

DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER



December 4, 1995

Father Hilary Antony Muthu
c/o St. Patrick's Rectory
138 Coolidge Ave.
Manchester, N.H. 03102-3298

Dear Father Hilary:

I have received your letter of December 1st. I am sorry that you have not been able to find appropriate ministry in the Diocese of Manchester. I must state, however, that I am surprised at the judgement you make that this fact is due to my "non-helping attitude" and the assumption that whatever assistance you felt I owed you was withheld because of the allegations from one of your fellow priests.

If you recall correctly, I told you from the very beginning that the Diocese had no ministry to offer you because of the number of priests that we would be ordaining this spring. I further indicated that it would be unfair to you or to any parish or institution to assign you there for a short time knowing that we would have to remove you from that position in the near future. The allegations raised by the priest from your Diocese had nothing to do with the reasons why the Diocese of Manchester could not offer you ministry.

When those allegations became known to us, it was of course necessary for us to check with your Bishop in regard to them. When he vindicated you in regard to them, this then freed you to look for ministry on your own since the original position of the Diocese, in terms of our need, remained the same.

While it is true that I did not share the name of the priest from your Diocese with you, I did share with you the specific allegations and Bishop O'Neil wrote about those specific allegations to your Bishop. Since you knew what the allegations were, since you have been vindicated of them, and since in any case the allegations had nothing to do with your receiving a priestly assignment from the Diocese, I do not feel it necessary to reveal to you the name of the priest in question, who, in any case, requested confidentiality.

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I can understand your disappointment in not finding appropriate ministry here in New Hampshire, but I tried to make the position of the Diocese clear to you in regard to our needs from the very beginning. I once again indicate to you that if you can find a pastor or an institution that can use your services, we will be more than happy to confirm whatever arrangement you make in that regard.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

(Msgr.) Francis J. Christian
Secretary
Chancellor