

## THE LEO HOUSE

332 WEST 23RD STREET, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10011-2289

DECEMBER 14, 1995.

Dear Cardinal Law,

Never in a hundred years did I ever expect to write to you. We do not know each other, but I urgently need your input.

We, THE SISTERS OF ST. AGNES, from FOND DU LAC, WISCONSIN, missioned at THE LEO HOUSE, NEW YORK CITY, have managed this place for one hundred years. Initially in 1889, we cared for and sheltered immigrants, mainly German immigrants. In the 1920's, as immigration was lessening, our mission here evolved into caring for and welcoming travellers in general. The mission was good and then, at our Centennial, we gave the management to a layman, DR. FRANCIS J. PILECKI. We, Sisters appreciated working with him and our shared ministry continues to be good.

A year ago, MR. PILECKI, commonly known as FRANK, was hospitalized and his health continually worsened. While FRANK was still ill, FR. PAUL SHANLEY, a friend of his, arrived to visit him.

FATHER PAUL SHANLEY, terminating his work in California, considered helping FRANK, at least until his health had improved. Over the months, FRANK'S medics advised him to live elsewhere other than NEW YORK CITY. PAUL SHANLEY offered to undertake the management of THE LEO HOUSE.

Gradually he has been easing in, and we, Sisters, as well as the lay staff are adapting and accepting PAUL very well. His leadership is wonderful. To say the least, the adjustment, so far has been smooth, for which we are very grateful.

Last evening, December 13, I received a phone call from the BOSTON AREA, presumably from a priest. I am somewhat disturbed, because after throwing out some wild accusations, he openly said that FR. PAUL SHANLEY WAS A CHILD MOLESTER and we had better be aware! I didn't think that this person had any justification to state all that he did, but he ended up saying he would have to make it known to THE NEW YORK TIMES!.

Here I am with this time-bomb. I have shared this information with one other Sister. Would you be so kind as to clarify FR. PAUL'S INTEGRITY AND REPUTATION AND CHARACTER. It will be difficult to realize that he would have such a sad condition as imputed above. Please send your truthful assessment at your earliest convenience.

BLESSED CHRISTMAS AND ALL THAT IS GOOD FOR 1996.

Sincerely yours

*S. Anne Karlin, CSA*

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