



ST. MICHAEL'S COMMUNITY

... A HEALING PLACE FOR PRIESTS & BROTHERS

November 30, 2001

Most Reverend John McCormack, D.D.
Bishop of Manchester
657 N. River Rd.
Manchester, NH 03104

Dear Bishop McCormack,

I would like to thank you for your communication this afternoon regarding the possibility of the Diocese having a lawyer check into certain aspects of Fr. Gordon MacRae's sentencing. I would like to offer any help possible, and would be happy to send the brief I wrote several years ago in his regard.

I would like to clarify that originally Ms. Rabinowitz was interested in writing an article for the Wall Street Journal, and apparently was willing to finance Attorney Rosenthal's investigation of his case. When Gordon found out that this meant no restrictions in terms of what she might write, he decided not to pursue this. In speaking with me about this he indicated that unfavorable publicity for the Church might result, which he does not want to see.

Attorney Rosenthal is still interested in studying his case – even if Rabinowitz is not involved. This would mean, however, a retainer fee of between 5 to 10 thousand. Rosenthal has specialized in this type of action, and has won several cases.

I brought this up at our recent General Council meeting. The Council recommended that I contact you and suggested the possibility of a small fund being started to help finance legal work for Gordon. We would be willing to contribute a few thousand dollars if this would help.

Sincerely in Christ,

Peter Lechner, s.P.

Fr. Peter Lechner, s.P.
Servant General