

TO: BISHOP DAILY
FROM: FR. RYAN
RE: FR. PAUL SHANLEY AND THE DIOCESE OF BUFFALO

December 1, 1977

RECEIVED
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THE CHANCELLOR

*Reported
to Cardinal
12/1/77
Bill*

AS you are aware from the "mail room hearing", we had a telephone call this morning about 9:15 a.m. from Monsignor Donald Trautman, Chancellor of Buffalo. He asked to speak with the Chancellor or one of the Vice-Chancellors (sic!).

He asked me about Fr. Paul Shanley -- does he have faculties of the Archdiocese; is he in good-standing; what is his relationship to the Archdiocese of Boston?

I told him Fr. Shanley is a priest of the Archdiocese, has faculties, and that was about all the information I would have regarding him personally.

Msgr. Trautman indicated that Fr. Shanley gave a lecture last evening in Buffalo as part of the "Continuing Education Series" in the Diocese and they have received a large number of telephone calls and upset complaints, etc. In the talk last evening Fr. Shanley presented the thesis: "Homosexuality is not a persuasion of choice, but one with which a person is born", etc....

The Chancellor went on to say that Fr. Shanley is scheduled to present a talk today to the Priests and Seminarians of the Diocese, and thus before that talk, Msgr. Trautman wanted some "official word on him".

I asked Mons. Trautman how Father Shanley was invited to speak in Buffalo, etc. He said through the CCD office "Continuing Ed. Series". Monsignor said that Fr. Shanley seemed most clever in his presentation, in that he presented only the "liberal side" of the moral question and quoted "Catholic theologians" of the liberal persuasion on this issue. Fr. Shanley didn't seem to indicate "other views".

When asked by a member of the mixed audience last evening in the Question/Answer period: "Fr. Shanley, what are your views?" Fr. Shanley answered that he was not allowed by His Archbishop to state his personal opinions....

I tried to explain to Msgr. Trautman that Fr. Shanley has given talks in this Archdiocese but has always been "without heresey" as far as I am aware. I told him that whatever Fr. Shanley states is his sole responsibility and that the Monsignor could do whatever he felt best about the problem. For example: he is welcome to formally write to Bishop Daily as Chancellor; to the Archbishop of Boston; etc. I suggested that we would need some definite data, and perhaps if someone had a tape of last night's talk (or today) then if problems are therein, sending it to us would give us the chance to formally look into it. The Monsignor was appreciative and that was it.

He said in conclusion that they would probably not cancel his talk scheduled with the priests, etc. but would have someone state the "other side" if need be....

Help!!!



cc Fr. Shea
Fr. Little