

R O U G H D R A F T

Dear Father Shanley:

Your note of March 12th, with your generous check in the amount of \$25.00, for the Peter's Pence collection, reminded me that I had not responded to your letter of February 24, 1974 with its enclosures.

My dear Father Shanley, my brother in Christ, I am sure you realize that I share your feelings of being over-whelmed and indeed your exhaustion at the scope and the complexity of the problems I face each day as Cardinal Archbishop of Boston. Your detailed description of those ^{un}fortunate people who are affected directly, or indirectly by homo^sexuality causes my heart to ache and arouses in me sincere feelings of deep anxiety. Your dedication and zeal, administering to the less fortunate, is admired by all. More important than that, however, is the fact that I'm sure you strive each day with all the strength given to you to bring the gospel to homosexuals in the so-called gay community and that your burning desire is to bring the message of Jesus Christ and the message of His Church to those in need. ^{IN THE NAME OF THE HOLY ARCHBISHOP, V. J. SHEEHAN} As your Bishop, ^{12. 1. 74} I am the one responsible to the Holy Father and to God for the welfare of all the souls here in the Archdiocese of Boston. I will be pleased to learn more about your ministry, more about your dedicated efforts and more particularly about the effectiveness of your work. To that end I shall ask Father Helmick and Father McCune to set-up an appointment where you will have time to explain your work, now concentrated among the homosexuals of Boston.

R O U G H D R A F T (cont'd.)

While surely there must be a greater understanding among Catholics in the Archdiocese toward the problems of homosexuals and certainly a more loving concern for them, it is also true that ^{THEIR} ~~their~~ love and concern must take the form of reaching out in an attempt to integrate these souls into the saving mission of the Lord Jesus Christ. Thus there must be greater efforts to help these good people to rise above their homosexual condition, avoid sin and grow in the life and love of God through Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Saviour. I am sure that you will agree with me that ^{THIS IS NOT THE} ~~this must be~~ objective^S of your own ministry as a priest of the Archdiocese, ^{I AM PLEASED THAT} ~~and that~~ your efforts are concentrated on helping these people as individuals to become part of the community, not as a societal group that seeks some sort of conformity in attitude and thought, but rather as individuals who as weak and wounded members of the Body of Christ wish to grow in Grace through their attachment to the Head, Jesus Christ through prayer, through sacramental life and through the knowledge and practice of faith, hope and love.

It pained me recently to learn of your criticism of the Bishops' statement ~~statement~~ on Ministry to Homosexuals. I know you as a humble, loyal, obedient priest, who wants to cooperate with his Bishop and certainly with the Bishops of the United States and the Holy Father, himself, to fulfill God's Will among men. As your Bishop, I am grateful for your respect, your understanding and your love. I am sure that I have your loyalty and obedience. Let us pray for one another that the Lord might work through us "More things ^{THAN} ~~in~~ this world ~~of~~ dreams".

With every good wish, I am

Devotedly yours in Our Lord,

Archbishop of Boston