

Monsignor Peter Garcia

D.O.B.: 02/12/40

Referred by: REDACTED REDACTED

Referral Question: Psychological Evaluation & Testing

Sources of Evaluation: Interview, Personal History Sheet, Shipley Scale, Myers-Briggs Type Indicator, Edwards Personal Preference Schedule, MMPI, & Self-Directed Search

Place of Evaluation: Servants of the Paraclete, Foundation House, Jemez Springs, New Mexico 87025

Date of Evaluation: 11/27/84

Peter is a 44-year-old man who is a Roman Catholic priest with the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. He is referred to Foundation House for evaluation at the request of his Archbishop because he has been reported to have had sexual involvement with three boys in a family with whom he was involved in a helping relationship. Peter is open about the reality of what happened and feels extremely badly about it. He also admits that this was not the first time that this has happened, such behavior having occurred on and off since his ordination in 1966. Once before in 1980 he was reported and at that time he sought psychiatric help but was discharged after only about six months.

He has been extremely successful in his priestly work and has had an excellent response from the people with whom he has worked. In general he feels that his life has been happy and fulfilled but he has not really had much in the way of intimacy or succorance from others and talks about himself as being an extremely private person. He has difficulty sharing his feelings with others and feels uncomfortable in this area. In addition to the other problems he lost this very close friend less than a year ago to a sudden death. He says other people know only one side of him and nothing more and that he really has no confidence. He is experiencing extreme distress, anxiety, and remorse at the present time and is highly confused about himself, his feelings, and what he really thinks of himself. He tends to put himself down because of his problem and fears that he is possibly just a "evil person." He is also quite fearful that his family will find out and that he will have let everyone down.

Peter is highly motivated to seek help at this time and genuinely wants to gain self-knowledge and self-acceptance. He hopes to be able to get help to find out what his true feelings are and to learn to express them. Despite his difficulty sharing himself he was quite open and candid in our interview and seemed genuinely to be trying to share himself.

Results of Testing:

The Shipley Scale indicates that Peter is functioning in the normal range of intelligence as measured by a combined abstract reasoning and vocabulary score. His scores on these two areas do not really differ significantly. Although there is some mild suggestion that he may be having difficulty in concentrating and thus having difficulty in thinking problems through with a clear head, this might well be expected in his present situation. It certainly does not indicate any major difficulty with intellectual functioning.

The Myers-Briggs type indicator describes Peter as introverted, sensing, feeling, judging type. This would mean that he would tend to use his favorite process, sensing, in his inner life and so would tend to base his ideas on a deep, solid accumulation of stored impressions. His ideas and judgments would tend to be rather unshakable as well being private. He would tend to have a

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complete and practical respect both for the facts and for whatever responsibilities these facts created, and he would always try to carry out his responsibilities diligently. He would tend to be able to remember and use any number of facts but would want them all to be accurate. It would be important for him that everything be kept factual, clearly stated, and not too complex.

One would have to know him well before he would discover that, behind his outer calm, he would tend to be seeing facts from an intensely individual angle. The way that things would strike him would often be quite unpredictable. He would tend to be thorough, painstaking, systematic, hard-working, and patient with detail and routine. He would be dependable and would tend to stabilize the things with which he was connected. He would also not tend to do things impulsively but, once into a project, he would be difficult to distract, discourage, or stop. When impulsivity or spontaneity did break through it might tend to do so surprisingly and in possibly harmful ways, particularly if feelings have been repressed. It would tend to be difficult for him to stay in contact with his own needs and feelings. And it would be difficult for him to see the sense in needs or feelings that differed widely from his own prescribed judgment of the way things were.

The weakness of this particular personality type would be a tendency to retreat into silent preoccupation with inner reactions to sense impressions as well as a tendency to get out of touch with immediate needs and feelings. He would, however, be very much in contact with the needs and feelings of others and would tend to stress loyalty, consideration, and common welfare and would also tend to be sympathetic, tactful, kind, and genuinely concerned with others.

Peter's results on the Edwards Personal Preference Schedule do indeed suggest that he may be somewhat out of touch with his own underlying needs and drives, because he is moderately inconsistent in reporting these needs (Consistency = 29th percentile). Furthermore his very highest need at the present time is a need to gain succorance from others (95th percentile). That is, he feels a very strong need to have others help him, understand him, give him sympathy, care, affection, affirmation, and love. He has a similarly high need to provide this for others (93rd percentile). Both of these needs together suggest that he has a very high need for intimacy which is probably not being met in his present life.

Consistent with the Myers-Briggs results, Peter also shows a high need for order (94th percentile), indicating that he needs to have things ordered, understood, organized, and clearly spelled out, and that he would be uncomfortable with open-ended situations, inconsistencies, or disorganization. He does have a moderately high need for dominance (80th percentile), indicating that he feels comfortable in leadership positions and in positions where he is the one in charge and the organizer. He has a simultaneously moderately low need to defer to the leadership of others (12th percentile). This is consonant with his leadership position in terms of his ministry but taken together it may also increase his tendency not to get his needs for intimacy and succorance met.

The MMPI validity scales indicate that Peter answered the questions in a reasonably open and honest manner, and that the resulting profile can be taken as valid. No major psychopathology is suggested.

There are indications of a good deal of turmoil and unresolved problems. A high degree of social isolation and withdrawal is indicated with a tendency to feel somewhat suspicious of others and to avoid deep emotional involvement. He would tend to be passive in relationships and to have very high needs for caring and sympathy but to not be able to get these needs met. He would have tended to have repressed any feelings of anger, resentment, or regression and would have a great deal of difficulty expressing these directly or in any way that would be functional. Any regression would tend to come out in a passive manner. In general, he would tend to be over-controlled most of the time with a tendency to have emotions and feelings break through in brief episodes of acting out followed by remorse and guilt. He would not, however, tend to be successful in inhibiting these in the future without a greater knowledge of himself and the needs that he is trying to repress.

He would, in general, when not under external pressure, tend not to feel terribly anxious or to experience psychological conflict directly. He would tend to overuse denial and repression as defenses against psychological discomfort and could occasionally become somewhat depressed and withdrawn.

The Self-Directed Search indicates that Peter's highest areas of perceived interest and competence are in the enterprising and the conventional spheres in terms of vocational pursuits with backup areas of interest in several other spheres including realistic, investigative, and social. This is a relatively unusual combination for someone in the area of direct ministry because the social interests are relatively low in comparison to other areas, and artistic interests are very low. This particular pattern of scores would suggest that Peter would be particularly interested in leadership and administrative aspects of his ministry, that he would be exceptionally good at conducting and supervising programs, that he would be patient with detail and routine, and that he would be able to deal with the ongoing problems in these areas with ease.

Summary and Recommendations:

Peter is at a crisis point in his life in that he is being confronted with the reality of his behavior. This has been a burden for him throughout the years, but he has been unable to really talk to anyone about it and has been unable to find any adequate ways of dealing with it himself other than trying to assert willpower. Other areas of his life which cause some problem for him and are undoubtedly unrelated to this are a tendency to be extremely private and have difficulty forming intense or intimate relationships with others.

He has, in general, been happy with his ministry and priesthood but is at a point in his life where he feels that something is wrong and is highly motivated to try to deal with both his acting out and his difficulty being open and relating to others in an interpersonal situation. I highly recommend that Peter attend the upcoming program at Foundation House.

Psychological Evaluation/Msgr. Peter Garcia

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Thank you for the opportunity of helping to evaluate Msgr. Garcia.

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Ph.D.

Psychologist

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