gifted. It might be possible for you to consider assisting on Long Island. As I discussed with you, Father Alfred Finn is the Chaplain, but he is presently in poor health. Perhaps we could work something out where you could assist him for the period of a month or two, with a definite cutoff point. During this time, you could see what is going on in terms of social services on that island, and indicate what you think might effectively happen in terms of a pastoral ministry which would involve the kind of expertise which you have to bring. This would not be done with a view in mind of assigning you there on a permanent basis, but rather to look at the situation and to have the benefit of your own experience as to what might be helpful there.

Beyond this, I think it would be very helpful to Father Irwin and to the Archdiocese if you would give us the benefit of your thought about residential care facilities for the target area that you are serving at Pilgrim Center. If you would give us the benefit of your experience and your reflection upon it, and focus this in terms of what you think the Archdiocese might realistically provide to fill the need more effectively. This may not be the best of times for

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you to begin to do that. It may be better for you to do that with a bit of distance. I simply want to indicate that whatever assignment you might ultimately find yourself undertaking in the Archdiocese, I think it would be a shame if we were to lose the opportunity to benefit by your experience and your reflection upon it in the interest of better planning for the future.

In terms of the possibility of the Long Island assignment, I would ask you to take that up directly with Father Frank Irwin. I would not want you to find yourself, at the end of December, without some assignment going into the first of the year. If the Long Island assignment does not seem appropriate, then I would suggest the possibility of offering yourself to help out in a needed parish for a circumscribed period of time. In this event, I would suggest that you contact Bishop Banks, and let him deal directly with personnel on this matter.

I think that you and I need to have another discussion together about your long-range plans and assignment. When you have had the time to pray and think about this, I would ask you to call Mrs. Kaye Woodward and make another appointment. Please let me know that it is in the nature of an emergency if you are unable to do so. Priority in terms of scheduling is not a consideration. Thanking you again, Bill, for all you do, and asking God to bless you and those whom you hold dear, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Archbishop of Boston

BCL/ac

Copies sent to: Bishop Banks and Father Irwin