

M E M O

FOR FATHER LEONARD KEMPSKI

FROM FATHER ED AIGNER

DATE JUNE 22, 1977

RE REV. MR. ED DUDZINSKI

(This memo will be in conjunction with the formal mid-term evaluation of Ed Dudzinski which at this point is awaiting a conference with Ed prior to final editing.)

On Friday, June 17, 1977, Father Howard Clark, pastor of Saints Peter and Paul, Easton, approached me as Supervisor of Ed Dudzinski about an incident that was reported to him. A woman in the parish talked with Fr. Clark about being upset in disappointing Ed when she refused to allow her eighth grade son to join Ed for a three-day vacation in Virginia. While Fr. Clark said that the woman may have been a little overprotective of her son, he felt that the woman was feeling pressured by Ed. Between the lines, he felt that the woman was also questioning Ed's relationship with her son. Father Clark said that either he or I should confront Ed on this, especially since he had told Ed prior to this that he was staying out too late at night with families, sometimes missing Mass in the morning because of late hours, and that this could be scandalous to the families. I had known that Ed spent a lot of time with this family and that one night he was there late and decided to stay at their home for the night.

I agreed on the need to confront Ed and we agreed to do this together when Ed arrived home late that evening.

Ed's response to the confrontation was that he had accepted the lack of permission for the son to travel with him. Ed shrugged it off as no problem. He didn't see anything wrong with taking one child with him. Ed had cleared the time off with myself but had not mentioned taking a parishioner with him. On a prior occasion Ed took an overnight fishing trip and I found out by accident that he had taken another boy with him. We talked of the fact that we were unaware that minors were being taken and of the possible repercussions of this. Also, the fact was mentioned that in a small parish other boys would hear of the special treatment given a few. Ed said that he was just treating eighth grade altar boys for their service. We said that this was the responsibility of the parish and not he himself. Ed cited knowing of other priests who had done this. Ed seemed very defensive and upset

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that we were confronting him. He finally admitted that he often acted without thinking, implying that this was the case in this situation. Ed said that all kinds of special arrangements had been made for the trip, motel reservations, security clearance at the Navy yard, etc.

Ed went on the trip as scheduled and to my knowledge, he went alone. He had mentioned that he asked another boy when the first was not permitted to go.

Two days later I called the woman. I explained how important it was to tell me about the incident, since it would be beneficial to Ed in his preparation for ministry.

She began by saying that they (her family) were most favorable to Ed -- he was good company for the children (three of them) and that he shared a lot with them.

Regarding the incident, I asked if she felt pressured by Ed. She said definitely yes. He would not accept "no" from her. She felt bad saying no to him because he was hurt by it. She came to talk to Ed at the rectory explaining her reasons for saying no -- that she thought a group was going not just her son, and that she felt that all the arrangements were made before she was asked permission. Ed then went to her home and sat for three hours, in a sense, pouting. He finally asked her "What can I do to change your mind?" She said "Why don't you ask another child to go?" (mentioning the one he did ask secondly). He said "I can do more with one child than with a bunch. I really want        (her son) to go, since I know the family. I couldn't talk over matters from home with the other boy." He still asked "Is your answer still 'no'?" She then went to see Father Clark.

I record this incident because I see a pattern in Ed's ministry where he has a need to be with young boys and has often given me seemingly legitimate reasons for being with them. While gut feelings are difficult to document, I find that this incident allows me to recommend that Ed seek counsel from Dr. Lugar.

EA/rfc