

James A. Hickey,¹²⁵ Sebastiano Cardinal Baggio,¹²⁶ and Joseph Cardinal Bernardin.¹²⁷

Bishop McCarrick also promoted various activities for Metuchen's clerics, including annual spiritual retreats at the large San Alfonso Retreat House on the New Jersey Shore.¹²⁸ In his homily at the prayer service in October 1985, which was attended by most of the priests of the diocese, McCarrick spoke of the emotional challenges that accompanied a celibate life:

You are called to leave the comfort of a sexual life of your own to go to pastoral ministry and service. You are so often tested by loneliness, by lack of affirmation, by lack of understanding of your needs. But God has promised love beyond compare. In

¹²⁵ *LWF* 250, 41 *ACTA* 34253.

¹²⁶ On 24 May 1986, Cardinal Baggio, then President of the Pontifical Commission for the Vatican City State, presided over the dedication of The John Paul II Center and Emmaus House in Perth Amboy, New Jersey. *LWF* 383, 41 *ACTA* 34406.

¹²⁷ *LWF* 295-97, 41 *ACTA* 34318-20; 40 *ACTA* 33978. McCarrick's rising profile drew the attention of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and even the KGB. In the early 1980s, a KGB agent who enjoyed diplomatic cover as the Deputy Chief of Mission to the United Nations for the Soviet Union approached McCarrick, apparently to attempt to befriend him. McCarrick, who was initially unaware that the diplomat was also a KGB agent, was contacted by agents of the FBI, who asked him to serve as a counter-intelligence asset with respect to the activities of the KGB. Though McCarrick believed it was best to decline such involvement (particularly because he was immersed in the organization of the new Diocese of Metuchen), the FBI persisted, contacting McCarrick again and encouraging him to allow a relationship with the KGB agent to develop. Given the delicate nature of the situation, McCarrick reported in detail the FBI's request to Nuncio Laghi in January 1985, seeking Laghi's advice as to how to proceed. Laghi thought that McCarrick should "not be negative" about the possibility of serving as an FBI asset and described McCarrick in an internal note as someone who "knows how to deal with these people and be cautious" and who was "wise enough to understand and not be caught." It is not clear, however, whether McCarrick ultimately accepted the FBI's proposal, and no record reflects further contact with the KGB agent. 2 *ACTA* 2164-65.

In an interview, former FBI Director Louis Freeh, while not personally familiar with the incident, stated that McCarrick would have been "a very high value target for any of the [intelligence] services, but particularly the Russians at that time." 16 *ACTA* 13506.

¹²⁸ *LWF* 240, 312, 340, 367, 41 *ACTA* 34243, 34335, 34363, 34390.