

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Bishop Bevilacqua  
FROM: Father Dattilo *nCD*  
DATE: September 11, 1985  
RE: Bishop Guilfoyle's Request

Bishop Guilfoyle's letter requesting temporary or permanent assignment in the Diocese of Pittsburgh for Fr. John Connor does not indicate the nature of Fr. Connor's problem. We need more information.

I have several concerns and questions about the request.

1) We have no priests assigned to teach high school. Our men in school work are either chaplains or headmasters who may teach an occasional class. Faculties are already set for this school year. We have at least 3 priests who have asked to teach. Bishop Guilfoyle indicates Fr. Connor has taught high school for many years. Does Fr. Connor have any parish experience? Could a parish assignment cause Fr. Connor stress and help him revert to his problem?

2) If the problem is alcohol, there must have been scandal to necessitate an assignment outside the diocese. What happened?

3) Can we trust the evaluation of Southdown i.e. no basic or lasting problem? I seem to remember you telling Fr. Bober and me that you have reservations about Southdown.

4) If the problem is homosexuality or pedophilia we could be accepting a difficulty with which we have had no post-therapeutic experience. We are only now working on a follow-up program.

5) Why was Pittsburgh recommended when there are so many dioceses in dire need of priests? Could it be because the director of Southdown is Fr. Canice Connors, O.F.M. who was stationed in Pittsburgh for several years in the 1970's.

If, after you have talked with Bishop Guilfoyle you believe there is no serious risk in accepting Fr. Connor, we will do everything we can to keep the tradition of bishops helping bishops intact.

*I cannot guarantee that there is no serious risk.*  
*AJB*  
*9/17/85*

A 1985 memo to Bishop Bevilacqua (then Bishop of Pittsburgh) concerning Fr. John Connor's proposed transfer to the diocese. The Camden, N.J., priest had been arrested for sexually abusing a 14-year-old boy. Bishop Bevilacqua's handwritten notation reads: "I cannot guarantee there is no serious risk. AJB 9/17/85." GJ-988