



Complaint File – Conrad V. LaForest  
(Confidential Envelope)

**CONFIDENTIAL**



## SECRETARIAT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE AND CANONICAL AFFAIRS

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

January 9, 1990

Mr. Willis King  
St. Luke Institute  
2420 Brooks Drive  
Suitland, Maryland 20746

Dear Mr. King:

Subsequent to our telephone conversation of last week, I include a release letter from Father Conrad LaForest which permits you to release to me, from his testing and therapy of several years ago, any pertinent information regarding sexual problems he may have had, and your evaluation as to how those problems were resolved.

I make this request of you at this time since we have recently become aware of an allegation about Father LaForest dating from a time prior to his treatment at Saint Luke. The allegation comes from a young man who was 12 or 13 at the time, and alleges that on two or three occasions, Father LaForest attempted some kind of sexual contact or made suggestions of a similar nature.

Father LaForest indicates that he has never had any homosexual inclinations, particularly not with children. While he admits to the instances the young man alleges, e.g., that on one occasion he touched his genitals, or a second occasion slept in the same bed with him nude, and on a third occasion provided him with a pornographic magazine, Father LaForest claims that none of these was an attempt at a seduction. The first was rather an attempt to verify the extent of an injury the young man had incurred while at Father LaForest's camp; the second was simply a normal sleeping situation with no attempts at any sort of contact; and the third was admittedly imprudent behavior. Father LaForest admits that, because he was abusive of alcohol at the time, he oftentimes didn't think clearly about what he was doing. However, he never had any improper desires or motives.

Mr. Willis King  
January 9, 1990  
Page 2.

Since at this point we must deal with the family in question, who have a tremendous amount of goodwill but are still concerned (and who, by the way, are not aware that Father LaForest subsequently underwent intensive therapy for alcohol), it would be helpful if your records could give some indication as to whether any sexual problems surfaced and were in any way treated. I would also appreciate any comments you might have given the nature of the problems I have addressed.

I appreciate your assistance in this regard and would look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely in Christ,

(Msgr.) Francis J. Christian  
Secretary  
Chancellor

Our Lady of the Mountains Parish  
28 Grove Street, Box 189  
North Conway, New Hampshire 03860  
Telephone 356-5654

Our Lady of the Mountains  
North Conway

Saint Joseph  
Bartlett

Saint Charles  
Conway

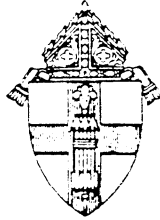
Bea Mitchell  
Medical Records  
St Luke Institute  
Cutler, Maryland

Dear Bea Mitchell,

I kindly encourage you to please to bring Christ  
the results of testing and evaluations you had concern-  
ing my treatment at St Luke's in 1982.

In his cover letter, he will explain his reasons for  
wanting these. Therefore, Bea, I ask that you be as  
helpful as possible in providing such results and  
evaluations. Also in talking with my counselor,  
he suggested that I also be sent a copy so that  
he and I could operate from a common point  
with the same background information. The address  
is found at top of letter.

One day at a time —  
Father Conrad F. Joseph



DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

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

MEMORANDUM

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

**TO: Joan Thorne**  
**FROM: Most Reverend Francis J. Christian**  
**DATE: October 12, 2000**  
**RE: Father Conrad LaForest**

OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR  
FILE *confidential*  
AUTHORIZED: *JJC*

Approximately a year and a half ago Father Conrad LaForest was arrested for DWI. He drove his truck off the road and into a house knocking it off its foundation. No one was injured. His blood level alcohol was .18 which in New Hampshire constitutes aggravated DWI. He is planning to plead nolo at a private arraignment on Wednesday, October 18<sup>th</sup> and will end up with a suspended license for a period of up to three years depending on the discretion of the judge.

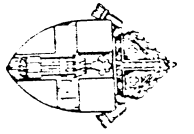
This last incident is the latest of a long series of drinking problems that Father LaForest has experienced. Approximately 10 years ago he was an in-patient at St. Luke Institute in Washington for a period of about three months. Because he was not cooperating with the program it was advised that he leave. When he returned to the Diocese he entered into private alcohol counseling at the Veteran's Administration Hospital here in Manchester. As a result of this Father LaForest was eventually reassigned as a pastor to a parish in North Conway. Approximately four years ago, the Diocese was forced to remove him from that parish because of his drinking which had led to various misunderstandings with a goodly number of the parishioners. It is my belief that he really had never stopped drinking even after his stay at St. Luke's and the counseling here in Manchester.

Father LaForest is a very big-hearted with much good in him. I believe he truly desires to serve the Church well. Until recently he has not recognized the seriousness of his problems because he would not return to in-patient care after the problems in North Conway the Diocese did not give him an assignment. We allowed him to live in the Lakes Region in his private and would work on weekends when he was needed in the area. He was often very helpful in this regard particularly this past year when for several months he provided pastoral care several days a week to our local Catholic Nursing Home which at that time was without a resident chaplain. Unfortunately, in spite of his personal goodness his alcohol addiction has been a source of continuing difficulties for him.

Several years ago Father LaForest reported to us that he had some form of Cancer, however, when we requested records from his doctor he refused to allow us to have

them.. Subsequently, the issue of the Cancer apparently disappeared. Furthermore, Father LaForest has apparently been diagnosed as diabetic although again the extent of this diagnosis is unknown to us. It would appear that he does have some physical problems that may need to be carefully evaluated.

Finally, I have encouraged Father LaForest when he is with you to carefully explore the question of his sexuality. Over the years there have been several unverified indications that he may in fact have some problems with a promiscuous homosexuality. Most recently a man in North Conway with whom Father LaForest was involved in some questionable financial transactions (these transactions, by the way, are still under some sort of legal scrutiny) came forward to claim that Father LaForest had required relations with him in return for financial support. While the truth of these claims is unknown I do believe that there are some sexuality issues that Father LaForest needs to clarify in his life. If I can be of any further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to call upon me.



† Francis J. Christian, D.D., Ph.D.  
*Office of the Auxiliary Bishop*  
**DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER**  
BOX 310 153 ASH STREET  
MANA HILLS, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03103-0310  
603 669 5100 FAX 603 669 0377

314-965-7202



**IMPORTANT MESSAGE**

FOR FD  
DATE 12-12-00 TIME 10:15 A.M.  
M Fr Conrad LaForest  
OF St. Michaels

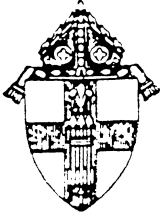
PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
AREA CODE NUMBER EXTENSION

FAX  
 MOBILE 314-965-7202  
AREA CODE NUMBER TIME TO CALL

TELEPHONED	PLEASE CALL
CAME TO SEE YOU	WILL CALL AGAIN
WANTS TO SEE YOU	RUSH
RETURNED YOUR CALL	WILL FAX TO YOU

MESSAGE There is a break on  
12-22-00 until 1-2-00. Need  
ltr saying okay for him  
to leave to Jean Thorne.

SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_



OFFICE OF THE AUXILIARY BISHOP

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

Diocese of Manchester

December 13, 2000

Mrs. Joan Thorn  
 St. Michael Center  
 13270 Maple Drive  
 St. Louis, MO 63127  
 OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR  
 FILE  
 AUTHORIZED: *JFC*  
*Confidential*

Dear Joan:

Just a brief note to notify you that Father Conrad LaForest has the permission of the Diocese of Manchester to leave St. Michael's for the Christmas break from December 22<sup>nd</sup> to January 2<sup>nd</sup>. I trust that this time away from the program will be good for him and that he will return in January with renewed energies to truly do the work required for his recovery.

Assuring you of my prayer for you that the Lord will bless you in every way at this time of year I am

Cordially yours in Christ,

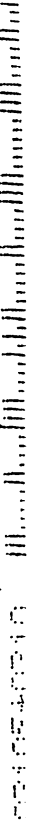
*+ Francis J. Christian*

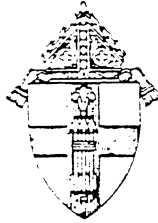
Auxiliary Bishop of Manchester

cc: Rev. Conrad V. LaForest



Bishop Frank Christian  
P.O. Box 310  
Marquette Mich.  
03105-0310





DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

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

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

February 28, 2001

Father Liam Hoare  
St. Michael Center  
13270 Maple Drive  
St. Louis, MO 63127

Dear Father Liam:

OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR  
FILE: *Confidential*

AUTHORIZED: *[Signature]*

Subsequent to our recent phone conversation this letter will confirm the decision of Father Conrad LaForest to willingly seek participation in the halfway house program at Harris House in St. Louis. I have spoken with the admittance people at that facility and they inform me that they should be able to take Conrad within two to three weeks. Conrad is agreeable to this and has also agreed to phone Harris House several times a week to assure them of his continuing interest in the program. As per our conversation, once I know Conrad's admittance date and travel plans I will be in touch with you to arrange to have someone meet him at the airport and bring him to Harris House. I am grateful for your kindness in this regard.

I am also pleased that at the end of his treatment program at that facility you are in agreement that he return to St. Michael's for a period of 3-4 weeks for a final evaluation and analysis of his situation. This will be most helpful to the Diocese in trying to help him prepare for his return to New Hampshire and for whatever will be the best possible ministerial situation for him. I look forward to speaking with you again in the near future about Conrad and thank you for your ongoing concern for him. With every good wish, I remain

Cordially yours in Christ,

+ *Francis J. Christian*

Auxiliary Bishop of Manchester

March 30<sup>th</sup>

Thank.

Just to let you know that I am doing okay, staying sober and having a good time, well as good a time as possible here in Harris House.

There is an experience that I will find tough to forget especially being housed and living with the over charge group of men here, 3 or 4 get booted out every weekend especially now that the warmer weather is here. But that okay, I reckon it is all part of acceptance.

As regards these bills: Air phone as I purchase the round trip ticket, I fixed it up where the return trip can be moved at no extra charge. It sure is cheaper than getting a one-way fare. I want to say that out of money I make working in the outside. However it sure beats the two weeks at Highland Clinic or the daily cost at St Michael's.

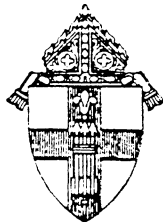
Could the diocesan mail be sent  
to 2327 South Broadway St Louis Mo  
63114 instead of at my brother's home.

I celebrated mass in St Louis Basilica  
the oldest Church on the west side of the  
Mississippi - an awesome feeling realizing  
that the first Church was built on the  
same spot since 1764.

I am also taking time to visit other  
interesting sites besides AA meeting  
halls in the city. I've been up in the  
arch 630 feet over the city!

Keep me in your prayers, at this  
time I don't care when I get back to  
N. H. "Laughing a little" On the early  
years of this country, people come to  
St Louis Mo in the process of heading  
westward. But then my heart still  
draws me eastward.

Take Care  
Conrad



DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

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

April 2, 2001

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

Rev. Conrad V. LaForest  
Harris House Foundation  
8327 South Broadway  
St. Louis, MO 63111

OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR  
FILE: *confidential*  
AUTHORIZED *fr*

Dear Conrad:

I was happy to hear from you and to learn that you are settling into the Harris House experience. I am sure it will be difficult at times but I am most grateful that you decided to return to St. Louis. I firmly believe that your time at Harris House will confirm you in your convictions to remain sober and also help you to gain even more skills and determination to allow you to do that. I know that the St. Michael's – Harris House experience can truly be a turning point in your life. You have a lot to give to God's people as a priest and a lot of time in which to do that. I truly look forward to your eventual return to the Diocese and the ministry you will then offer to the Church.

Enclosed please find a check for the plane and Harris House expenses. I have notified everyone to send your mail to the address you indicated. Hopefully, it will allow you to keep in touch with what is going on here in the weeks ahead.

We are still not totally out of the grips of winter here. The ground was almost bare until a six-inch snowfall last Friday. This is especially discouraging for us golfers who had been eagerly anticipating the opening of some courses. It looks like that won't occur now until after Easter. It is hard to believe that this Sunday is Palm Sunday. Lent has really flown by. I will be celebrating the Triduum in Somersworth this year. This will be a citywide event with all the parishes coming together for one service on each day except for Easter Sunday when the regular schedule of Masses will take place. I did the same thing last year in Dover and it was a wonderful experience. I am looking forward to celebrating with the people of Somersworth.

Be assured, Connie, of my daily prayers for you. I pray in a special way that the dying and rising of Christ which we will soon celebrate will be a sign of hope for you and an inspiration with his help to die to your old way of life and rise as a new man to serve him even better. If there is anything I can do for you, please let me know. I look forward to hearing from you in the near future. With every good wish, I remain

Cordially yours in Christ,

*+ Frank*

Auxiliary Bishop of Manchester

REFERENCE NO.	INVOICE NO.	INVOICE DATE	DESCRIPTION	INVOICE AMOUNT	NET CHECK MOUNT
019238		4/3/01	REIMBURSEMENT/EXPENSES	742.00	742.00

THE FACE OF THIS DOCUMENT HAS A COLORED BACKGROUND ON WHITE PAPER - THE BACK CONTAINS AN ARTIFICIAL WATERMARK - HOLD AT AN ANGLE TO VIEW

006947

CITIZENS BANK  
Manchester, N.H.

ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOP OF MANCHESTER  
Box 310 - 153 Ash Street  
Manchester, N.H. 03105-0310

54-153/114

DATE	CHECK NO.	AMOUNT
04/11/01	006947	\$*****742.00

OPERATING ACCOUNT

PAY TO THE ORDER OF Seven Hundred Forty-Two and 00/100 ----- DOLLARS

TO THE ORDER OF

REV. CONRAD LAFOREST  
P.O. BOX 152  
WINNISQUAM, NH 03289-0152

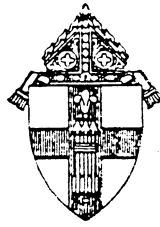
*John P. Quinn*

PAPER CONTAINS MICROPRINTING

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**FYI**



**DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER**

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

April 2, 2001

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

Rev. Conrad V. LaForest  
Harris House Foundation  
8327 South Broadway  
St. Louis, MO 63111

Dear Conrad:

I was happy to hear from you and to learn that you are settling into the Harris House experience. I am sure it will be difficult at times but I am most grateful that you decided to return to St. Louis. I firmly believe that your time at Harris House will confirm you in your convictions to remain sober and also help you to gain even more skills and determination to allow you to do that. I know that the St. Michael's – Harris House experience can truly be a turning point in your life. You have a lot to give to God's people as a priest and a lot of time in which to do that. I truly look forward to your eventual return to the Diocese and the ministry you will then offer to the Church.

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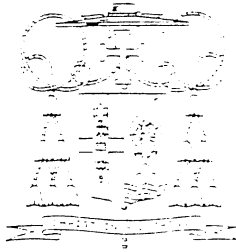
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Be assured, Connie, of my daily prayers for you. I pray in a special way that the dying and rising of Christ which we will soon celebrate will be a sign of hope for you and an inspiration with his help to die to your old way of life and rise as a new man to serve him even better. If there is anything I can do for you, please let me know. I look forward to hearing from you in the near future. With every good wish, I remain

Cordially yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Francis", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Auxiliary Bishop of Manchester



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR  
FILE: Conf. personnel 04/08/01  
AUTHORIZED: Ejm

April 6, 2001

Reverend Conrad LaForest  
Harris House Foundation  
8327 South Broadway  
St. Louis, MO 63111

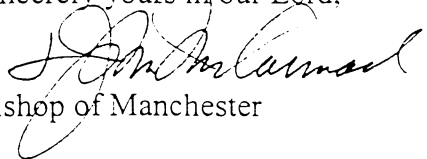
Dear Conrad:

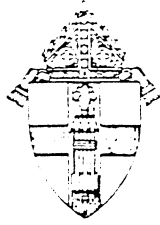
Bishop Christian has kept me up to date about your progress in addressing some of your personal health issues and I am pleased to learn that you are receiving the care you need at St. Michael's Harris House. Knowing that it is not always easy to face dimensions in our life that are difficult to deal with I have been keeping you in prayer and will continue to do so. I am reminded of that old human adage there is no gain without pain. And then I always remind myself of the image Christ gave to us, namely, that a woman cries when she is in labor but experiences great joy once she has delivered.

My prayer is that your stay at Harris House will be fruitful and freeing for you. Remembering how much the people in Tilton appreciated your assistance when you filled in there, I encourage you also to remember the good works you have done in ministry as you also look at the shadow side in your life.

If I can be of help in some way please let me know. With prayerful best wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours in our Lord,

  
Bishop of Manchester



DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

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

May 9, 2001

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

Rev. Conrad LaForest  
Harris House Foundation  
8327 South Broadway  
St. Louis, MO 63111

OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR  
FILE: confidential  
AUTHORIZED: Jr

Dear Conrad:

Just a brief note as a follow-up to our telephone conversation of the other day. I have notified the insurance people that you can once again be covered. I trust that you will soon have your license reinstated. I hope you received all of the most recent materials from Father Edward Arsenault regarding the new insurance. You know as a result that the group insurance is no longer in effect and that each priest must obtain his own auto insurance. The parish or institution for which he works will give each priest a subsidy of \$1,200 toward that insurance. Please be in touch with Ed in regard to obtaining your subsidy.

I was happy to hear that things are going relatively well at Harris House. I am sure that at times it is a challenging and difficult program but as I shared with you before this can be the beginning of a whole new priestly life for you and so it is worth doing the program well. I want to remind you that prior to going to Harris House we had agreed that at the end of the program you would return to St. Michael's for three week wrap-up program. It is important to the Diocese that we bring some final closure to your in-patient treatment and we will rely on the professionals at St. Michael's to do that. Please inform me when you are nearing the end of the Harris House program so that we can make arrangements for you to go to St. Michael's for the final three weeks.

In closing, Connie, let me once again assure you of my prayers and best wishes. We look forward to having you back in the Diocese and if there is anything we can do in the next few weeks, please let me know. I will wait to hear from you in regard to your return to St. Michael's. With every good wish, I remain

Cordially yours in Christ,

+ Frank

Auxiliary Bishop of Manchester

cc: Rev. Liam Hoar  
Director, Harris House



OFFICE OF THE AUXILIARY BISHOP

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

Diocese of Manchester

May 9, 2001

To Whom It May Concern:

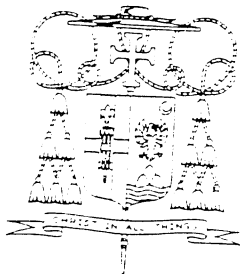
Enclosed please find recent correspondence I have had with Father Conrad LaForest. I share it with you to make sure it is clear that the Diocese expects Conrad to return to St. Michael Center for a period of three weeks once his program with you is finished. If you have any questions or concerns in this regard, please feel free to be in touch with me.

In closing, may I thank you for all you are doing to help Conrad to achieve and sustain sobriety. With every good wish, I remain

Cordially yours in Christ,

+ *Francis J. Christian*

Auxiliary Bishop of Manchester



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

FILE: *confidential*

AUTHORIZED: *Jr.*

December 31, 2001

Reverend Conrad LaForest  
P.O. Box 152  
Winnisquam, NH 03289-0152

Dear Conrad:

I was pleased to receive a letter from Father Peter Lechner and Alan Klobasa regarding your recovery efforts in maintaining your sobriety. A smile came to my face when I read that although your character tends to be rather gruff, the staff sees signs of more gentleness in you. I am not surprised. I have a sense that you have a gentle and compassionate heart.

Meeting the 'schedule of work' that the staff recommends for you, I want you to know that I will keep you in prayer, and if there is anything that I can do to be of help, please do not hesitate to ask me.

May this New Year be an occasion of many blessings for you.

Sincerely in our Lord,

*J. J. ...*  
Bishop of Manchester



[REDACTED]

740-0562

22 Nov

(1) 17 or 18 at camp  
 - hit road during night  
 - Ralph stopped - checked legs of  
 men suspected - handled them -  
 he pushed away when they woke up

(2) - 4 or 5 years later  
 - 2 or 3 other kids at camp  
 - he provided alcohol - drunk  
 - he got up to bed -  
 - Ralph didn't know they were  
 there  
 - he stopped in tent - he stopped &  
 jumped in bed too

(3) Before Manuel  
 & night before - gang Red Men  
 in agency - checked photographs -  
 recognized 11 year boy -  
 stopped subject

(4) all boys skinny & in habs at his  
 suggestion  
 - no one ever said anything to him  
 - kids never talked about

[REDACTED] father  
 [REDACTED]  
 [REDACTED]

March 30, 1990

PERSONAL/CONFIDENTIAL

Dr. Henry P. Guertin-Ouellette, Ph.D.  
Director, Consultation Services for  
Clergy and Religious  
292 Concord Street  
Manchester, NH 03104

Dear Dr. Oullette:

Subsequent to our recent telephone conversation I wish to refer to you Father Conrad V. LaForest for a suitable psychological testing program and evaluation based on the following concerns.

Before Christmas a young man from Saint Charles Parish in Dover who is now twenty-eight years old, married, with two children and who is undergoing counseling for some personal problems, came forward at the suggestion of his counselor to inform the Diocese that when he was twelve or thirteen years old and for a period of two or three years Father Conrad LaForest approached him on several occasions in what he believed to be homosexual advances. He is concerned that Father LaForest might have a problem that continues to affect other young people, and needs assurance that such a problem, if it exists, is controlled.

With Father LaForest's permission I obtained a report from Saint Luke's Institute where he had been hospitalized for several months in 1982, due to alcohol abuse problems. The purpose of asking for the report was to ascertain if there had been any indication in his therapy of significant sexual problems. I include, for your information, a copy of my letter to Saint Luke's Institute and their report, which I believe summarizes well the allegations of the young man in question, and also the treatment history of Father LaForest. As is apparent, Saint Luke's was not looking for sexual problems at the time, and there was nothing in his therapy records to indicate that sexual concerns were a significant part of the therapy program.

As a result, it is impossible for the Diocese at this time to be sure that Father LaForest does not have a problem which puts young men at risk. He has agreed to undergo with you another testing program for the specific purpose of evaluating the sexual dimension of his life. Father LaForest is agreeable to whatever psychological tests and interviews you



deem appropriate. He also has agreed to allow you to release any and all information and your evaluation to me.

Since it is important, for the sake of dealing with the young man in question, that this evaluation be done in as expedient a fashion as possible, Father LaForest has agreed to be in touch with you shortly after Easter to initiate a process which hopefully can result in your evaluation in a reasonably short period of time. Should there be any undue delay in Father LaForest making an appointment with you, would you please notify me about this fact.

If you have any further questions or concerns in this regard, please feel free to call upon me.

In closing, I thank you for your assistance to Father LaForest and the Diocese at this time.

Sincerely in Christ,

(Msgr.) Francis J. Christian  
Secretary  
Chancellor

cc: Rev. Conrad V. LaForest



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FILE SUMMARY

<b>Name</b>	Conrad V. LaForest
<b>Date of Birth</b>	02/14/40
<b>Date Ordained</b>	05/20/72
<b>Service</b>	06/03/72 St. Anne, Berlin
	09/05/73 St. Charles, Dover
	06/25/77 St. John the Baptist, Suncook
	11/12/80 St. Denis, Hanover Chaplain, Mary Hitchcock Hospital
	03/02/81 St. Thomas Aquinas, Derry
	06/16/81 St. Peter, Concord
	10/09/81 St. Mary, Manchester
	01/29/82 Sick Leave
	08/02/82 Immaculate Conception, Penacook
	03/14/83 Concord Hospital & Area Nursing Homes, Concord Chaplain
	06/15/88 Our Lady of the Mountains, North Conway
	06/19/96 Sick Leave-Resigned as Pastor
	06/16/99 St. Francis Nursing Home, Laconia, regular coverage
<b>Date and Nature of Complaint</b>	Before Christmas in 1989, a young man, then 28 years old and married, came forward at the suggestion of his counselor to inform the Diocese that when he was 12 or 13 years old and for a period of two or three years, Fr. Conrad LaForest approached him on several occasions in what he believed to be homosexual advances.
<b>Response Action Taken</b>	Fr. LaForest was sent to Dr. Henry Guertin Ouellette, Director of Consultation Services for outpatient psychological evaluation and then to St. Luke's Institute for residential psychological treatment. A report from St. Luke's Institute on January 31, 1990 indicated that he had gone there in 1982 for evaluation of behavioral problems after being hospitalized at St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts, and <u>could be assigned to parish ministry.</u>
<b>Additional Complaints</b>	None

SAINT CHARLES RECTORY  
577 CENTRAL AVENUE  
DOVER, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03820

1004

Ascension 1975

Dear Bishop:

Upon hearing of Father Bedard's assignment to Franklin New Hampshire and the submission of his letter of resignation as Diocesan Scout Chaplain, I am submitting my name for your consideration. This is due mainly to my interest in the scouting program, the youth of this diocese and is based on my scouting experience.

1) I have been associated with the scouting program since the age of 13.

2) I have attained the rank of Eagle scout, the Ad Altare Dei Award and the Scouter Key.

3) I've served as scoutmaster in tropps in Virginia, Tennessee while in the Navy, in New York while in the seminary and in New Hampshire before entering the seminary.

4) I've worked in scout camps in Virginia, Tennessee and New Hampshire and as Program Director for 2 years at the scout camp in Northwood New Hampshire.

5) I've served on the council level as a District Camping Chairman for one year.

6) I've attended the National Training Scout Camp in New Jersey in preparation for the job of Program Director of the camp.

7) I've served as priest examiner for scouts working on the Ad Altare Dei Award.

8) At present, I served as Scout Chaplain of the troop at St. Chalres.

My interest in the scouting program is due mainly to the opportunity afforded me to speak of vocations by words, by work and by example. This opportunity is already affordedme in St. Charles as a parish priest which I would still want to have. However, there is enough of me, as you know, for the diocesan scouting program.

While in the seminary, I struggled with the decision of becoming a priest or a professional scouter. You know the result of that struggle. However, perhaps one door was never opened so that I could one day serve the scouting program as a priest.

*Stalton Conrad LaForest*

May 21, 1975

Rev. Conrad LaForest  
Saint Charles Rectory  
577 Central Avenue  
Dover, New Hampshire 03820

Dear Father LaForest:

Thank you for your recent letter in which you express your desire to be involved in the Diocesan Scouting Program. I am always happy to hear about the interests of our priests and do consider their requests most seriously.

As you have probably heard by now, Father Eddy Bisson has been appointed Diocesan Scout Chaplain. You can be sure, however, that I will make him aware of your qualifications and interest in Scouting and that I will keep you in mind when future deliberations are made concerning the program for Scouts in our diocese.

Cordially in Christ,

Bishop of Manchester

February 2, 1978

Reverend Conrad LaForest  
St. John the Baptist Rectory  
School Street  
Suncook, New Hampshire 03275

Dear Father LaForest:

I am pleased to inform you of your appointment as Associate District Chaplain of the Merrimack District, Boy Scouts of America, for a period of three years. Father Eddy W. Bisson, Director of the Scouting Division of the Office of Youth Ministry, will send you information concerning your part in the program.

With every prayerful good wish, I am

Cordially in Christ,

Bishop of Manchester

cc/ Father Bisson

October 31, 1980

Rev. Conrad V. LaForest  
St. John the Baptist Rectory  
School Street  
Suncook, New Hampshire 03275

Dear Father LaForest:

Subsequent to our recent conversation and upon the recommendation of the Diocesan Personnel Board, this letter will serve to confirm your temporary assignment as Associate Pastor at St. Denis Church in Hanover, with the responsibility to provide chaplaincy services to Mary Hitchcock Hospital in Hanover. This assignment is effective on November 12th, 1980, and will be for the period of time up to and including March 1st, 1981, unless Mary Hitchcock Hospital contracts for a full-time chaplain before that time. It is understood that your work in the parish and the hospital and your reimbursement for that work will be arranged in the same fashion as it was for Father Wilfrid Bombardier, whom you replace.

As you begin your new pastoral ministry on behalf of God's people, I wish to thank you for the work you have done in Suncook. I trust that the same pastoral zeal you have shown there will touch the lives of many people in Hanover.

With every good wish, I am,

Cordially in Christ,

Bishop of Manchester

cc: Rev. John P. Quinn



TK. 12/10/80

1001

October 31, 1980

Mr. George C. Stoddard, Jr.  
Assistant Administrator  
Mary Hitchcock Hospital  
Hanover, New Hampshire 03755

Dear Mr. Stoddard:

Father Wilfrid Bombardier has provided chaplain services to Mary Hitchcock Hospital for a period of months. At this time, however, given the serious pastoral needs of St. Bernard's Parish in Keene which has been left shorthanded due to his work with you, I must return him to that parish. As a result, effective November 12th, 1980, Father Bombardier will return to Keene and will be replaced as Assistant Pastor at St. Denis Church in Hanover by Father Conrad V. LaForest. In that capacity, Father LaForest will continue to provide as best as is possible for the care of the Catholic patients of Mary Hitchcock Hospital. His appointment to St. Denis is temporary and will perdure until March 1st, 1981, unless you manage to contract for the full-time services of a chaplain before that time. Should that not happen by March 1st, I will discuss with you at that time what arrangements can be made for the coverage of the hospital. It is understood that you will reimburse Father LaForest for his services to the hospital according to the same agreement reached with Father Bombardier.

Assuring you of my prayerful best wishes, I am,

Cordially in Christ,

Bishop of Manchester

cc: Rev. John P. Quinn

October 31, 1980

Rev. Roger P. Bilodeau  
St. John the Baptist Rectory  
School Street  
Suncook, New Hampshire 03275

Dear Father Bilodeau:

Subsequent to our recent conversation and upon the recommendation of the Diocesan Personnel Board, this letter will serve to confirm the temporary appointment of the Reverend Conrad V. LaForest as Associate Pastor of St. Denis Church in Hanover, with responsibility for chaplain services to the Mary Hitchcock Hospital. This appointment is effective November 12th, 1980. He will be replaced as Associate Pastor at St. John's, effective that same date, by the Reverend Maurice Martineau, M.S.

I have every confidence that Father Martineau will work most effectively with you in providing the spiritual care of the good people entrusted to your leadership.

Please be assured of my continued prayers for the success and growth of your parish.

Cordially in Christ,

Bishop of Manchester

File # 10000

1000

October 31, 1980

Rev. Paul L. Gregoire  
St. Denis Rectory  
8 Sanborn Road  
Hanover, N. H. 03755

Dear Father Gregoire:

Subsequent to our recent conversation and upon the recommendation of the Diocesan Personnel Board, this letter will serve to confirm the return to St. Bernard's Parish in Keene, as Associate Pastor, of Father Wilfrid Bombardier. This change of assignment will be effective November 12th, 1980. He will be replaced, as Temporary Associate Pastor of St. Denis Parish with responsibilities to provide chaplain services to Mary Hitchcock Hospital, by the Reverend Conrad V. LaForest.

It is understood that Father LaForest will remain with you until March 1st, 1981, unless the hospital obtains the services of a full-time chaplain before that time. If no chaplain is obtained by March 1st, we will discuss at that point whatever arrangements can be made by the Diocese. It is understood that Father LaForest will work under the same arrangements, both in the parish and at the hospital, as did Father Bombardier, and that he will be reimbursed for those services according to the same formula. I have every confidence that this arrangement will work out well both for St. Denis and the hospital, and assure you of my prayerful best wishes to this end.

With every good wish, I am,

Cordially in Christ,

Bishop of Manchester

*Conrad LaForest*  
1981

January 30, 1981

Rev. Paul L. Gregoire  
St. Denis Rectory  
8 Sanborn Road  
Hanover, N. H. 03755

Dear Father Gregoire:

Subsequent to our recent conversations and with the approval of the Diocesan Personnel Board, this letter will serve to confirm that I am assigning the Reverend Conrad LaForest as temporary Associate Pastor of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Derry, New Hampshire. He will be replaced as Associate Pastor at St. Denis by the Reverend Marius Bordenave, who, as you know, has experienced some health problems over the past year. It is my understanding that you and Father Bordenave have arrived at a mutually acceptable agreement regarding his ministry in the parish of St. Denis. It is my prayer that this arrangement will prove mutually beneficial to you and fruitful for the good people of your parish.

With every good wish, I am,

Cordially in Christ,

Bishop of Manchester

*Fr. Conrad LaForest*

1981

January 30, 1981

Rev. Conrad V. LaForest  
St. Denis Rectory  
8 Sanborn Road  
Hanover, N. H. 03755

Dear Father LaForest:

Subsequent to our recent conversation and upon the recommendation of the Diocesan Personnel Board, this letter will serve to confirm your appointment as temporary Associate Pastor of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Derry, New Hampshire, effective March 2nd, 1981. I am most grateful for the generosity you have shown in serving the Catholic patients at Mary Hitchcock Hospital during the period of time you have been in Hanover, and I pray that your work in Derry will bring you the same pastoral joy and satisfaction.

With every good wish, I am,

Cordially in Christ,

Bishop of Manchester

cc: Rev. John P. Quinn

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

June 1, 1981

Reverend James W. Haller  
St. Thomas Aquinas Church  
26 Crystal Avenue  
Derry, New Hampshire 03038

Dear Father Haller:

Subsequent to our recent conversation, and after consultation with the Diocesan Personnel Board, this will confirm my decision to re-assign the Reverend Conrad V. LaForest effective June 16, 1981.

He will be replaced as Associate Pastor of St. Thomas Aquinas by the Rev. Nelson Boucher effective that same date. As we discussed, Father Boucher may be called upon to organize some adult education classes in biblical studies in the Manchester area. If so, I understand you would agree to free him from parish duties on one or two evenings a week in a fashion that is mutually agreeable.

I have every confidence that Father Boucher will work effectively with you and Father Baker in providing the pastoral care needed by the good people of your parish.

With every good wish, I am

Cordially in Christ,

Bishop of Manchester

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June 10, 1981

Rev. Conrad V. LaForest  
St. Thomas Aquinas Rectory  
26 Crystal Avenue  
Derry, New Hampshire 03038

Dear Father LaForest:

Subsequent to our recent conversations and after consultation with the Diocesan Personnel Board, this letter will serve to confirm your appointment as Temporary Associate Pastor at St. Peter's Church in Concord, effective June 16th, 1981. This assignment will be for the summer months, and it is understood that in the Fall you will receive a permanent assignment.

During these summer months, and as part of your summer assignment, it is understood that you will provide weekend ministry to the parish of Our Lady of the Mountains in North Conway. During this period of time your salary will be provided by a combination of your weekend stipends, with the balance coming from the parish of St. Peter.

Thanking you for your willingness to be of service to the Diocese in this fashion and hoping that the summer will be a happy experience for you, I am

Cordially in Christ,

Bishop of Manchester

June 10, 1981

Rev. William L. Quirk  
St. Peter Rectory  
135 North State Street  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Dear Father Quirk:

Subsequent to your recent conversation with Father Francis J. Christian, the Chancellor of the Diocese, this letter will serve to confirm the appointment of the Reverend Conrad V. LaForest as Temporary Associate Pastor of Saint Peter's Church in Concord, for the summer months, effective June 16th, 1981. It is understood that, as part of this assignment, Father LaForest will be expected to provide weekend coverage to the parish of Our Lady of the Mountains in North Conway. It is further understood that his salary will be made up of the stipends he receives from this weekend coverage, with Saint Peter's Parish providing the balance of the amount he is due.

I am most grateful for your willingness to accept this arrangement for the next two months, and trust that it will prove pastorally beneficial to all involved.

With every good wish, I am

Cordially in Christ,

Bishop of Manchester



June 10, 1981

Rev. George J. Soberick  
Our Lady of the Mountains Rectory  
28 Grove Street - P. O. Box 1600  
North Conway, New Hampshire 03860

Dear Father Soberick:

Subsequent to your recent conversation with Father Francis J. Christian, the Chancellor of the Diocese, this letter will confirm the assignment of the Reverend Conrad V. LaForest to provide you with weekend ministry during the summer months. During this time, Father LaForest will be Temporary Assistant Pastor at Saint Peter's Parish in Concord during the week, but will be available to you on weekends. It is understood that you will pay him the normal weekend stipend, plus gas mileage, for his ministry to you and that the balance of his monthly salary will be taken care of by Saint Peter's Parish.

Trusting that this arrangement will be pastorally beneficial to all involved, I am

Cordially in Christ,

Bishop of Manchester

CR. 10/5/81

100

October 5, 1981

Rev. Conrad V. LaForest  
Saint Peter Rectory  
135 North State Street  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Dear Father LaForest:

Subsequent to our recent conversation and upon the recommendation of the Diocesan Personnel Board, this letter will serve to confirm your appointment as Associate Pastor of Saint Mary's Parish, Manchester, effective October 9th, 1981.

I have every confidence that you will work fruitfully with Father Albert Baillargeon, the Pastor, and Father Biron, the other Associate Pastor, in providing for the spiritual care of the fine people of this parish.

With every good wish, I am

Cordially in Christ,

Bishop of Manchester

1011

PERSONAL INTERVIEW OF BISHOP GENDRON WITH FATHER CONRAD LaFOREST

ST. MARIE'S PARISH, MANCHESTER, N.H.

DECEMBER 14, 1981

I discussed Conrad LaForest's situation with the parish. He has some difficulty adjusting but he is making efforts to do that. He seems to be relatively well appreciated by the people. He has a lot of energy and is trying to spend some of it by helping out in the parish. The feeling he has is that there is not too much communication between the priests of the parish but he has, although it isn't his style, some respect for the pastor and did not mention anything about Father Biron. He seems, I would say, relatively comfortable. I suggested that he might, since he had some difficulties in a number of other parishes and has changed many times in the nine years of his priesthood, that he might be looking at another diocese. I wondered if he was as effective as he could be by serving in the Diocese of Manchester and as I was concerned with his happiness and his effectiveness I would be very willing to work with him to be transferred to another diocese if he could be happier.

Then we moved into the discussion of his problem with the law enforcement agencies. He told me that he would be pleading nolo after consulting with the Chief of Police in the Tilton area, a person he feels he knows quite well. He feels that this will bring minimal results such as a small fine and probation for one year. I indicated to him that that might be the best route to go provided he does not become aggressive there and to keep silent except for pleading nolo, to just take on the chin whatever comes from that since he had put himself on the line and created the problem to begin with. He seemed to be willing to do that and I think he has simmered down from his anger and his initial reaction to the law enforcement agencies and I think he is willing to abide by that now.

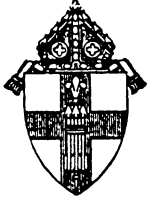
I have indicated to him that I was concerned about his camp and the use he is making of it because first of all of its own reputation but secondly and most importantly for the good of the diocese, for the good of the Catholic church and the public image of the church. I told him particularly that there would be some grave inconveniences for him at this time since the police enforcement agency will be checking his area frequently. If there is anything that develops there, there would be some reflection on him and the church.

I told him that he ought not to go to the camp and ought to let the people who he is renting to, who are people from the VoTech, that they ought to know from him that they are not to have parties there and that next year he is not to rent out the cottage to anybody except his own family and priest friends.

I asked him about his prayer life and he said that it was up and down and sometimes when he is down the prayer life is not very healthy and cannot sustain him through. So I encouraged him to develop his prayer life.

His attitude was good and I told him that anything I could do for him to come to me and I would be happy to see what I could do to help. On the other hand I made it clear to him that I need him to be happy and an effective priest and I didn't feel that I could find too many places in the diocese that it would be easy for him to work well and be effective so if it doesn't work at St. Marie's maybe we ought to look at some other alternatives instead of serving in the Diocese of Manchester. He indicated that he had given some thought to that and that he might consider Sherbrooke because he feels that they do need some priests there that have some facility in English so at least I left him with that kind of attitude.

This is the end of the interview with Father LaForest.



CHANCERY OFFICE  
153 ASH STREET  
MANCHESTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE  
03105

1073

Jan 12, 1982

DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

Father Laforest was also charged for drunken driving by the State Police in Hooksett District Court. I spoke with Lt. Robichaud of Troop G in Bow (Tel. 271-2794) who is aware of his hospitalization both at St. Elizabeth and at St. Luke's Institute. Lt. Robichaud has agreed to a continuance of the charges and we are to let him know when Fr. Laforest is back in the Diocese.

*F. J. Austin*

January 13, 1982

Ms. Darlene Dolloff  
Laconia District Court  
Post Office Box 1010 - 26 Academy Road  
Laconia, New Hampshire 03246

Dear Ms. Dolloff:

This letter will serve to confirm our telephone conversation of this date in which I explained to you the present medical situation of Father Conrad LaForest, a priest of the Diocese of Manchester, who recently was charged by Chief of Police Prescott from Tilton, New Hampshire, with the violations of disorderly conduct and criminal trespass.

As I explained to you, Father LaForest has suffered a nervous breakdown and is currently under treatment in the psychiatric unit of Saint Elizabeth Hospital in Brighton, Massachusetts. The Diocese is awaiting the recommendations of the psychiatric staff in regard to Father LaForest, but we have reason to suspect that it will be necessary for him to seek long term inpatient care at another facility once he leaves Saint Elizabeth's.

Prior to his medical problems it is my understanding that Father LaForest had intended to plead nolo to the two charges placed against him. As soon as it is possible for him to be in correspondence with the Court I will ask Father to write his plea to you.

In closing, let me state the gratefulness of the Diocese of Manchester in the understanding and patience of the Court in this matter.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely,

Rev. Francis J. Christian  
Chancellor

100  
January 27, 1982

Ms. Darlene Dolloff  
Laconia District Court  
P. O. Box 1010  
26 Academy Road  
Laconia, New Hampshire 03246

Dear Ms. Dolloff:

I have recently been charged by Chief of Police Prescott from Tilton, New Hampshire, with the violations of disorderly conduct and criminal trespass.

As you know, I have been hospitalized at St. Elizabeth Hospital in Brighton, Massachusetts, for the last several weeks. I will be leaving on Friday, January 29th, for St. Luke Institute in Washington, D. C. to continue treatment toward full recovery.

I wish at this time, therefore, to plead nolo to the two charges mentioned above. If you would be so kind, would you send any fines imposed to me in care of Rev. Francis J. Christian, 153 Ash Street, Manchester. Father Christian will forward them to me for payment.

Thank you for your understanding and kind assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Rev. Conrad V. LaForest

March 29, 1982

CONFIDENTIAL

Rev. Michael R. Peterson, M.D.  
Mr. Michael R. Furlong, MA  
Saint Luke Institute  
2420 Brooks Drive  
Suitland, Maryland 20746

RE: Rev. Conrad LaForest  
Suitland #: 10298  
Date of Admission: 1/29/82

Dear Father Peterson and Mr. Furlong:

Thank you for your letter of March 11th, in regard to Father Conrad LaForest. I am pleased to hear that he is responding favorably to treatment and that the therapeutic process at Saint Luke's is well on its way to enable him to function fruitfully as a priest in the Diocese of Manchester.

If there is any further assistance he needs from the Diocese, or which I can offer to either of you, please do not hesitate to call upon me.

I look forward to receiving your ongoing reports in regard to his status in the hope that they will show continued progress.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely yours,

Bishop of Manchester



August 2, 1982

Reverend Conrad V. LaForest  
Immaculate Conception Rectory  
9 Pleasant Street  
Penacook, New Hampshire 03303

Dear Father LaForest:

This letter will confirm your appointment as Associate Pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Penacook, New Hampshire, effective immediately. I have every confidence that you will work effectively with Father Hector Lamontagne in caring for the needs of the people of this parish.

In closing, let me assure you of my prayers so that your ministry in Penacook will be happy and fruitful. With every good wish, I am

Cordially in Christ,

Bishop of Manchester

January 21, 1983

PERSONAL/CONFIDENTIAL

Rev. Conrad V. LaForest  
Immaculate Conception Rectory  
9 Pleasant Street  
Penacook, New Hampshire 03303

Dear Father LaForest:

Subsequent to our recent discussion during my pastoral visitation, I felt it important to confirm in writing some of the areas about which we discussed.

First of all, as you know, I am extremely disappointed that you have not kept the contract you made with Saint Luke's Institute upon termination of in-patient treatment in Washington. Even after hearing your reasons for doing this, I remain disappointed because I am convinced that the professional attention and care they would give you would allow you to grow both as a person and a priest more quickly and more fully than any other alternatives available to you.

As a result of this termination of contract it is necessary for us to agree on some very concrete points if you are to continue functioning as a priest in the Diocese of Manchester. First of all, it is understood that you must remain sober at all times and reflect this sobriety in your behavior with other people. It is also understood that you must be able to function fruitfully in the full time ministry to which you are assigned. Obviously, I will monitor your situation by checking with Father LaMontagne and anyone else to whom you are accountable in your ministry. If it is not possible for you to meet these conditions, then it will either be necessary for you to return to Saint Luke's Institute for further treatment or to forfeit any possibility of a priestly assignment in the diocese of Manchester. While I do not question the assistance that the Veterans Administration Alcoholic Counseling Program might provide you, that program will not be sufficient if you indeed experience problems. I will require rather that you receive treatment in a facility that is fully aware of what the priestly lifestyle involves.

Rev. Conrad V. LaForest

-2-

January 24, 1983

I would ask you to respond, in writing, to these conditions at your earliest convenience. Once I receive your agreement in their regard I will ask Father John P. Quinn, the Episcopal Vicar of Community Affairs, to meet with you to evaluate the possibility of your serving Concord Hospital and the nursing homes of the area while continuing to live in Penacook and offer priestly service to that parish community insofar as your time allows.

Looking forward to hearing from you in this regard in the near future and assuring you of my prayerful best wishes, I am

Cordially in Christ,

Bishop of Manchester

c: St. Luke's Institute,  
Suitland, Maryland

FD- FR C. ... 1983

# Immaculate Conception Church

9 Pleasant Street — Penacook, New Hampshire 03303  
Phone (603) 753-4413



January 28, 1983

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

Dear Rev. Bishop Gendron:

Our conversation during your pastoral visit to Immaculate Conception, though disappointing for you in some ways, was very different from our previous one at Ste. Marie's. This time, I did not stuff my feelings to let them boil up within me but dared to share them with you.

Even as I make a second effort to reply to your letter, I find it somewhat easier, for I find reassurance in the psalmist's word of today's mass. For after this morning's liturgy and three cups of coffee, I said to myself "Go ahead Connie, you can do it this time".

My considerations of the "very concrete points" presented are as follows: 1) "it is understood that you must remain sober at all times" I find this a very strong statement for it sounds like "never again will you sin or disobey God". To this I say, the only thing that I can do is stay sober today and live my life one day at the time. Then it will be the today and yesterdays that will add up to months, the months into years. I'm not worried about tomorrow, next month, next year, just today.

As regards my behavior. All I can say is, my assignment here at Immaculate Conception speaks for itself. Many of the parishioners are pleased with my sober lifestyle and concern for them, others don't care, and a few may be mad. I am touching parishioners which have been turned off by Father Hector and he is able to affect those turned off by me. So I guess, we do make a good working team.

Concerning full time ministry, I believe that I can function fruitfully in the assignment you presented. Again, I'll let my work speak for itself, for I'll be doing the best I can and not try to be other than myself. If you care to monitor my ministry at the hospital, that's your option. As I will hear from you when I falter, I would also expect to hear from you when you are satisfied with my ministry. I need that too.

# Immaculate Conception Church

9 Pleasant Street — Penacook, New Hampshire 03303

Phone (603) 753-4413



To tell you the truth, I have no great love for St. Luke's Institute. Consequently, "to forfeit any possibility of a priestly assignment in the diocese of Manchester" is on my mind and was on my mind as I debated leaving St. Luke's before released. Just as the hand of the Lord sustained me then, I trust in Him even now and delight.

While the fear of failure may be ever present, I have found needed friends in the psychiatrist and counselor at the V.A. and in Father Hector. I thank God for those persons. With these people, I am no longer afraid to share gut issues and hear them out.

The same is true with our recent discussion. I shared with you exactly how I felt, maybe hesitantly but not scared. As I told you then, I'll repeat again, I may not care for St. Luke's but while there I relearned many things. Some of these I have shared with you so there is no need to restate them.

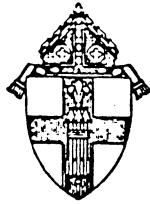
As regards the big "If" towards the end of your letter. I place my trust and my vocation in God's hands, Him alone shall I fear.

Still sober and much alive, I remain a priest in the line of Melchizedek.

Peace be with you,

*Rev. Conrad LaForest*  
Rev. Conrad LaForest

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP



DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

MOST REVEREND ODORÉ J. GENDRON, D.D.  
*Bishop*

MOST REVEREND ROBERT E. MULVEE, J.C.D.  
*Auxiliary Bishop*

March 4, 1983

Rev. Conrad V. LaForest  
Immaculate Conception Rectory  
9 Pleasant Street  
Penacook, NH 03303

Dear Father LaForest:

Upon the recommendation of Father John Quinn, Episcopal Vicar of Community Affairs, this letter will serve to confirm your appointment as Chaplain of the Concord Hospital and the Nursing Homes in the area, effective March 14, 1983.

In this capacity, it is understood that you will reside at Immaculate Conception in Penacook and that you will be responsible, on a daily basis, for providing Mass to the Sisters at the Carmelite Monastery in Concord. It is further understood that you will be directly responsible in this ministry to Father Quinn.

It is my hope that this new ministry will prove to be personally satisfying to you and that, in turn, your work will be fruitful and spiritually beneficial to all those you touch.

With every good wish, I am,

Cordially in Christ,

Bishop of Manchester

cc: Rev. John P. Quinn

March 22, 1983

Trooper Peter Hamilton  
10 Grand View Road  
Bow, New Hampshire 03301

Dear Trooper Hamilton:

Enclosed please find a letter to the Judge of the Hooksett District Court in regard to the treatment which Father Conrad LaForest has received in view of his alcoholic problem.

I am most grateful to you and Captain Robichaud in your attempt to be of assistance to Father LaForest as he undertakes a new ministry in the Diocese of Manchester.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely yours,

Rev. Francis J. Christian  
Chancellor

Enclosure

March 22, 1983

The Honorable Judge  
Hooksett District Court  
Hooksett, New Hampshire

Your Honor:

I write to you in reference to Father Conrad V. LaForest, a priest of the Diocese of Manchester, who is appearing before you on a charge of driving while intoxicated. I write to explain what Father LaForest has done for himself in regard to his alcoholic problem, and with the encouragement and support of the Diocese of Manchester.

On January 4, 1982, shortly after being arrested by Trooper Hamilton, Father LaForest willingly committed himself to Saint Elizabeth's Hospital in Brighton, Massachusetts. He was there to receive an indepth psychological evaluation so that whatever further treatment might be recommended could be clearly prescribed. He was at Saint Elizabeth's until the 24th of January that same year. Upon the recommendation of the staff of Saint Elizabeth's, Father LaForest then agreed to enter a long-term alcoholic counseling program. He became an inpatient at St. Luke's Institute in Suitland, Maryland. This medical facility specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of alchholism in priests. Father LaForest remained at Suitland from January 29, 1982 until July 29, 1982. During that period of time, the Diocese received frequent reports on his progress which allowed us to monitor his recovery until his discharge. Upon returning to the Diocese of Manchester, Father LaForest voluntarily approached the Veterans Administration Hospital in Manchester to seek counseling so that he would be able to continue to control his alcoholic problem.

Father LaForest has been assigned since July to Immaculate Conception Parish in Penacook. I have personally spoken with Reverend Hector LaMontagne, pastor of this parish, and have ascertained from him that Father LaForest, to the best of his knowledge, has had no alcohol at all during his time there.



Judge, Hooksett District Court  
March 22, 1983  
Page 2.

He has performed his work in a satisfactory manner and has been well received by the people of the parish. Based on this report, the Diocese has recently assigned Father LaForest as Chaplain of the Concord Hospital in Concord. He is most interested in serving the spiritual needs of the sick in this capacity, and it is our hope that he will be happy and successful in doing so.

I trust that this information concerning the extensive treatment that Father LaForest has received for his alcoholic problem will be helpful to you in determining how to apply the law to his particular case. The Diocese is most grateful for your consideration in this regard.

Sincerely,

Rev. Francis J. Christian  
Chancellor

- March 22 -
- ~~at~~ Court
- Contact Poluchaud
- office Handover

- front session
- Animal contact

60 days



DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

1001  
CHANCERY OFFICE  
153 ASH STREET  
P.O. BOX 310  
MANCHESTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE  
03105-0310

MEMORANDUM

RE: Father Conrad LaForest

DATE: April 4, 1983

On Monday, March 28th, Trooper Hamilton of the New Hampshire State Police called me to inquire as to the whereabouts of Father Laforest, who was supposed to be meeting with him and the Judge of the Hooksett District Court that morning. The officer was perturbed that Father LaForest had not kept this appointment which he had spoken to him about on the telephone several weeks prior.

I located Father LaForest at the Concord Hospital. He indicated that he had thought the appointment was for Monday afternoon. I told him to call the Trooper immediately.

It has subsequently come to our attention that Father LaForest's license has been revoked for two months. (In other words, the Judge was unwilling to make the revocation retroactive to the time he spent at St. Luke's Institute, which we hoped might be possible.) Father LaForest has assured Father Quinn that he will make his own transportation arrangements in order to continue to serve the hospital.

May 25, 1988

Rev. Conrad V. LaForest  
Post Office Box 90  
Winnisquam, NH 03289

Dear Father LaForest:

Subsequent to our recent conversations and upon the recommendation of the Diocesan Personnel Board, this letter will confirm your appointment as Pastor of Our Lady of the Mountains in North Conway, effective June 15th, 1988. Would you please be so good as to take the required oath of office before my delegate at the Chancery Office prior to that date.

I am most grateful to you for the dedicated and effective priestly work you have done during your years at Concord Hospital in Concord. I am confident that your dedication and zeal will allow you to serve the good people of Our Lady of the Mountains Parish happily and fruitfully.

Assuring you of my prayerful best wishes, I am

Cordially in Christ,

Bishop of Manchester

June 14, 1989

Dear Bishop,

As regards my health, drinking, I am doing something about it. I am going to the U.A. and am meeting with a clinical psychologist assigned to the alcohol drug treatment program.

Frank's asking me to get a letter from him to you seems to indicate a lack of trust, of belief in my working on the causes of drinking and abuses of drinking.

I am concerned and am doing something about it. "It is a matter of trust, I'm sorry that you do not trust me or believe me.

Whenever the time comes when you can no longer trust me in my capabilities as pastor or priest, kindly let me know. I did not choose priesthood. I only answered God's calling, a calling to which I have asked Him many times "Why me?"

He knows me for who I am - stubborn, determined, sensitive, and caring, etc. a one of a kind person as you will know.

The situation that has occurred here in the parish has been what occurs in "Losing your Priest? Getting a new one?" Some, the organist and choir members loved and admired Fr. George and find me very different than him. They're upset, so what do they do - write or call. The same is true concerning the two sisters who replaced Sr. Diane and Denise. So what do they do - complain about the C.C.D. program. Write and complain.

Bishop, I am doing the best job I can and am working with Father Law and supporting the sisters. Wonderful and great things are happening. The sick are being visited, marriage preparation and baptismal preparation are happening. I am pleasing  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the parishioners,  $\frac{1}{3}$  I may never please and the last  $\frac{1}{3}$  don't care. As a parish staff, we are available for the whole parish and in the final picture. That's what really counts.

Morning has broken, the sun is rising, I have to go to Manchester, then enjoy a day off. I'm getting you a copy of the article I talked about for your reading.

Have a good day  
Father Conrad.

By PATRICIA L. MORRISON  
Condensed from "Joliet Catholic Explorer"

# Losing Your Priest? Getting a New One?

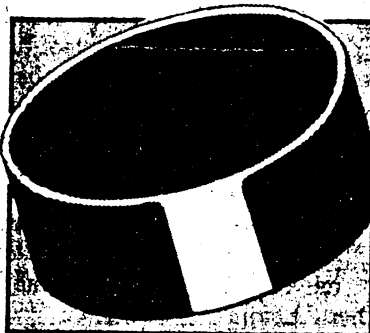
Clergy transfers can be tough on everyone.  
Here are some tips on coping

For several years you've had Father John Past Perfect as your pastor. He's a wonderful homilist, a sharp but caring administrator. He's pastoral, sensitive, and now he's been reassigned.

You've already decided the new priest will *never* measure up to Father John. And you're probably right.

We Catholics have to be resilient. Our priests regularly move into and out of our lives, and there seems to be little we can do about it.

Some researchers claim that the system should be rethought. They say that a five- or ten-year limit on priestly assignments is a distinctly North



American trend—one that our neighbors in Europe, South America, and Africa find unthinkable.

Others say the limits reduce burn-out and let parishioners experience a

variety of ministerial styles. And flexibility in the service of the Gospel, they say, is part of the priestly vocation; priests belong to everyone.

Yet "mobile priesthood" is a reality in the American Catholic Church. How, then, can we folks in the pews respond?

Here are some suggestions:

- Give your new priest a chance. He may not be Father John Past Per-

fect, but he does have gifts of his own, gifts he's more than ready to share. Give him a chance.

• **Put yourself in his shoes—or collar.** You were hoping for Father Wayne Wonderful, and now the bishop is sending you Father Otto Obnoxious! But think about the priest, too.

He may have been hoping for that parish with the new church and rectory that are paid for, the one with a staff rumored to be ready for canonization. But he's getting *your* parish—St. Exasperata: the one with the leaking church roof and the boiler that dies every three months; the one that never makes its quota on the diocesan appeal; the one where nobody *ever* volunteers for anything.

He's coming to you, nevertheless, with clear instructions from God and the bishop to "love and serve those people." So see if you can make it work.

• **Don't write the chancery office.** Some Catholics vent their frustration at clergy assignments with angry threats. "The bishop moved 50 priests, and we get Father Abominable. Well, they're not getting another *dime* out of me until some changes are made here!" Or: "You move *my* priest and you'll hear about it!"

Your parish is just one of many, and they all have spots that need to be filled. If you have a wonderful priest, thank God. But be willing to share.

• **Develop compassion for the people and the process.** There are only

so many priests to go around. And they're like the rest of us: they have a variety of gifts and limitations.

Not every priest can make every assignment work. A few won't try. Most, though, will say, "OK, I'll go there."

Father X may be making a tremendous act of faith in accepting this assignment; your parish might be asked to make one, too. Give your priest, your bishop, your parish family—and the Holy Spirit—the benefit of the doubt.

• **Offer practical, specific help.** Priests might be reluctant to ask for help. But apart from the jitters anyone might experience in moving to a new place, your outgoing priest also faces the dreaded chore of moving.

He might be able to recruit some able bodies from the youth group or his family. But he might not. If you want to offer a practical "gift" to your favorite priest, make him an offer: "We're really going to miss you. But when you're ready to move, let us know. We'll help." An older priest especially might welcome your assistance.

• **Take time to say, "Thank you."** We tend to take our priests for granted, to view them as sacrament machines who are there every day, preaching, baptizing, confessing, marrying, burying.

But studies show that a priest's morale has a lot to do with his sense of being needed. Unless he's told otherwise, a priest may be tempted to think his moving on won't make any difference to anybody.



One way to express your gratitude and love for your departed priest might be to let him know he'll be missed: a simple card sent to the rectory or to his new address, a good word after Mass, a promise of prayers.

And you might be brave enough to do it for the new priest, too: welcome him, let him know you're looking forward to working with him.

Without faith, Father Otto Obnoxious and St. Exasperata Parish don't make any sense. Without faith, we'd need to live permanently in St. Camelot, surrounded by dozens of Father Wonderfals. But that's not the way it's supposed to be.

Looked at another way, clergy changes can be an opportunity to really love our priests, and our Church, as Jesus directed: "Love one another, as I have loved you."

*Some of my thoughts during consecration*  
FOR OUR SALVATION

A few months ago my wife and I were asked to be Eucharistic Ministers at our church. We had to attend two meetings where our pastor spelled out our functions and duties. Several people expressed concern over not being worthy of the task.

The worthiness factor never entered my mind. Instead, I felt Father wanted some people he could rely on to show up and do their duty. There was no way I could be considered a particularly holy person, but I do attend Mass regularly. I think that was probably the main reason he "hired" me.

Standing in front of the congregation holding the wine cup was not a difficult job, nor did it make me nervous. However, as I held the cup during Communion at one Saturday evening Mass, I was given an insight as to what it contained. That little glass cup held the Blood of Jesus Christ. Not wine and water, but the same Blood that dripped from Jesus' wounds and crown of thorns some 2,000 years ago. Although it has a different form now, it is, to us Catholics, the same Blood that fell from his back after the scourging at the pillar. These few ounces in the small cup also stained the wood of the Cross.

The humanity of Jesus became strikingly apparent to me as I stood there looking down into the cup.

I had a true sense of awe as I realized that this is the same blood shared by our Christian ancestors while they hid in the catacombs in Rome. The same blood which all the Popes have raised in offering to God.

Now, every time I hold the cup, I firmly understand that this is Jesus' Blood. I still feel no sense of worthiness or unworthiness, but I do sense the value and actuality of what is in that cup.

Not being an overly bright or sophisticated person, I need periodic insights into my faith. I've made a few attempts at studying St. Augustine and St. Thomas Aquinas but their messages, for the most part, seemed to escape me. God gave me more insight when I looked into the cup and realized that Jesus' Blood was shed for my salvation than in all my studying.

Don Reed.

White penning off  
 = copy of the article  
 1) Thought of sending  
 2) copy of the apppt  
 3) have with the V.A.

1000

<b>APPOINTMENT CARD</b>	IDENT. NO. <b>1015</b>
NAME AND ADDRESS OF V. A. STATION	
VETERAN'S NAME AND ADDRESS <b>La Forest, Conrad</b>	
NOTE.—An appointment has been made for you as indicated. If you are unable to keep this appointment, please call the number listed here at least 24 hours before the date and time specified.	TELEPHONE NO.  EXTENSION NO.

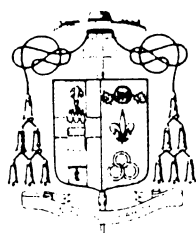
DATE	TIME	SERVICE	INITIALS
May 8	3:33	Gen med	
May 10	3:00	Koladu	
May 31	330	Koladu	
June 14	230	Koladu	

**1-800-634-3824 Bldg #5**

VA FORM  
MAY 1966      2502      BRING THIS CARD AND SHOW IT TO RECEPTIONIST  
WHEN REPORTING AND LEAVING  
★ U.S.G.P.O.: 1987 - 181-822/57076

~~HR Conrad LaForest~~

1001



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP  
DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

MOST REVEREND ODORE J. GENDRON D.D.

June 26, 1989

Rev. Conrad V. LaForest  
Our Lady of the Mountains Rectory  
Post Office Box 189  
North Conway, NH 03860-0189

Dear Father Conrad:

Thank you for your recent letter in reference to your health, and to the counseling you are doing at the Veterans Administration.

While I am certainly pleased at the initiative shown in this regard, I would still like to request that you obtain a letter from a psychologist which states simply that you are discussing with him your past and/or present problems with alcohol. I hope you understand that my desire for such a letter is not intended to be a lack of faith in you, or a judgment value of your priestly ministry. It is simply something I need to be sure that you are facing frankly whatever difficulties may exist. I would not be truly concerned for you and for your ministry if I was not sure that you are clearly facing this problem. I would feel terribly remiss if, at a later date, I were to discover that for all your good intentions you were avoiding this particular problem with the psychologist and, as a result, were not receiving the reinforcing help you need. I trust you can understand my concern for you in this regard and the reason for which such a letter is necessary.

Thank you for enclosing the article on losing priests. I have read it, and enjoyed it.

If I can be of any assistance to you, please do not hesitate to be in touch with me.

Cordially in Christ,

Bishop of Manchester

August 23, 1989

Rev. Conrad V. LaForest  
Our Lady of the Mountains Rectory  
28 Grove St.  
P. O. Box 189  
North Conway, N. H. 03860

Dear Connie:

Just a brief follow up to our telephone conversation of this date.

It is most important that you not become involved in any kind of public civil litigation with town officials where your camp is located. As a result, will you please make sure that you are in total compliance with building ordinances there, and if there continue to be problems between you and the town, that you see to their resolution in the immediate future.

Secondly, I would remind you that the Bishop still has not received from the Veterans Administration Hospital any indication that you have been in counseling there. Would you please make sure a letter is sent to the Bishop indicating that the counselor in question does not feel that you have any serious problem with alcohol abuse at this time. If this letter is not forthcoming in the very near future, the Diocese will have to take other steps to make sure that all is well with your health.

Thanking you for your kind attention to these matters,  
I am

Sincerely in Christ,

(Msgr.) Francis J. Christian  
Secretary  
Chancellor

1390



**Veterans  
Administration**

In Reply Refer To:

Father Conrad  
Our Lady of the Mountains Parish  
23 Grove Street Box 189  
North Conway, N.H.03660

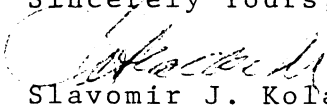
September 7, 1989

Dear Father Conrad,

I am addressing this letter to you that you can inform your Bishop of the fact that at the time I had seen you here at this VA Medical Center I had not find you in a crises which would necessitate some other action than counseling on the outpatient basis.

I am also informing you that if at any time you should have concern as related to the use of ETOH you may call me or the ADTP clinic at any time.

Sincerely Yours,

  
Slavomir J. Kolada, Ph.D.  
Chief, ADTP

October 12, 1989

Rev. Conrad LaForest  
Our Lady of the Mountains Parish  
28 Grove Street  
Box 189  
North Conway, New Hampshire 03660

Dear Connie,

Just a note to acknowledge the letter from Dr. Kolada which you sent to the office with Bishop Gendron a few days ago. We appreciate receiving these assurances and hope that you have been honest with Dr. Kolada in making him aware of the situation. We hope, as well, that you will not hesitate to consult him if you feel the need. You are a dedicated priest who is doing much good work, and no one wants to see that jeopardized.

If I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to call upon me.

Sincerely in Christ,

(Msgr.) Francis J. Christian

24 November 1990

The Most Reverend Leo O'Neill  
The Diocese of Manchester  
153 Ash Street  
Manchester, NH 03104

Dear Bishop O'Neill:

Letters of complaint are difficult to write and to receive. Perhaps this letter can be described as one of concern. I have been a parishioner of Our Lady of the Mountains parish in North Conway for nine years. For six years I was parish musician (my profession and love) and teacher of religious education for junior high youth. In this short time the parish has become a large part of my life and one I cherish. Since Father LaForest has been assigned here there have been difficulties. Initially we were not prepared for the manner in which he conducts himself and his parish business. Changes were made abruptly and without warning. We reacted in many ways. As a mother of four and a wife of thirty eight years I am well aware that "family conflict" is never one sided. Therefore I am more than willing to admit to my own shortcomings. Problems and unhappiness in the first months of Father's tenure here escalated so that at one time - under advice from Msgr. Christian - we held a meeting with our parish council president and expressed our concerns. He then had a meeting with Father and presented these to him. This was a painful procedure for everyone and two years later we are still struggling. Some have left - some have given up and are just going to Sunday Mass to fulfill an obligation and some are trying to start again. I am sure these statements show you our weaknesses and strengths. We don't deny them but are asking for help for everyone.

I am convinced by my own observations and by explanations from fellow parishioners and by concerned members of the Conway community at large that our pastor is living with some disease that controls his behavior - most believe this is alcoholism. For this I have great compassion. But we have all become victims.

In the last two weeks there have been two troublesome issues that have prompted this letter. Last Monday night I sat as librarian in the parish library. In the next room Father Conrad was conducting a class with our confirmation students. He was presenting the requirements for confirmation. The list was long. His manner was gruff. (I was not eavesdropping - his voice was so penetrating I could not work). I did not hear an objectionable noise level from the students but having taught many years I can imagine they reacted in various ways. They are adolescent and certain characteristics belong to the age. This does not make them bad. In response to them I heard:

"shut up or get out"

"If you don't like it go find another church"

"yeh-you either shit or get off the pot" (forgive this but

I find it important as explanation of his behavior)

If I had children in the program I would remove them. My own children are teachers and nurses and I believe they would be removed from their positions for similar conduct. Sadly - the hour never settled into one of teaching or prayer. I was extremely uncomfortable being in the next room - to leave I would have had to walk through the class. When I returned home I received phone calls from two mothers of students I had taught previously. They were distraught. I know others who had removed their children from class before this evening.

My second issue has been over money - a pretty steady problem for some of us. Father has concern for a friend, a fellow priest in the diocese whose parish has a large debt. I respect and appreciate this. He is a generous man. But we are being told to give \$500. monthly to this parish as long as Father Conrad is our pastor. We are all willing and happy to give some help but many feel this commitment is too great because we see so many situations in this community that need to be addressed. We are becoming a depressed area. We would like to give to a variety of special needs. Because we raised objection to the \$500. plan we were chastised in the weekend homilies by both priests. We were also ridiculed during Mass because we had requested that certain events of importance in the parish be brought to the peoples attention by verbal announcement - not just in the bulletin. Only money matters are verbally announced. We realize that the structure of the church is such that our pastor has the final say in all we do here but we believe that the Christian charity we love encourages a willingness to dialogue and respect one another.

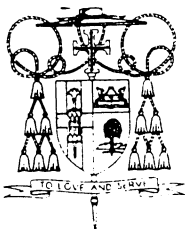
We are anxious to be participants in the Five Year Plan - the Renewal of the Covenant. We have travelled to workshops in Manchester, had an evening with Father McHugh and Michelle Jones in our parish about the ministry of the parish council. A group of us recently presented a musical with a message of Christian witness. This included young and old and in between. We have had a healing service - a parish mission is planned for February. All of these events have been initiated by the laity and I mention them as evidence that we are trying. But with each new "conflict" we lose a parishioner or two. These people are our family. The parish goes on because thankfully the visitors are always with us. But we need each other.

Bishop O'Neill, this letter has been with me through the Thanksgiving holiday. I have thought about all of this a lot. I have been made acutely aware that I am thankful for my faith and for the many priests and religious who have helped me nurture that faith. I do not wish to hurt anyone and believe that Father Conrad needs help as much as we do. He makes me angry but I care for him. No man would make a commitment to the priesthood unless he truly wanted to serve Jesus. I have no right to judge and don't mean to do so. It is my hope this letter will be received with understanding and compassion for all concerned. We are praying and ask that you pray for us.

Gratefully yours,

*Suzanne Felber*





Fr. Laforest

111

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP  
DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

MOST REVEREND LEO E. O'NEIL, D.D.

November 27, 1990

Mrs. Suzanne Felber  
RFD 1 Box 180  
Tasker Hill Road  
Conway, New Hampshire 03818

Dear Mrs. Felber:

I have received your letter of November 24th expressing your on-going concern over the ministry of Fr. Conrad Laforest. I note specifically the two recent occurrences dealing with his dialogue with the Confirmation class and the fashion in which he committed the parish to a monthly subsidy for another parish of the Diocese. I note as well your statement of conviction that he may be abusing of alcohol.

I assure you that I take all of these concerns very seriously and will take under advisement the best way of dealing with them that will be helpful both to Father Conrad and the parish community. Thank you for taking the time to write to me in this regard.

Assuring you of my prayerful best wishes,  
I am

Your friend in Christ,  
*+ Leo E. O'Neil*  
Bishop of Manchester

111  
2 Dec. 1990

The Most Reverend Leo O'Neil  
Diocese of Manchester  
153 Ash St.  
P.O.B. 310  
Manchester, N.H. 03105

Dear Bishop O'Neil,

I write this letter with mixed emotions. I have discussed this situation with members of my family who are members of religious communities. Our pastor and our parish are in my prayers daily.

This is a second such letter. I have made an attempt to be as objective as possible as I organized my thoughts. It includes a number of emotions. I am very aware of the great difficulties you, and all those responsible for the staffing of parish churches face. It is a somewhat awesome task at times, in these days of clerical shortages.

There is anger as I watch a parish community I have been a part of, and served in various capacities for twenty years, deteriorating. Some have simply stopped attending services. Some have left and joined other denominations. The youth, labeled "the Church of tomorrow," are being turned off. People are hurting. We need help. We have no one to whom we can go for guidance, consolation or answers to questions regarding our faith.

The difficulties were brought to the attention of the diocese over a year ago. Their suggestions were followed to no avail.

I feel frustration because Father Conrad LaForest is a good man. He cares about people, and if his present course continues, a good priest will be lost one way or another.

There are many of us who feel he is the victim of a very serious disease. All of the classic signs are there, some more apparent than others. He exhibits great mood swings. There is a need to be the center of attention, often with loud and inappropriate comments. He needs to be in total control, rarely accepting valid suggestions. They seem to appear as threatening. "We will have no council elections because the wrong people are elected".

He will defuse what he sees as opposition before it can occur. For example, he read, "What is a Priest" from the pulpit one Sunday followed by the comment, "since I can't please everyone, I will do what I want". He uses the pulpit at times, to put down with ridicule any conflicting opinions. On Thanksgiving Day he said one of the things he has been thankful for was that "the Knights of Columbus screwed us" (explained in later paragraph). When one of the sisters grimaced at the language, he stepped down and asked her if she had a problem with something.

The need for adulation to prove self-worth often takes the form of spending on visible things, some needed, some not. (That

151

is an opinion call.) One such item is the desire to send another pastor \$500.00 per month while Father Conrad is pastor here. With many of our own people in serious financial need, this seems like a large sum to go out each month.

Other incidents include the following inappropriate humor. "There is no organist today which is great for those of us who can't sing".

From the pulpit: "The Knights of Columbus really screwed the parish this week." This was repeated numerous times before people were made aware that this referred to the work these gentlemen did in putting down the plywood for the flooring before installing the new carpet and pews. Following that installation was a sermon on "how happy he was, no more noise, squeaks, etc., I may even giggle during the Mass, you will know why". This giggle and the comment, "see I told you it might happen", came during the consecration.

The deep concern that precipitates this letter, however, are comments made during a class for our young people looking forward to the sacrament of Confirmation. They were made in response to to students, and I quote:

"Shit, or get off the pot."

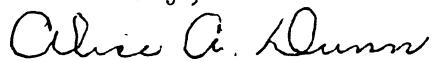
"If you don't like it, find another church."

I find this abhorrent with every fiber of my being.

In closing, this letter is written with the prayerful hope that a solution may be found. That will continue to be in my prayers for all concerned.

I thank you for your consideration of the concerns expressed in this letter.

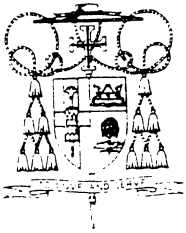
Sincerely,



Alice A. Dunn

P.O.B. 798

No. Conway, N.H. 03860



*Fr. Lafford*

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP  
DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

MOST REVEREND LEO E. O'NEIL D.D.

December 5, 1990

Ms. Alice A. Dunn  
P.O.B. 798  
No. Conway, New Hampshire 03860

Dear Alice:

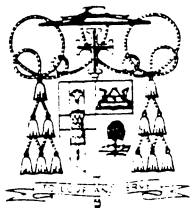
I have received your letter of December 2nd in reference to the pastoral leadership of Father Conrad Laforest.

I appreciate your taking the time to write to me about these matters which are significant. You can be sure that your concerns will be addressed. Please keep me in your prayers.

Wishing you and your family Christ's blessings, I am

Your friend in Christ,

+ *Leo E. O'Neil*  
Bishop of Manchester



*La Forest, F. Conrad*

1312

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP  
DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

MOST REVEREND LEO E. O'NEIL, D.D.

May 29, 1996

Rev. Conrad V. LaForest  
Our Lady of the Mountains Rectory  
28 Grove St.  
PO Box 189  
North Conway, NH 03860-0189

Dear Father LaForest:

This is a difficult letter for me to write and for you to receive; however, both you and I must have your health as our first priority. It is for this reason that I accept your resignation as Pastor of Our Lady of the Mountains Parish, North Conway, effective Wednesday, June 19, 1996.

It is my sincere hope that you will go for an in-depth and residential evaluation to determine whether or not you have any physical problems which must be addressed.

You are a good priest and I want to do everything that can be done so that you can maintain good health in your ministry for many more years to come.

I ask you to be in touch with Bishop Francis J. Christian, Vicar for Clergy, who is anxious to help you in any way he can. He is a friend of and for you.

I pray for you every day and it is my sincere hope that you always find God's comforting grace in your life.

Sincerely in Christ,

*+ Leo E. O'Neil*

Bishop of Manchester

111

June 4, 1996

Rev. Conrad V. LaForest  
Our Lady of the Mountains Rectory  
Post Office Box 189  
North Conway, NH 03860-0189

Dear Father LaForest:

In regard to our telephone conversation on June 3rd, the following are the facts concerning the information I received regarding your alleged abuse of alcohol.

Late in the Fall of 1995 I received a telephone call from Father Marcel Martel informing me some people from North Conway had informed him that during the summer you had been discovered in a "stupor" in the rectory, and had been rushed to the hospital in North Conway. Allegedly, your problem was alcohol related. As you recall when I spoke to you about this incident, you told me that while you had been in the hospital, it was for your bad case of ulcers and had nothing to do with any drinking problems. At the time that Father Marcel spoke to me he did not reveal to me, nor did I ask, the names of the people who had shared this information with him.

Approximately two months ago Father Anthony Frontiero, who is the State Chaplain for the Knights of Columbus, informed me that Mr. Larry Sevigny, the Grand Knight of the Council in North Conway, had informed him that you had gone in to a meeting of the Council and took them to task over various matters. Mr. Sevigny reported to Father Frontiero it was clear that you were under the influence of alcohol. As you recall, we talked about that incident as well, and began to discern that we would need an evaluation to be sure that there were no serious physical problems involved. Those are the facts as closely as I can recall them about the areas of your concern.

While I am sympathetic to your need to defend yourself from what you consider to be misunderstandings and/or misrepresentations, I must state again that I do not feel any formal process with the Knights will be helpful to you. I cannot see how any hearing is going to clear your name, since conflicting witnesses would not enable such a hearing to come to any conclusion. I feel that such a process would simply muddy the waters further, and cause questions to be raised in a public forum. I know that you have the right to request such a hearing. I am not sure the Knights of Columbus will decide that such a hearing is a fit matter for them to handle. But, frankly, I must state that even if they should agree to such a hearing, I do not see how it can be helpful to you.

Please be in touch with me if I can be of any further assistance to you in this regard.

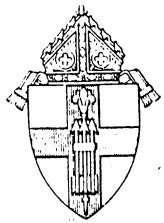
Sincerely in Christ.

Auxiliary Bishop of Manchester

cc: Mr. Stanley M. Polan  
Rev. Anthony R. Frontiero

1.1. Conrad LaForest

1.1.1



DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

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

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

November 10, 1998

Rev. Conrad V. LaForest  
PO Box 90  
Winnisquam, N.H. 03289-0090

Dear Conrad:

As the time fast approaches when the new pastor will be assigned to Assumption Parish, Tilton, I wanted to drop you a brief letter to express my sincere gratefulness for all that you have done for George Harvey and the people of the parish during these past months. Your availability to celebrate Mass on weekends and on other occasions is most appreciated. Your generosity in this regard made it possible for George to stay in the parish and die there, which he fervently desired. Had you not been available, we would have had to appoint an administrator, which probably would have precluded the possibility of allowing George to remain in the rectory.

Again I am most grateful to you for your kindness in this regard, and for your ongoing assistance to the parishes of the Lakes Region and beyond.

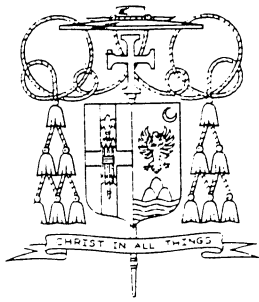
Please be in touch with me if there is anything I can do for you in the days ahead. I pray that you will have a happy holiday season.

With every good wish, I am

Cordially in Christ,

Auxiliary Bishop of Manchester





OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

May 12, 1999

Rev. Conrad V. LaForest  
PO Box 90  
Winnisquam, N.H. 03289-0090

Dear Fr. LaForest:

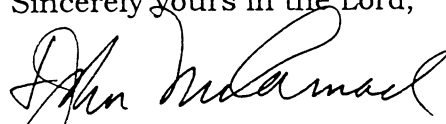
Subsequent to your recent conversation with Fr. William Quirk, Dean of the Laconia Deanery, I am pleased to acknowledge your willingness to provide regular coverage at St. Francis Nursing Home in Laconia.

As you know, Fr. Raymond Demers is retiring, and it is not possible for the Diocese to assign a full-time Chaplain to the home at present. As a result, your willingness to offer Mass three days a week, to minister the Sacrament of the Sick when necessary, and to perform the infrequent funeral is most helpful and welcome. I have asked Mr. Mailloux to be in touch with you to discuss the appropriate stipend for the services you will offer.

In closing, Conrad, let me thank you again for your generosity in this regard. I know that the elderly you will serve will truly benefit from your pastoral care.

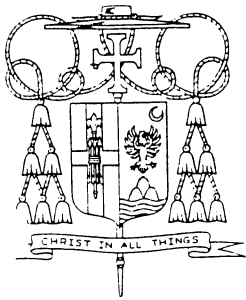
With every good wish, I am

Sincerely yours in the Lord,



Bishop of Manchester

cc/ Fr. William Quirk  
Mr. Ray Mailloux



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

1518

May 12, 1999

Rev. Raymond A. Demers  
St. Francis Home  
406 Court St. #103  
Laconia, N.H. 03246-3600

Dear Fr. Demers:

Subsequent to your recent conversations with Bishop Christian, I am pleased to grant you permission to retire as of June 16, 1999. This is the date when the spring clergy transfers will be effective throughout the Diocese.

As you know, the clergy shortage does not permit me to assign a full-time Chaplain to the home at present. Fr. Conrad LaForest has graciously agreed to offer week-day Mass at the home on three days, as well as to perform whatever anointing might be required. Bishop Christian informs me that you have most generously offered to continue to say Sunday Mass at the home on a regular basis. I am certainly most grateful to you in this regard, and am sure that the elderly residents of the home will continue to benefit from your priestly ministry in this way.

I have asked Mr. Ray Mailloux, Director of New Hampshire Catholic Charities, to be in touch with you to discuss the appropriate stipend for your services.

In closing, Ray, may I wish you a wonderful retirement, one that is well earned by your many years of dedicated and effective ministry to God's People.

If there is anything that I can do to be of assistance to you in the weeks and months ahead, please do not hesitate to call upon me.

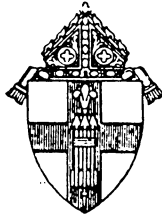
With every good wish, I am

Sincerely yours in the Lord,



Bishop of Manchester

cc/ Fr. William Quirk  
Mr. Ray Mailloux



DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

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

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

January 24, 2000

The Reverend Conrad V. LaForest  
P.O. Box 152  
Winnisquam, NH 03289

Dear Father LaForest:

Subsequent to our meeting this afternoon, I wish to express in writing the results of our discussion.

I have asked Msgr. Norman P. Bolduc to be in communication with our diocesan legal counsel who will, in turn, speak with either Attorney Paul Chant or Attorney Randy Cooper whom you have retained regarding the financial matters we discussed. Msgr. Bolduc will inform me of your attorney's actions in this regard. Msgr. Bolduc will also speak with Mr. Don Wheeler of Winnisquam, NH about this same matter.

I wish to repeat to you the warning which I expressed in our conversation. Should this financial matter lead to any charges being filed against you for criminal wrongdoing or should this matter achieve public notoriety in any way whereby your reputation as a Catholic priest is impaired, Bishop McCormack will be required to pursue canonical actions, including your suspension from the public exercise of priestly ministry. If such were to occur, your faculties to function as a priest will need to be removed.

If there are any further developments regarding any of the matters which we discussed, I would expect that you be in communication with me or, in my absence, with Msgr. Bolduc.

Trusting that I can rely on your cooperation in this matter, I am

Cordially in Christ,

Auxiliary Bishop of Manchester