

**OFFICE FOR PRISON
MINISTRY**

Memo

To: Rev. Paul O'Brien
From: Deacon William F.X. Kane
Date: 05/07/99
Re: MCI-Concord

This is a follow up to our telephone conversation this morning regarding Father Thomas Forry and Catholic Chaplain coverage at MCI-Concord.

As you know, in a letter dated April 15, 1999 Fr. Forry submitted his resignation to the Department of Correction effective May 22, 1999.

On May 7, 1999 Mr. Ibrahim Rahim, DOC Program Services Department, called to inform me that on May 6, 1999 Fr. Forry presented a handwritten note to the Treatment Director at the prison advising that he was using his accumulated vacation and comp time and would not be returning to the facility after May 7th. Rahim was upset since Forry's behavior did not constitute the usual and customary courtesy of two weeks notice prior to leaving. Moreover, Forry's abrupt departure left no coverage at the prison for Catholic mass and other services.

I had to admit to Rahim that I was personally embarrassed by the situation since Fr. Forry neither sent a copy of his resignation letter to me nor did he inform me of his plans not to return to the prison after May 7th.

I called Fr. Forry at his residence on May 7, 1999 to verify the above. He offered no explanation as to why he did not notify me of his resignation or his early departure from the prison. He was resentful that I was making any inquiry of him in this matter and informed me that he did not owe me any explanation of the matter. He said that he was going to the prison today to cover the scheduled 6:00PM mass but would not be at the prison on Sunday for the scheduled 6:00PM mass. He also said he did not feel it was any hardship for the inmates if they had to go without mass or services next weekend.

He told me that the prison Superintendent had complimented him the other day on the job he had done at MCI-Concord and that he didn't care or need to know whether I was upset or concerned that he had embarrassed me or the Archdiocese. He said that the Superintendent's evaluation of his work was all that mattered to him.

For your information, Fr. James Lanergan, Catholic Chaplain at the Bridgewater Treatment Center and State Hospital has agreed to temporarily cover the two scheduled weekend masses at MCI-Concord until a replacement can be found for Fr. Fory.

I am again very disappointed with Fr. Fory's judgment and behavior. I have found myself in the position of having to apologize for him and the Archdiocese to the Department of Correction for his lack of courtesy and professionalism.