



Sept 28, 79

Dear Bishop Daily:

Recently Dignity has asked me to resume celebrating liturgies for them. While I was on special ministry work with Sexual Minorities the Cardinal forbade me to do this and in compliance with that restriction I have not done so for years.

Now they tell me that they sought clarification of the line in the Cardinal's Pastoral and were referred to Fr. Paul White of the Pilot who assured them that: "I do not authorize any priest to say mass for groups of homosexuals" DID not mean that priests were forbidden to do so but simply that no one priest was assigned to that task.

I am assuming that this lifts the seven year ban on me unless I hear from you to the contrary. The Cardinal no longer answers my letters, hence I am writing to you.

The last time you called me in you told me that you were writing to the Bishop of Wichita that "Fr. Shanley misrepresents himself if he alleges that he is assigned to this work". On August 18, 73 the Cardinal wrote: "Fr. Shanley enjoys the faculties of the Archdiocese and has my approval for his apostolate" This was in response to a letter from homosexuals seeking an audience with him. I'm sure there is a canonical distinction between assigned and approved but morally it would seem to me that simple justice would require a revision of that letter to Wichita.

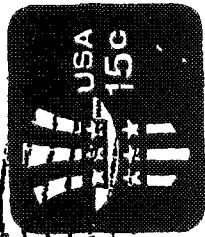
I wonder if you could prevail upon the Pilot to mention my new assignment as they do for other priests. Evidently many priests think that I am no longer in good standing or have been accused of some heresy. As you know I have simply been reassigned.

I wonder if you could see that my name is restored to the book of life: The Kennedy Directory?

Finally could you determine the length of my punishment? Personnel tells me I am forbidden to apply for positions that all other priests are permitted to seek. I am not complaining about this but find the incertitude surrounding the punishment to be disturbing. If I am accused of heresy, immorality or disobedience and have been convicted of one of those crimes and a punishment decreed it would be like the rights of felons might be extended also to a priest: the right to know how long he is to be punished and for what.

I am grateful to you, Tom, for your fairness to me over the years as I pursued the needs of my people, in ways which at times I'm sure were distasteful to you personally.

Sincerely  
Paul R. Shanley



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