

Clark

MEMO

Archbishop

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Phone Conversation
Mr. John Ford
November 8, 1988

I spoke to Mr. Ford about the possible future ministry of Father Dan Clark. Father Clark has received ninety days at the Community Treatment Center on Chestnut Street. He will be on a work release program at the Community Treatment Center in a few days. This means he would return to the Treatment Center only in the evenings. Father Clark is free to serve as a priest but is not to have any contact with juveniles in the next fifteen years while he is on probation.

Mr. Ford said that he will talk to Judge Ken Corey about what is possible for Father Clark in the way of ministries that would be acceptable to the court. However, Judge Corey is out of town for a couple of weeks.

Mr. Ford said that, in his opinion, it would be acceptable for Father Clark to be assigned as a weekend substitute on an emergency basis as long as he has no contact with children. During his probationary period he is not free to leave the State without contacting the probation officer and the court. Judge Corey also recommended that Father Clark continue ministry in the area of working with self-help groups such as the one he has been working at Highland Baptist Hospital.

Mr. Ford also reported that a Courier Journal reporter has requested an interview with Father Clark concerning a story he is doing on pedophilia. Father Clark said that he would be glad to talk to the reporter. Mr. Ford questions the prudence of this. I responded that Archbishop Kelly is out of town until Friday but that Mr. Ford should tell Mr. Flemming (Dan Clark's attorney) that he ought not talk to the reporter. If Dan is to continue in any ministry at all in the Archdiocese of Louisville, additional publicity would not be in the best interests of either him or the archdiocese. I further told Mr. Ford that I would put a call into Father Clark asking him not to be interviewed by the reporter.

WLF
Reverend William L. Fichteman
Director
Office of Clergy Personnel

P.S. I spoke to Dan Clark today who told me that the proposed interview with the Courier Journal reporter was to be reported anonymously. This interview was supposedly a concession that Judge Corey made to keep the media from berating him for leniency in Dan's case. Dan does not want the interview, will not seek it, but may have to grant it as part of the deal. (Strange doings, I'd say). Flemming will be involved if the interview takes place.

WLF
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