

FORM TO BE COMPLETED CONCERNING AN APPLICATION FOR A
DISPENSATION FROM PERPETUAL VOWS OR FOR EXCLAURATION

1. Name of Province. Western American Province
2. Full names of applicant. Brother Edward Chrysostom Courtney
3. Date of birth. July 23, 1935
4. Date of perpetual profession. June, 1961
5. Previous requests, if any (with dates). NONE.
6. Replies of the Holy See (with dates). DNA
7. General appreciation of his character. Chris has always lived his religious life faithfully. He has always been inclined to take on more work than he could handle. This would lead to frustration and the satisfying of his tensions in an unacceptable manner.
8. His conduct as a religious.
9. Names of offices he may have held in the congregation. Reports from his Superiors and the Brothers with whom he lived in community have always been favorable. From Principals, it has been a different story. Bursar, School Treasurer, Head of Department, etc.
10. Manner in which he fulfilled the duties of such offices. Always faithful to his obligations in house or school.
11. If the application has been made in an open letter to the Provincial does the Provincial Council consider the reasons given to be
 - (a) substantial;
 - (b) in accordance with the facts.
12. Summary of the thinking of the Provincial Council on the case. The Provincial Council has been aware of Chris' problem with homosexuality for years. He had trouble in Brother Rice, Chicago, back in the sixties - then more trouble at Br. Rice, Birmingham.
13. The numerical vote of the Provincial Council (e.g. 5:0, 2:1, etc.) on the granting of the request. Leo, St. Laurence, and now O'Dea.
(over)

5 - 0 in favor of granting the request.

Signed,



J. F. McGowan, Provincial

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Chris has had a problem with homosexuality for a number of years. It seems to have surfaced more than ever within the past five years or so. He was sent to a psychiatrist for help, and seemed to benefit by his visits. Any time the parents of an abused boy would appear in the office of the Principal, then some new type of action would have to take place. The psychiatrist told us that Chris was very fond of the monks and that he considered the Congregation to be a real mother to him. I was told that it would be very unwise to try to counsel him out of the Congregation.

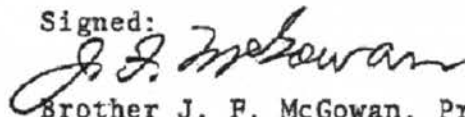
Chris was accepted at O'Dea after an incident at St. Laurence with a freshman boy led to his being withdrawn from the school for the remainder of the year. He had no teaching responsibilities at O'Dea the first year. He was told to get a spiritual adviser and to seek help from a psychiatrist in the area. He was slow in doing both and did have a problem with a couple of boys the first year. Further conditions were imposed. His second year at O'Dea he took on a couple of classes. Nothing serious enough to warrant alarm on the part of the Principal transpired.

In 1976, after two years at O'Dea, there was another incident and Chris was sent to Southdown for treatment. I am enclosing a copy of the report from the director of Southdown given at the time of Chris' dismissal.

This past spring of 1978 there was another confrontation of parents with Principal telling of three incidents during the year when their son had been abused. We were pretty well at the end of our options at this point. Chris was told to report to Cody Hall as a resident for the coming year. He found this to be too embarrassing a change for him - since we have boys in formation from O'Dea - so he recommended residing in Chaminade, Toronto, and receiving help from his friend, Mark Eveson, the former director of Southdown. This was arranged, through the good graces of Raphael Bellows and Cyril Bates but, then, in late August Chris changed his mind again and said that he would really like to have a year off to determine for once and for all if he should remain with the Brothers or seek his future elsewhere.

I told Chris to put his request in writing and that I would expedite it for him. I pray that the Holy Spirit will convince him to seek a dispensation at the end of the year. Being with the Brothers has been a real cross for him because of the contacts with young boys that our vocation provides. I do not believe he should be teaching at all and that he would be much better off physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually anywhere except in a teaching Congregation.

Signed:



Brother J. F. McGowan, Provincial

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