



Speaker

Father Paul Shanley, Cardinal Humberto Medeiros' minister to sexual minorities in the Boston archdiocese, will be the principal speaker at a clergy conference on homosexuals in the Church slated for Friday, Sept. 23 at Becket Hall. That evening, at 8 p.m., he will give a public lecture on the same topic at St. Luke's Episcopal Church hall, 17 S. Fitzhugh St. The first event is sponsored by the office of the Vicar of Urban Ministry. The second is sponsored by Dignity/Integrity, a coalition of Roman Catholics and Episcopalians involved in ministry to homosexuals.

Father Paul Shanley:

'Gays' Not Angry Enough

By JOHN DASH

It is Father Paul Shanley's contention that "the crimes of the Church and society against homosexuals cry out to heaven for vengeance."

Father Shanley, who, since 1970, has been the Archdiocese of Boston's minister to sexual minorities, recently spoke in Rochester, first to a clergy conference and later to a public assembly, on both his ministry and on the role of the homosexual in the Church.

At the latter meeting, sponsored by Dignity/Integrity, an ecumenical group of Roman Catholics and Episcopalians concerned with the place of homosexuals in the Church, Father Shanley noted that among the clergy "hundreds and hundreds won't work with 'gays' because of their fear for their reputation."

Because of this, he said, "homosexuals can't avoid being their own ministers."

Regarding this situation, he stated that "Gay" people

are not angry enough. They don't realize that they have come to live with a structure that is both degrading and immoral."

"There's no morality to an orientation," he said, "but rather to what you do with it."

He said that for homosexuals to "use their orientation to exploit people" is an example of an immoral act.

But, he further stated that, "crimes of injustice against 'gays' far outweigh the sins of 'gays' themselves."

Father Shanley, who describes himself as a "pastor" although not formally assigned to a single church, noted in a later interview that his ministry "just sort of grew" from a ministry to run-aways and abandoned children during the late 1960s. He is the founder of Exodus, a ministerial program to such children.

He also noted that his ministry to homosexuals is but a part of his duties as

minister to sexual minorities. "There are at least 30 sexual minorities," he said.

"No one chooses to be homosexual," he said. "Since there's no choice, there is no sin."

"What you do with your homosexuality, he can be criminal and he cautioned.

He challenged what he called an "Irish Catholic sexual mentality," which he said, "has made it impossible for homosexuals to take an active role in the Church."

He said that the options offered by the Church today, whether celibacy or being a priest, are "no options at all."

Homosexuality is a sickness, he said, and celibacy is a charism and to make a requirement first doesn't work and second is unjust.

Father Shanley acknowledged the presence in Rochester of "playing second fiddle to John McNeill." McNeill had originally slated to deliver the clergy conference and public lecture. Two days prior to his speaking, however, Father Shanley was informed by his superiors of a directive to silence the subject of homosexuality. Father McNeill, in turn, cancelled his speaking engagements on the

"John's obedient silence are a part of his testimony," Father Shanley said.