

PERSONNEL BOARD - re: Rev. Edward Paquet

Father Edward Paquet, now of Westfield, Mass., his home town, seemed to be a very serious minded priest, perhaps a little too serious, although this could be due to the interview itself. I am sure that it was very serious for him as he is anxious to get into the active ministry again.

He talked quite openly, but not with any specifics, about his lapses into homosexuality. I would guess that there were two such instances in Fall River Diocese and two in Indiana.

Since the recommendations concerning his work are good, I would rely heavily on the diagnosis and professional advice of Dr. Hillelbrand who treated him following his last lapse. He feels that Father Paquet has this trouble only in periods of acute depression and feels that he can function well if these periods of acute depression are avoided.

The doctor advised, in recommending him to the Bishop, that he have semi-annual physical examinations, preferably by a psychiatrist and that he meet monthly with a priest confessor. I feel that as an added precaution, he should be required to visit a psychiatrist who has been made aware of the prognosis of Dr. Hillelbrand, at least every other month and that a report of this visit should be made to the pastor where he is stationed, or to the Bishop.

I would also feel that the pastor to whom he is sent should be made aware of the problem and that it be a rectory where there is more than one assistant pastor.

If the above recommendations of Dr. Hillelbrand were rigidly followed and heartily accepted by Father Paquet, that I would recommend him for acceptance on a trial basis into the diocese.

I have to add that while I have had some experience with male persons with this sickness of homosexuality, I have absolutely no experience with it in priests. I would therefore again state that I am relying on Dr. Hillelbrand's advice and recommendation, as well as the little I saw of Father Paquet during the interview.

*Edward J. Fitzsimons*

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P. S. I did find it a bit disquieting that he has not visited a psychiatrist since he has returned home. He felt no need of it.

*EJF*

