



CARDINAL'S RESIDENCE  
2101 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE  
BRIGHTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02135

January 25, 1988

Most Reverend Joseph T. Ryan, D.D.  
Archdiocese for the Military Services  
962 Wayne Avenue  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Your Excellency:

Anticipating the return of a few of the older priests of the Archdiocese from the ranks of Military Chaplaincy I authorized the Clergy Personnel Office to advertise that I would release a priest for full-time military chaplaincy duty at the end of June, 1988.

This was done and in mid-December a sub-committee composed of two members of our Personnel Board and two former chaplains who have returned to the service of the Archdiocese interviewed five (5) priests all of whom have had extensive reserve involvement. The recommendation of this sub-committee was brought to the full membership of the Clergy Personnel Board which concurred and finally the recommendation was brought to me by the Personnel Directors. The recommendation was to allow the release of Father Thomas P. Forry, a man ordained in May of 1968 who is forty-six years old and has been serving with the Army National Guard since March of 1981. He received very positive endorsements from those who have worked with him in that capacity. Having reflected on this recommendation in the light of my personal knowledge of this priest and in the light of the matters which I shared with Bishop Roque on the telephone on January 21, I am inclined to grant my approval of this recommendation provided the Military Archdiocese will grant the endorsement of Father Forry.

I would be most grateful, therefore, if you would advise me if you feel that the Archdiocese for the Military Services will accept the service of Father Thomas Forry. Slightly over a month has passed since the interviews and all five priests are waiting for a decision so I would be grateful for a response at your earliest convenience.

With my warmest personal regards, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Archbishop of Boston

Encl. (4)

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