

December 5, 1983

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met today with Father Gordon MacRae regarding the incident reported on the typed memo from Father Quinn.

Father MacRae readily admitted the incident and offered the following explanation. He had been under a great deal of tension and stress in Hampton, especially because of the situation with the four sisters who were suing the Bishop and the terrible pain it was causing Father Boucher, the pastor. He also had been drinking to excess frequently. Added to this was the demands being placed on him by his father who committed suicide by taking an overdose of heart medication ( Few people know this death was a suicide according to Fr. MacRae) Given all of these pressures, Fr. MacRae found himself kissing the young man in question. He claims that he cannot understand why this occurred since he has never had any homosexual interest or activity before. ( He did indicate that his father had sexually abused him as a child and that he was removed from the home by the state as a result). He claims that he sent the young man to Catholic charities fully understanding that he would be implicated and wanting the help that it would bring.

He indicated that he began seeing Dr. Henry Ouellette of the Clergy Counselling Service even before this incident and that he has discussed it and continues to discuss it fully with him. He also claims that he has joined an AA group in Keene which he faithfully attends up to four times a week. This group has, in his estimation, enabled him to stop drinking completely and has given him great support in other areas. He claims that he has told Dr. Ouellette that if his treatment with him or his involvement with AA does not succeed, he will seek other treatment including, necessary, hospitalization.

I told Fr. MacRae that we were concerned for two things. First, his own mental and physical health and his ability to function happily as a priest. Second, with the welfare of the people he was serving. I told him that both of these concerns had to be considered at the same time. I told him further that by law we had to inform the state of the incident with the young man, that the state was not going to pursue action as long as we gave assurances that he was in proper treatment and that the problem was in check. I clearly told him, however, that a repetition of the problem would undoubtedly bring prosecution by the State with the probable results being imprisonment. I also indicated that any repetition of the problem would make it impossible for the Diocese to give him a priestly assignment since he would not be able to be entrusted with the care of souls if the problem was not under control. He fully understood all of these points and agreed with them. Furthermore, I told him that it was likely that the State would do a full investigation of his background to see if there was in fact any previous similar activity. I questioned him particularly about the young man from Groveton who had been his legal ward until quite recently. He claimed that there had never been any sort of sexual activity with him. I asked him in the same vein about the young man in Florida who he had been legally involved with. He stated that he had never had legal custody of the person in question and once again that there was no type of sexual activity with him at all. He claimed to no longer be in contact with this person.

I told Father MacRae that I wished to discuss these points with Dr. Ouellette and that I would send the doctor a copy of this transcript for his file.

Father MacRae seemed very concerned about the whole situation and concerned to prevent a repetition of the difficulty. He understood both the legal and Church activity that would follow upon any further similar incidents.

P.S. spoke with Dr. Ouellette about

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Bishop