

CARDINAL'S RESIDENCE

2101 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE BRIGHTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02135-3192

June 12, 1997

His Eminence John Cardinal O'Connor 1011 First Avenue New York, NY 10022

Your Eminence:

I am writing regarding a proposed change in the staffing of Leo House, the Catholic Hotel for Travelers on W. 23rd Street. Reverend Paul R. Shanley, a retired priest of the Archdiocese of Boston, has been serving as Assistant Director of the facility since the Spring of 1995. On June 3, 1997, the Board of Directors asked Father Shanley to consider the position of Executive Director.

Father Shanley has done good work at Leo House and is well regarded by the staff, but, as you know, some controversy from his past has followed him to New York.

Two conflicting issues arise in considering Father Shanley for the post. The first is that he has done good work and is surrounded by a competent staff which is aware of his situation. Opposing this is the likelihood that the role of Executive Director will bring with it a greater notoriety. That could draw publicity to him, to Leo House and to the Church.

I am aware that you will be discussing this with Monsignor Edward O'Donnell. It is my understanding that he has the most complete information of anyone. If you do decide to allow Father Shanley to accept this position, I would not object.

I look forward to seeing you in the near future.

Asking God's blessings on you and those you serve so well, I am,

Sincerely yours in Christ

Archbishop of Boston