



Memo: re Father Nicolas V. Cudemo  
 Professor, Archbishop Kennedy High School, Conshohocken

On Aughst 20 Father Louis DeSimone came to the Chancery to describe the following problem. A couple of months ago his resident, Fr. Cudemo, was in one of the offices on a Sunday afternoon. Fr. DeSimone heard some commotion there and went to investigate. He saw Fr. Cudemo trying to calm an hysterical girl. Fr. Cudemo left the office and explained that the girl was from Lansdale, where he had been previously stationed, and she had a "crush" on him. He said this was partly his fault in not discouraging her but that he was not involved with her in any way. Fr. DeSimone then went to the office and asked the girl to leave. She left shouting that she loved Fr. Cudemo and the neighbors could hear her.

Fr. Cudemo, after this incident, promised Fr. DeSimone that he would be extremely careful in his behavior with girls from then on. However, a month later, Fr. DeSimone was away on vacation and returned to learn from his housekeeper and Fr. Strumia (pastor emeritus, in residence at Ss. Cosmas and Damian) that one afternoon Fr. Cudemo had taken a young woman to his room for a half hour with the door closed. Fr. Cudemo insisted that it was all innocent, that ~~the~~ the girl was very upset about a problem and it just seemed convenient to talk with her in his room. *This was a different girl from above.*

I saw Fr. Cudemo on August 22. He confirmed all of the above facts. He stated he was not misbehaving, but that he was a very outgoing person whom girls felt at ease with and consequently came to him for counselling. I suggested his behavior was imprudent, if not scandalous, and he admitted this. He also admitted staying out late on occasions, but once again said that his activity was legitimate. I informed him of the necessity of a change of residence, and he understood. Msgr. Paul Cahill had advised him before and on this occasion Fr. Cudemo again confided in him. Msgr. Cahill strongly urged Fr. Cudemo to request a residency at St. Helena, Center Square, with Fr. Kearney. I told Fr. Cudemo that this could probably be arranged, *and it was.*

Fr. Cudemo said that he understood that his behavior might cause scandal and promised that he would be extremely careful of the way he conducted himself with girls in the future. He said he hoped this would not hurt his ~~chances~~ chances of going to South America as a missionary in the future.

Two weeks later, Fr. Cudemo called me to say that he had talked the whole problem over with his new principal, Fr. Bernard Herron, and asked for his assistance in calling to his attention any overfamiliarity he might be guilty of in the future.

September 2, 1969

*Terrence F. Monihan*  
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