

August 18, 1987

Rev. Gordon J. MacRae
52 Summit Road #12
Keene, NH 03431

Dear Father MacRae:

In response to your letter of July 28, 1987, and after having carefully considered all the pastoral reasons you advance, I am pleased to grant you the necessary faculties to offer the Sunday Liturgy and to celebrate the Sacraments for the Catholic patients at Spofford Hall Hospital. I do so because of the manifest spiritual needs which you have so clearly described, as existing among the patients at the hospital. I am also confident that, as you have indicated in your letter, you will in this capacity continue to be sensitive to the need to avoid public confusion about your present leave of absence from the Diocese and about your ministry as a priest in these rather particular circumstances. I know you will take the necessary precautions in this regard.

Reverend Leonard Zecchini, Director of Pastoral Care, has also written me about this request, and I have this date sent him a letter indicating that I have granted you this permission. He, too, has very well described the unusual circumstances of the hospital and the ongoing need the Catholic patients have for regular spiritual care in their total recovery process.

I am pleased, Gordon, that you will be able to exercise your priesthood in this limited fashion at Spofford Hall. I know that, in addition to your other talents and responsibilities, your priestly ministry in this regard will be of great assistance to the patients at the hospital. As we have previously discussed, I ask that you continue to keep me apprised of your situation.

With every good wish, I am

Cordially in Christ,

Bishop of Manchester