

SS. Peter & Paul Church

508 CHERRY STREET
JAMESTOWN, NY 14701
TELEPHONE 716/664-5703

June 6, 1989

Most Rev. Edward D. Head
Bishop - Diocese of Buffalo
795 Main St.
Buffalo, NY 14203

Dear Bishop Head:

After extensive prayer, sharing [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] I have made three most serious
decisions regarding my relationship to the church.

I believe that it is in the best interest of the church
at large, and the Diocese of Buffalo specifically, as well
as the best interests of Jim Spielman, that these three
decisions be made. Therefore:

- 1) As of this date, June 6, 1989, I, James A. Spielman,
resign as Pastor of SS. Peter & Paul Church in Jamestown,
New York.
- 2) As of this date, June 6, 1989, I, James A. Spielman,
surrender my priestly faculties in the Diocese of Buffalo
or any other diocese.
- 3) I respectfully request an indefinite leave of absence
during which time I might reconsider my call to priesthood
of the past 20 years.

I believe that it is important for me to express to you the
depth of anger and betrayal I feel toward you personally.
Never once did I minimize the seriousness of the issue, yet
over and over again you lectured me about its seriousness.
Your approach was cold, calculated and business-oriented -
a tremendous disappointment for me coming from a church I
had given my life to since the age of 14. You were successful
in demoralizing me and making me feel worthless, the example
of the "tooth decay" and "getting it all" was particularly
offensive and repulsive.

I was particularly leveled by your lack of hope or encourage-
ment with no promise or safeguard of future assignment, there
simply was no ability or willingness to trust.

As of today I am requesting that any and all communication
that may be necessary between the diocese and myself be made
through Bishop Trautman. I pray you honor this request.

My permanent mailing address is: _____

James A. Spielman
RD 1, Box 55
Scio, NY 14880

DIOCESE OF BUFFALO
795 MAIN STREET
BUFFALO, NEW YORK 14203-1250

THE CHANCERY

June 9, 1989

James A. Spielman
R.D. Box 55
Scio, New York 14880

Dear Jim:

In recent days you have no doubt received many letters and messages of support and affirmation. I hope you will read this letter in the same way - namely, one of support and affirmation. I do write with the input and advice of Bishop Trautman. In accord with your wishes, Bishop Trautman will be my liaison to you.

With reference to your letter to me, may I say that I accept your resignation as Pastor of SS. Peter & Paul Parish, Jamestown, effective June 6, 1989. I know full well all you have done to build up this faith community. The results of your recent fund raising efforts to meet the crisis of the church repair is just one indication of the cooperation of your people ^{AND} in their esteem for you.

It is with sadness that I accept your surrendering of your priestly faculties. You have served God's people for nineteen years with dedication, enthusiasm and effectiveness. In accord with your request, I grant you a leave of absence from the active ministry. I ask that you work closely with Bishop Trautman in ~~discovering~~ your future.

Your letter speaks candidly of the upsetment which my meeting with you caused. I never intended such distress for you. I apologize for any poor choices of words. I believe there was a misconception of my remarks to you. Nevertheless, your perception is what counts at this point and I simply want to reiterate that I welcome a meeting with you and Bishop Trautman to effect a healing. We will be happy to go and see you if you prefer not to come here.

I have confidence in you. You have humbly admitted that personal behavioral mistakes have been made.

St. Paul addresses these words to the Philippians: "I am confident that he who has begun the good work in you will bring it to fulfillment". With confidence in you and with support and affirmation for you, I address these words to you.

Sincerely,

Most Rev. Edward D. Head, D.D.
Bishop of Buffalo

EDH/rp
bcc: ✓ Bishop Trautman

SS. Peter & Paul Church

508 CHERRY STREET
JAMESTOWN, NY 14701
TELEPHONE 716/664-5703

June 1989

Dear Parishioners,

Twenty years ago this month I was ordained a deacon. In the years that followed I served the priesthood of Jesus with joy, enthusiasm and dedication on a road that led me through a number of parishes and a six year teaching career and ultimately brought me here to SS. Peter & Paul. WOW! I get tired just thinking about the years - and that's the problem.

I am totally and completely "burned out". I have given everything I had to give and my "well has gone dry".

I have therefore requested and received an indefinite leave of absence from all ministry. This was the hardest decision of my life but it was right - I feel so much better having made it.

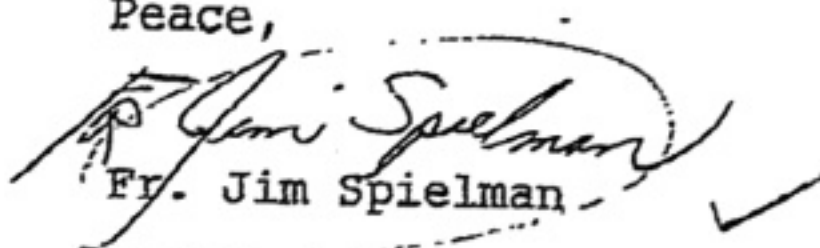
My intention is to live at the farm in Scio and after a few months of rest to seek gainful employment in the area.

I know this news is difficult enough without getting it in a letter but emotionally I just couldn't do it any other way. I am eternally grateful to all of you for your tremendous support and encouragement which enabled us to do so much. The church building will stand as an ever-present reminder of the success of our cooperative efforts. Please help my successor by faithfully working down the debt and freeing the parish of this burden.

I realize I have robbed you of the chance to express your gratitude to me by sending this letter. Believe me, I know how grateful you are - my emotions would not have been able to handle this any other way.

Please know my prayers and hopes for each of you and please pray for me during this difficult transition.

Peace,


Fr. Jim Spielman

December 1989

Dear Family and Friends,

I have over the past 19 years communicated with you at this time of year via a Christmas card or letter. Lately it has been via a card, but the circumstances of this past year demand that I use the letter form once again. Since there are so many of you, it must be a copied form - please excuse the impersonal nature and know that it is intended to be as personal as possible.

It was a difficult year for me. It began as I completed the 1.4 million dollar renovation of SS. Peter & Paul Church in Jamestown. It is a beautiful building which clearly reflects the commitment and faith of the people of the parish. They really did an outstanding job.

However the building project, as well as 19 years of ministry, had left me drained. As spring approached these pressures, as well as some personal issues, weighed heavily upon me. I decided to take a leave of absence from ministry to get some professional direction and put my own house in order. So Badger and I moved to the farm in Scio at the beginning of June. The first two months was a "settling down" time. Even Badger - my trusted companion these last 11 years - needed time "away". Needless to say the hills of Allegany County are capable of great healing. In August I was offered a temporary job in the Mental Health Unit of Steuben County. I decided to take it since it was working with the elderly and I always find them rewarding. I worked at the job until early December and enjoyed it very much.

As the days of fall revealed the magnificent beauty of the leaves, I began to progress enough that my doctor and I agreed that it was time to look ahead. In spite of my frailties and failings I knew that I was still a priest. It was time to start thinking about returning to ministry. In subsequent meetings with Bishop Head, Bishop Trautman and my doctor it was agreed that I would go on a sabbatical experience this winter and return to ministry in the spring. I expect to be reassigned by Bishop Head in May.

This was a very difficult process but necessary that I might go on as priest in the service of the Lord. Throughout these months I have been very grateful for all of you, my family and friends. Your support, expressed through Masses, prayers, novenas, notes, cards and phone calls, was very much appreciated. My faith is strong, my energy returning and my anticipation heightening as we celebrate Christmas - the birth of hope and love - and move into a new year and a new decade in the grace of God.

I will be celebrating Christmas Eve Mass at St. Joseph's in Scio, where I celebrated my first Christmas Mass 19 years ago. Know that I will remember all of your intentions in my Christmas Mass. Please keep me in your Masses and prayers these next few months.

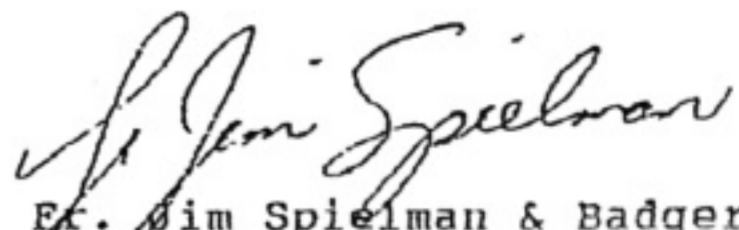
"MAY GOD REST YE MERRY"

RECEIVED

JAN 23 1990

CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE

Peace and Love,


Fr. Jim Spielman & Badger

PS My address until reassigned: RD 1
Box 55
Scio, NY 14880

CHANCERY MEMORANDUM

TO: Bishop Head
FROM: Monsignor Popadick
RE: Father James Spielman
DATE: March 21, 1991

I just wish to bring to the Bishop's attention that Father Jim Spielman is carefully watching the placement of Father Donald Fafinski. I gather the reason being: if Father Fafinski were to resume ministry at Saint Joseph's in Fredonia, Father Spielman will be questioning why he was not allowed to return to SS. Peter and Paul in Jamestown.

I heard that this is a concern for Father Spielman. Father Spielman has not voiced this to me personally.

/mh

Assumption Church
Box 404
Portageville, NY 14536
(716) 468-2643
January 15, 1993

Rev. John Gaglione & Members
Priest's Personnel Board
Catholic Center
795 Main Street
Buffalo, NY 14203-1250

Dear John & Members:

I am now beginning my 6th year of service to the people of Portageville and Canaseraga. These years are a combination of two separate terms of ministry. In between, I served a three year term at SS Peter & Paul in Jamestown.

In all my years as a pastor (8+) I have excelled in my responsibilities and have successfully strengthened the sense of community within the parish unit, resolved serious financial difficulties, strengthened education, religious and adult, and in the case of Jamestown, made great strides in the parochial school. In addition, major maintenance needs were met in all three parishes.

As our clergy shortage grows ever more serious, I have dedicated my efforts to empower the people to gradually but definitely assume responsibility for their parish and its well being. I have enjoyed and met the challenge both in Jamestown and the Portageville/Canaseraga assignments.

As you are well aware, in 1989 I resigned the Pastorate of SS Peter & Paul in Jamestown to deal with some personal issues that simply could not wait. After extensive work with a local psychologist and experiencing the Southdown wholistic program, I returned to ministry in 1990 and assumed the pastorate I currently hold at Portageville/Canaseraga. Over the last year, with the encouragement of the Ordinary, Bishop Head, I have applied for several assignments that would offer me an appropriate challenge.

At this time I find myself confronting the profile of the very parish I left behind in 1989. My leaving Jamestown was for personal reasons that are now resolved, and was in no way connected to the parish. When I left I had a wonderful relationship with the people, which had resulted in greatly increased Mass attendance, a 1.8 million dollar drive to rebuild the church, a 30% increase in the enrollment of the parochial school and an extensive program of home visitation to the abnormally high number of confined senior citizens. Many

DIOCESE OF BUFFALO
795 MAIN STREET
BUFFALO, NEW YORK 14203-1250
(716) 847-5500 FAX: (716) 847-5557

THE CHANCERY

February 9, 1993

Rev. James E. Wall
Spiritual Director/Team Member
St. Columban Center
6892 Lake Shore Road
PO Box 816
Derby, NY 14047

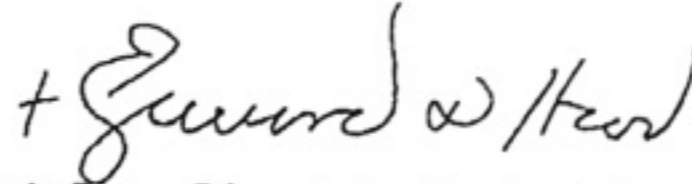
Dear Father Wall:

Upon the recommendation of the Priests' Personnel Board and after consultation with diocesan officials, I have appointed Father James A. Spielman as pastor of SS. Peter and Paul Parish, Jamestown. This appointment is effective March 8, 1993.

Again, please know of my gratitude for all that you did to build up and strengthen that faith community.

Be assured of a continued remembrance in my prayers for you and your priestly ministry at the St. Columban Center.

Sincerely,



Most Rev. Edward D. Head, D.D.
Bishop of Buffalo

EDH/cg

DIOCESE OF BUFFALO
795 MAIN STREET
BUFFALO, NEW YORK 14203-1250
(716) 847-5500 FAX: (716) 847-5557

THE CHANCERY

February 9, 1993

Rev. James A. Spielman
Pastor, Assumption Rectory
Pike Street
Box 404
Portageville, NY 14536

Dear Father Spielman:

Upon the recommendation of the Priests' Personnel Board and after consultation with diocesan officials, it is my pleasure to appoint you pastor of SS. Peter and Paul Parish, Jamestown. This appointment is effective March 8, 1993 and is for a term of six years.

As you prepare to assume this new responsibility, I ask that you reflect again upon the scriptural passages in which our Lord offers an example to all those who minister in the Church. Christ had a special sensitivity for the poor and alienated, was eager to bring the mercy of the Father to sinners, and shared the gifts of the Holy Spirit with all those who believed. Christ's words and actions give an example and inspire all those who seek to serve Him and His people with fidelity and humility. I ask that in a special way you pray for, and work to encourage vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

Before assuming your pastorate, you are asked to make the customary Profession of Faith and take the Oath of Fidelity at the Chancery Office.

Please know of my sincere gratitude for the pastoral ministry which you have offered to the people of Assumption Church, Portageville and St. Mary Church, Canaseraga. I am confident that the faith which you nourished there will continue to grow for many years to come.

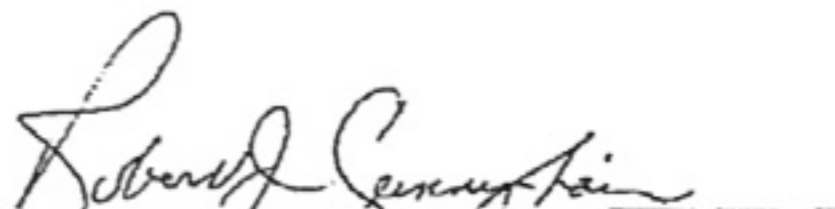
Please be assured of a special remembrance in my prayers for you and all those entrusted to your spiritual care at SS. Peter and Paul Parish. May the Lord continue to bless you and your priestly ministry.

Sincerely,



Most Rev. Edward D. Head, D.D.
Bishop of Buffalo

EDH/cg


Notary

DIOCESE OF BUFFALO
798 MAIN STREET
BUFFALO, NEW YORK 14203-1280
(716) 847-8800 FAX: (716) 847-8887

THE CHANCERY

July 19, 1993

Rev. James A. Spielman
SS. Peter and Paul
508 Cherry Street
Jamestown, NY 14701

Dear Father Spielman:

Thank you for meeting with me this morning and for our telephone conversation last Friday. I fully understand that these are difficult days for you, and I want to assure you of my thoughts and prayers at this time.

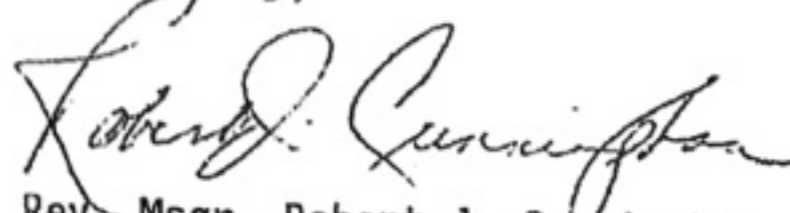
As we have discussed, this letter will serve as confirmation of the fact that Bishop Head placed you on administrative leave effective July 16, 1993. During this period of time, the bishop expects that you will not engage in any public ministry; that is, you are not to celebrate Mass or the sacraments publicly. The faculties given to you at the time of your ordination are hereby revoked.

During the time that you are on administrative leave, the parish of SS. Peter and Paul will continue your salary and benefits.

I appreciate your willingness to fully cooperate in the days ahead.

Be assured of my own prayerful support at this time.

Fraternally,



Rev. Msgr. Robert J. Cunningham
Vicar General/Chancellor

RJC/cg

**SAINTS
PETER & PAUL
CHURCH**

508 Cherry Street • Jamestown, NY 14701

(716) 664-5703

August 9, 1993

My Dear Friends and Parishioners of Ss. Peter & Paul:

After great deliberation and prayer, I have decided that I must resign as Pastor of Ss. Peter and Paul and retire from active ministry. I am most grateful for the opportunity to have served you twice as your Pastor. You are a wonderful parish community, blessed with much talent and ability. It is my hope and prayer that you will use all of your resources to help your new Pastor respond to the challenge of leadership.

My decision in no way reflects upon you or the parish, but rather on where I am at this time in my life. I trust that you will respect that, and keep me in your prayers and in your hearts, as I move into an unknown chapter of my life. Joshua and I will forever be grateful for the chance to have shared life with you, and I, in a special way, will always be thankful for the opportunity to be the Pastor when we paid off the church debt.

This is now the time for you and I to look forward. We can be thankful for the past, but we must appreciate the fact that new opportunities lay before each of us. It is my hope and prayer that both you and I will not dwell upon the past, but will seize those new opportunities and be excited by the possibilities of the future.

May God be with us as we follow his call.



Fr. Jim and Joshua

SS Peter & Paul
508 Cherry Street
Jamestown, NY 14701
August 9, 1993

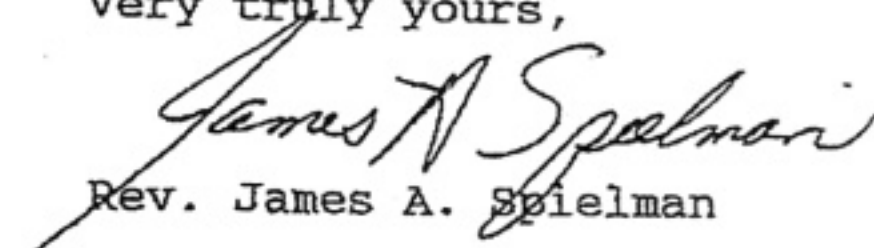
The Most Reverend Edward D. Head
Bishop of the Diocese of Buffalo
Catholic Center
795 Main Street
Buffalo, NY 14203

Dear Bishop Head:

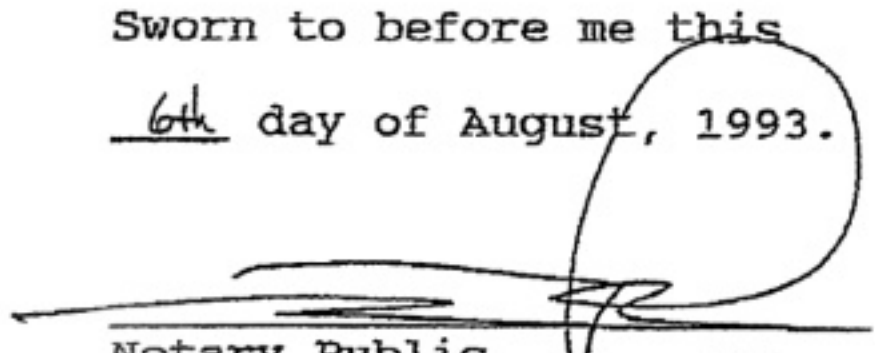
After much prayer and consideration, and with the guidance and help of the special people in my life, I have decided as of this date, Monday, August 9, 1993, to resign the pastorate of SS Peter & Paul in Jamestown, NY, and to retire from priestly ministry for life. I do this of my own free will, and for personal reasons.

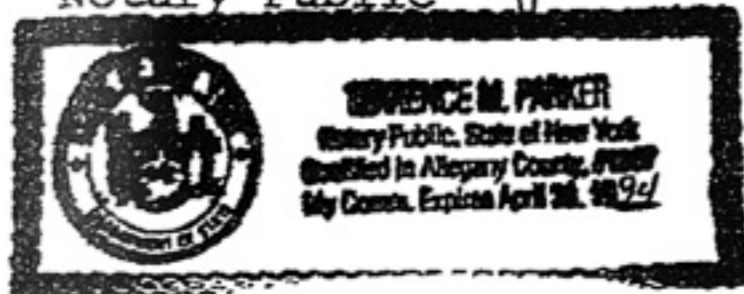
I wish to express my thanks to God, and to you as Bishop of the Diocese, for the opportunity to serve as Priest these past 24 years.

Very truly yours,


Rev. James A. Spielman

Sworn to before me this
6th day of August, 1993.


Notary Public



DIOCESE OF BUFFALO
795 MAIN STREET
BUFFALO, NEW YORK 14203-1250
(716) 847-5500 FAX: (716) 847-5557

THE CHANCERY

August 17, 1993

James A. Spielman
Box 55
Scio, NY 14880

Dear Jim:

I have received your letter of August 9, 1993 in which you tender your resignation as pastor of SS. Peter and Paul Parish, Jamestown and indicate your decision to retire from ministry as a priest for life.

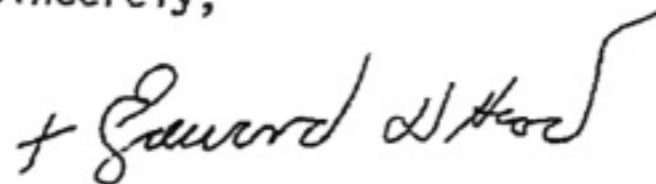
I am grateful for the good that you have been able to accomplish during your years as a priest.

As I have previously indicated to you, I accept this decision which I believe to be in your own best interest and the best interest of the Church.

At the same time, I encourage you to approach Monsignor David S. Slubecky, the judicial vicar, to begin the process of laicization which will enable you to live out your life as a Catholic layman.

You and your intentions are remembered in prayers.

Sincerely,



Most Rev. Edward D. Head, D.D.
Bishop of Buffalo

EDH/cg