

Archdiocese of Cincinnati



Priests' Personnel Office  
100 East Eighth Street  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

513421-3131

TO: Archbishop  
FROM: Fr.  
RE: Letter from  
DATE: June 5, 1986

I think you should advise \_\_\_\_\_ to tell the prospective groom to strongly encourage his friend to talk to some priest he can trust. There is a good chance the young man is confused about his sexual orientation because of the incident reported. If the priest handles it well, the young man could be helped a great deal to be freed of his own sense of guilt in the thing and reassured about his own orientation. I have run into cases like this myself. The problem: if the young man were to talk to a professional counselor, that person may report the accused priest to civil authorities. I don't think you should say this to \_\_\_\_\_ however. If you were ever to be quoted about it, it would be held against you in any future court case.

I must say this raises the whole issue about \_\_\_\_\_ once again in my mind. In other words, if there are cases going all the way back to Little Flower, then I really think it important that he be required to go for psychological assessment at this time. If there were ever trouble in the future, and it turns out there are a series of these incidents, the Church would be held responsible in court. Recall that it doesn't make any difference whether we knew about it or not. The prosecution's position would be that we should have known about it. This is what I am told by all the experts I have listened to on this subject in the past year. I think we should seriously consider calling \_\_\_\_\_ in again, confronting him with this latest bit of information, and saying because of these several things, he simply must go for psychological assessment. He can be assured of the matter being handled with the greatest confidentiality. He can also be reassured that we are not interested in turning up stuff to prove him guilty about, but rather to insure that we are handling our responsibilities adequately, and that he is indeed getting the appropriate help to whatever extent he is in need of it.

I really question whether I can ever support an appointment for a pastor for \_\_\_\_\_ without checking things out further. Especially, I would not be able to support any appointment to a one-man parish. I think the stuff that keeps surfacing only says that \_\_\_\_\_ is another time bomb waiting to go off.

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Unfortunately, we cannot say to [redacted] that [redacted] is actually getting counseling about this. Nor can you tell [redacted] that you know there were other accusations about [redacted]. Obviously, you should somehow or other ask him to keep this matter confidential. Also, somehow or other, you need to assure him that you will deal with this information responsibly.