

July 19, 1984

Rev. Anthony Smith, C.Ss.R.
Holy Redeemer Parish
25 N. Portland Blvd.
Portland, Oregon 97217

Dear Father Smith:

Your Provincial has requested that you be appointed parochial vicar of Holy Redeemer Parish in Portland. I am pleased to approve this appointment, which will be effective August 17, 1984.

You will find enclosed the faculties of the Archdiocese for pastors and parochial vicars.

By reason of your appointment, you will possess all of the faculties required by this office, and you will be expected to assume the duties and the responsibilities, as well as enjoy the rights and privileges accorded parochial vicars, as outlined in the prescriptions of the Code of Canon Law, the Archdiocesan statutes, official Chancery letters and approved custom.

We enclose also at this time a form which we ask you to fill out and return to us. This personal record form will give us the information we need to complete our files.

Welcoming you into the Archdiocese, and praying upon you every blessing and an abundance of God's grace for success in your new assignment, I am

Fraternally yours in Christ,

+Cornelius M. Power
Archbishop of Portland in Oregon

OMP:gg

Enclosures

cc: Very Rev. James S. Stratton, C.Ss.R.

CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM:

SUBJECT: Father Anthony Smith, C.Ss.R.

On April 4, 1986, Father Paul Peri, Clergy Personnel Director, talked to me about the facts which had emerged from an investigation of Father Anthony Smith, C.Ss.R., associate pastor at Holy Redeemer Parish, Portland. Father Peri had contacted me some time before, namely, on Saturday, March 22d, with regard to conduct involving Father Smith which at that time was available in only vague and uncertain terms. On April 4 Father Peri had a much more specific and larger picture of the situation, because he and Archdiocesan attorney, had met with Father Smith on March 25. Father Peri, with the permission of Father Smith, had talked to Father Raymond Carey, clinical psychologist of the Archdiocese, and had put together a rather complete picture of the situation. Father Peri was convinced, along with that enough was known of the case to warrant my requesting the Redemptorist Provincial withdrawing him from service in the Archdiocese of Portland and requiring that he return to Provincial headquarters in San Francisco.

Before calling the Provincial, Father James Stratton, C.Ss.R., I telephoned Father Carey so that I could receive his version of the facts, as well as his interpretation and evaluation. Father Carey informed me that he saw Father Anthony Smith for the first time, at Father Smith's initiative, on January 10, 1986. The priest told Father Carey that he had homosexual tendencies, and, as a matter of fact, in his past he had homosexual relationships. He also had a drinking problem, which had recently been treated at

Asked if he had any problems with young boys, Father Smith at first denied it, but later admitted that he had problems along these lines. He had solicited two minor boys, sometime last summer if my memory serves me, but had not had any physical contacts with them. Presently he is strongly attracted to a fourteen-year-old youth, and he is struggling with the temptation to pursue his desire for contact.

Father Carey states that Father Smith had a homosexual relationship before his ordination, and that, while he knows that celibacy is a necessary condition of priesthood, he probably would not be able to maintain celibacy if the right conditions developed in his life. Father Smith has many natural gifts, especially in the field of preaching and conducting youth retreats, but he is in definite need of extensive psychotherapy. Father Carey would advise cognitive behavior therapy from a clinical psychologist.

Father Carey recommended that Father Smith be removed from the area as a safeguard to him and to others who might be threatened by his continuance in Portland.

On April 4, therefore, I telephoned San Francisco requesting to talk to the Provincial Superior, Father Stratton. I was told that he was out of town and not available, and I asked to talk to the "next in command." The priest was not available, and so I asked the secretary to have him telephone me. Sometime during the early afternoon Father Garcia telephoned, and confirmed the fact that Father Stratton was unavailable. I told him in general terms the problem we were having in Portland with one of

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PD 0212

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his priests, and he assured me that he knew all the facts concerning this priest. I gave him some idea of what we had learned during the past few weeks, and then I asked him to remove Father Smith from Holy Redeemer Parish and from the Archdiocese of Portland, urging that the priest be given the opportunity of an immediate psychological evaluation and be placed in therapy as soon as possible. Father Garcia agreed that this should be done, and he promised to have the priest return to San Francisco immediately.

(I later confirmed that Father Smith was called to Provincial headquarters that weekend.)

+C.M. Power

April 11, 1986.

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April 23, 1986

Very Rev. James Stratton, C.Ss.R.
3696 Clay St.
San Francisco, California 94118

Dear Father Stratton:

I am pleased that during the recent difficult situation involving Father Anthony Smith, C.Ss.R., associate pastor at Holy Redeemer Parish in Portland, the Redemptorists and the Archdiocese were able to work closely for the good of the parish, the local Church, and indeed for Father Smith himself. I am especially grateful for the cooperation of Father Gary Pometta, C.Ss.R., pastor of Holy Redeemer Parish in Portland, and of Father Garcia of your Provincial staff in San Francisco.

As you are aware, laws are changing rapidly in Church/state relations, giving rise to a whole new mine field under the general heading of clergy malpractice. Claims are now being made not only against individual clerics, but against dioceses and religious communities as well, because the latter are seen as the "deep pockets."

It is very important, therefore, that I call your attention to the necessity for the major superiors of men, such as yourself for the Oakland Province of Redemptorists, to inform any diocesan bishop from whom future faculties for Father Smith may be requested that this priest is in a certain problematical situation. It is the position of this Archdiocese that this kind of information must be given in full to diocesan bishops lest a situation arise that could have the most grave legal and financial consequences for everyone involved.

With regard to Father Smith, I would have to say that he was most cooperative with us when his personal problem came to light, and he appeared to us to be quite honest and forthright in discussing the history and extent of his condition. He evidently needs extensive evaluation, and no doubt long-term therapy, and certainly close supervision. In my opinion, he should not be placed in any pastoral situation without his superiors being apprized of his proclivities and their risks.

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Very Rev. James Stratton, C.Ss.R.
April 23, 1986.

Again I thank you for your cooperation in this matter. I appreciate the good work and the fruitful presence of the Redemptorists in Portland. I pray that their apostolate will continue to prosper for the good of the Church in the Pacific Northwest and of the people of God.

With kindest personal regards, I remain

Fraternally yours in Christ,

+Cornelius M. Power
Archbishop of Portland

(cc.: Robert McMenamin 5/23-C0)