

Background on the Reverend John H. Mulholland

Dear Doctor:

The following is the background on the testimony which is enclosed in the folder. Father Mulholland has had three appointments--June 1965 to June 1966 at Saint Patrick Church, Kennett Square; June 1966 to June 1968 at Saint Joseph Church, Hatboro; and June 1968 until the present at Saint Anastasia, Newtown Square.

The first series of problems was terminated in September 1968 when Father Mulholland was called to the Chancery to speak with Bishop McDevitt. The memorandum of that interview is enclosed. It concerned certain boys from the Hatboro parish and the discovery of certain letters by Although the date of the interview was September 1968, and by this time Father Mulholland was serving in Saint Anastasia, Newtown Square, he was still returning to the Hatboro parish for meetings with these boys. Part of the interview with Bishop McDevitt was a promise that he would stop going back to the parish. We had some reports later on that he was still returning to Hatboro. In Hatboro, besides the activity with boys, there is also the phenomenon of his attempting to split the parish into factions.

The second group of problems takes place in Saint Anastasia parish, Newtown Square. It centers around a totally new group of boys; in fact, a different group of boys in the second year than in the first year in the parish.

Enclosed is the testimony of Father Joseph Kane, pastor of Saint Anastasia parish, who was called in concerning the credibility of the people whom we had interviewed. Father Kane stated that his mother, and his sister were very credible people. He also stated the same for the other boys involved in the CYO who would offer testimony.

Concerning my interview with Father Mulholland

On Monday, October 26, after having finished all of the interviews, I called Father Mulholland and asked him to come to the office. He came at two o'clock that afternoon. Over the telephone he himself mentioned that I probably wanted to see him about the CYO. When he came to the office I let him speak for the first ten minutes. He was explaining the problem that he thought I was going to bring up--namely, the different personality clashes that had taken place in the CYO and the arguments which ensued. After about ten minutes I explained to Father Mulholland that that was not the chief problem I wanted to discuss with him. I mentioned his previous interview in the office with Bishop McDevitt and the promises he had made. He claimed he had kept all of the promises and had had no problems since then. He felt he had matured much since that time.

ADD 002409

An October 27, 1970 letter from Assistant Chancellor Walsh to Dr. Anthony Zanni. The letter states that Fr. Mulholland would have to be transferred from St. Anastasia because of a "certain amount of scandal." GJ-1365

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I then questioned him about wrestling with boys and he eventually did admit that there were some occasions when he did that. I then told him that we had the testimony which amounted to bizarre behavior. I mentioned to him that this behavior caused us to have real doubts concerning the problem of homosexuality. He asked what the behavior was. I mentioned the trips that he took with boys, the change in the relationship when they returned from these trips, the wrestling matches at CYO meetings, running his hand up and down the leg of one of his favorite boys, the incident of having one of these boys with his head in Father's lap with Father stroking his hair, the intimate names that he uses for his friends, having boys in his room, picking up and taking home the president of the CYO who was one of the boys on the trip, and the saying of Mass in the basement at a strange hour when only his few friends are present. At no time did Father deny any of the things which were brought up to him. He merely stayed silent and accepted them as true.

I then told him, as an accomplished fact, that we wanted him to go to you for an evaluation with the distinct possibility that after talking to him you would want him to go to Downingtown. It was only after awhile that it got through to Father what I was trying to say. He then turned to me and said, "I guess you mean you want me to be a patient for a period of time." I explained that that was exactly what we wanted.

All of this consumed only about twenty minutes since I knew that Father would never admit anything on his own but sort of had to be confronted with the facts. After this twenty minutes, when it came home to him what was going to be expected of him, he sat back and asked if I had a few minutes. I told him I did. He then began to talk about his feelings. He stated that he felt bitter at the whole human race and had difficulty accepting different people in authority, although he felt differently toward this office especially after the very nice interview he had with Bishop McDevitt. He said that he felt often that no one thought of him. I told him that our whole concern was his happiness and the fact that he would work through this problem. It is for this reason that we are asking him to accept professional help. I told him that we did not expect him to be totally open with us, who were his superiors, but hoped that he would be able to open up to someone whose only task was to help him with his problem. I told him that all that we could see was very strange behavior which brought about a certain amount of scandal in the parish which caused us to have to move on him. Just what the problems are, how deeply they are rooted, or in what way they will be cured or at least treated, is beyond our competence. This is why we are helping him to seek professional help.

At the end of the interview I explained to him that all of the records which we have concerning his behavior would have to be forwarded to you before he would see you so that you would understand some of the background, Father Mulholland, "surely the doctor cannot be working in the dark, he has to know what happened."

ADD 002410

I also made it clear to Father that there was no possibility of his remaining in the parish. I mentioned to him that in a couple of weeks there would be a series of changes and that this difficulty would be taken care of at that time. Just what we do with him in a couple of weeks would be very much determined by your evaluation of him and the degree of his co-operation.

I tried to make it clear to him that the purpose of this evaluation was to see if he would have to go to Downingtown or not. I explained that we would have to be guided by your evaluation.

Reverend Vincent M. Walsh
Assistant Chancellor

October 27, 1970

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