

DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

OFFICE OF THE AUXILIARY BISHOP
+ Francis J. Christian, D.D., Ph.D.

153 Ash Street – Box 310
Manchester, NH 03105-0310

REV. ROGER A. FORTIER

ST. PETER PARISH, FARMINGTON

August 6, 1997

I. MINISTRY

Father Fortier has been at St. Peter's in Farmington for nearly seven years now. He remains very happy in his assignment, particularly in view of his health, which will be discussed later in this report. He feels it is a wonderful assignment for him. The people have been very supportive there. They are very responsive to him. He feels that the sense of community in the parish is really an outstanding thing, and it's the kind of parish that has enough activity to keep him busy but at the same time is not over demanding. Everything considered, it's an ideal type of assignment for him.

In terms of what he finds the greatest joy at this point in his ministry, he indicates that the Eucharist does remain at the center of his life, and he finds presiding at the Eucharist with the people the most rewarding thing. He also enjoys preaching very much, and finds that the people have been responsive to his efforts in this regard. These probably are the greatest sense of joy for him.

In terms of discouragement or disappointment, for some period of time his health was a problem and did limit him more than he liked in what he was able to do. That's been some discouragement for him. But outside of that, there's nothing in his ministry, he said, that he finds really distasteful. He seems to be a very happy priest at this point. He relates very well with his parishioners, and he seems to be doing very well.

In terms of down the road as far as ministry is concerned, he recognizes that he probably could not ever have a parish that is much larger than he has now. Something somewhat larger would be acceptable, but he realizes that given his limitations he is going to have to be in a smaller parish. He would like to stay in Farmington for a little while longer, another couple of years perhaps, but if something were to open up that offered him some options and some new challenges he certainly would not be adverse to looking at that.

II. SPIRITUAL LIFE

Father Fortier says that his spiritual life is certainly at the best point it's ever been in his life. Since his treatment at Saint Michael's Center in St. Louis he really has begun to relate to the Lord in a very positive way versus the more fear-laden relationship that he had before. He does a lot of spiritual reading now, he has a spiritual director, and he finds prayer a much more important thing in his life, so for all these reasons he's in a good place spiritually.

He does make an annual retreat, and all in all, feels very good about his spiritual life.

III. ONGOING FORMATION

Father Fortier has made use of almost all the diocesan workshops and has found them very valuable. In the past year or so, as he's begun to feel somewhat better, he also has begun to read more; so for all these reasons he feels that he's updated theologically in a good way.

He doesn't feel the Diocese could do much more to assist him in this regard at this time, and feels that we do have an excellent number of programs to help him and other priests in this regard.

IV. PARISH/DEANERY CONCERNS

The parish, he feels, is in good place at this time. There's a wonderful sense of community. The people are very responsive. They've been able to do some things in terms of bringing the buildings into better repair. He's done some repairs in the rectory and in the church, and a lot of that through volunteer donations and labor. In that regard, the church is in pretty good shape.

He says that the strongest point of the parish, obviously, is its warm and welcoming community, and the support that the people give one another. He is somewhat concerned about the finances of the parish. They have a small debt of only about \$8,000, and they are current in all of their expenses, but the parish has lost some major contributors through death and people moving away, and he's wondering about whether or not the situation will remain as good down the road.

He is planning, with the advice of his Finance Committee and Pastoral Council, to go into a stewardship program some time in the Fall. He hopes that that will be successful. He does have a good Pastoral Council and Finance Committee that help him, and he does rely on their advice to a large extent.

He feels that the CCD Program in the parish, which has grown over the last several years, is good, but probably could be improved if they had some more funds. That's probably one area where there should be some growth.

As far as the deanery is concerned, they do collaborate and help one another as best as is possible. He's not sure that there's much more that could be done in that regard. He's happy with the deanery spirit and the support and assistance that it gives to him. Father Armand Turgeon has been very helpful to him when he needs to get away for vacation, and that's been a real blessing for him.

V. HEALTH

At this point Father Fortier continues to be burdened to a certain extent by

He does have limitations. He realizes he has to watch himself, but he feels very good at this particular time. The rest of his health is fine. The doctors are pleased with everything else.

He does get his days off regularly, and vacations regularly, all of which he realizes is very important for him.

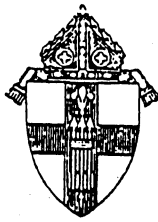
He recognizes that his health will always put some limitations on him in terms of the size of the parish he could handle, but he's more enthusiastic about his ministry at this point because his health has become so much better.

VI. RETIREMENT

Father Fortier admits he never thought he would get to see retirement age because of his health, but now he is beginning to look at those options. He does have a fairly good insurance policy, and he is now looking to start an IRA. He is in Social Security, and does have enough quarters in to be able to qualify for some small income. He may reenter the program again to make sure he gets the health insurance when the time comes.

He says that he doesn't think he'd ever want to retire fully, that he'd like, perhaps at some point, to live in a rectory with another priest and help out, but he is looking at the various options that exist at this particular time.

I think he is realistic in this regard.



DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

OFFICE OF THE AUXILIARY BISHOP
Francis J. Christian, D.D., Ph.D.

153 Ash Street - Box 310
Manchester, NH 03105-0310

October 28, 1997

Rev. Roger A. Fortier
c/o St. Joseph Church
265 Lake Street
Nashua, N.H. 03061

Dear Roger:

Subsequent to our conversation of this date, this letter will confirm the fact that, effective at 2:30 p.m., in accord with the prescriptions of the Code of Canon Law, and with the knowledge of Bishop Leo E. O'Neil, I am placing you on administrative leave until further notice.

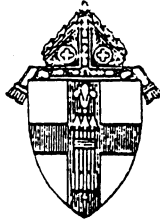
During this period of time, you will not have any of the priestly faculties of the Diocese of Manchester, and may not perform any priestly ministry of any sort in the public forum. You may, however, celebrate Mass privately. It is understood that you will be in residence at St. Joseph Parish in Nashua until further notice, and that you will continue to receive your monthly salary and benefits package, which will be funded directly by the Diocese during the period of this leave.

Should you have any questions or concerns in this regard, please be directly in contact with me.

I know that the circumstances which have necessitated this leave of absence are very painful for you. I share in that pain and will certainly keep you in my prayers during this difficult period of time in your life.

Sincerely in Christ,

Auxiliary Bishop of Manchester



DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

OFFICE OF THE AUXILIARY BISHOP
+ Francis J. Christian, D.D., Ph.D.

153 Ash Street - Box 310
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Sincerely in Christ,

+ *Francis J. Christian*

Auxiliary Bishop of Manchester

ST. PETER CHURCH, FARMINGTON

2367

The Most Reverend Francis J. Christian, Ph.D.
Auxiliary Bishop of Manchester

I'm sure that the question on everyone's mind today is, "Can the terrible ~~allegations~~ ^{charges} against Father Fortier possibly be true?" We are shocked and saddened by them. We perhaps don't want to believe them, but we wonder. We know that many good and caring people, teachers, doctors, lawyers, and even priests, have been afflicted by sexual problems, and we can't help but wonder if the same thing is true in regard to Father Fortier. Only time will tell whether the allegations are in fact true, but there is one thing of which I am sure. We must pray that the full and total truth will be discovered. Our Lord Himself has reminded us that only the truth will set us free. It is only when we know what is true that we can begin to respond appropriately to the reality. It is only then that we can provide the appropriate response, if necessary, for all those who are in need. It is only then that we can put things in place for all the parties concerned in the best way possible. So we must hope that the total truth will be found. ~~THE DIOCESE IS COOPERATING WITH THE CIVIL AUTHORITIES IN EVERY WAY THAT IS~~ This will take time. Both the family involved in this matter and Father Fortier have rights under the civil law. Those rights involve sometimes complicated processes. So we must be patient, and not try to rush to a judgment, as helpful as it would be to get all this behind us. However, as we await the discovery of the truth there are some things that need to be done, and the Diocese is in the process of taking the following steps.

1. The alleged victim. ~~Whether or not the allegations that have been made are~~ ^{these charges are corroborated or not} ~~either in full or in part~~ ^{them} true in whole or in part, we know that the boy who has brought these charges

CONSULT WITH FR. FORTIER & THE ALLEGED VICTIMS LEGAL RIGHTS IF ANY OF YOU HAVE ANY RELEVANT INFORMATION TO FILE WITH CIVIL AUTHORITIES

and his family must be suffering a great deal of pain. We need to reach out to them and offer them whatever assistance that we can.

The Diocese has been in contact with his family with the offer of appropriate medical and psychological assistance for the young man and for any other member of the family who might need it. Over and above this, we have assured them of our prayers and support that God will begin a healing process in their lives. I ask you to join me in those prayers for them

2. **Father Fortier.** Father Fortier has been placed on administrative leave, pending the outcome of these allegations. This means that he does not have permission to function as a priest anywhere in this Diocese or any place else in the world. During this time we will provide him with a place to live and with appropriate monetary support. We will also comfort him as best we can with our prayers and with any other appropriate assistance that he needs as he faces this very dark night.
3. **The Parish.** Father Armand Turgeon has most generously volunteered to serve as Temporary Administrator of Saint Peter's. He has been so appointed, and will run the parish for the next several weeks. You know him well, and he has great love for you. In the meantime, the Diocese will make plans to appoint, hopefully before the holidays, a permanent Administrator for the parish, pending the legal outcome of this case.

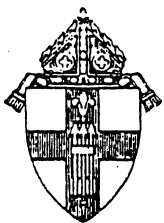
I know that all of this is painful to everyone, and some of you may feel the need to talk about your pain in more depth. As a result, present with us today is Sister Marie West, a counselor from the staff of Catholic Charities. She will be available after Mass

to speak with any of you about any of your concerns. I will also be available after Mass
to try to respond to any other questions you might have.

2020

I said at the beginning of Mass that we are a family of faith. I believe that with all my heart. You, here at St. Peter's, are family, and you belong to the wider family of the Diocese and the whole Church. A family does not desert its members when they are in need. Whatever the reality of the ~~allegations~~ ^{charge}, several of our family members are in tremendous need. Let us draw closer together to support them and one another during these difficult days. The Resurrection of Christ promises us that God can bring good out of evil and new life out of death. It is that promise that we celebrate every time we gather here. Let us remember that promise and count on it in these dark moments that we now share together.

Mr. Roger Fortier
2370



DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

OFFICE OF THE AUXILIARY BISHOP
+ Francis J. Christian, D.D., Ph.D.

September 18, 1998

153 Ash Street - Box 310
Manchester, NH 03105-0310

Mr. Stephen R. Carlisle
Senior Probation/Parole Officer
Strafford County Courthouse
259 County Farm Road, Unit #4
Dover, N.H. 03820-6015

Dear Mr. Carlisle:

In response to your letter of September 10, I write in reference to Roger Fortier.

Roger Fortier has been a priest of the Diocese of Manchester since April of 1980. He served as a priest in several parishes of the Diocese during those years, and most recently in St. Peter Parish, Farmington. He is, as you know, currently suspended from priestly ministry due to the charges placed against him and his subsequent conviction.

During his years of priestly ministry, Fr. Fortier was always an effective priest. He ministered well to the people and was generally well liked by them. He did have some problems with alcohol, which were treated with in-patient care for several months. Once returning from that treatment, he did not, to the best of my knowledge, ever again drink or have any problem with substance abuse. His sexual problems with youth were unknown to the Diocese and it is, in my mind, unfortunate that he did not make use of his time in treatment to deal with those other issues. Had he attempted to deal with them, and given his success in not falling back into alcohol abuse, he might very well not have engaged in the destructive behavior for which he has been found guilty.

Over the years, Fr. Fortier has had several serious health problems, foremost among which is [REDACTED] three occasions, and has had heart catheterization on several others. He has been under constant care from specialists in this regard and his heart problems will continue to be a significant issue for him for the rest of his life. His most recent assignments have had to take his health concerns into consideration and provide him with situations where he would experience minimum stress.

Thank you for the opportunity to share these facts with you.

Cordially in Christ,

+ Francis J. Christian

Auxiliary Bishop of Manchester



State of New Hampshire

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JEANNE SHAHEEN
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
DIVISION OF FIELD SERVICES

STRAFFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE
259 COUNTY FARM ROAD, UNIT #4
DOVER, NH 03820-6015
(603) 742-6621
FAX (603) 749-5907

HENRY RISLEY
COMMISSIONER

MICHAEL K. BROWN
DIRECTOR

September 10, 1998

Office of the Diocese of Manchester
P.O. Box 310
Manchester, N.H. 03105

Re: State v. Roger Fortier

Dear Sir:

The N.H. Department of Corrections is in the process of completing a presentence investigation for the Strafford County Superior Court on Roger Fortier due to his recent felony convictions in the Strafford County Superior Court.

Since my understanding is that he served the Diocese of Manchester for all or most of his years in the priesthood, I would like to give your office the opportunity to provide input into the previously mentioned report concerning the performance of his duties and any other information you may have to assist the Court and myself in learning more about Roger Fortier. If you do choose to assist, please keep in mind that sentencing is scheduled for 10-9-98 so a response would be needed by 9-28-98.

Thank you.

Very Truly Yours,

Stephen R. Carlisle
Stephen R. Carlisle
Senior Probation/Parole Officer

SRC/bc



<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATE OF BIRTH</u>	<u>DATE OF ORDINATION</u>
FORTIER, Roger A.	10/ 1/46	4/26/80

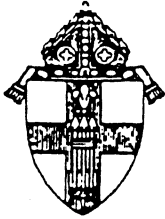
COLLEGES ATTENDED: Nashua Business College, NH College; St. Mary's College
 ACADEMIC DEGREES: Assoc. in Business Management; Degree equivalent Mt. St. Mary's; MA Candidate
 SEMINARIES ATTENDED: St. Mary's Seminary, Baltimore, MD; St. Mary's Seminary, Emmitsburg, MD
 PLACE OF ORDINATION: St. Joseph Cathedral, Manchester, NH
 ORDAINING PRELATE: Most Rev. Odore J. Gendron, D.D.

PARISH ASSIGNMENTS

Manchester, Sacred Heart	4/26/80
Manchester, St. John the Baptist	6/18/80
Rochester, Holy Rosary	6/27/84
Leave of Absence, Reasons of Health, for 6 mos.	1/ 4/87
Leave of Absence for Reasons of Health	1/ 6/88
Nashua, Infant Jesus	6/15/88
Leave of Absence for Reasons of Health	8/25/89
Manchester, Our Lady of Perpetual Help	10/ 4/89
Plaistow, Holy Angels TEMP. ADM.	10/10/90
Farmington, St. Peter PASTOR	2/ 6/91
SICK LEAVE	5/13/93 to 12/ 9/93
Administrative Leave	10/28/97

APPOINTMENTS/SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS/ADDITIONAL MINISTRY

Appointed, Diocesan School Board (3 yrs.)	8/21/86
Reappointed (3 yrs) 1989	
Dioc. Moderator, NH Council of Cath. Women	3/ 7/91
Resigned 8/1/95	
Council of Priests, Dover Deanery (3 Yrs.)	9/91



OFFICE OF THE AUXILIARY BISHOP

+ Most Rev. Francis J. Christian, D.D., Ph.D

Diocese of Manchester

October 12, 1999

Roger Fortier 27250
P.O. Box 14
Concord, NH 03302-0014

Dear Roger:

Just a brief note to express my best wishes that your recovery from surgery will be most successful. I am sorry that I did not get a chance to visit you while you were in the hospital. I certainly have kept you in my prayers and hope that you are now feeling better. I am sure that having to go through another procedure was not the most wonderful of experiences. Obviously, however, it will give you much better health in the long run.

Again, be assured of my prayerful best wishes for a speedy recovery. With every good wish, I am

Cordially yours in Christ,

+ Frank

Auxiliary Bishop of Manchester

Hope you're feeling better, Roger!

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND GENERAL RELEASE

This Agreement made this 30th day of November, 1999, by and between [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] and THE ROMAN
CATHOLIC BISHOP OF MANCHESTER, a corporation sole of 153 Ash St., P.O. Box 310,
Manchester, New Hampshire 03105-0310,

WITNESSETH That:

WHEREAS, [REDACTED] and has served a Writ against the Roman
Catholic Bishop of Manchester, a corporation sole and others entitled [REDACTED]
Catholic Diocese of Manchester, and Roger Fortier, which Writ was not entered in the Strafford
County Superior Court; and

WHEREAS, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Manchester, a corporation sole, has denied
and continues to deny any liability for damages allegedly suffered and claimed by [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] and deny his entitlement to any relief in connection with the above-referenced Writ,
and states that under no circumstances shall this agreement be construed as an admission of
liability under any state or federal laws; and

WHEREAS, [REDACTED] and the Roman Catholic Bishop of Manchester, a
corporation sole, in good faith, have agreed to avoid the expense and time of litigation
proceedings, to resolve all of their differences by this agreement, to keep all information
concerning [REDACTED] claims and allegations and the terms of this settlement completely
confidential, and that this agreement adequately resolves all of the differences between the
parties;

NOW THEREFORE, [REDACTED] and the Roman Catholic Bishop of Manchester, a
corporation sole, agree, for the consideration and upon the terms set forth in this agreement, that:

1. [REDACTED] through his counsel has not and will not file his Writ of Summons entitled [REDACTED] Roman Catholic Diocese of Manchester and Roger Fortier, in the Strafford County Superior Court or in any other court.

2. [REDACTED] does for himself, his heirs, executors, beneficiaries, administrators, successors, and assigns (the foregoing releasing parties being hereinafter referred to as the "Releasers"), hereby release, remise and forever discharge, fully and finally, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Manchester, a corporation sole, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Manchester, the Diocese of Manchester, all parishes within the Diocese of Manchester, and Roger Fortier, their past, present and future officers, ministers, clerics, priests, Bishops, directors, attorneys, agents, servants, representatives, subsidiaries, partners, representatives, employees, predecessors and successors in interest and assigns, affiliates, and all other persons and/or entities to the extent that such other person and/or entity is liable or could be deemed liable by, through, or under them (the foregoing released parties being hereinafter referred to as the "Releasees") of and from any and all past, present or future cause and causes of action, all manner of actions, suits, demands, claims, debts, sums of money, accounts, reckoning, bonds, bills, specialties, covenants, controversies, judgments, agreements, premises, variances, trespasses, damages, execution, claims and liabilities of whatsoever kind and nature. including, but not limited to, any and all claims for bodily or personal physical injuries, mental anguish, psychological or emotional distress, property damage, medical bills, lost wages, pain and suffering, loss of consortium, and any and all damages and expenses of any nature whatsoever, past, present and future, foreseen or unforeseen, known or unknown, which have been incurred or which may be incurred in the future, upon or by reason of any matter, cause or thing whatsoever from the beginning of the world to the date of these presents. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, this release

specifically pertains to all events complained of by [REDACTED] with respect to the claims brought in a certain Writ entitled [REDACTED] v. Roman Catholic Diocese of Manchester and Roger Fortier, served on the Roman Catholic Bishop of Manchester, a corporate sole, including all claims which have been or could have been raised in connection with said Writ.

3. The Releasors expressly agree that they and their agents, including their counsel, will not, at any time, directly or indirectly, publicize, divulge, discuss or disclose any of their allegations, claims, documents, settlement demands, and offers, including, but not limited to, the terms, provisions and obligations of this Settlement Agreement and General Release, or any other information relating to their claims against the Releasees in any manner whatsoever (including all information related to the claims of any other party or person in connection with matters arising out of the same or similar facts to those alleged in the Writ), except that the Releasors or their agents may disclose such terms to their legal advisors and accountants as may be necessary to receive professional advice and then only if such persons are expressly made aware of this confidentiality provision and agree in writing to be bound hereby, and except as otherwise compelled by final, nonappealable order from a court of competent jurisdiction. Violation of this confidentiality provision by Releasors or their legal advisors or accountants shall immediately result in cancellation of all obligations of Releasees to Releasors hereunder and the immediate return of all monies paid by Releasees to or on behalf Releasors from Releasors.

4. In consideration of this settlement agreement and in consideration of the below mentioned sum of money, and other good and valuable consideration, [REDACTED] hereby agrees to pay from the settlement proceeds herein described any and all medical bills, property damage claims, attorneys' fees, and medical, wage, attorney, workers' and unemployment

compensation liens, and any and all other claims or liens, subrogation rights or other causes of action arising out of the events complained of by [REDACTED] and released herein. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] for and in consideration of the herein mentioned sum of money, and for other good and valuable consideration, hereby agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the Releasees from any and all liens, including but not limited to, wage liens, workers' compensation and unemployment compensation liens, attorney liens, PIP liens, medical liens, and from any and all subrogation rights and other claims and causes of action arising out of the events complained of which may exist or which may hereinafter accrue.

5. Upon execution of this Agreement, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Manchester, a corporation sole, agrees to pay, One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) to the Law Office of Stephen Gaige, Attorneys for [REDACTED] for and on behalf of [REDACTED] and payable jointly to the law office and [REDACTED]

6. It is agreed and understood that this Settlement Agreement and General Release is accepted by the Releasees as a compromise of disputed claims and that it is not to be construed as an admission of liability on the part of the Releasees by whom liability is expressly denied.

7. [REDACTED] hereby acknowledges that he fully understands the terms of this Settlement Agreement and General Release and that he voluntarily accepts the agreed upon consideration for the purpose of making a full and final compromise, adjustment and settlement of any and all matters with the Releasees.

The terms of this release are contractual and not a mere recital.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, [REDACTED] having read carefully the foregoing Settlement Agreement and General Release and knowing and understanding its content, and with

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the advice of counsel, signs the same as his own free act and deed this 3rd day of November

1999.

WITNESS:

[Handwritten Signature]



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
COUNTY OF HILLSBOROUGH
(STRAFFORD)

Before me, personally appeared [Redacted] and took oath that his signature by him herein is his free act and deed.

[Handwritten Signature]
Justice of the Peace
Notary Public

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOP
OF MANCHESTER, a corporation sole

Martha A. Kipp

By: John P. Quinn
Its FINANCE OFFICER

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
COUNTY OF HILLSBOROUGH

Before me, personally appeared John P. Quinn on behalf of The Roman Catholic Bishop of Manchester, a corporation sole. and took oath that that his signature is duly authorized.

Edward J. Assenault
Justice of the Peace
Notary Public

2380

Roger
Fortier

vault file

11/12/00

Dr Fortier / Personal
file

God Bless
YOU Dear Bishop John:

Thank you for your letter, and kind words.
I am most grateful for your visit. Every
time I meet with you you always lift up
my spirits. I always feel spiritually and emotionally
uplifted. You are truly a good shepherd.

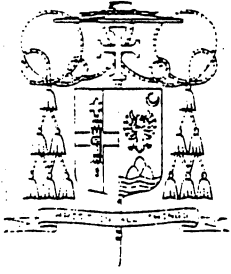
I am grateful for all you have done for me.
The only way I can repay you is by praying for you
which I promised to do. Prayer is what sustains me.
I pray the Lord give me the grace not to get discouraged
or to despair.

Thank you for listening to my problems. Sometimes I
think it's not much to worry about, but then I realize
the importance of it all not only to me but to others.
I can only pray now that God's will be done, and
for the grace to accept whatever happens.

Be assured of my prayers for you and my
brother priests. May the Lord grace you in your
ministry.

May God bless you in all you do.
In His Love...

Roger



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP
DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

2382

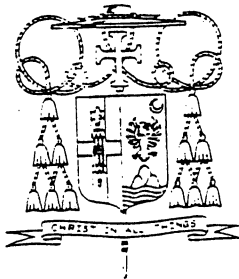
MEMORANDUM

TO: Father Arsenault
FROM: Bishop McCormack *JM*
DATE: August 31, 2001
RE: Monthly Stipend of Priest in Prison

OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR
FILE: *MacRae / Fortier*
AUTHORIZED: *Ep*

Roger Fortier and Gordon MacRae receive a monthly stipend, I think, from your office. Currently I think that it is \$100 a-month plus individual expenses submitted by them. In view of my conversations with both of them today, I ask that you increase the monthly stipend to \$150 per month. If you have any difficulty with this, let me know.

3780



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR
FILE: October 4, 2001
AUTHORIZED: [Signature]

Mr. Roger Fortier
P.O. Box 14
Concord, NH 03302

Dear Roger:

I received a voice mail from Father Bernie Campbell yesterday telling me that you have to have surgery to remove a lymph node. I'm sure that you must be a bit apprehensive, knowing the serious of lymph nodes. I pray that it will be benign. I hope that the dizzy spells that you are experiencing can be managed. I will keep you in prayer.

The news that your appeal to the Supreme Court was denied is disappointing, and I hope you are bearing up underneath it. God is good. He will show you a way to deal with this well.

I wish I could be with you at this time. However, geography and commitments don't allow it. Do know, though, that you continue to be in my prayer, and I hope that it will not be too long before I have another opportunity to visit with you and Gordon. If you think there is something I can do, please drop me a line and let me know. Don't let it wait.

Take care, Roger.

Warm regards,

[Signature]
Bishop of Manchester

TELEPHONE MESSAGE

TO: Bishop McCormack
FROM: Roger Fortier via Fr. Bernie Campbell
TELEPHONE: 233
RE: Three items
DATE & TIME: October 21, 12:25 PM
(voice mail)

Fr. Campbell was at the State Prison yesterday and Roger Fortier asked him to convey the following to you:

1. He said he has to have surgery to remove a lymph node in his groin – he is not optimistic about it.
2. His appeal to the Supreme Court was denied
3. He has been having dizzy spells.

He asked Fr. Campbell to pray for him and convey these messages to Bishop McCormack.

June 1, 1978

Mr. Roger Fortier
1 Park Avenue
Merrimack, N.H. 03054

Dear Roger,

Upon recommendation of the Diocesan Vocation Board, Most Reverend Bishop Gendron is pleased to announce your assignment to St. Joseph's Parish in Salem, N.H. I have also informed Rev. Karl Dowd of your assignment to his parish and he is looking forward to the opportunity of working with you.

I am in hopes that your assignment will include a variety of challenges and experiences. These should include hospital, care of the shut-ins, home visitations, baptismal catechesis, liturgy and any other areas mutually agreed upon between yourself and the pastor. The assignment will be effective Wednesday, June 14 until Wednesday, August 9th. These dates are flexible and should be discussed with Fr. Dowd.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for accepting this challenge and I pray that you will have a rich experience in St. Joseph's Parish.

If there are any questions, please feel free to call or write any time. If anything comes up during the summer, feel free to let us know if we can be of assistance.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

Rev. Paul E. Groleau
Vocation Director

PEG:ed

CC: Rev. Karl Dowd

P.S. Rev. Karl Dowd has asked me to inform you that you are indeed invited to participate and attend clergy day at Camp Fatima on June 14th. If you plan to attend or would like more details, please contact Fr. Dowd at St. Joseph's in Salem. Tel. no. 898-4933 as soon as possible.

June 1, 1978

Rev. Karl E. Dowd
St. Joseph
33 Main Street
P.O. Box 876
Salem, N.H. 03079

Dear Karl,

I am pleased to announce that Daniel Messier and Roger Fortier have been assigned to St. Joseph's parish. Dan has completed Third Theology at Theological College and Roger has just completed Second Theology at Mt. St. Mary's Seminary. They are certainly looking forward to a rich summer experience with you. May I take this opportunity to thank you for supporting this summer program. Our seminarians really look forward to these assignments. You have no idea how much you contribute to their lives by affording them this unique opportunity. It is also a great support to the Diocesan Vocation Program. It is priests like yourself who really help make this work so much easier.

Dan and Roger should be getting in touch with you soon. This assignment is effective Wednesday, June 14th until Wednesday, August 9th. These dates are certainly flexible. However, the program is designed for a minimum of 8 weeks. The salary is \$250.00 per month. We also encourage that they take at least a week off, if not more, before returning to school.

Dan and Roger have received the ministry of Acolyte and Reader. This means that they are ordinary ministers of the Eucharist and are commissioned by the Bishop to distribute communion anywhere in the Diocese of Manchester. However, this is not done instead of the priest but as a support to him. Since Dan has received the ministry of Reader and has completed his third year of theology, he is encouraged to preach under proper supervision. Proper supervision means that he share his homily with you before the Sunday celebration and to follow this with a critique session.

Rev, Karl Dowd
Page 2

Other areas in which Dan and Roger could be involved might include hospital ministry, shut-ins, baptismal catechesis, parish visitations, liturgy (lector, cantor, eucharistic minister etc,...), marriage preparation and any other area you might find to be important for him and the parish.

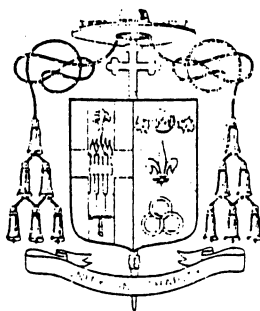
If there are any questions, please feel free to call or write. May I also ask if it would be possible for Dan and Roger to be free the weekend of August 4,5,6th to attend the annual Seminarian Retreat at the Oblates in Hudson.

My best wishes -

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Paul E. Groleau
Vocation Director

PEG:ed



ODORE JOSEPH

By the Grace of God and the Apostolic See

BISHOP OF MANCHESTER

+

To all who shall examine this letter
Greetings in Our Lord!

We hereby affirm and certify that our beloved son

ROGER ARMAND FORTIER

of the DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER having been examined,
approved and found worthy, in an ordination ceremony held in

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CHURCH, NASHUA, N.H.

on the 19th day of MAY 1979, according to the
rite of the Holy Roman Church, with all rules being observed,
was promoted in our Lord to the order of

DIACONATE

Given at Manchester, New Hampshire in the Episcopal
Offices under our sign and seal and with the assistance of our
Chancellor on the 19th day of MAY 1979.

George E. Ham
By order of the Most Reverend Bishop
Chancellor

+ *Odore J. Henderson*
Bishop of Manchester

1. Yes, I do feel that the parish assignment has offered me a broad range of experience in ministry. I was involved with hospital visitation, home visitation, communion calls, taught 9th grad CCD, catechesis with the parents of the first communion class, baptismal catechesis, marriage preparations, prepared the parish bulletin, worked on childrens liturgies, worked with the folk group, organized a scripture study and reflection group.
2. I feel that there was a great need for a deacon here at Sacred Heart, and because of the openness of the pastor and his involving me in many different areas of ministry here, I feel I was able to make a contribution to the needs of the parish.
3. I've experienced growth in leadership, self-confidence and in my prayer life.
4. I feel there is always room for growth in my life, especially in the area of self-confidence.
5. We had no need to set aside specific time for discussion of my ministry, because we are in constant dialogue about my ministry here at the parish.
6. No other member of the parish staff could have better served as my supervisor.
7. I feel that Fr. Desjardins and I have had a high degree of communication. Fr. Fillion is in residence, though he keeps to himself, I've had no difficulty communicating with him when the occasion arises. I would have to say that communication with Fr. Drapeau is fair.
8. I feel this parish should be considered as a future assignment for deacons, because Fr. Desjardins gives you the opportunity to share all the possible duties that a deacon could have, and he is open and challenging.
9. I feel that the vocation director has done a great job during the internship program, his regular visits keep him up on what is going on in the assignment. I am grateful for his openness and willingness to help at all times.
10. The presentations by all the departments were very helpful and informative, with regards to the services they are providing for the diocese. I was very impressed with the presentation by the Catholic Charities office, which provides many services which I was not aware of. The practical experience in the tribunal was of great help, it is an area of ministry which we will run into very often.. It has helped me be very sensitive to the deep hurt that some of these people are experiencing. The only suggestion I would have would be to lengthen each program with an overnight, so that we might share liturgy together and to also share our own experiences in the ministry we are involved.

11. Overall, I feel that Mt. St. Mary's Seminary has prepared me well for service in the Diocese of Manchester. My main reason for the favorable evaluation is the Mount's very strong spiritual program. Academically, the Mount is strong in most departments. The strongest department is the dogma dept., the weakest is the moral dept. The scripture dept. is strong and the history dept. is getting better.
12. I have found great support here in the diocese, from the parishioners, from the parishioners, from my supervisor, from the members of the vocation board, and from the bishops.
I am not presently a member of a support group, but I would be interested in joining one.
13. I have taken adequate time off to rest and I do not feel that I have taken too much time off.
- 14-17 answered on questionnaire.
18. I would be very happy to stay here where I have served as a deacon. Fr. Desjardins and I work very well together, we share together, and most importantly and perhaps the reason for such a successful assignment, is that we pray together.

NAME Roger A. Fortier

DEACON ASSIGNMENT Sacred Heart Parish, Manchester, N.H.

SUPERVISOR Rev. George Desjardins

(Please respond to these questions on separate sheets of paper)

1. Do you feel that your parish assignment has offered you a sufficiently broad range of experiences in ministry? Please explain the chief areas of involvement.
2. Do you feel that there was a real need for the services of a deacon and that you were therefore able to contribute significantly to serving the needs of the parish?
3. In what areas have you experienced growth through this experience of parish ministry?
4. In what areas do you now feel the need for further growth?
5. Was a specific time set aside on a regular basis for you to meet with your supervisor and discuss your diaconal ministry? How frequently has this been done, and how fruitful have these discussions been?
6. Could another member of the parish staff have better served as your supervisor?
7. Please evaluate the degree of genuine communication that you have experienced with your supervisor. (Also, if there are other priests in the rectory, how would you evaluate your communication with them?)
8. Please give your candid evaluation of whether this parish should be considered in the future for the assignment of deacons. Why or why not?
9. Please give your candid evaluation of the vocation director's role in your deacon internship experience and suggest changes that he should consider in dealing with deacons in future internship assignments.
10. Evaluate each of the following areas which have been part of your internship on a diocesan level. Please make suggestions as to how they can be improved in the future.
 - a. Marriage Tribunal - initial presentation
 - b. Marriage Tribunal - weekly practical experience
 - c. Catholic Charities presentation

- 2 -

d. Chancery Office

e. Youth - Religious Education

d. Are there any other areas that you would suggest should be included in the future?

11. Please evaluate how well you feel that your seminary has prepared you for ministry in the Diocese of Manchester. Please specify areas of strengths and weaknesses in the seminary programs and any suggestions that you consider would be helpful for us to bring to the attention of the seminary administration.
12. Have you experienced adequate support from your parishioners, those living with you in the rectory, and your peers here in the diocese? Are you a member of a priest support group? If not, would you be interested in joining one?
13. It is important that you take adequate time for rest and recreation. Have you taken enough time off? Have you taken too much time off?
14. Regarding future assignments in the priesthood, please describe any special experience, training (e.g. degree or non-degree studies) and talents that should be considered in making your assignments.
15. Please indicate your personal preference with regard to PARISH work. (Mark as #1 the kinds of parishes in which you have the deepest interest; mark as #2 those in which you have a moderate interest; mark as #3 those in which you have a little interest; and mark as 0 those in which you have no interest.

<u> </u> No special preference	<u> 2 </u> Bilingual parish (specify) <i>French</i>
<u> 2 </u> City parish	<u> 2 </u> North <u> 1 </u> East
<u> 1 </u> Suburban parish	<u> 1 </u> South <u> 3 </u> West
<u> 3 </u> Rural parish	<u> 2 </u> Seacoast
<u> 2 </u> Manchester area	<u> </u> Other

16. As you know, it is understood that in the Diocese of Manchester no priest will be considered for specialized ministry until he has been ordained for 3 to 5 years and has been involved in parish ministry during that time. For future reference, please indicate your interest in the following specialized fields:

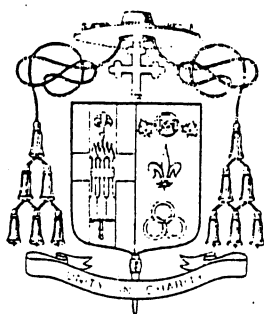
() Adult Education	() Pre-Marriage Work
() Chancery Office	() Radio and TV
() Catholic Charities	() Religious Education (CCD)
() Campus Ministry	() Retreats and Days of Renewal
() Counseling	() Sacred Music
() Ecumenism	() Urban Affairs
() Educational Administration	(X) Vocation Work
() High School Teaching	(X) Youth Work

- () Hospital Chaplain
 - () Interracial Work
 - () Journalism
 - () Liturgy
 - () Manchester Mission
 - () Marriage Tribunal
 - () Military Chaplain
 - () Christian Life Center
 - () Reserves
 - () Further Studies (Specify)
 - () Other (Specify)
-
-

17. With what foreign languages are you familiar? Please indicate your degree of fluency.

<u>Language</u>	<u>High</u>	<u>Moderate</u>	<u>Slight</u>
<u>FRENCH</u>		<u>X</u>	

3. How would you feel about remaining in the parish where you have served as a deacon following your ordination to the priesthood?



ODORE JOSEPH

By the Grace of God and the Apostolic See

BISHOP OF MANCHESTER

+

To all who shall examine this letter
Greetings in Our Lord!

We hereby affirm and certify that our beloved son

Roger Armand Fortier

of the Diocese of Manchester having been examined,
approved and found worthy, in an ordination ceremony held in

St. Joseph Cathedral, Manchester, New Hampshire

on the 26th day of April 19 80, according to the
rite of the Holy Roman Church, with all rules being observed,
was promoted in our Lord to the order of

PRIESTHOOD

Given at Manchester, New Hampshire in the Episcopal
Offices under our sign and seal and with the assistance of our
Chancellor on the 26th day of April 1980.

George S. Flannery
By order of the Most Reverend Bishop
Chancellor

+ Odore J. Gendron
Bishop of Manchester

FR Roger Fortier

3792

BISHOP'S HOUSE
657 RIVER ROAD
MANCHESTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE
03105

June 4, 1980

Rev. Roger A. Fortier
Sacred Heart Church
223 South Main St.
Manchester, N. H. 03102

Dear Father Fortier:

Subsequent to our recent conversation, and upon the recommendation of the Diocesan Personnel Board, I am pleased to confirm your appointment as Associate Pastor of St. John the Baptist Church, Manchester, N.H., effective June 18, 1980.

I have every confidence that the dedication you have shown as a Deacon will enable you to work harmoniously and fruitfully with Monsignor Lesmerises and Father Martel in caring for the needs of the people of St. John's. I pray that your first assignment as a priest will be both fulfilling and memorable.

With every good wish, I am

Cordially in Christ,

Bishop of Manchester

FR Roger Fortier

BISHOP'S HOUSE
657 RIVER ROAD
MANCHESTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE
03105

3793

June 4, 1980

Rev. George A. Desjardins
Sacred Heart Church
223 South Main Street
Manchester, N.H. 03102

Dear Father Desjardins:

I would like to inform you that, upon recommendation of the Diocesan Personnel Board, I am appointing the Rev. Roger A. Fortier as Associate Pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish, Manchester, N.H., effective June 18, 1980.

As a result, I would like to take this occasion to sincerely thank you for all the help and guidance you have given him during his days with you as a Deacon. I know that much of the success and happiness he will experience as a priest will be due to your kindness and assistance during his Diaconate.

Assuring you of my prayers for the continued fruitfulness of your priestly ministry, I am

Cordially in Christ,

Bishop of Manchester

We are sending you to St. John the Baptist Parish in Manchester, as your first priestly assignment. Msgr. Lesmerises is delighted with your appointment to the parish. I think you will find it to be a great challenge. It is a very large French speaking parish, but I think that you will find the people to be exceptionally friendly and very supportive of their priests. As you know, Father Ham will be meeting with you and Msgr. Lesmerises for the next two years, to be sure that the initial assignment for you as a priest will be as happy as humanly possible.

File - TR. Fortier

3795



Department of Priestly Life and Ministry

Diocese of Manchester 153 Ash Street Manchester, New Hampshire 03105 (603) 669-3100

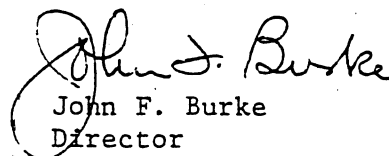
June 15, 1981

Most Rev. Odore J. Gendron
Bishop of Manchester
153 Ash Street
Manchester, N.H. 03105

Dear Bishop Gendron,

This is to advise you that Father Roger A. Fortier, St. John the Baptist Parish, Manchester made his annual retreat at St. Anselm Abbey, Manchester, N.H. beginning at 5:35 P.M. on Monday, June 8, 1981 and closing after lunch on Friday, June 12, 1981. The retreat director was Abbot Leonard J. Cassell, O.S.B. of St. Mary's Abbey, Morristown, New Jersey.

Sincerely in The Lord,


John F. Burke
Director

JFB/t1

FR. R. FIDELL

3796

June 11, 1984

Rev. Roger A. Fortier
St. John the Baptist Rectory
117 Youville Street
Manchester, N. H. 03102

Dear Father Fortier:

Subsequent to our recent conversation and upon the recommendation of the Diocesan Personnel Board, this letter will confirm your appointment as Associate Pastor of Holy Rosary Parish in Rochester, effective June 27, 1984.

I am grateful for the fine pastoral work you have done during your years at St. John the Baptist, and I am confident that this same priestly dedication will enable you to work happily with Monsignor Gilles Simard, the Pastor, and Father Eugene Pelletier, your fellow Associate Pastor, in caring for the needs of the good people of Holy Rosary.

In closing, let me assure you of my prayers that your new ministry will be fruitful in every way.

With every good wish, I am

Cordially in Christ,

Bishop of Manchester

J.R. Fuller

3797

June 11, 1984

Rev. Msgr. Gilles J. Simard
Holy Rosary Rectory
189 North Main Street
Rochester, New Hampshire 03867

Dear Monsignor Simard:

This letter will confirm the appointment of the Reverend Roger Fortier as Associate Pastor of Holy Rosary Parish in Rochester, effective June 27, 1984. I am confident that Father Fortier will work happily and effectively with you in caring for the needs of the good people of your parish.

Assuring you of my prayerful best wishes, I am

Cordially in Christ,

Bishop of Manchester

FR. R. Fortier

3798

June 11, 1984

Very Rev. Paul L. Gregoire, V.F.
St. John the Baptist Rectory
117 Youville Street
Manchester, New Hampshire 03102

Dear Father Gregoire:

This letter will confirm the appointment of Father Roger Fortier as Associate Pastor of Holy Rosary Parish in Rochester, effective June 27, 1984. He will be replaced as Associate Pastor of St. John the Baptist on that same date by Father Dennis J. Audet.

I am confident that Father Audet will work happily and effectively with you in caring for the needs of the good people of your parish.

With every good wish, I am

Cordially in Christ,

Bishop of Manchester



CHANCERY OFFICE
153 ASH STREET
P.O. BOX 310
MANCHESTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE
03105-0310



DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

September 26, 1984

C O N F I D E N T I A L M E M O R A N D U M

RE: Father Roger A. Fortier

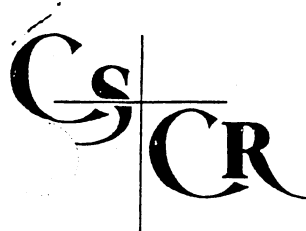
On September 26th, a [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] (telephone [REDACTED]) called Father Christian. Her family had been friendly with Father Fortier while he was at St. John the Baptist. She called, stating that approximately a week ago an Officer Thomas from the Derry Police Department had come to their home stating that he had evidence that Father Fortier was a homosexual and wanting to question her son. Apparently, he had been questioning a number of young men in the parish.

On that same date Father Christian called and spoke to Officer Thomas. Officer Thomas had apparently been under the delusion that the Diocese knew all about these matters. Father Christian assured him that this was not so, and that we had never heard, since his ordination, that Father Fortier had any difficulties of this sort. Father Christian also stated that if he did have these problems we certainly did want to give him assistance and make sure that he was not harming anyone else. Officer Thomas stated that the Derry police had received reports that a priest from Manchester was bringing young men to the home of a homosexual in Derry. The priest turned out to be Father Fortier. Officer Thomas had questioned some of the young men and also had spoken to Father Fortier. He claimed that Father Fortier (a) admitted he was a homosexual, (b) admitted to one case of soliciation (apparently no actual sexual activity occurred here), (c) had on occasion served alcohol to minors, (d) had on occasion shown some pornographic film to minors. Father Christian indicated that he would be contacting Father Fortier himself, and that the Diocese would be most anxious to work in cooperation with the police if that was necessary. Officer Thomas did not seem to indicate any immediate criminal charges were being filed, although he stated the case was still open.

On September 27th, Father Christian met with Father Roger Fortier. Father Fortier was most cooperative and admitted that he had experienced some difficulties while at St. John's. He specifically admitted to each of the charges the police officer had

indicated. He stated, however, that he realized these actions had been wrong and that since he had been in Rochester he had turned over a new leaf and started fresh. Father Christian requested that Father Fortier agree to (a) begin seeing Dr. Henry Ouellette of the Clergy Counseling Services immediately. Father Christian indicated that he would share with Dr. Ouellette the basic problems involved; (b) to allow Dr. Ouellette to write to Father Christian that he was actually in therapy, treating the problem in question; and (c) to allow Dr. Ouellette to notify Father Christian if he were to leave treatment before this was mutually agreed to. Father Christian urged Father Fortier to be as open and honest with Dr. Ouellette as possible, even though Father Fortier claimed to Father Christian that he had nothing to hide. Father Christian insisted that he be completely honest with the psychologist. He stated that if Father Fortier did not bring this problem under control and he were convicted, he would certainly end up in jail with the Bishop being helpless to assist him. He also indicated that in the event of any public scandal there was every likelihood that the Bishop would be unable to allow Father Fortier to function as a priest in the Diocese of Manchester, and that it was probable he might not even be able to function as a priest anywhere.

3801



CONSULTATION SERVICE FOR CLERGY and RELIGIOUS

282 CONCORD STREET MANCHESTER, N. H. 03104

603-668-0014

October 25, 1984

Reverend Francis J. Christian
Chancery Office
153 Ash Street
P. O. Box 310
Manchester, New Hampshire 03105

Dear Father Christian:

I write as requested, with the permission of Father Fortier, to report that he has been visiting me regularly for counseling. He has been dealing with the material that was discussed by you at his meeting with you recently concerning complaints received by you from the Derry Police Department.

Father Fortier has also agreed to continue counseling until such time that we would both feel that there is no longer need for it. Hoping that this report is sufficient to meet your needs, I remain

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Henry P. Guertin-Ouellette".

Henry P. Guertin-Ouellette, Ph.D.

HG-0:ae

AUTHORIZATION TO RELEASE INFORMATION

I hereby authorize: Henry P. Luster - Ouellette

to release to: Rev Francis J. Christian

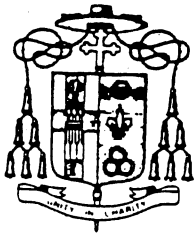
any and all information with respect to my medical and psychological condition, including medical history, psychological evaluation, diagnosis, treatment, recommendations, and any copies of reports pertaining to such information.

QUALIFICATIONS: Letter dated Oct 25, 1984
Copy attached

Rev. George X. [Signature]
Signature of Client

Witness

Date



DR. Roger Fortier

3803

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP
DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

MOST REVEREND ODORE J. GENDRON, D.D.

August 21, 1986

Rev. Roger A. Fortier
Holy Rosary Rectory
189 North Main Street
Rochester, New Hampshire 03867

Dear Father Fortier:

In response to the recommendation of Brother Roger Lemoyne, SC, Superintendent of Catholic Schools, I am pleased to appoint you to the Diocesan School Board. This appointment is made with the understanding that you have indicated your willingness to accept this nomination, and your term is to be effective for a period of three years.

I also take this opportunity to express my personal appreciation to you for your willingness to accept this appointment, in addition to your many other responsibilities.

With every prayerful good wish, I am

Cordially in Christ,

Bishop of Manchester

cc/ Sister Pauline Lebel
Brother Roger Lemoyne

December 6, 1987

Most Rev. Odore J. Gendron
153 Ash Street
Manchester, NH 03105


Dear Bishop Gendron:

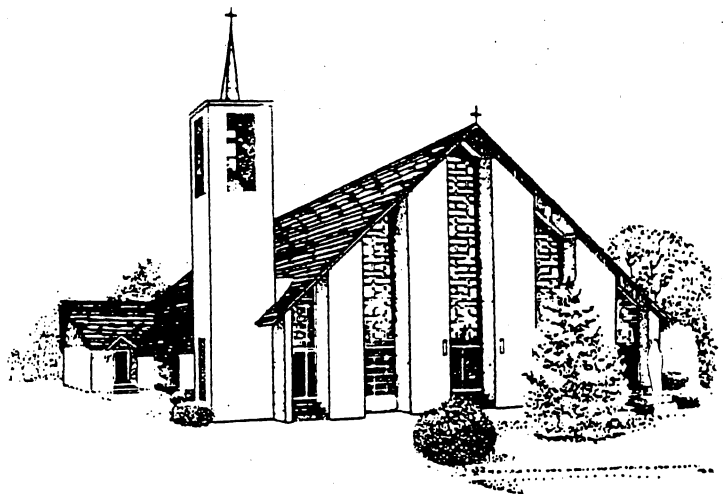
Enclosed, please find a copy of the letter which I received from Dr. Alexander concerning my recent visit to the Lahey Clinic. I pray that this will be of help to you, in whatever decision you may have to make.

I wish to thank you for having seen me a few weeks ago, for it was a relief to get these things off my mind.

May the Lord bless you during this season.

In Christ,


Rev. Roger A. Fortier



Holy Rosary Church
189 North Main Street
Rochester, New Hampshire 03867

December 19, 1987

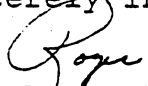
Most Reverend Odore J. Gendron D.D.
153 Ash St., P.O. Box 310
Manchester, NH 03105-0310

Dear Bishop Gendron:

As per our conversation last tuesday, and upon recommendation by my doctors, I am hereby requesting a six month sick leave, effective January 4, 1988.

I am grateful for your understanding and I ask your prayers so that I may return in good health, ready to be of service to you and the people of God in this diocese.

Sincerely in Christ,


Rev. Roger A. Fortier

Address in Florida:

1000 19th St. No.
Jacksonville Beach, Fla. 32250