



Office of the Archbishop  
222 N. 17th Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

Memorandum

From: Archbishop Bevilacqua *AB*  
To: The File of Father Edward M. DePaoli  
Date: May 4, 1988  
Re: Interview with Father DePaoli

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Today Father DePaoli came in to see me at my request. The purpose of the interview was to discuss with him return to the active ministry. He is presently living with his parents.

In view of the publicity that ensued upon the incident involving Father DePaoli, I told Father DePaoli that for the present time it might be more advisable for him to return to the active ministry in another diocese. I told him that by going to another diocese we could put a sufficient period between the publicity and reinstatement in the active ministry of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. I told him that three dioceses that we were considering to contact were Harrisburg, Scranton and Metuchen.

Father DePaoli spoke very frankly that he felt sad but was most willing to accept this approach. During the many months of his inactivity, working in another diocese always was part of the options that he reflected on. Father DePaoli impressed me with his deep spirituality. He told me that since the very painful episode in his life, he has learned to be more sensitive to the pains and weaknesses of others, especially of his brother priests. He feels that he has grown in appreciation of his priesthood and of the need for prayer and the spiritual life. He has reached the point where he surrenders himself completely to the Providence of God. For this reason, while he feels a certain disappointment in not being able to return to the Archdiocese at the present time, he feels joy in that he is doing what he considers is the Will of God transmitted through his superior.

I told him that after we contacted the three dioceses, we would be in touch with him. I also told him that the process of contacting these dioceses would begin immediately though I could not project how much time it would take before a final decision was made.

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A memo by Archbishop Bevilacqua describing a meeting with Fr. DePaoli. The Archbishop says that "by going to another diocese we could put a sufficient period between the publicity and reinstatement" in Philadelphia. (Attached to GJ-2622)

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