

**SECRETARIAT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE AND CANONICAL AFFAIRS**

Diocese of Manchester, 153 Ash Street, P.O. Box 310, Manchester, NH 03105-0310 603-669-3100

July 14, 1988

On this date the Diocese was informed that charges had been brought by a young man, aged 18 or 19, at Spofford Hall in Keene, against Father Gordon MacRae. The young man claimed that he had requested to see Father MacRae after the celebration of Mass for the purpose of counseling. He claims that Father MacRae attempted to touch him sexually during this time. He reported this incident to the leadership of Spofford Hall, who in turn contacted the State of New Hampshire and notified the Diocese.

Father MacRae claims that he did not do what the young man had said, and, in fact, quite the contrary is true, that the young man attempted to sexually touch him.

I spoke with the Director of Spofford Hall, who indicated to me that since the two people in question were alone at the time it might be difficult to ever know the truth of the situation. He did indicate that in his own mind he believed that there was at least the possibility that the young man might be lying. He told me that the family of the young man had engaged an attorney, but had not decided what to do, if anything.

I contacted Attorney Brad Cook, the Diocesan attorney, to make him aware of the situation. He in turn recommended that Father MacRae be advised to get his own attorney in case of any litigation, since the Diocesan Attorney would not be able to represent both the Diocese and Father MacRae. Father MacRae was advised of this fact and did engage an Attorney Donahue from the Keene area.

Upon being notified of the alleged allegations Bishop Joseph Gerry, the Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese, notified Father MacRae of his suspension pending the outcome of the case.

Francis J. Chucella
Chancellor