

SHANLEY
ARCHDIOCESE OF BOSTON
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OFFICE OF
MINISTERIAL PERSONNEL

June 1, 97

Rev. William F. Murphy
2121 Commonwealth Avenue
Brighton, Mass.

Dear Bill:

You write a very nice letter...no mean accomplishment considering the emotionally explosive topics you need to discuss. I am most appreciative. I am also somewhat aware of how busy your task has become and can only wish you well.

GT Redaction

Thank you for alerting me to the calls from [REDACTED]. I had called Sister Rita to tell her that he has called here many times in recent days using many aliases and threats of public exposure to the NY Times. He does not speak to me but attempts to undermine me with the staff.

GT Redaction

How fortunate I am that [REDACTED] does not want to pursue the matter. I do not have any information on him other than that I had heard he was a gay man who was emotionally distraught. People like myself are always waiting, not only for the other legal shoe to drop but for the possibility of physical attack. Thank you and Sr. Rita for your good offices.

As near as I can recall these are the events which brought me to the Leo House: I was on sick leave and living in California where I was doing week-end work in three parishes and doing well. John McCormack notified me that I could never again live in a rectory of offer Mass publicly. The Clergy Fund rejected my request to increase my stipend and I was left without a means of survival.

GT Redaction

At the same time, a friend of mine, a layman, who was running this place was diagnosed with cancer and was unable to perform his duties. I offered to come and assist him until he got on his feet. Unfortunately, he had to retire but by that time I had been running the place for many months and was asked to continue. [REDACTED] traced me down, informed the five nuns who live on the top floor and they wrote to Cardinal Law who asked Monsignor O'Donnell to investigate. He has visited and met with me on several occasions both at the Hotel and at his office. I am sure he will give you reassurances. I approached several social workers seeking supervision but when they heard the amount of money that the Archdiocese could afford they demurred.

GT Redaction

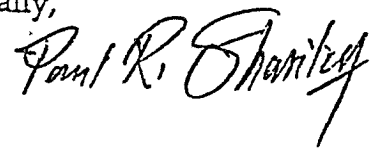
I have 36 employees, seven of whom live on the premises, as do I, watching me and safeguarding the few children who pass through. Were I to leave, it is doubtful that there is any job in which I would be more closely supervised or in which there would be fewer children available. At least now [REDACTED] knows where I am and that I am being closely watched. I am 66 years old and have many ailments. I doubt that I would be welcome at Regina Cleri. Where would I go? How would I survive?

RCAB 00596

The Leo House is affiliated with the Archdiocese but is not run by them. It is governed by a board of directors, mostly laymen, but includes three priests, one of whom is the Cardinal's secretary. The Board is aware of my situation and is also pondering how to proceed. I have purposely avoided assuming the title of Director in order to avoid potential problems. I am Assistant Director. Hence, there is no documentation of an appointment. Last year Cardinal Law granted me retirement status.

I do understand your need to be familiar with my case and your concern. Please let me know how else I might proceed. I look forward to the prospect of your visit. I am here most of the time except the last two weeks of July. You might even want to come unannounced to be doubly sure of my circumstances. I have urged Monsignor O'Donnell to drop in without alerting me so that he too might be reassured.

gratefully and cordially,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Paul R. Shanley". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed closing.