

MEMORANDUM

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November 4, 1976

TO: His Eminence, the Cardinal

FROM: Bishop Daily

*How apt*

Re: Rev. Paul Shanley

Father Paul claims that his mailing address now is St. Columban's Seminary, Erush Hill Road, Milton. He is not at Warwick House, Roxbury, now. We had a rather lengthy discussion on the tapes produced by AMPRO of 101 Tremont Street, Boston, Massachusetts, 02108. The tapes as you know concern the question of counseling for homosexuals and parents of homosexuals. In accordance with advice given by Father Al Hughes in a letter to me of October 12, 1976, I indicated to Father Shanley that I had not heard the tapes but I found the advertising misleading because they implied the Cardinal's endorsement of his teaching. Since this was the implication I told him that I felt the tapes should be evaluated and reviewed by professionals in Moral and Spiritual Theology and even psychology. I mentioned to him Rev. James Gill, S.J., Rev. John Finnegan, Rev. James O'Donohoe and Rev. Alfred Hughes. Father Shanley had no objection to this and when I asked him if he had suggestions as to whom I might consult he offered Father Gregory Baum, Father Henry Neuwen, the American Psychiatric Association and the Catholic Theological Society. He said Father O'Donohoe has already made an evaluation of these tapes some time ago by saying that they are pure Paul Shanley but not contrary to morals. Father Shanley indicated that recently in Atlanta he spoke to priests of five different Diocese on the subject of these tapes and there was no theological problem, or at least voiced by the priests in attendance. The program was sponsored by the local NFPC. He stated there are two medical opinions, both of which he explained, regarding homosexuality. He claims that he is an authority. He studied four hours a day on the subject along with other sexual conditions, beside heterosexual. He assured Archdiocesan Authorities that he will be happy to stop lecturing when he is given the word. He is perfectly happy to dialogue on the subject or even debate it if he was allowed to come to the Pastoral Institute to give an updating to the priests on the whole subject of homosexuality, particularly because of the great misunderstanding on the subject on the part of priests and officials of the church. He

talked about the particular instance during a study week given by Rev. James O'Donohoe at which he himself attended. He left because of the wrong presentation by Father O'Donohoe and a presentation admittedly so by Father himself. In a long chat subsequently to Father Shanley's breakdown at the conference itself.

Father Shanley indicates that the tapes are old, the material is old and probably needs an updating even at the present time. Anything written before four years ago according to Father Shanley on the subject of homosexuality is already outdated. Father Shanley sees homosexuality "no less than" heterosexuality for homosexuals is perfectly normal although he hesitates to use word ~~normal~~ or natural. If homosexuality is a condition which would invalidate sacred orders then he would ver that there are many priests in invalid orders. He claims he has to speak to the priests of the Tribunal soon on the subject of homosexuality as an impediment to an invalid marriage which in the light of the above is very interesting.

Once again I told him that I felt that these tapes should be evaluated because of the Cardinal's name associated with them in the advertisement. Father Shanley indicated that the tapes are a production of AMPRO. That the former Father Reidy and Mr. John Murphy partners in this company were the ones who made the promotion, set up the advertisement and also the letter with Father Shanley's signature. Father Shanley gets \$1.00 royalty per tape sold.