

---

---

*Confidential Memorandum*

*To: the file of Reverend Robert Morrisette*

*From: Rev. William F. Murphy*

*Date: August 13, 1997*

*Re: meeting*

Neil Hegarty and I met with Fr. Bob Morrisette on Tuesday, August 12 at 10 AM for one hour. Our purpose in arranging the meeting was to explain the letter I had sent to him and to discuss with him his therapy with Dr. Rizzuto. The effectiveness of the analysis three times per week he currently receives has been questioned.

At the request of this office, Dr. Edward Messner, MD evaluated the diagnosis and treatment of Fr. Morrisette. He concluded that the analysis was inefficient and potentially counterproductive. He also cited several dimensions of therapy and health care which may be currently lacking in Fr. Morrisette's life. The details can be found in the file.

Fr. Morrisette was very congenial and cooperative with Neil and me. He was very positive on the value of his work with Dr. Rizzuto, citing clarity and deeper personal and emotional awareness. However, he said that he had raised the issue of cutting back with Dr. Rizzuto three times and instead of addressing it directly as a legitimate issue, she explored the issue on the level of Fr. Morrisette's motives and emotional causes for asking. Fr. Morrisette had also asked about medication as a supplement to the therapy. Dr. Rizzuto said she does not like to use medication with her patients and that it would harm the analytic process.

Fr. Morrisette does not currently belong to any 12 step groups, nor participate in group therapy. He makes use of a spiritual director and his faith life is important to him. Physically he is in good condition.

He has a full-time job at the front desk of the Boston Harbor Hotel and lives on his own. He is moving up in the organization and while he expressed some ambivalence toward this as a career choice, he is happy, appreciated and successful in his work.

Regarding openness to a different style of therapy (which Dr. Messner recommends), Fr. Morrisette feels that he may wish to explore group therapy. He also can envision a less frequent, more directive type of therapy. He recognizes that this is not something which can be done overnight.

We relayed Dr. Messner's suggestion that the battery of psychological tests first administered in 1993 be repeated, and Fr. Morrisette was open to that. It was also conveyed that, because of the strong evaluation toward a different type of therapy, the Archdiocese plans to withdraw its financial support for analysis. Fr. Morrisette understood this.

Fr. Morrisette said that he does not feel resistant to the ideas but has some reluctance based on a developed loyalty to Dr. Rizzuto, a tendency to follow the perceived wishes of those in authority and a difficulty in trusting his own feelings. Neil and I both expressed our support for him and our willingness to assist him. Dr. Rizzuto is returning from vacation on August 21. Fr. Morrisette will meet with her and get back to us.

Neil and I were pleased with the meeting. Fr. Morrisette was very open and honest. This nudge from the Archdiocese may be the push Fr. Morrisette needs to extract himself from a therapeutic relationship of growing and unhealthy dependency. I believe he will move toward termination with Dr. Rizzuto.