

August 27, 1976

Sister Anna Polcino, S.C.M.M., M.D.
House of Affirmation
Whittinsville, MA 01588

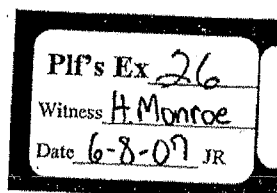
Dear Sister Anna:

Last winter, I attended the seminar you conducted at Providence. It was a wonderful experience for me and I was impressed with the wonderful things you are doing for sick priests and religious. I hope you may be able to help a young priest we have in this Archdiocese.

The priest involved is twenty-eight years old and has been ordained only two years. At the time of his ordination, we had only begun to do psychological testing. The deacons that year, because they were far along and were a bit bitter about being forced to take the testing were given an option of taking the psychological evaluation or not. The priest in question elected not to be tested. The evaluations from the seminaries he attended did not indicate any problem.

Since ordination it has become more evident that there is a problem. After his first year in priesthood he was transferred because he and the pastor were not getting along very well and we transferred him for the good of both of them. He was rather bitter over this even though he disliked the pastor but because he liked the people of the parish. Actually, some very solid persons wrote letters very complimentary of him. He was transferred to live in a very pleasant rectory with a pleasant priest and asked to teach religion in a Catholic high school. He agreed to this, but to the school, so he was relieved of this part of the assignment. On the occasions of speaking with him, he told me that he was very happy in the parish work that he then began to do living in the same rectory.

Now the problem is that the pastor feels that for his good and for the good of the parish he must be moved. The pastor has received complaints from some parents about the young priest's association and activities with young boys. Looking back, one can see that even during his deacon internship he spent most of his time with sixth grade boys. In his first assign-



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ment it was the same. Now it has become even more noticeable. His Liturgy is good and he receives compliments on his homilies. He is interested only in boys about sixth grade level. Adults feel that he is uncomfortable with them. He was assigned to be in charge of the C.Y.O. but only attended meetings two or three times during the year. His days off are always spent taking sixth grade boys on camping trips. Some of these boys are from the parish where he is currently assigned and some are from the two previous parishes in which he was assigned. On one occasion a mother complained to the pastor that on one of these trips, they took her son's pants off and smeared peanut butter on his buttocks. The elementary school children are beginning to call him "queer". At present, he is on vacation and will return the weekend before Labor Day.

What can be done for him? It seems that he is desperately in need of help. He comes from a bad family background. He has risen above his family and I fear what the confrontation over the matter will do to him. He became angry when his mild-mannered pastor at the Archbishop's suggestion spoke to him about the complaints.

Would the House of Affirmation be able to help him? Would you be able to take him if he is willing to come to you? If not, what suggestions would you have for us? Please feel free to call me collect if you wish to report by telephone. I will be in the office on Monday, August 30th in the afternoon, and on Friday, September 3rd, all day. My number is (317) 635-2579.

It will be necessary to ask him to leave the present parish almost immediately. The young pastor is very uneasy about his remaining in the parish after school begins. The pastor also feels that he needs professional help immediately.

Thanking you for the good work you are doing with needy priests and religious, and hoping that you can help this unfortunate young priest, I am

Sincerely yours,

(Rev. Msgr.) Joseph D. Brokhage
Personnel Director for Priests

JDB: mh