

Report of Rev. Paul Shanley's talk.  
to Dignity - Integrity 9-23-77  
St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Rochester, N.Y.

Oct. 4, 1977

Dear Jean,

In regard to Fr. Paul Shanley, the following are some of his statements per your request.

Homosexual acts are not sinful, sick, a crime, nor are they immoral.

What has been done to gays by the straight community calls out for vengoance from heaven. Gay persons aren't angry enough, they should become more angry at society.

He has been following Lewis Crew, who is an advocate for gay teachers and gay curriculum in schools, and he (Fr. Shanley) agrees with Crew, that gay children should have gay teachers and gay curriculum.

Most first homosexual encounters are with straights. It is straights who seduce youngsters.

Further, "straight people cannot tell the truth about sex".

Straights spend time worrying about the bedsores of gays in regard to their sexual activity. (This brought a big laugh).

He doesn't advocate as some clergy do that gays form gay unions (2 forming a pr.), because in his experience counseling those in gay unions, he finds that gay unions invariably fall apart. (He laughed) and said just as heterosexual unions are falling apart, but in gay unions no children are involved.

He stated celibacy is impossible, therefore, the only alternative is for gays to have sex with different persons whenever they want to.

He spoke of pedophilia (which is a non coerced sexual manipulation of sex organs including oral-genital sex between an adult and child). He stated that the adult is not the seducer-- the "kid" is the seducer and further the kid is not traumatized by the act per se, the kid is traumatized when the police and authorities "drag" the kid in for questioning.

He stated that he can think of no sexual act that causes psychic damage--"not even incest or bestiality".

He stated that clergy donot work with gays because they are fearful of losing their reputation--that they may be thought to be gay. He said this is an indictment of the clergy. He said it would be a good idea if people thought the clergy was gay because

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it would have a radicalizing effect. Fr. Shanley described himself as an ultra liberal.

To top off his speech he said, "Homosexuality is a gift from God and should be celebrated".

I have a clipping which states that Fr. Paul Shanley, of the Archdiocese of Boston represents "sexual minorities" on the Young Adult Ministry Board of USCC. Also a Fr. Patrick O'Neill OSA is the USCC's representative for young adult ministry.

Fr. Shanley said he was appointed to his position by a Cardinal Maderis (my spelling of the cardinal's name may be incorrect).

Fr. Shanley also stated that he had spoken to several clergy the afternoon of the evening meeting of Dignity/Integrity Sept. 23, 1977, St. Luke's Episcopal Church. 8.P.M. Fr. Shanley was wearing full Roman garb.

Sorry I didn't get this off to you sooner, but have been very busy. Hope it helps.

Spiritually,

*Thomas Steves*