

MEMORANDUM

TO: File of Father Ferraro

FROM: Monsignor Bevilacqua *agb*

DATE: February 27, 1979

RE: Telephone Conversation with Mr.

Today Mr. _____ telephoned me concerning Father Romano Ferraro. Mr. _____ resides at _____ (telephone: Office-Home- _____).

Mr. _____ is divorced from his wife and has received a Church annulment from her. His wife's name is _____.

He has a son, _____, who is 13 years of age and is an altar boy at St. Aloysius parish.

About November or December of 1978, Father Ferraro indicated to _____ that he wanted to meet Mrs. _____. In the presence of the boy, Father Ferraro told his mother that _____ wanted to be a priest. The mother thought that strange since she said that he really wanted to be a pilot. At this point Father Ferraro said that he was a pilot. Father Ferraro then said to the mother that he would like to take the boy to a seminary or monastery and spend the day with him. When the boy told Mr. _____ of this, Mr. _____ said that he wanted to meet the priest.

About two weeks later, Mr. _____ went to a basketball game at St. Aloysius and asked to be introduced to Father Ferraro who was there. The boy was most reluctant and Mr. _____ never did get to meet him. However, he did see him in the company of about five boys all around him and he was kidding around with them.

This past weekend Mr. _____ learned that Father Ferraro went to his wife's apartment about 9:00 PM in the evening and stayed there until about 11:30 PM. Apparently he asked the mother if he could take _____ swimming with him along with two other boys who were brothers. The mother would not let him go because _____ was subject to colds and bronchial ailments. Father Ferraro then asked the mother all kinds of questions about their annulment. The following day, there was an altar boy meeting which _____ attended. While Father Ferraro is not in charge of the altar boys, he showed up at the meeting and asked _____ if he could get permission from his mother so that

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Father Ferraro could take him and two other boys to New York. The mother felt that as long as it was a trip to New York it would be alright provided [redacted] did not go swimming.

Shortly afterwards on that day, he took all three boys in a Van and went out to Long Island to a swimming pool located on Exit 17 off the Southern State Parkway. Apparently they came back fairly early in the afternoon.

On Saturday night of last week, [redacted] was with his father for the weekend. About 12:30 A.M. the mother called the father and demanded that he get [redacted] out of bed. Apparently the mother had found [redacted]'s swimming trunks still wet. She proceeded to castigate him over the phone because he had gone swimming contrary to her orders.

Mr. [redacted] reminded her that he had urged the boy not to go near this priest because of a certain feeling that he had. Apparently Mrs. [redacted] accused Mr. [redacted] of having a filthy mind.

Mr. [redacted] telephoned me because he wanted to know if he had acted imprudently and was he guilty of thinking evil of a priest. I told him that he should not feel guilty about his manner of advising his son and that he had acted prudently in the circumstances. Mr. [redacted] emphasized that he has nothing against this priest but the manner in which the priest approached his boy and other statements made by him and which were related to him by his son, made him feel somewhat suspicious.

I asked Mr. [redacted] if he would allow me to question Mrs. [redacted]. After giving it very careful attention, Mr. [redacted] felt that it would only antagonize her even more and create greater difficulties between her and him. This could possibly affect his relationship with his son. However, he felt that if any other incident occurred of a disturbing nature, he would be in touch with me.

Mr. [redacted] informed me that his marriage to his wife was annulled by the Tribunal about six years ago though they had been separated approximately thirteen years ago.

March 7, 1979

Today I spoke with Father Schuster concerning Father Ferraro. I asked if he knew Mr. [redacted]. He told me he did not know him. He did know the boy, [redacted]. Father Schuster proceeded to [redacted]

tell me that the pattern which I described to him concerning Father Ferraro's association with _____ was repeated many many times with other boys. He said the other priests are very concerned because they are afraid that suddenly something will happen and there will be an explosion. Father Schuster mentioned that frequently Father Ferraro will take boys to a Museum in New York or to Douglaston to go swimming or on other trips. Whenever there is a grouping of young boys for an altar boy meeting or some other event, Father Ferraro makes sure that he is there. On these occasions he always fools around with the boys by playing with them rather roughly.

I told Father Schuster that upon my return from Rome at the end of March, I will possibly see Father Ferraro to lay down an ultimatum. I told Father Schuster to let me know whether he continues to take boys out and to be particularly aware of whether he takes any overnight.

March 7, 1979

Today I spoke to Dr. Gannon concerning Father Ferraro. He told me that he does not come to see him on a regular basis but very sporadically. I described the problems concerning Father Ferraro, that is, that parents are complaining that he is too involved with their children. I mentioned about the case of Mr. _____ and also told him that Father Schuster had mentioned that other parents also were suspicious. Dr. Gannon said that there was very little that can be done with him. He agrees that forceful action should be taken with him and that I should give him an ultimatum to stay away from all boys.

Dr. Gannon would prefer to see him laicized but does not feel that he would ever let that happen. He feels, however, that he should be asked to resign.