



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

Memorandum

From: Archbishop Bevilacqua *AB*
To: The File of Monsignor David E. Walls
Date: May 4, 1988
Re: Interview with Monsignor Walls

Today I interviewed Monsignor Walls concerning his future ministry. Monsignor Walls had written to me and indicated that he had received clearance from St. Luke's Institute and also had received from them a report indicating that he could return to his previous position as Vicar for the Office of Catholic Education.

Today I told Monsignor Walls that returning him to the Office of Vicar for Catholic Education would not be possible. I explained various reasons why this would not be prudent.

Among the more immediate reasons was the fear that the parents of recent victims were not likely to take any action of a legal nature as long as the Archdiocese has acted strongly. Since he would not be away on an inpatient basis and if he is restored to his previous position as Vicar, it would appear that the Archdiocese had not considered this a serious matter and had taken no reasonable action. This perception of inaction could very well trigger the parents to resort to some kind of further procedure through court action. I told him that I had to be concerned for the victims, for the Church and for him. The victims seem to be at present adequately cared for. He himself was in proper therapeutic care. The concern for possible scandal and the welfare of the Church remains. It is to avoid any further action or publicity which would be harmful to the Church that it was not possible to return him to his original office.

Monsignor Walls understood this though he obviously was disappointed.

ADM 000936

A memo from Archbishop Bevilacqua recording a meeting with Msgr. Walls, accused of attempted sexual assault. The Cardinal explains he asked Msgr. Walls to resign as Vicar for Catholic Education in order to avert legal action by the victims' parents. GJ-670

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I suggested to him that it would be more prudent if he would submit a letter of resignation requesting a leave of absence for health reasons. During this leave of absence he should pursue his intensive therapy and also reflect on what type of ministry he would be willing to consider. I strongly suggested to him that I did not think it would be possible for him to go back into any kind of parochial ministry. He himself said that he had been reflecting on this and thought as a possibility some kind of ministry to assist other priests suffering from alcoholism or other weaknesses. He felt that he could identify with them and therefore could possibly be of assistance to them.

I also suggested to him that he should reflect on other types of ministries such as chaplaincies in hospitals, etc. He seemed to be disposed to any such type of priestly activity.

I told him he could remain at St. John Neumann and continue to assist Monsignor Meehan while he is on his leave of absence. After a reasonable amount of time, he should get in touch with the Chancery to indicate that he is ready to return to active ministry and also provide any fruits of reflection on the type of ministry he would like to carry out. We discussed the period of time and I told him that I had no definite limits to him. I did tell him that the amount of time should be worked out between himself and his therapist. I did also indicate that it would probably last several months and even go for six months.

I told him that he should send his letter of resignation in at his earliest convenience. He said that he would.

Monsignor Walls seemed to be very repentant of his improprieties. He seemed to be well-disposed to doing anything he is asked to do.

ADM 000937

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