

In re: Magaldi, Philip

Date: December 15, 2000

CONFIDENTIAL MEMORANDUM

To: Files
From: Bishop Delaney +h
Date: December 15, 2000
Subject: Father Philip Magaldi

I met with PM yesterday afternoon. RWW was present. The purpose of the meeting had originally been to discuss granting him limited faculties. Because of an article in the FW S-T last Friday, however, a great deal of publicity was being generated about whether he was to be allowed to function again or not.

When he arrived he told us about another article in the Dallas MN yesterday. I called this up on the net and read it in his presence. He thought the article (by Brooks Egerton) vindicated him, whereas I read it as a subtle attack on the Church and a challenge to the Diocese, asking whether we were going to grant faculties to such a person as this---listing the whole sorry history of PM's life, including his indictment for perjury, his indictment and conviction for grand larceny (with the allegation that he has used some of the money stolen to pay for vacations for himself and teenagers to the Caribbean), his time in prison, and a full airing of the charges against him made by [redacted] with details. PM had given Egerton the address of the private investigator in Massachusetts, and there were quotes from him attempting to exonerate PM, but the overall effect of the article was to imply that this was a man who could not be trusted.

Last night on the evening news on Channel 5 there was a segment showing several folks from [redacted] parish supporting PM and hoping that he would be reinstated.

At our meeting I explained to PM (I regret, with some heat) that under the circumstances my granting him even limited faculties would imply that all the innuendos and allegations meant nothing to me and that I endorsed him as a competent minister, and that I could not do that. He was very upset and hurt, and spoke about celebrating his (any my) 40th anniversary next week without being in active ministry.

We left it that I would talk to him again in three months, but that any publicity of any kind would only make it more difficult for him ever to receive faculties again. Both I and RWW urged him not to talk to the press, but simply to say that he had nothing to say. It is clear that the media are simply looking for a sensational story. It is particularly important to note that Brooks Egerton is out to air whatever scandal he can invent.

After PM left, I met with the DD's and Jeff Hensley and Mary Martin to talk about public relations. It was agreed that Jeff would be the only one to talk with the press and his message would be that we don't comment on personnel issues---period!

10-04-04 Order
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