

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM

TO: File
FROM: Rev. Brian M. Flattery *BMF*
DATE: January 25, 1996
RE: Rev. Paul R. Shanley

GT Redaction
This memo is an attempt to document a number of intersecting conversations over a twenty-four hour period. Monsignor Edward O'Donnell and Reverend Paul Shanley both called me on Wednesday, January 24, 1996. Sister Anne Karlin, CSA had written to Cardinal Law on December 14, 1995 expressing concern about Father Shanley's situation. She had received a call from someone whom she presumed was a priest from Boston. It is generally agreed among us that the caller was [REDACTED]. In light of Sister's letter I asked Msgr. O'Donnell to talk to her, which he did. He also has talked with Father Shanley, a meeting which was postponed a number of times due to weather and illnesses.

I told Father Shanley that although Msgr. O'Donnell and I are still of the opinion that Leo House is a good placement for him, there are some concerns, notably about the nature Father Shanley's relationship with a young man who is his roommate, and fears that an openly homosexual employee might give the impression that Leo House might become known as a gay hotel. Father Shanley emphatically denied that he is involved in a sexual relationship with the first young man, and does not see the presence of one openly gay employee as a danger to the perceived orientation of Leo House. Monsignor O'Donnell also mentioned that a member of the Board of Leo House has recently been appointed as one of Cardinal O'Connor's close aides.

GT Redaction
Father Shanley asked if I would be willing to speak with Sister Anne to allay her fears. He suggested that I might point out to her that [REDACTED] is referring to an incident that is alleged to have taken place 30 years ago; that [REDACTED] is emotionally disturbed; that he is stalking Father Shanley, and that I am comfortable with Father Shanley's placement at Leo House. Father Shanley pointed out that he has two Cardinals, two Chancery officials, two observant nuns, the director of the Hotel and a social worker watching him. He wonders how he could be more closely supervised.

GT Redaction
[REDACTED] called on Wednesday evening. He is very much aware of the situation at Leo House. He knows that Father Shanley is contemplating moving in; he knows that there is discussion of making him Director. He cannot understand why we would allow this to happen. He is concerned that Father Shanley would be directing such a facility and that he would not be supervised. Without going into detail I told him that some of his information was incorrect.

RCAB 00570

I called Sister Anne. She returned my call and we connected on Thursday, January 25, 1996. I told her that I was willing to answer any questions that she might have, and told her of my opinion that Leo House is a good placement for Father Shanley. She said that she agreed that it seems to be, but that she needed to pass her concerns along after the call in December. She does have some reservations about Father Shanley's moving into the Hotel after that call. I told her that I felt that those are internal questions to be resolved there. I asked if she were comfortable having Father Shanley discuss these matters with her and Sister Bertha. She said she would welcome it. I believe that she said that hearing from me was enough to make her feel comfortable.

GT Redaction
I told Father Shanley of my conversation with Sister Anne. He wondered if he should talk with [redacted] directly. I told him that we are trying to negotiate a settlement with [redacted]. I emphasized that he should not get too hopeful at this news, for we know that [redacted] can be extremely erratic. I suggested that Father Shanley discuss this matter with Sister Rita McCarthy, and transferred the call to her. Sister relayed to me the information that she discouraged Father Shanley from contacting [redacted] directly unless and until we have reached a settlement. His contact could upset things at this point.

In the course of conversation I pointed out to Father Shanley that Cardinals O'Connor and Law have both expressed discomfort with the idea of Father Shanley being appointed Director of the Hotel. Father Shanley said that it was his understanding that Cardinal O'Connor's objection was based on the presence of the squatters in a section of the building. Father Shanley has been informed that the squatter's situation is near resolution, and he assumes that Cardinal O'Connor's objections would be resolved by that resolution. I pointed out that this is not a valid assumption. Any movement toward making Father Shanley Director of the Hotel would be a new situation and would require approval from the Cardinals, both of whom have expressed reservations about such an appointment.

On Wednesday Father Shanley apprised the Chairman of the Board of Directors of his situation. Father Shanley will talk with the sisters as well.

On Thursday I called Monsignor O'Donnell to bring him up to date on all of this. He mentioned that I had not responded to Father Shanley's inquiry on the possibility of living at Regina Cleri. I called Father Shanley and left a message apologizing for not addressing that question, telling him that there is a hold on new admissions at Regina Cleri during construction, and suggesting that he might want to be in conversation with Msgr. Jim Tierney about the possibility of getting on a waiting list for the time when Regina Cleri begins admitting residents again.

GT Redaction
January 26, 1996 Father Shanley called to report that he had a good and open discussion with the sisters. A man identifying himself as Father Peter Jefferson called Msgr. O'Donnell to ask questions about Father Shanley. It is felt that it was [redacted]. Stephen called here the same day asking about the progress of a settlement. The Cardinal will grant Father Shanley senior priest status. The Cardinal will make an appointment to see him.

RCAB 00571