

1060. Becker, Franklyn

(3) ✓ Father Heffron told me he is very upset because Becker has been acting very strangely since Heffron received his new assignment. There have been several incidents which exhibited Becker's extremely poor judgement. The most recent was Becker's acceptance of a chaplaincy for one week on a Caribbean cruise. Heffron did not object to this but later has found out that Becker has taken a 7th grade boy on the trip with him. Heffron has been in contact with the boy's mother who now realizes her mistake. I told Heffron that we were going to assign Becker to a sick leave and get him back into therapy with Dale Olen. I spoke to Dale Olen later in the day and he concurred that this is necessary procedure at this time.

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We met, but before I even said anything he knew that I was going to confront him about recent events that he was involved in at the parish. He had long explanations for the matter of the piano and tried to convince me that all the hubbub was not his fault but rather it was due to indecision on the part of Father Heffron and Heffron's vacillation. As regards taking a 7th grader on a Caribbean trip, he stated that he had just mentioned in passing that it would be good to have the boy as an altar boy. This was immediately picked up by the boy and his parents who arranged everything after that. Becker assured me that he had no physical contact with the boy although he admitted that they shared the same cabin (separate beds) and that they told the crew and passengers that the boy was Becker's nephew. When I showed Becker how both of these incidents looked to others, he admitted that in both cases he used bad judgement. I informed him that the Personnel Board has suggested that he be removed from the parish, and I expressed my own feeling that we would have a hard time getting the new pastor to work with Becker. He said that Father Anderson has looked at the place and has indicated to Becker that he would be willing to work with him (Hornacek met with Anderson who said that he could work with Becker until next spring). I told Becker that we were not sure that Anderson would be the pastor and that there could be problems for Becker if someone else is named the pastor. I asked Becker to see Dale Olen immediately and discuss the possibility of the group therapy session that begins in January. Becker agreed to do this at once, and asked me not to remove him from the parish. Then he asked if he could be the temporary administrator in the interim, and I told him this would be impossible. I pointed out that if people are indeed afraid of Becker's indiscrete activity, they would be on the Archbishop's and my doorstep as soon as Heffron is gone to protest Becker's being named temporary administrator. I told him that this decision was in his interest as well as our own. He seemed to see the logic behind it, and when he asked whom we were considering and I told him it was Father Mackin, he was very pleased and relieved.

12/7/82

AMIL00845