

Archdiocese of Boston
Assistant to the Secretary for Ministerial Personnel

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM

TO: Bernard Cardinal Law
FROM: Rev. Brian M. Flatley *Bmf*
DATE: June 26, 1996
RE: Rev. Arthur P. O'Leary
Appointment Friday, June 28 at 4:00 P.M.

Father O'Leary has recently returned from Southdown. It was a struggle getting him there. He had hoped to be able to return to parish ministry. I have made it quite clear that this is not possible. His situation:

In 1985/1986 Massachusetts State Police informed us that Father O'Leary was engaging in homosexual activity in rest areas. He denied it indignantly to Bishop Banks. After a complaint in 1993 that he made a youngster uncomfortable he was sent to Saint Luke Institute, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

In October of 1994 a family contacted Chancery. Their son had a severe emotional episode at Harvard and he told his parents to keep their other son away from Father O'Leary. The second son told his parents that Father O'Leary had been bothering him - crossing sexual boundaries with conversation and non-genital touching. The family asked that he be removed from Hanover. He went for a reassessment at Saint Luke Institute. [REDACTED] Father Kevin Deeley worked patiently with him, but he refused to go. Father Deeley never gave up hope.

In October of 1995 Father O'Leary went to Southdown for a second assessment, hoping for a different finding. [REDACTED] At that point Father O'Leary reluctantly gave in and went to Southdown in February of this year for residential treatment. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

What was most difficult in this case was the nature of the offenses. There was no clear-cut acting out, no sexual contact. Certainly this case was different from some of our more celebrated abuse cases. I struggled with the idea that perhaps there was something akin to sexual harassment here rather than abuse or misconduct. However, I was not able to find anyone with expertise in this area to agree that this was a valid distinction where minors are concerned. So the policy stands.

Father O'Leary is unhappy about the policy. He will probably talk to you about that. However, there is a lack of insight in Father O'Leary which I find ominous. Even after he was confronted and allowed to continue in ministry he allowed a similar situation to occur.

Father O'Leary is seeking senior priest/retirement status. He wanted to help out in parishes on the Cape but this is not consistent with the policy [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Father O'Leary is interested in doing hospice work. I have encouraged him in this

My recommendation: that you grant Father O'Leary senior priest status but remind him that this does not change the fact that he is restricted in ministry. He should be in conversation with me.

O'LEARY, ARTHUR P.
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RCAB Redactors