

Reverend Paul R. Shanley

On Tuesday, September 19, 1995 I met with Father Shanley at Leo House in New York City. I had requested this appointment to discuss Father Shanley's future, in light of changing circumstances at Leo House. Monsignor Edward D. O'Donnell, Vice Chancellor for Priests' Personnel of the Archdiocese of New York, had planned to be with us but was detained.

Father Shanley is currently assistant to the Director at Leo House. The Director has announced his intention to resign and there is a possibility that Father Shanley will be asked to accept the position. Leo House is a small non-profit hotel which does a lot of charity work, located on West 23 Street between Seventh and Eighth Avenues. It was founded as a safe and quiet place for pilgrims and travelers to stay at a reasonable rate. It has a Chapel, daily Mass and a resident priest. Its clientele is varied and international, mainly Catholic lay people, with a number of priests and a few bishops. Father Shanley provided me with a summary of recent visitors, which I include in the record.

Father Shanley greeted me warmly and gave me a tour of the Hotel. It is a clean and quiet place with an old-world atmosphere. It needs an update in some areas, which is being put off until some legal problems with tenants are resolved. A number of sisters live on the top floor, provide breakfast to the guests and work throughout the Hotel in various positions. There are approximately 33 employees, most of whom are members of minority groups. The Hotel was busy while I was there, with guests coming and going, and preparations for a Board of Directors meeting. There was no evidence of children present while I was there.

After our tour it became apparent that Monsignor O'Donnell was going to be delayed to the point where the three of us would not be able to meet together. Father Shanley and I discussed the situation at Leo House. At this point Father Shanley is running Leo House on a day-to-day basis. He is functioning as a layman. The current director, Mr. Frank Pilecki, who was present on Tuesday in preparation for the Board meeting, has some medical problems which led him to seek Father Shanley's help.

Father Shanley realizes that it is not acceptable to Cardinal Law or Cardinal O'Connor that he be the Director of Leo House. The current situation will be manageable until December 31, when it is expected that Mr. Pilecki will resign formally. At that time the Board will have to search for a new Director. There is neither the need nor the funds for a Director and an assistant director. Father Shanley recognizes that he will have to move on at that time.

We discussed his options. Father Shanley acknowledges that he will survive. He recognizes that he could not live in New York on the salary the Archdiocese provides. He has a plan to live in another country with a post office box in the States, which would secure anonymity for him. Given his resourcefulness and independence, I think this is probably a good plan for him.

Father Shanley had to leave me to go to the Board of Directors Meeting. Monsignor O'Donnell arrived shortly afterwards. We discussed the situation briefly over dinner and agreed that Leo House is a good place for Father Shanley at the moment, that his being Director would not be acceptable, and that he would move on in December.

RCAB 00550

October 5 1995

On September 25, 1995, Father Shanley responded to this initial summary and asked that some of the information contained herein be corrected. I have made those corrections in the summary.

Father Shanley has contacted a social worker who has agreed to serve as a monitor for him. The social worker holds an important position in the New York Hospital system. He and Father Shanley will meet soon. I asked Father Shanley to send me a letter verifying that they were engaged in this process, and the particulars of what the monitoring process will entail.

Father Shanley said that Mr. Pilecki has decided not to resign. He will continue as Director of Leo House while on a medical leave of absence. Father Shanley will continue as assistant. Mr. Pilecki will be on site two or three days a week, and constantly available for consultation. He will continue to be the point person in dealing with the legal action concerning the seven residents in the other Leo House building.

RCAB 00551

October 5, 1995