

May 6, 1986

Dear

By the time you read this letter I will have been in touch with Father
Before I discuss the content of this letter let me tell you why
I am writing a letter instead of talking to you initially in person.

Firstly: Because I consider you a friend and companion, it is extremely
difficult for me to say what must in fact be said.

Secondly: The matter is so serious I want to be very precise and also be
able to review my comments for clarity and accuracy.

This letter begins with your initial assignment here by When
he asked me to accept you as associate, I was more than happy to have you
come. However he indicated at the time that there were some potential
problems. Without his sharing very much information, because of its
confidential nature, I was able to conclude that the areas of concern were
alcoholism and even more vaguely, some accusations about conduct with young
boys.

About a week or so before your arrival I wrote to and clearly
stated that before your coming to St. Christopher's I would insist on
your showing me evidence of professional counseling in the above mentioned
areas. I further noted that I wished to visit the same counselor, or the
equivalent, to ascertain what my conduct ought to be as we began living in
the same house. ; did not respond before you came.

As you will recall, the first day or so of your arrival I bluntly asked you
what the problem was. Your response was satisfactory to me at the time.
You in fact said very little. I made no judgment about the matter other
than that in my own mind I would be alert for any development that would
be harmful to either of us. Without passing any judgment whatsoever, I
did emphatically state to you that because of your immediate past history
we would agree that no one except priests or family would be allowed to
go to the second floor into any of our quarters. I was certain that you
understood the reasons and intended to abide by our decision.

In the months that followed there were numerous occasions when you took people
into your room. Most of the time it occurred when I was gone. This was
evidenced to me by persons who were in the house at the time. I too personally
witnessed several occasions of my own.

When I was on vacation in Hawaii it happened again. This time I voiced my
displeasure upon my return about people using my room and sleeping in my
bedroom. I was certain that you now clearly understood my opposition to
anyone coming up into our private quarters. It is critical at this point
that I say it again in a most emphatic way that I am not accusing you of
any immoral behavior. I am referring exclusively to your violation of
my trust and confidence in you by not observing our mutually agreed upon
decision to respect the social privacy of our living quarters.

Let this letter be exclusively negative if I have no hesitation in saying
that your presence here has been enjoyable, your work is excellent as well
as your cooperation. Your reputation among the people in the parish could
not be any better. They often speak well of you and your work.

When I left to study in Rome in September I recall my most emphatic statement about taking youngsters upstairs. I said at that time that if upon my return I learned from any reliable resource whatsoever that you allowed other than priests and family on the second floor I would consider that the end of my ability to live with you in the future. At the time of this letter I am not aware of any violation of our agreement during my stay in Rome.

The critical part of my letter refers to Thursday, May 1, while I was on vacation in Texas. It is evident that [redacted] not only was permitted to visit upstairs but was allowed to spend the night, a fact evident by his taking a shower upstairs the next morning. There were people in the house at the time who expressed to me upon my return their concern, and I might add, their disapproval with no slight emotion. [redacted] is a high school student who missed school the next day.

Frankly, [redacted], this frightens the hell out of me! What I say now is very personal and I say it with love for you and the priesthood. I say it because of my fears, especially for others. That is I am certain you would benefit from professional counseling. You recall that I gave up 4 full days to join you at the hospital in your 28 day stay there. I saw you begin to grow and know yourself. I saw you make your Dad proud after his initial shock when he heard of the possibility of alcoholism. Your drinking has been increasing rapidly in recent weeks. Others besides myself are aware and are very concerned. I am afraid that I have let you down by becoming an "enabler". I don't know what to do!

My conclusion is clear. In view of my past statements, and the clear and present evidence, I have asked Father [redacted] to reassign you. I am not helping you by your staying here. I think I can help most now by what I am doing. Not a single person in the parish will suspect a thing when you leave. They have been expecting it. I will safeguard your reputation insofar as I can. Perhaps it will be a good time to take some time off and reflect - even a leave of absence - but please, [redacted] don't try to do it alone. Allow others to help you. You have so much talent, so much to give. You are basically a good person and I want desperately to be a friend to you. That may be impossible for you after what I am doing, but although my door may be temporarily closed, my heart says you are welcome to enter. You cannot escape my constant prayers for you.

Prayerfully and sincerely,