

C  
O  
P

Y of letter to His Eminence, Joseph Cardinal Ritter - January 2, 1967

Your Eminence:

I have thought long and hard about the issues raised in our conversation early in December. I believe deeply in the work we are doing at Webster College and see my role in it as a personal fulfillment of my Christian commitment. In the last few years I have been aware of the tensions about nuns being involved so fully in the public sector. In some real sense, I share your conviction that nuns, in the commonly accepted image at least, have no business in my kind of role. Perhaps in the future, a new form of religious commitment under lay auspices will provide the framework for dedicated women in such roles. However, I am convinced with you that the juridical form of present religious orders is not a viable mode for fulfilling my commitment in the public sector.

Therefore, in honesty to my own conscience, I am requesting from Sister Luke a dispensation from my juridical vows so that I may dedicate myself to the people of God in the way for which I now seem best suited.

I have every hope that I will be able to continue as president of Webster College and to help establish here a secular institution in which the power of Christian presence is a real and productive force.

If this is not possible, I will accept a position in government or in higher education at another institution. I know that I will have your pastoral blessing in either case and that you will wish me well in my attempt to lead an intense Christian life in the modern world.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed)

Sister Jacqueline Grennan, S.L.