

ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA

Office of: SECRETARY FOR CLERGY

TO: Archbishop Anthony J. Bevilacqua
FROM: Rev. John J. Jagodzinski
DATE: September 15, 1989
RE: Reverend Peter Dunne and Rev. John Jagodzinski

~~PERSONAL~~ The following is an update on Father Peter Dunne, who is one of the Assistant Pastors at Nativity of Our Lord Parish, at which you are making a pastoral visitation on Monday, September 18.

Father Dunne had spent about nine months at Villa Saint John, Downingtown (December, 1986 to September, 1987), after being accused, by a man now living in California, of sexual abuse. The man had been a high school student where Father Dunne was teaching at the time the alleged abuse occurred.

Doctor Thomas Tyrrell and three other therapists maintain that there is much potential for a recurrence of sexual abuse by Father Dunne. They have not been able to move Father Dunne beyond the "denial stage." Earlier this week I met with Doctor Tyrrell, who advised that Father Dunne must be given an ultimatum: either make a serious commitment to therapy or leave the active ministry. Doctor Tyrrell believes that Father Dunne should really be admitted to a rehabilitation center such as the one sponsored by the Paraclete Fathers in New Mexico, but wonders whether it would be a waste of Archdiocesan money, because of Father Dunne's extreme state of denial.

On Wednesday of this week, I met with Father Dunne, and also with Father William O'Donnell, Pastor at Nativity Parish. The three of us talked for about an hour, at the end of which Father Dunne agreed to begin therapy with Doctor Eric Griffin-Shelley, who specializes in treatment for addictive behaviour.

Father Dunne met with me again yesterday, at his request. He had conferred with his Spiritual Director on Wednesday after our meeting, and wanted to see me again to confirm that he would, indeed, begin therapy with Doctor Griffin-Shelley.

Father Dunne also requested a change of assignment, later in the fall, after the completion of the Parish Visitation at Nativity. He is requesting to be assigned to one of two Pastors: Father Francis Loughran (his first choice) or Monsignor Francis Clemens, each of whom has said that he would welcome Father Dunne. I told Father Dunne that this would be considered and that I would talk with him further in the coming weeks.

*Thanks. Be very cautious I think
he is trying to manipulate so that we
act according to his agenda. AJP
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A September 15, 1989 memo to Cardinal Bevilacqua. It records still more warnings from Fr. Dunne's therapists and notes that he has requested transfer to a parish where his spiritual director is pastor. The Cardinal writes at the bottom: "Thanks. Be very cautious. I think he is trying to manipulate so that we act according to his agenda. AJP" GJ-1479