

*Personal File of Joseph Fitzharris*

ST. ALOYSIUS CHURCH  
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January 2, 1969

Most Rev. John L. May, D.D.,  
Chairman of the Priests' Personnel Board,  
Harrison and Hillside Avenue,  
Hillside, Illinois 60162.

Dear Bishop:

For about a month, now, I had planned to consult you, or some other member of the Personnel Board, about the situation in our house here at St. Aloysius. I had decided to wait until after the holidays before bringing the matter to your attention.

Quite directly, the problem centers in Father Joseph Fitzharris, who is the first assistant, as you know. The other men in the house include Father Jose Acevedo, newly ordained, and Father John Vlazny, professor at Quigley North.

Father Fitzharris' difficulty is a serious personality problem which I am convinced calls for professional help. I am no diagnostician, nor am I attempting to play the part of one, but from my own observations I would say that unless Joe gets some professional help he is going to have serious problems wherever he is assigned. For my part, after allowing a reasonable period of time for observation and personal efforts to help, and after careful reflection, I can come to only one conclusion: For the good of the spirit in this house, and for Joe's own good, I am requesting a change from this Parish of Father Joseph Fitzharris.

I have reached this conclusion quite dispassionately, and, as I say, after careful reflection and discussion with others who know and have lived with Father Fitzharris. If ever he is to mature and "level off", this can only come about by way of some change (under direction) in Joe. Nothing will be achieved by his denying his problem, or by attempts at escaping from it into other areas of activity. I would suspect that this sort of attitude might well lead to much more serious difficulty in the future.

Rather than discussing this matter in detail here and now, I would prefer to speak with you in person, John, and look forward to doing so in the very near future.

Wishing you every blessing of God in the New Year, and with a promise of prayers for you, I remain,

Sincerely and Respectfully Yours,

Rev. George F. Aschenbrenner

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Memo to File

From: Rev. Patrick O'Malley

Date: 6/2/93

Re: Joseph Fitzharris

On 6/1/93 John Canary and I met with Joe Fitzharris at his apartment. We explained to him the meaning of Canon 1044 and what that means in terms of his ministry. We also explained to him how he would get out from underneath the 1044. We told him that we would need an assessment from an independent group. After he has dealt with the question of Canon 1044, then down the future, according to the direction given by the Cardinal, there may be a possibility of having his case reviewed by the Fitness Review Board.

We told him that there has to be at least two years between the time of the last incident with the adult, which would be around December of 1991, and when he might be able, at the Cardinal's permission, to go before the Fitness Review Board.

