

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY FOR CLERGY

FROM THE DESK OF:

Reverend William J. Lynn

TO: FILE
DATE: April 2, 1998
ITEM: Meeting with Reverend Edward Avery (1970)
Chaplain, Nazareth Hospital
RE: Request for Chaplaincy at Veteran's Hospital

Father Avery met with me today in my office at my request. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss his request contained in his January 8, 1998, letter to Cardinal Bevilacqua for a chaplaincy at Veteran's Hospital.

I explained to Father Avery that Cardinal Bevilacqua would not be able to recommend him to the position he requested because it is a position sponsored by the Archdiocese for Military Services. I explained that another diocese, as do we, always requests the completion of a form which states the priest has not had allegations against him. Since Father Avery had allegations against him in the past, the form could not be completed. I told Father Avery that since he had successfully completed treatment and therapy, he could be transferred to other chaplain positions within the Archdiocese.

He seemed to understand. He stated he was happy to have been invited to the Cardinal's residence for lunch with the other priests several weeks ago because he had thought the Archdiocese wanted nothing to do with him. He said when he received his assignment after leaving Saint John Vianney Hospital, Father Beisel, then Assistant Director in the Office for Clergy, told him the Archdiocese and the Cardinal "want nothing to do with you." I told Father Avery I was sure this was a misunderstanding. Father Avery thanked me for meeting with him and expressed a desire to be chaplain elsewhere whenever the opportunity presents itself.

I am concerned for Father Avery. He still seems to minimize his experience at Downingtown and the allegations against him. He did make it a point to say that he stays clear of all youth-related activities and gatherings.

WJL/rdr

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