

File: Rev. Romano Ferraro

THE CHANCERY • DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN

75 GREENE AVENUE, POST OFFICE BOX C, BROOKLYN, N.Y. 11202 • (AREA CODE 212) 638-3500

MEMORANDUM

TO: Father Brown  
FROM: Bishop Bevilacqua *agb*  
DATE: March 16, 1982  
RE: Father Romano Ferraro

As I have already indicated to you some while ago, Father Romano Ferraro, presently in the Archdiocese of St. Louis, has requested an assignment back in the Diocese of Brooklyn. He would hope to have such an assignment possibly in July of this year.

When I first received this request and informed you, we both agreed that we would have to await the report from the House of Affirmation. This report finally arrived.

The report from the House of Affirmation concerning Father Ferraro is generally a very positive one. The following would represent a summary of the positive evaluation of Father Ferraro:

1. He has been very good about his attendance and participation in therapy.
2. He has successfully worked out as a hospital chaplain and as a resident in a parish in St. Louis. In fact, he did so well as a part-time chaplain at Jewish Hospital that he was invited to be head chaplain of the same hospital. Since he has taken that position he has done very well.
3. He has done well in the parish at which he resides. He has taken on many duties at the parish and has performed well. He is well liked and the parishioners reportedly have asked him to stay there permanently and not return to Brooklyn.
4. He has tried to establish friendships with other priests in the Archdiocese though the priests there are known to be slow in warming up to outsiders. In spite of their cruel behavior at times, he continues to attend priest meetings and makes himself available for social gatherings.
5. He has been faithful to his therapy sessions and has shown great improvement in his feelings of anger. He continues to examine the causes of his difficulties and seems to have a good grasp of the dynamics involved.
6. He has spent a great deal of time examining his vocation to the priesthood. He does not wish to leave the

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priesthood and sees fulfillment only in the life of the priest.

7. The therapist recommends that he return to Brooklyn and resume full time ministry here. At the same time, the therapist feels he should continue his psychotherapy after his return.

This positive evaluation from House of Affirmation puts the decision on the return of Father Ferraro into the lap of the Diocese. Because of our experience with Father Ferraro in several assignments of the past where he has consistently created problems, it becomes difficult to abstract oneself from the memory of those unfortunate incidents.

At the same time, it is also difficult to disregard or give little credence to the very positive evaluation from the House of Affirmation.

My recommendation to you is that before Father Ferraro is considered by the Personnel Board and the Bishop for reassignment in the Diocese of Brooklyn, this report from the House of Affirmation be evaluated by one of our psychiatrists. While Dr. Gannon is not looked upon favorably by Father Ferraro, he is the psychiatrist who knows him best. He has seen him in sessions and also he and I went out to St. Louis to evaluate him at the House of Affirmation. Perhaps the evaluation of a psychiatrist here will shed further light that might be of help in considering Father Ferraro's request for reassignment in the Diocese.