

Archdiocese of Boston
Assistant to the Secretary for Ministerial Personnel

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM

copy

TO: Rev. Msgr. Edward D. O'Donnell
FROM: Rev. Brian M. Flatley
DATE: September 14, 1995
RE: Rev. Paul Shanley

In preparation for our meeting on Tuesday, enclosed is a thumbnail sketch of Father Shanley's history, as you requested.

Father Paul Shanley is a priest of the Archdiocese of Boston who in the past had an outreach ministry with troubled adolescents and the Gay community in Boston. This was with the approval of the Archdiocese.

In 1993 it became known to the Archdiocese that Father Shanley had a past history of aberrant sexual involvements. The policies of the Archdiocese regarding sexual misconduct were carried out.

There were four young men who made formal complaints to the Archdiocese of Boston about Father Shanley. There has been a financial settlement in one of the cases; another is close to settlement. Father Shanley admits to both heterosexual and homosexual behavior in the past and presently characterizes himself as predominantly homosexual in orientation. Because of his history, Father Shanley has been removed from active ministry.

As part of Archdiocesan procedures, Father Shanley has had a [REDACTED]

Father Shanley lived for a time in California. In the winter of 1995 he came to New York to work at Leo House. This plan was approved by the Archdiocese of Boston after consultation with the Archdiocese of New York.

Despite his past history, and his unfavorable psychological assessment, Father Shanley's sexual acting out appears to have ceased, in part due to a prostate condition.

Father Shanley will not be returned to active ministry but he remains a priest of the Archdiocese of Boston who is formally on Sick leave.

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