



MEMORANDUM

TO: File

FROM: Bishop McCormack

DATE: August 31, 2001

RE: Gordon MacRae – Visit August 30, 2001

1. Gordon first expressed concern that the diocese did not think that he was involved in promoting the compensation Mr. [REDACTED] sought for the sexual misconduct of a priest with him. The man had sought assistance for counseling through the office of Brad Cook. I assured him that this had never been mentioned to me.
2. He then reviewed, for want of a better word, the highlights of his life as a priest of the Diocese of Manchester.

He came from a family that suffered great dysfunction. Both parents were alcoholics.

His first assignment was to the parish in Hampton where there was litigation by several nuns of the diocese. He remembers people standing up and turning around with their backs toward him during his homilies. It was a difficult assignment. He and the pastor resigned after the first year.

He admits that during this year he crossed boundaries with a youth of the parish named [REDACTED]. He admits to hugging and kissing him. Gordon was drinking that first time. Yet the other two times it was the youth who came and hugged him. He said there was no genital contact.

His next assignment was with a pastor who continually drank. He was encouraged by Msgr. Christian to intervene. He found this difficult. During this assignment a local detective thought that he had first been assigned in Florida where he has sexually molested two young men, one of whom later died. He does not know where he got this information. It was during this time also that the detective sent a young boy to entice him. The young boy said that he would do anything for money. On this occasion after about the third visit Gordon asked him what he meant. He said he would do anything, even sex. Gordon told him he shouldn't talk like that because he might ask for sex. He told the boy it was improper conversation. This led

to him being brought to court for a misdemeanor. He was told by Msgr. Christian to find his own lawyer.

Following this he went to the House of Affirmation for four days for an evaluation. And after that he decided to take a leave. He went to Jemenez Springs where after a period of treatment he remained to become part of the staff. It was during the period that the [REDACTED] allegations were made.

[REDACTED] first made an allegation that proved to be untenable since he was not even in the parish at the time. That followed with an allegation by [REDACTED] which also ended up being untenable. That followed with an allegation by [REDACTED], which eventually ended up in court. He is convinced that the [REDACTED] were looking for money and were encouraged by McLaughlin to bring these allegations. [REDACTED] never thought that the criminal charges would lead to a trial or that the diocese and Gordon would settle before the trial. As a matter of fact, [REDACTED] could not be found for six months when the motion for trial was made.

Gordon feels that the diocese was not at all sensitive to his background as a person when they were making his assignments and that he was marginalized when the allegations were made.

We also discussed someone else taking my place to be handling the movement around this possibility of an appeal. He felt that it took a long time for me to come to listen to him and to know him. He thinks that he would not want to go through that with someone else. He would like me to continue. I agreed. But said it had to be one would not move as fast as if someone else was doing it. We also talked about his spiritual life in the prison and he wondered what my reservations were about moving ahead with the lawsuit. I told him that we did not have time to discuss it because it was time to leave but that I would try to make a visit with him in the near future.