

ARCHDIOCESE OF SAINT PAUL AND MINNEAPOLIS

226 Summit Avenue

Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102-2197

Office of the Archbishop

October 22, 1996

Bruce Fahey
20939 Quadrant Ave N.
Scandia, Minnesota 55073

Dear Bruce,

First of all, let me thank you for coming to see me last May. I was delighted to have had an opportunity of visiting with you and Bishop Schwietz.

I ask your forgiveness for not responding to you sooner. However, May and June are filled with all kinds of end of the year meetings, and then to complicate things I was in Rome for a period of time, and then the Bishops had a spring meeting in Oregon. The summer months go by so quickly and I am just now catching up to some projects that had been delayed over the summer.

In response to the questions which you asked me in your letter of May 7, 1996, I would like to say that I grant you permission to live according to the First Rule of the Third Order of St. Francis of 1221 - that given to the Brothers and Sisters of Penance by St. Francis in his day.

I grant permission to gather in support of your efforts to live the gospel more perfectly. I find this invigorating in this day and age when the gospel is taken so lightly.

I grant permission to promote this penitential lifestyle of the original Rule beyond your own families and to build a support network within the Church and with my blessing.

I would ask that you keep in touch with Father Valerius Messerich and share any reflections that you have with him, and certainly bring to his attention any developments.

I would not mind meeting with you and Father Valerius on an annual basis so that you can keep me informed.

I send to you my blessings and good wishes and ask the Lord to be with you and with all the Brothers and Sisters of Penance.

With every good wish, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Most Reverend Harry J. Flynn, D.D.
Archbishop of Saint Paul and Minneapolis