

Father Tony Karls, pastoral director at St. Mary's Hospital in Madison called to say that Becker had applied for a chaplaincy there which is currently available and had given my name as a reference. I told Karls that Becker had permission to seek a chaplaincy job, that we would offer him one in Milwaukee if one were available and that there was no reason why Becker could not do an adequate job given the experience he had at St. Joseph's Hospital and the recommendation he got from them. Karls was glad to hear this and said that he would send Becker the rest of the applications. I did not mention any of Becker's difficulties to Karls but I will now talk to Bishop O'Donnell. I was not aware that Becker had made application for this position.

7/12/84

832. Becker, Franklyn

I spoke to Bishop George Wirz (608-257-5000) about Becker's application at St. Mary's Medical Center. Wirz was extremely negative toward the idea of Becker becoming a chaplain there when he heard the story. Wirz told me confidentially that his reason was based on a very recent incident in the Madison area wherein some parents were about to enter into litigation against a priest for pederasty behavior. The incident was kept very quiet and the priest was whisked off to some treatment place in California where he is right now. Wirz said that everyone that knows about this is very uneasy at the present and he is quite sure that Bishop O'Donnell would be very negative toward a person like Becker serving at St. Mary's. I told him that I understood and that I would ask Becker to withdraw his application. I told Wirz that I did not want to discuss this matter over the phone directly with Father Karls and Wirz understood my reason and position.

7/13/84

841. Becker, Franklyn

He and I met at my request and I discussed the contents of Dr. Durst's letter with him. I made it clear that while I could go along with Dr. Durst's recommendation that he not be assigned to the convent over here, he definitely would not be assigned to a parish at this time. He is somewhat disappointed about this and mentioned that there are a number of other priests in the Archdiocese, e.g., Russ Witon, who have become pastors with similar backgrounds. I pointed out that maybe an incident or two occurred in the past but they did not have bad reputations that Becker has. I also pointed out the legal ramification and some of the law suits that are currently going on in the United States. I also asked him to withdraw his application from St. Mary's Medical Center in Madison and requested that he not apply for any position outside the Diocese without first talking to me so I can approach the local bishop before he makes application. We had what I thought was a very positive conversation in general. I told him that he had been very cooperative and asked him to be patient now as we "go the last mile". I also told him that we were going to assign him to West Allis Memorial Hospital as soon as that position opened. He seemed agreeable to this and said that this month and next he is working part time at St. Joseph's Hospital. I told him to inquire there as to whether a position will open in the future.

7/18/84

887. Becker, Franklyn

He called to say that he has been offered part-time work for the month of September at St. Joseph Hospital and wondered if that would fit in with our plans for him. I told him to take the job at St. Joe's for September and that the position at West Allis would open up when we found a place for the present chaplain. I told