

Diocese of Wilmington
Post Office Box 2030
Wilmington, Delaware 19899

Office of the Bishop

March 2, 1971

Most Reverend Bernard J. Flanagan, D.D.
Office of the Bishop
49 Elm Street
Worcester, Massachusetts 01609

Dear Bishop Flanagan:

In my reply to your letter of February 11, 1971 regarding the possible acceptance of Father David A. Holley into the Diocese of Wilmington, I indicated that, in accordance with our established practice, the matter would be referred to our Diocesan Personnel Committee. Having given serious consideration to your proposal, the Committee has advised me as follows:

"Bishop Mardaga relayed the request of Bishop Flanagan of Worcester that the diocese accept a priest who has a particular problem and cannot continue to operate in his home area. The priest in question, Father David Holley, has been receiving therapy at Seton Institute, and is willing to condition with treatment. However, the doctor's prognosis was rather guarded and the Committee felt that our diocese should not consider the request until a more optimistic report could be obtained. Besides, the very reason preventing further ministry in a small diocese like Worcester would also be found in Wilmington."

I have personally talked with two members of the Personnel Committee and I am inclined to believe that the sentiments expressed represent the unanimous opinion of the Personnel Committee. Under the circumstances, I am sure that you can appreciate my reluctance to act contrary to the recommendation of this advisory group on whom I depend heavily for advice and assistance in all personnel matters concerning the clergy.

Despite the unfavorable decision in this particular case, I trust that you will realize that we are still sympathetic to requests regarding the placement of priests who have experienced difficulties in their own communities. This has been our policy and we are determined to continue it. Regrettably, Father Holley's case presented a greater problem than we could handle, at least with the present prognosis.

With warm personal regards and every good wish, I am, as always,

Cordially yours in Christ,

+ *Thomas J. Mardaga*
Most Reverend Thomas J. Mardaga, D.D.
Bishop of Wilmington

cc: Very Rev. Charles J. McGinley, Chairman, Personnel Committee