



*Paul Shanley*

# Association of Boston Urban Priests

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April 15, 1969

Dear Personnel Board Member,

Our Association, in responding to the various problems in the city, has appointed different men to be our experts and representatives in certain areas, such as education, welfare, etc. Along with Fr. Ernest Serino, Fr. Paul Shanley is ABUP's representative "on the drug scene".

More and more of our young people are being caught up in what today can only be called the "drug sub-culture". Where over half of our high school population is at least experimenting with everything from pot to heroin, we have a serious problem. The pernicious effect this has on their health, their families, their future, on society, we can only estimate. But we do know that no agency- private, city, state, or federal- has begun to deal with this unprecedented situation in any adequate fashion. Drug prevention, concern for youngsters on dope, and follow-up with ex-addicts should be a priority item for those who care for youth. These drug takers are human beings, basically afraid and alienated, who need what hope and help we can offer.

Fr. Serino is working to get the very successful Daytop Village from New York to establish a residence in Boston. The Executive Committee has discussed the drug problem and what we can do. We are strongly in support of Fr. Paul Shanley being released to work in the drug field. Many of our priests are working with kids on drugs and with homes like Project Place and would cooperate in way possible with a priest released for this work. Fr. Shanley has good experience in dealing with these young men and women. With summer coming we are anxious that this new ministry begin as quickly as feasible.

If we can be of further assistance, please let me know. We are thankful for your help in the past.

Gratefully,

*Walter J. Waldron*  
(Rev. Walter J. Waldron)

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