

July 4, 1979.

Prot. N. 173/74

His Eminence
Francis Cardinal Seper, Prefect
Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith
Vatican City.

Your Eminence:

Since my visit with you concerning Father Paul Shanley of this Archdiocese, I have assigned him to a parish outside the city of Boston and he seems to be happy with his work. I have received many letters from all over the country against my decision to remove from a ministry he had chosen a priest they considered their only sign of hope in the Church. Father Shanley obeyed me, saying that he always obeys his bishop. He did so but not without going to the newspapers.

Meanwhile I have been preparing a pastoral letter to all our priests of the care of the homosexual. After much consultation -- and waiting -- praying and even suffering, I was able to sit down for two days and write the enclosed letter which has been sent to all the priests of the Archdiocese of Boston. I trust that this letter will clear up the issues for those who have doubts about the teaching of the Church and the stand of the Archbishop of Boston.

I have not yet heard from Father Shanley but he may react to the Pastoral Letter to agree or disagree with it and may even do so publicly. I shall wait and see.

With regard to the letter from the Bishops of New England to the Rectors of Seminaries, the present draft of this letter is not yet approved by all the bishops. The committee of Bishops which is working on it is making some revisions and when it is accepted I shall forward a copy to your Eminence.

I wish to thank Your Eminence for having received me last Spring and am ready to follow whatever advice you may have for me.

With prayerful best wishes and sentiments of highest esteem, I am

Devotedly yours in Our Lord,

Humberto Cardinal Medeiros
Archbishop of Boston

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