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June 15, 1987

Rev. Gordon J. MacRae
St. Bernard Rectory
173 Main Street
Keene, NH 03431

Dear Father MacRae:

Subsequent to our recent conversation and your letter of June 11th, this letter will grant your request for a temporary leave of absence from priestly ministry in the Diocese of Manchester, effective July 1st, 1987.

It is understood that this period is initially for a period of one year. It is my hope during this period of time that you will continue to see Dr. Ouellet and that also you might seek out a spiritual director with whom you can continue to discuss and, hopefully, deepen your commitment to priestly ministry.

I look forward to meeting with you in December of this year and ask you to make an appointment for this purpose at an appropriate time. We would then meet again some time in the late Spring to discuss your situation and possible return to ministry, or an extension of your leave.

You understand that with the exception of specific instances for which I would grant you faculties at your request, you would not have the faculties to function as a priest during the period of this year.

Please be assured, Gordon, of my prayers for you in the months ahead. I pray especially that the Lord will enable you to see more clearly the vocation to which He is calling you, and if that be His will, to allow you to return to priestly ministry at the appropriate time, renewed and rededicated to the work that you have done so very effectively. If I can be of further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me.

With every good wish, I am

Cordially in Christ,

Bishop of Manchester