

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 16, 1989
RE: Father Peter J. Dunne (1954)
Assistant Pastor, Nativity of Our Lord, Warminster

Attached to this memorandum are the most recent pieces of information concerning Father Peter J. Dunne's case.

1. A confidential report from Southdown, Ontario, Canada.
 2. A memorandum for the file dated February 23, 1989.
 3. A memorandum for the file dated March 7, 1989.
 4. A letter from Doctor Thomas J. Tyrrell dated March 8, 1989.
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It appears at this time that we have come to the point of decision concerning the ministry of Father Peter J. Dunne. As indicated in the attached material, Doctor Thomas J. Tyrrell is of the very strong opinion that Father Peter J. Dunne is a very sick man, and would be in need of a psychological therapy program. The doctor feels Father Dunne is not cooperating because he is hiding the full story. **Doctor Tyrrell recommends that Father Dunne be relieved of active ministry.** The doctor used a phrase with me, namely, that we are sitting on a "powder keg".

In a reaction to missing the most recently scheduled meeting, Father Dunne came to see me at the Chancery on Wednesday, March 15, 1989. He said he did so at the request of Monsignor Francis J. Clemins, who he has chosen as his spiritual director. Father Dunne stated the following:

1. That he did not intentionally miss the meeting scheduled for March 7, 1989 at Villa Saint John Vianney Hospital, Downingtown, that his car broke down.
2. That he is seeking a change of an assignment, specifically to Father Francis J. Loughran's parish, Corpus Christi Church, Upper Gwynedd, mainly because he feels a lack of support and communication from Father William J. O'Donnell, and states that he could be more active at Corpus Christi Parish.

N.B. Father Dunne and Father Loughran have been friends for many, many years. Doctor Tyrrell expressed to me that he feels extremely uneasy about the request for a transfer, and he would not recommend it.

3. Father Dunne stated that he has grave reservations about the group therapy part of Doctor Tyrrell's recommendations. He feels very ill at ease sharing his problems. In addition, Father Dunne expressed to me that he is under control, and does not agree with Doctor Tyrrell and Doctor Rawlings concerning their observations that his chances of acting out are very real. He stated that the only incident that is worth discussing in this case is specifically I asked pointedly if Father Dunne had any other incidents of misconduct to share with us. He stated that he did not.

A March 16, 1989 memo to Cardinal Bevilacqua recording new warnings from Fr. Dunne's therapist. The doctor warns that his patient is at risk of acting out and recommends removing "the very sick man" from active ministry. GJ-1474

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N.B. In confidence Doctor Tyrrell shared with me that Father Dunne once mentioned to him the possibility of six or seven other incidents of misconduct, with no description of specifics. Doctor Tyrrell asked me to not share that with anyone because of its confidential nature. Father Dunne did not share the same information with me.

4. Father Dunne has asked me to express his desire with the Archbishop to change his therapist from Doctor Tyrrell to Father Francis R. Duffy, C.S.Sp.

Personal Observations:

I do not think it would be unjust to express our concerns to Father Dunne, both for his own welfare and for the good of the Church, by having him follow through with Doctor Tyrrell, who is most knowledgeable in this particular case. My concern is that Father Dunne knows that Doctor Tyrrell is beginning to reach the truth in this entire affair, and therefore Father Dunne is manipulating other people, to support his denial.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Rev. John J. ...".