

72 SOUTH MAIN STREET
CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE
September 23, 1957

Most Reverend Matthew F. Brady, D. D.
145 Lowell Street
Manchester,
New Hampshire

Dear Bishop Brady:

Father Griffin kindly informed me of the results of your conversation with him concerning the contents of my letter. It pleased me tremendously and gave me wonderful joy to know that my request is under consideration. However, I would like Your Excellency to know that whatever decision he will arrive at will be a manifestation to me that such is God's Will. Needless to say, especially at this particular point, after so many long idle months, I find it extremely difficult and, therefore, an assignment to Via Caeli or any other home would be a great consolation to me.

It is neither to hasten nor to influence your decision that I write you, but merely to assure you once more that whatever you determine to profit me most, regardless of what it may be, will be most acceptable to me.

Apologizing for the time and the trouble which this request places upon you, yet grateful for everything I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,
(Rev.) J. P. Sullivan

OFFICE OF THE SERVANT GENERAL

Jemez Springs, New Mexico

September 26, 1957

His Excellency
The Most Reverend Matthew F. Brady, D.D.
Bishop of Manchester
657 River Road
Manchester, New Hampshire

Most Reverend and dear Bishop:

I wish to thank Your Excellency for your gracious letter of the 23rd, and more especially for your downright honesty in the statement of the case involved. I am going to ask Your Excellency to be patient if I answer with the same forthright honesty which you have manifested to us.

From our long experience with characters of this type, and without passing judgment on the individual, most of these men would be clinically classified as schizophrenic. Their repentance and amendment is superficial and, if not formally at least sub-consciously, is motivated by a desire to be again in a position where they can continue their wonted activity. A new diocese means only green pastures.

We will be willing to receive the unfortunate padre in question as a permanent guest, so long as he makes no move along the lines that have already wrecked his life.

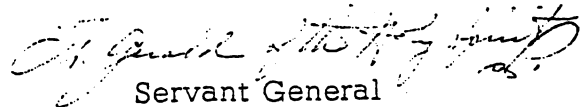
Even as Your Excellency could not in conscience recommend this priest to a Bishop without giving the Bishop a full back-ground, we have adopted a definite policy not to recommend to Bishops men of this character, even presuming the sincerity of their conversion. We feel that the protection of our glorious priesthood will demand, in time, the establishment of a uniform code of discipline and of penalties. We are amazed to find how often a man who would be behind bars if he were not a priest is entrusted with the cura animarum. Whereas a more positive position, such as Your Excellency is taking in this case, would seem to add up to the prevention of these weak and irresponsible men from trailing their unlovely interpretation of the priesthood here and there throughout the country. If the discipline were more

uniform and certain, priests before ordination could be instructed and duly warned, and this would be a deterrent to the initiation of these vicious habits.

To sum up: we are willing to shelter Father with a program that will help him save his own immortal soul. But, should he come to us under these conditions, it should not be with any hope that he will be recommended to another Bishop even after he has spent some months with us. We happen to know quite well the dioceses he mentions. And even though it is true that many Bishops, especially in the West, are in need of priests, yet I do not know any Bishop who would accept a man with his record.

I trust that this does not seem too severe. But I have my own soul to save, and I do not dare recommend such men for the cura animarum.

Most cordially in Spiritu,


Servant General

Enclosure:

September 23, 1957

Very Rev. Gerald Fitzgerald, S. P.
Superior General
Via Coeli
Jemez Springs, New Mexico

Dear Father Gerald:

I have in the diocese, what is an old story to you, a problem priest for whom I am at loss to find a place to serve. He is Rev. John T. Sullivan. His ~~problem is not~~ drink but a series of scandal-causing escapades with young girls. There is no section of the diocese in which he is not known and no pastor seems willing to accept him. He is at present suspended since July 11, 1956. He is 40 years of age and 15 years ordained.

At times I have considered him insane, diabolically cunning, and again, as at present, sincerely remorseful. The enclosed letter from him is a sample of it. I happened to be on the same retreat with him last June and he seemed to be making the most devout retreat of any priest present.

The solution of his problem seems to be a fresh start in some diocese where he is not known. It occurred to me that you might know of some bishop who would be willing to give him that opportunity. I would hesitate to write to a bishop myself without giving him all the details of the past life of this priest. Perhaps if he went to Via Coeli for a while you might be able and willing to recommend him to some bishop on the grounds of his good conduct there and his promise for the future.

In any case, Father, please let me hear from you.

With admiration for your splendid labors and with most cordial good wishes, I remain

Devotedly yours in Christ,

Matthew F. Brady
Bishop of Manchester

Enc.

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST RECTORY
72 SOUTH MAIN STREET
CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE

September 14, 1957

*Please return
Chancery office
+ M. F. B.*

Most Reverend Matthew F. Brady, D. D.
145 Lowell Street
Manchester,
New Hampshire

Dear Bishop Brady:

It is only after serious consideration and prayer, and after having consulted my confessor and two other priests, that I place before you the following petition.

Being constantly reminded of the serious and irreparable damage that I have inflicted upon the Church in the diocese caused by my many scandals and also aware of the embarrassment and the very awkward predicament my actions have affected my brother priests, to say nothing of the disgrace I have given my good family, I ask Your Excellency to release me from the diocese for the following reasons:

First, I am only too well aware of the fact that my many scandals will serve only as impediments to my priestly work should I ever receive an assignment here. Manchester is a small diocese and such inhibitions will be as unescapable shadows, always cropping up, thus hindering my work or, at least, placing certain restrictions upon it. Secondly, I would always fear and feel the consciousness of my past actions while fulfilling my duties with the people of New Hampshire. God willing, there are many more years remaining to do God's work and it would please me tremendously to do it as perfectly as possible. To effect this desire and also to merely pay the interest on the personal debt of eternal punishment which I owe Our Lord, I am convinced that another diocese would assist me in the attainment of this end and also enable me to rehabilitate myself.

I know that Your Excellency has so very little to offer another Bishop in the line of recommending me and also that there are not too many Bishops who desire saddling their dioceses with problems such as my many weaknesses unfortunately tend to present. In the process of arriving at my decision, I consulted the Catholic Directory and from such it appears to me that there are some Western Dioceses that are in need of priests. I have given special consideration to the dioceses of Seattle, Kansas City, Sacramento and San Diego particularly because such great success is evidenced there in convert work and this type of work, along with all other priestly work, has special interest to me. Should you think it inadvisable or find it difficult in arranging for my transfer to any of these, kindly be assured that any diocese of your choice, in this country or any other, will be acceptable to me as God's Will. Let your Excellency also be assured that this decision of mine convinces me each day that it will first of all please God and at the same time enable me to piece together my broken priesthood.

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST RECTORY
72 SOUTH MAIN STREET
CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE

I am sincerely sorry for all the trouble and heartaches that I have caused Your Excellency and contrary to my attitude and disposition, I would like you to know that I am most appreciative of your patience and kindness as shown me through the many problems I forced upon you. I know, too, that any crosses I have were self-inflicted, and whatever penalty and restrictions that were placed upon me were justly imposed. No greater joy could be mine but to repair the damage I have caused and I feel certain that such can be done by dedicating the rest of my priestly life to God and His Work in another diocese.

Asking for your blessing and also for your prayers that God may always keep me like His Son and make me ever more like Him.

With sincere admiration and utter respect for Your Excellency I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

(Rev.) J. T. Sullivan

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST RECTORY

72 SOUTH MAIN STREET
CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE
October 5, 1957

Most Reverend Matthew F. Brady, D. D.
145 Lowell Street
Manchester,
New Hampshire

Your Excellency:

At this particular time I feel that I am unable to accept the offer of Father Fitzgerald. However, I am very grateful to him for his kindness in willing to help me and also to you for writing to him. I have been advised to seek a diocese and therefore I am enclosing a letter (copy) which I sent out yesterday to the Most Rev. Mariano Garriga, Bishop of Corpus Christi. Other copies of the same letter will be sent to other Bishops trusting that God will give me another chance as will be manifested by my acceptance into some diocese.

With every warm wish I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

(Ric) J. T. Sullivan

COPY

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST RECTORY

72 SOUTH MAIN STREET

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE
October 3, 1957

Most Reverend Mariano Garriga, D. D.
4109 Ocean Drive
Corpus Christi,
Texas

Your Excellency:

For very just and weighty reasons, my Bishop, Most Rev. Matthew F. Brady, suspended me in July 1956. Since that time I have made my home with my parents and also accepted the kind hospitality of the rectory of Rt. Rev. Msgr. Buckley where I have been celebrating Holy Mass daily. Two weeks ago I wrote Bishop Brady asking him if he would kindly release me from the diocese. Not being in a position to recommend me he suggested that if I spent some time at Via Coeli such would assist me in obtaining a Bishop. I agreed to this suggestion and it was last Saturday that Via Coeli informed Bishop Brady that they would gladly accept me provided that my stay would be permanent. In fairness to both the kindness of Father Fitzgerald, the Superior of Via Coeli, and also to myself, I find that I could not accept this. I am fifteen years ordained and I desire parish work very much. Yet, I fully realize that I am not in any position to refuse anything; but to embrace the life and partake of the work of those at Via Coeli, I find that I am not equal to it.

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST RECTORY
72 SOUTH MAIN STREET
CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Bishop Brady has granted permission to me to seek another diocese but unfortunately he will not be able to recommend me. I have been given to understand that your diocese is in need of priests and therefore, I write Your Excellency prayerfully hoping that you could find need of my services and would favor me with an assignment so that I may prove myself a worthy priest.

I would be extremely grateful to Your Excellency for any consideration you will give my request and asking for your blessing I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

(Ru) J. P. Sullivan

DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER
CHANCERY OFFICE
145 LOWELL STREET
MANCHESTER, N. H.

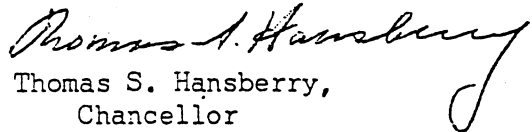
5935

October 5, 1957

Chancery note concerning Rev. John T. Sullivan:

On September 30, 1957, after receiving the attached letter dated September 26, 1957 from Father Gerald of the Holy Trinity at Via Coeli, Jemez Springs, N. M., His Excellency, Bishop Brady, spoke to Father Michael J. Griffin of the cathedral staff about it. (Father Griffin has been trying to help Father Sullivan for some years and has served as liaison between him and the Bishop.)

Since Father Sullivan was in Manchester that day for the football game between St. John High School and Manchester West High, he contacted Father Griffin who informed him of the suggestion that he go to Via Coeli permanently.


Thomas S. Hansberry,
Chancellor

J. J. Sullivan

5936

October 18, 1957

His Excellency
Most Rev. Robert F. Joyce, D.D.
Bishop of Burlington
52 Williams Street
Burlington, Vermont

Dear Bishop Joyce:

It is kind of you to express a willingness to accept Father Sullivan in your diocese, even if only temporarily. I have strong doubts as to his possible reform. The only possible solution of his case seemed to me that he become a permanent guest of Via Coeli or that he be laicized. The Apostolic Delegate seems to favor laicization in many of these scandal-provoking cases.

I enclose the most recent correspondence on his case. It will serve to give you a clear idea of the situation and also the opinion of the highly experienced Father Fitzgerald. Please return the letters when they have served their purpose.

A new diocese opens a new possibility and your kind offer may be his last hope. I know that he has approached at least two bishops in the West and, as far as I know, he has received no reply as yet.

With sincere admiration for your generous offer to this young priest and with most cordial good wishes, I remain

Devotedly yours in Christ,

Bishop of Manchester

Enc.



BISHOP'S HOUSE
52 WILLIAMS ST.
BURLINGTON, VERMONT

October 16
19 57

The Most Reverend Matthew F. Brady, D.D.
657 River Road
Manchester, New Hampshire

Dear Bishop Brady:

Father Omer Dufault, of Morrisville, is a friend of a Father Sullivan of your Diocese who is in the dog-house, obviously for very good reasons. Father Dufault seems to know his grave wrong, but would like to help him, and would be willing to take him into his rectory and let him help in that parish for a time.

I should be willing to have this done and would give him temporary faculties, if you think it is wise. Your advice in the Feeney matter was very good, and I would not think of getting into this unless you think it would help all concerned.

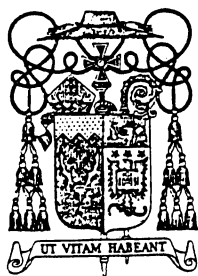
Intended to speak to you about this at Bridgeport, but forgot it. It was good to see you and be with you.

God bless you and all your works.

Fraternally yours in Christ,

+ Robert F. Joyce
Bishop of Burlington.

5938



BISHOP'S HOUSE
52 WILLIAMS ST.
BURLINGTON, VERMONT

October 21
19 57

The Most Reverend Matthew F. Brady, D.D.
Bishop of Manchester
657 River Road
Manchester, New Hampshire

Dear Bishop Brady:

Enclosed is the correspondence regarding Father Sullivan which I found very enlightening. I had thought his trouble was with women; those who fiddle around with the young never seem to be cured.

Knowing Father Fitzgerald, I would have great confidence in his opinion, and was struck with the anomaly of men who normally would be in prison having the care of souls.

In any case, I had no idea of his staying in Vermont, so close to his previous troubles, but of letting Father Dufault try to give him a start. Obviously that is not wise in this case.

I hope to see you in Boston on November ninth if not before. God bless you and all your works.

Fraternally in Christ,

+ Robert T. Joyce
Bishop of Burlington

October 28, 1957

His Excellency
Most Rev. Joseph F. Rummel, D. D.
Archbishop of New Orleans
1809 South Carrollton Avenue
New Orleans 18, Louisiana

Dear Archbishop Rummel:

I beg to acknowledge your kind inquiry relative to Father John T. Sullivan of this diocese. ~~I have strong doubts~~ as to his possible reform. The only possible solution of his case seemed to me that he become a permanent guest at Via Coeli or that he be laicized.

I enclose the most recent correspondence on his case. It will serve to give you a clear idea of the situation and also the opinion of the highly experienced Father Fitzgerald. Please return the letters when they have served their purpose.

I know that Father Sullivan has approached at least two bishops in the West and at least one in the East. As far as I know, he has received no reply as yet.

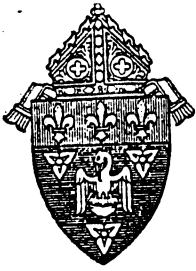
With most cordial good wishes to Your Excellency,

I remain

Devotedly yours in Christ,

Matthew F. Brady
Bishop of Manchester

Enc.



ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW ORLEANS

ARCHBISHOP'S RESIDENCE
2809 SOUTH CARROLLTON AVENUE
NEW ORLEANS 18, LOUISIANA

5940

October 23, 1957

Most Reverend Matthew Francis Brady, D.D.
Bishop of Manchester
657 River Road
Manchester, New Hampshire

Dear Bishop Brady:

The Reverend J. T. Sullivan has written us from St. John the Evangelist Rectory, Concord, New Hampshire, indicating that "for very just and weighty reasons" he has been relieved from his priestly duties in Your Excellency's venerable Diocese. He gives no indication as to the nature of these reasons, but he recites your recommendation that he enter *Vi Coeli* as a permanent guest, which I take to be an indication that the good Father does not give much promise for an effective and permanent recovery from the causes of his instability.

Inasmuch as Father Sullivan's letter bears marks of sincerity and humility in making application for an assignment in this Archdiocese, I am presuming to trouble Your Excellency with a request for such information regarding Father's faults that might be helpful in making a decision regarding his request.

May I assure Your Excellency that whatever information you may wish to convey will be treated confidentially and that I will certainly appreciate the guidance that you may wish to communicate.

Although this is not a very pleasant topic for correspondence, I wish to assure you of my abiding esteem and prayerful best wishes for your continued welfare.

Oremus pro invicem!

Devotedly and most sincerely
yours in the Lord,

+Joseph Francis Rummel
Archbishop of New Orleans

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST RECTORY

72 SOUTH MAIN STREET
CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE

October 30, 1957

5941

Most Reverend Matthew F. Brady, D. D.
145 Lowell Street
Manchester,
New Hampshire

Your Excellency:

I have made several attempts in seeking admittance into different dioceses. Some chanceries acknowledged my letters and others did not. However, on October 16th, His Excellency, Most Rev. Maurice Schexnayder, Bishop of Lafayette, wrote me saying: "I do not want a long story but merely what the trouble is." I submitted to His Excellency the incidents in which I was involved and the public scandals that resulted from them.

This afternoon a second letter from Bishop Schexnayder informed me that " I am quite willing to have you come to the Diocese with permission of your bishop even to the extent of incardinating you. However, I would like to have you here for a while before going on with incardination. You may consult your Bishop and I shall write to him myself."

It would give me great pleasure if His Excellency would grant me my release in order that I may inform Bishop Schexnayder as to whether or not he may plan on my services to his diocese.

Again kindly accept my sincere gratitude for your kindness to me. Indeed, I am most sorry for all the troubles I have caused and contrary to my attitude I have the greatest admiration for all that you hold.

With your good prayers and those who have interest in me, I am certain, with the Grace of God, that I will prove myself to be a good priest.

With warm respect and good wishes I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

(Rev.) J. P. Sullivan

December 4, 1957

His Excellency
Most Rev. Joseph Francis Rummel, S.T.D.
Archbishop of New Orleans
1143 Moss Street
New Orleans 19, La.

Dear Archbishop Rummel:

Some time ago I sent you some correspondence relative to Father John T. Sullivan of this diocese about whom you made inquiry.

He has written to other Bishops and it would greatly simplify answering them if you would return the correspondence to the Chancery Office.

With most cordial personal good wishes for this coming joyous season, I remain

Devotedly yours in Christ,

Bishop of Manchester

December 4, 1957

His Excellency
Most Rev. George J. Rehring, S.T.D.
Bishop of Toledo
2544 Parkwood Avenue
Toledo, Ohio

Dear Bishop Rehring:

It is good of you to consider the case of Father John T. Sullivan for whom I have profound sympathy. His possible usefulness in any section of the diocese is at an end.

My conscience will not allow me to recommend him to any Bishop and I feel that every inquiring Bishop should know some of the circumstances that range from parenthood, through violation of the Mann Act, attempted suicide, and abortion.

Father Fitzgerald of Via Coeli would accept him only as a permanent guest to help save his soul but with no hope of recommending him to a Bishop. He considers him a schizophrenic and from experience believes that a new diocese would only mean new pastures.

With warm personal good wishes for all the joys of the coming season, I remain

Devotedly yours in Christ,

Matthew F. Brady
Bishop of Manchester

P. S. Naturally, he may go with my blessing to any Bishop who is willing to receive him.

2544 Parkwood Avenue
Toledo, Ohio



November 30, 1957

Dear Bishop Brady,

The Reverend J.T. Sullivan has made application to me for acceptance. His letter sets forth rather bluntly the reasons for his suspension and, therefore, I am inclined to think that at least substantially he is stating the objective truth. He accepts all the blame for his trouble "which left his Bishop with no other choice but to suspend him."

I am not sure that I can find an opening for Father Sullivan but if you think he is deserving of consideration, I am willing to give his application further thought. One of the principal difficulties he would encounter in coming to a Diocese like Toledo is that he would have to serve for many years as a vicarius cooperator. Our priests now are waiting nineteen and twenty years before they are in line for a parish of their own. Obviously, Father Sullivan could not expect preferential treatment.

With warmest greetings and personal best wishes, I remain

Fraternally yours in Christ,

Geo. J. Rehring
MOST REVEREND GEORGE J. REHRING, S.T.
Bishop of Toledo

Most Reverend Matthew Brady, D.D.
Bishop of Manchester
657 River Road
Manchester, New Hampshire

December 6, 1957

His Excellency
Most Rev. John J. Carberry, D. D.
Bishop of Lafayette
610 Lingle Avenue
Lafayette, Indiana

Dear Bishop Carberry:

It is good of you to consider the case of Father John T. Sullivan for whom I have profound sympathy. His possible usefulness in any section of the diocese is at an end.

My conscience will not allow me to recommend him to any Bishop and I feel that every inquiring Bishop should know some of the circumstances that range from parenthood, through violation of the Mann Act, attempted suicide, and abortion. There is one misstatement in his letter relative to a child. In one of his escapades he admitted fatherhood and paid for the delivery and subsequent support of the child until the mother eventually married.

Father Fitzgerald of Via Coeli would accept him only as a permanent guest to help save his soul but with no hope of recommending him to a Bishop. He considers him a schizophrenic and from experience believes that a new diocese would only mean new pastures. Naturally, he may go with my blessing to any Bishop who is willing to receive him.

With warm personal good wishes for all the joys of the coming season, I remain

Devotedly yours in Christ,

Matthew F. Brady
Bishop of Manchester



THE CHANCERY

DIOCESE OF LAFAYETTE IN INDIANA
610 LINGLE AVENUE
LAFAYETTE, INDIANA

5946

2 December 1957

The Most Reverend Matthew F. Brady, D.D.
Bishop of Manchester
657 River Road
Manchester, New Hampshire

Your Excellency:

This morning I received a letter from the
Reverend J. T. Sullivan, a copy of which I am enclosing.

I will be most grateful for any suggestions
that you may have to give me concerning his request. The
Diocese of Lafayette could use a few more priests but I
know that great care and guidance is needed. Incidentally,
this is my first experience in contact with a priest requesting
work in the Diocese. Any help that you can give me will be
deeply appreciated.

With every best wish and asking a momento in
your good prayers, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

JOHN J. CARBERRY
Bishop of Lafayette

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST RECTORY

5947

72 SOUTH MAIN STREET
CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE
November 28, 1957

Most Reverend George Bennett, D. D.
610 Lingle Ave.,
Lafayette,
Indiana

Your Excellency:

For very just and weighty reasons, my Bishop, Most Reverend Matthew F. Brady, suspended me in July 1956. Since that time, I have accepted the kind hospitality of the rectory of Rt. Rev. Msgr. J. S. Buckley, P. A., D. C. L. where I have been celebrating Holy Mass each day.

I am fifteen years ordained and desire parish work very much. My problem is not drink. The reason for my suspension is owing to the lack of prudence and discretion *de amicitia mulieribus* which resulted in scandal. Such left my Bishop with no other choice but to suspend me. I neither condemn nor bear any ill feeling against Bishop Brady as it was I who forced the issue by my conduct. Actually, I have great respect, reverence and admiration for him. Neither an attempted marriage nor a child resulted from my association with the opposite sex.

During these very long and idle months, I have learned a very sad lesson giving only sorrow to all those dear to me. It was during this time that I decided on asking for a release praying God that another diocese would enable me to start my priesthood anew.

Yesterday, Monsignor Buckley returned from Manchester and quoted His Excellency, Bishop Brady, "with the permission of the Bishop, that without the necessity of writing, he gives Father Sullivan permission to go to any Bishop and that on his acceptance by another Bishop, his suspension will be automatically lifted."

I have been given to understand that your diocese is in need of priests and therefore, I write Your Excellency prayerfully hoping that you could find need of my services and favor me with an assignment so that I may prove myself a worthy priest. I would be extremely grateful to Your Excellency for any consideration you will give my request.

Asking for your blessing and prayers I remain,

Gratefully yours in Christ,

J. T. Sullivan

5948



Bishop's House
2544 Parkwood Avenue
Caledonia, Ohio

December 6, 1957

Dear Bishop Brady,

I am most grateful for your prompt and very candid reply to my inquiry about Father John T. Sullivan. His status is far worse than he led me to believe in his recent letter. I, too, am filled with profound sympathy for him but I shall have to inform him that we cannot find a place for him in the Diocese.

Reciprocating your warm greetings and best wishes for the joys of the Season, I remain

Cordially yours in Christ,

Geo. J. Rehring

MOST REVEREND GEORGE J. REHRING, S.T.D.
Bishop of Toledo

Most Reverend Matthew F. Brady
Bishop of Manchester
657 River Road
Manchester, New Hampshire



THE CHANCERY

DIOCESE OF LAFAYETTE IN INDIANA
610 LINGLE AVENUE
LAFAYETTE, INDIANA

5949

9 December 1957

The Most Reverend Matthew F. Brady, D.D.
Bishop's House
657 River Road
Manchester, New Hampshire

Dear Bishop Brady:

I have just received your letter of December 6th, 1957, and I am most grateful for the information which it contained.

In view of the serious possible mental background of the person involved, I shall refrain from taking any action in reference to his petition.

In a case such as his the mental sickness can so easily over-ride the best of good intentions.

With every prayerful good wish and grateful appreciation of your kindness, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

JOHN J. CARBERRY
Bishop of Lafayette



ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW ORLEANS

THE CHANCERY
7845 WALMSLEY AVENUE
NEW ORLEANS 25, LOUISIANA

5950

Telephone
UNiversity 6-5469

December 14, 1957

His Excellency
Most Reverend Matthew F. Brady
657 River Road
Manchester, New Hampshire

Your Excellency:

I beg to enclose herewith a letter that I have just written to Father J. T. Sullivan, and at the same time to ask your indulgence for the long delay in attending to this matter.

I also enclose the papers which you had sent the Most Reverend Archbishop.

The Archbishop is very grateful to you for your very candid report on this matter and trusts that you will be pleased with the decision that he has made.

With all good wishes, I beg to remain,

Sincerely yours in the Lord,

Charles J. Plauche
Chancellor

CJP:jw

Encls.

ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW ORLEANS

THE CHANCERY
7845 WALMSLEY AVENUE
NEW ORLEANS 25, LOUISIANA

Telephone
UNiversity 6-5469

December 14, 1957

Rev. J. T. Sullivan
72 South Main Street
Concord, New Hampshire

Dear Father Sullivan:

I beg to acknowledge your letter of recent date and to inform you that the Most Reverend Archbishop did receive your letter of October 19. Having considered all aspects of the matter, His Excellency feels that he would be in no position to receive you into this Archdiocese, and that you can best provide for your own sanctification and the salvation of your soul as well as the salvation of the souls of others by heeding the advice of your Bishop.

With all good wishes, I beg to remain,

Sincerely yours in the Lord,

Charles J. Plauche
Chancellor

CJP:jw

C.C.: Most Reverend Matthew F. Brady

December 18, 1957

His Excellency
Most Rev. Joseph M. Marling, D.D.
Bishop of Jefferson City
Jefferson City, Mo.

Dear Bishop Marling:

It is good of you to consider the case of Father John T. Sullivan for whom I have profound sympathy. Naturally, he may go with my blessing to any Bishop who is willing to receive him. His possible usefulness in any section of the diocese is at an end.

My conscience will not allow me to recommend him to any Bishop and I feel that every inquiring Bishop should know some of the circumstances that range from parenthood, through violation of the Mann Act, attempted suicide, and abortion.

Father Fitzgerald of Via Coeli would accept him only as a permanent guest to help save his soul but with no hope of recommending him to a Bishop. He considers him a schizophrenic and from experience believes that a new diocese would only mean new pastures.

With warm personal good wishes for all the joys of the coming season, I remain

Devotedly yours in Christ,

Matthew F. Brady
Bishop of Manchester



THE BISHOP'S HOUSE
JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

December 13, 1957

Your Excellency:

I have received a letter from Father J.T. Sullivan in which he asks for an opportunity to serve in this diocese. I shall give him a place if you deem it feasible. He has presented a brief outline of his difficulties, but Your Excellency may prefer to tell me in your own words what has transpired.

With very best wishes and the assurance of my esteem, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Joseph M. Marling
Most Rev. Joseph M. Marling
Bishop of Jefferson City

His Excellency
Most Rev. Matthew F. Brady, D.D.
Bishop of Manchester

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE
December 19, 1957

Most Reverend Matthew F. Brady, D. D.
145 Lowell Street
Manchester,
New Hampshire

Your Excellency:

This morning the following letter arrived from
the Bishop's House, Jefferson City, Missouri.

"I shall be pleased to give you a place in this
diocese, but first I must write Bishop Brady. I am confident that
he will reply in the affirmative but this demand of ecclesiastical
etiquette must be met. You may expect to hear from me immediately
after I have received his response." Signed, Joseph M. Marling,
Bishop of Jefferson City.

As soon as I hear from him, I will notify you.

Wishing you the blessings of this sacred season

I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,
(Rev) J. P. Sullivan

December 20, 1957

His Excellency
The Most Reverend Hilary B. Hacker, D.D.
Bishop of Bismark
Bismark, North Dakota

Dear Bishop Hacker:

It is good of you to consider the case of Father John T. Sullivan for whom I have profound sympathy. Naturally, he may go with my blessing to any Bishop who is willing to receive him. His possible usefulness in any section of the diocese is at an end.

My conscience will not allow me to recommend him to any Bishop and I feel that every inquiring Bishop should know some of the circumstances that range from parenthood, through violation of the Mann Act, attempted suicide and abortion.

Father Fitzgerald of Via Coeli would accept him only as a permanent guest to help save his soul but with no hope of recommending him to a Bishop. He considers him a schizophrenic and from experience believes that a new diocese would only mean new pastures.

With warm personal good wishes for all the joys of the coming season, I remain

Devotedly yours in Christ,

Matthew F. Brady
Bishop of Manchester

THE DIOCESE OF BISMARCK
P. O. BOX 419
BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA

5956

ICERY OFFICE

TELEPHONE CAPITAL 3-1347

December 18, 1957

His Excellency
The Most Reverend Matthew Francis Brady, D.D.
657 River Road
Manchester, New Hampshire

Your Excellency:

I am sending the enclosed letter from Father Sullivan for your comments and advice, and I would welcome your suggestions in this matter. I would not wish to do anything that would embarrass you or be contrary to your wishes. I do not know what your plans are in regard to him or whether you would release him to work in another diocese.

His story is so fragmentary that I am writing to him to send me more information in regard to his background. However, I am not going to give him any hope or indication that I am interested.

It is true that we are short of priests here and I might be able to give him an assignment. However, we are not so badly off that I would take him if there were a possibility of another scandal. My primary interest is to help to rehabilitate him if that is possible. If you think that there is a good chance of rehabilitation, and if you wish me to give it a try, I shall take the matter under consideration and see what I can do to help the situation.

Our territory out here is pretty barren and our wide open spaces are empty. He probably does not know what he is asking for by wishing to come out here.

I hope that you will have a very blessed Christmas and I wish you God's blessings for the coming year.

Best of personal wishes,
Sincerely in Xto.,



Bishop of Bismarck



THE BISHOP'S HOUSE
JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

December 24, 1957

Your Excellency:

Thank you for your gracious letter of December 18, in connection with Father John T. Sullivan. In the light of what you have written, I shall not accept this priest for service in our diocese. It was just last year that we got under way, and there are too many problems for us to invite another burden.

With cordial best wishes for this Holy Season, I am

Gratefully yours in Christ,

Joseph M. Marling
Most Rev. Joseph M. Marling
Bishop of Jefferson City

His Excellency
Most Rev Matthew F Brady, D D
Bishop of Manchester

December 26, 1957

His Excellency
The Most Reverend Joseph M. Mueller, D.D.
Bishop of Sioux City
2221 Nebraska Street
Sioux City, Iowa

Dear Bishop Mueller:

It is good of you to consider the case of Father John T. Sullivan for whom I have profound sympathy. Naturally, he may go with my blessing to any Bishop who is willing to receive him. His possible usefulness in any section of the diocese is at an end.

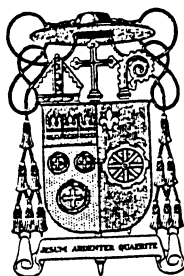
My conscience will not allow me to recommend him to any Bishop and I feel that every inquiring Bishop should know some of the circumstances that range from parenthood, through violation of the Mann Act, attempted suicide and abortion.

Father Fitzgerald of Via Coeli would accept him only as a permanent guest to help save his soul but with no hope of recommending him to a Bishop. He considers him a schizophrenic and from experience believes that a new diocese would only mean new pastures.

With most cordial good wishes, I remain

Devotedly yours in Christ,

Bishop of Manchester



BISHOP'S HOUSE
2221 NEBRASKA STREET
SIOUX CITY, IOWA

December 20, 1957

His Excellency
The Most Rev. Matthew F. Brady, D.D.
Bishop of Manchester
657 River Road
Manchester, New Hampshire

Dear Bishop Brady:-

I am in receipt of a letter written by Father J. T. Sullivan asking for an opportunity to work in this diocese. He wrote that he had trouble "propter amicitiam cum mulieribus." Just why Father Sullivan wrote to me, I don't know. New Hampshire might as well be on one of the planets as far as my associations with anyone from there are concerned.

While an extra priest is always welcome, I am not so badly in need of priests that I care to take on someone else's troubles. If, however, you think that the man is deserving of an opportunity, I shall be happy to have him come out here on a probationary basis. Will you kindly give me a candid report on the man, his age, his family background, a brief statement of his scholastic achievements, his health, the type of work he has been engaged in. Has he the academic requirements to teach in high school?

Sorry to bother you at this season of the year with this type of a request.

Wishing you the blessings of the season, I am,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jos. M. Mueller". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

Jos. M. Mueller
Bishop of Sioux City

December 26, 1957

His Excellency
The Most Reverend Joseph J. Annabring, D.D.
Bishop of Superior
Superior, Wisconsin

Dear Bishop Annabring:

It is good of you to consider the case of Father John T. Sullivan for whom I have profound sympathy. Naturally, he may go with my blessing to any Bishop who is willing to receive him. His possible usefulness in any section of the diocese is at an end.

My conscience will not allow me to recommend him to any Bishop and I feel that every inquiring Bishop should know some of the circumstances that range from parenthood, through violation of the Mann Act, attempted suicide and abortion.

Father Fitzgerald of Via Coeli would accept him only as a permanent guest to help save his soul but with no hope of recommending him to a Bishop. He considers him a schizophrenic and from experience believes that a new diocese would only mean new pastures.

With most cordial good wishes, I remain

Devotedly yours in Christ,

Bishop of Manchester

DIOCESE OF SUPERIOR
Chancery Office
1201 HUGHITT AVENUE
Box 584
SUPERIOR, WISCONSIN

5961

December 17, 1957

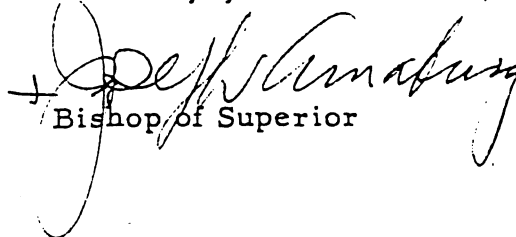
Your Excellency:

A certain Father Sullivan has written to me and has explained his problem to me. He has informed me that Your Excellency would be willing to let him work in another diocese provided that he finds a benevolent Bishop.

If this be the mind of Your Excellency, could you please tell me whether this problem has been a continuous problem with Father Sullivan. Father Sullivan also failed to tell me how long he has been ordained. In fact, I would appreciate an estimate of his character before I would do anything further about the case.

With all good wishes for a Blessed Christmas, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,


Bishop of Superior

His Excellency,
The Most Rev. Matthew F. Brady, D. D.,
Bishop of Manchester,
145 Lowell Street,
Manchester, New Hampshire.

DIOCESE OF SUPERIOR
Chancery Office
1201 HUGHITT AVENUE
Box 584
SUPERIOR, WISCONSIN

5962

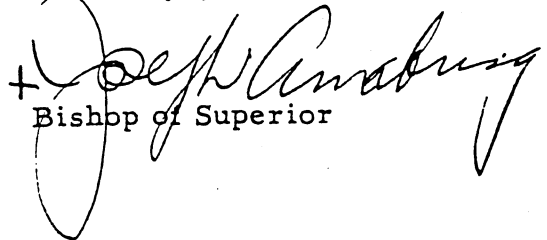
December 31, 1957

Your Excellency:

Thanks very much for your letter of December 26 concerning Father John T. Sullivan. I see that the facts are "totaliter aliter" from those which he related to me. Under these circumstances I do not think that I should care to have him come to work in the Diocese.

With best wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,


Bishop of Superior

His Excellency,
The Most Rev. Matthew F. Brady, D.D.,
Bishop of Manchester,
657 River Road,
Manchester, New Hampshire.

January 13, 1958

His Excellency
Most Rev. Leo A. Pursley, D. D.
Bishop of Fort Wayne
P. O. Box 390
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Bishop Pursley:

It is good of you to consider the case of Father John T. Sullivan for whom I have profound sympathy. Naturally, he may go with my blessing to any Bishop who is willing to receive him. His possible usefulness in any section of the diocese is at an end.

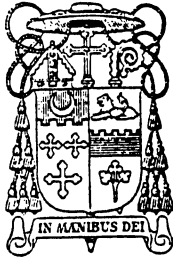
My conscience will not allow me to recommend him to any Bishop and I feel that every inquiring Bishop should know some of the circumstances that range from parenthood, through violation of the Mann Act, attempted suicide and abortion.

Father Fitzgerald of Via Coeli would accept him only as a permanent guest to help save his soul but with no hope of recommending him to a Bishop. He considers him a schizophrenic and from experience believes that a new diocese would only mean new pastures.

With most cordial good wishes, I remain

Devotedly yours in Christ,

Bishop of Manchester



5964

DIOCESE OF FORT WAYNE

POST OFFICE BOX 390 • FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

January 7, 1958

His Excellency,
Most Rev. Matthew F. Brady, D.D.
657 River Road,
Manchester, New Hampshire.

Dear Bishop Brady:

I take the liberty of sending you the enclosed letter. The fact that it is addressed to the late Archbishop Noll is quite understandable in view of the circumstances affecting its writer.

What I should like and appreciate very much is your own evaluation of the sincerity and integrity with which it is apparently written. Our need of priests, particularly for parish replacements, is really acute at this time. I am disposed to give Father Sullivan a trial for a fixed period of time, say one year, and see what happens. Naturally I do so with reluctance and misgiving. All that anyone can do in such cases is to make an act of faith and set up what safeguards may be managed. I feel that I could place Father Sullivan where the likelihood of his relapse would be at least somewhat remote. I do not wish to burden you with any further responsibility in his regard but I would like to have a candid expression of your opinion before making a definite decision.

Thanking you for your attention to my request at your earliest convenience, I am, with cordial regards and devoted good wishes,

Yours sincerely in Christ

MOST REV. LEO A. PURSLEY, D.D.
Bishop of Fort Wayne

HOLY CROSS CHURCH

MORRISVILLE, VERMONT

5885

December 30, 1956

Most Reverend John F. Noll, D. D.
1415 W. Washington St.,
Fort Wayne,
Indiana

Your Excellency:

For just and weighty reasons my Bishop, Most Reverend Matthew F. Brady, suspended me in June 1956. Since that time I have accepted the kind hospitality of the rectory of Rt. Rev. Msgr. J. S. Buckley, P. A., D. C. L., where I have been celebrating Holy Mass daily. Presently, I am spending a little time with the Reverend Omer L. Dufault, pastor of Holy Cross Rectory, Morrisville, Vermont, and would be grateful were you to direct your reply here.

My problem is not drink. The reason for my suspension is owing to the lack of prudence and discretion 'de amicitia cum mulieribus' from which resulted in grave scandal. I neither condemn nor bear ill feeling against Bishop Brady as my conduct justified his actions. Actually I have great admiration, respect and reverence for him. Neither an attempted marriage nor a child resulted from my association.

During these very long and idle months, after prayerful and careful consideration, I asked Bishop Brady for a release. Such was done praying God that another diocese would enable me to start my priesthood anew. A couple of weeks ago, Msgr. Buckley had business in Manchester and upon his return quoted His Excellency, Bishop Brady, "with the permission of the Bishop, that without the necessity of writing, he gives Father Sullivan permission to go to any Bishop and upon his acceptance his suspension will be automatically lifted." I have made appeals to other dioceses. Two Bishops were willing to accept me and after having contacted Manchester I was notified by them that they reversed their decisions. The reason for Bishop Brady's unfavorable reply to these Bishops would seem to be his fear of a recurrence of my weakness. Perhaps, he has reasons for so thinking as my priesthood does not paint a very pleasant picture.

However, Your Excellency, the weight of this suspension and all the hardships and sorrow it has given me and all those dear to me have taught me a very cruel lesson. It has been a year and a half since I have seen Bishop Brady and I can sincerely assure you that during that long time I have had ample opportunity to give serious reflections to my many mistakes and weaknesses and have profited much from them. I love all the aspects of priestly work and would never be wanting in zeal, and feel certain that Bishop Brady would never condemn me because of sloth, and will assure Your Excellency that henceforth this zeal will be tempered with prudence. Should you give consideration to my request and after having contacted Bishop Brady be doubtful as to my fitness, may I add that I will be so very pleased to be accepted on a trial basis and would gladly accept any assignment given me. To be a priest with faculties once more would be such a wonderful consolation to me. Please be assured, Your Excellency,

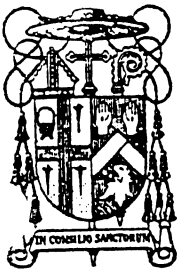
HOLY CROSS CHURCH
MORRISVILLE, VERMONT

that I am so firmly and sincerely resolved, with God's holy help, to make good whatever faith and confidence you will place in me.

I have been given to understand that your diocese is in need of priests and therefore, I write Your Excellency prayerfully hoping that you can find need of my services and favor me with an assignment so that I may prove myself a worthy priest. I would be so extremely grateful to Your Excellency for any consideration given my request and will do everything possible to be the good priest that He wants me to be.

Asking for your blessing and also for a remembrance in your kind prayers I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,
(Rev.) J. P. Sullivan



DIOCESE OF SAN DIEGO

The Chancery

ALCALA PARK
SAN DIEGO 12, CALIFORNIA

5967

January 14, 1958

The Rev. J. T. Sullivan
Holy Cross Church
Morrisville, Vermont

Reverend and dear Father Sullivan:

In response to your esteemed letter of January 11, 1958, it is indeed a matter of regret that you cannot be received into this Diocese.

It is always consoling to help a brother priest.

On the other hand, this is not the best area for one to try rehabilitation. An inland Diocese or, even better, a religious order offers the best security.

My conviction is that your humility and frankness will eventually win for you the grace of being accepted.

With kindest regards, I remain,

In union of prayer,

Devotedly in Corde Regis Regum,

+ Charles F. Buddy

The Most Reverend Charles F. Buddy,
Bishop of San Diego.

Dear Bishop Brady:

Kindest regards

+ CFB

C
O
P
Y

January 16, 1958

His Excellency
Most Rev. Duane G. Hunt, D. D.
Bishop of Salt Lake City
333 East South Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah

Dear Bishop Hunt:

It is good of you to consider the case of Father John T. Sullivan for whom I have profound sympathy. Naturally, he may go with my blessing to any Bishop who is willing to receive him. His possible usefulness in any section of the diocese is at an end.

My conscience will not allow me to recommend him to any Bishop and I feel that every inquiring Bishop should know some of the circumstances that range from parenthood, through violation of the Mann Act, attempted suicide and abortion.

Father Fitzgerald of Via Coeli would accept him only as a permanent guest to help save his soul but with no hope of recommending him to a Bishop. He considers him a schizophrenic and from experience believes that a new diocese would only mean new pastures.

With most cordial good wishes, I remain

Devotedly yours in Christ,

Bishop of Manchester



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP
333 EAST SOUTH TEMPLE
SALT LAKE CITY

January 10, 1958

Most Rev. Matthew F. Brady.
145 Lowell St.,
Manchester, New Hampshire

Dear Bishop Brady:-

One of your priests, Reverend J.T. Sullivan, has applied to me for work in this Diocese. He explained to me something about his problem and the reason for his idleness.

Inasmuch as I am greatly in need of priests, I am tempted to consider his application. Please tell me what I should know. Am I running a great risk in giving him a temporary appointment?

With every good wish and regards,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

DUANE G. HUNT
Bishop of Salt Lake City

DGH:bm



5970

DIOCESE OF FORT WAYNE

POST OFFICE BOX 390 • FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

January 16, 1958

His Excellency
Most Rev. Matthew F. Brady, D.D.,
657 River Road
Manchester, New Hampshire

Dear Bishop Brady:

Just a word to assure you that I am deeply
grateful for your frank statement in reply to my recent inquiry.
I shall be governed accordingly.

With devoted good wishes, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Leo A. Pursley
MOST REV. LEO A. PURSLEY, D.D.,
Bishop of Fort Wayne

THE DIOCESE OF BISMARCK
BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA

5971

CHANCERY OFFICE

January 17, 1958

His Excellency
The Most Reverend Matthew Brady, D.D.
657 River Road
Manchester, New Hampshire

Dear Bishpp Brady:

I do wish to thankyou for your very prompt and kind reply to my inquiry about Father Sullivan. After reading your letter I decided that there is not much that I could do to help him, but I was going to wait until I heard from him before acknowledging your letter. However, to this date I have had no reply from him to my request for more information. In the meantime, I have found out that he contacted several other bishops in this area. Apparently, the only thing for him to do is to try to find some protection in a religious institution.

Best of personal wishes,
Sincerely in Xto.,


Bishop of Bismarck

5972



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP
333 EAST SOUTH TEMPLE
SALT LAKE CITY

January 20, 1958

Most Rev. Matthew F. Brady,
657 River Road
Manchester, N.H.

Dear Bishop Brady:-

Thanks very much for your letter of
January 16 and for the information which it con-
tained. In the light of this information, I will not
take further interest in Father Sullivan.

With every good wish,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ *D. G. Hunt*

DUANE G. HUNT
Bishop of Salt Lake City

DGH:bm

February 3, 1958

His Excellency
Most Rev. Albert G. Meyer, D.D.
Archbishop of Milwaukee
2000 West Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Dear Archbishop Meyer:

It is good of you to consider the case of Father John T. Sullivan for whom I have profound sympathy. Naturally, he may go with my blessing to any Bishop who is willing to receive him. His possible usefulness in any section of the diocese is at an end.

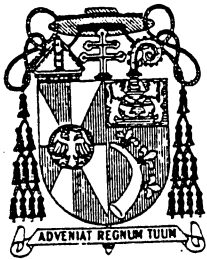
My conscience will not allow me to recommend him to any Bishop and I feel that every inquiring Bishop should know some of the circumstances that range from parenthood, through violation of the Mann Act, attempted suicide and abortion.

Father Fitzgerald of Via Coeli would accept him only as a permanent guest to help save his soul but with no hope of recommending him to a Bishop. He considers him a schizophrenic and from experience believes that a new diocese would only mean new pastures.

With most cordial good wishes, I remain

Devotedly yours in Christ,

Bishop of Manchester



ARCHBISHOP'S RESIDENCE
2000 WEST WISCONSIN AVENUE
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

Jan. 31, 1958

The Most Reverend Matthew Brady, D.D.
Bishop of Manchester,
657 River Road,
Manchester, N.H.

Your Excellency,

The Rev. J.T. Sullivan, presently living at Holy Cross Rectory in Morrisville, Vermont, has written twice to me, begging for a chance to rehabilitate himself through acceptance for work in the archdiocese of Milwaukee.

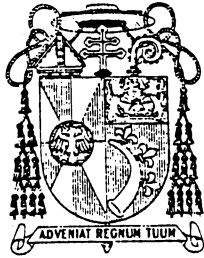
His first letter of December 30, 1957 was answered by simply referring him to other bishops, whose needs are greater. There was nothing in my letter which would have given him encouragement to write to me again. Yet, I am in receipt of a second letter from him, under date of January 28th, in which he almost pitifully begs for a chance to prove himself.

Your Excellency will readily understand that I have had my own share of problems of this kind during the twelve years of my episcopate and that I am not looking for additional trouble. Nevertheless, something in the fact of his having written to me a second time, contra spem so to say, struck me, and I thought that I would at least write to you and ask for your advice in the matter, and for a fuller statement. Doubtless you have become weary in writing such letters, since Father Sullivan mentions that he has tried many places. I don't know exactly why I should write asking for this information, since I have turned down so many others in previous years. However, if Your Excellency cares, I would appreciate a line to enable me to come to a decision in the matter.

With kindest personal greetings and best wishes, I am

Very sincerely in Christ,

Richard J. Meyer
Archbishop of Milwaukee



5975

ARCHBISHOP'S RESIDENCE
2000 WEST WISCONSIN AVENUE
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

February 5, 1958

His Excellency
The Most Reverend Matthew F. Brady, D.D.
Bishop of Manchester,
657 River Road,
Manchester, New Hampshire

Your Excellency,

Many thanks for your kind letter of the 3rd relative to the case of Father John T. Sullivan. I suspected, of course, that something most serious was in the picture, as you have so kindly informed me. Even in the bare outlines it is indeed most tragic, and I can certainly sympathize with you in the heartache which this case must be to you.

Under the circumstances, of course, I cannot consider him for trial, as I have the highest regard for your own views naturally, and the confirmatory views of my good friend Father Fitzgerald. In writing to Father Sullivan, I will not mention that I contacted you, but simply repeat my first letter to him.

With kindest personal greetings and best wishes, I beg to remain

Very sincerely yours in Christ,

Albert G. Meyer
Archbishop of Milwaukee