

DIOCESE OF KOTTAR

3556

BISHOP LEON A. THARMARAJ

Most Rev. Leo E. O'Neil, D.D.
Bishop of Manchester
153 Ash Street
P.O. Box 310
Manchester, New Hampshire 03105-0310

BISHOP'S HOUSE
P. B. No. 17
NAGERCOIL - 629 001
INDIA
Tel: 23452 & 26243

July 27, 1995.

CONFIDENTIAL

My Lord Bishop,

Greetings from Bishop Leon!

Thank you for your confidential letter asking my opinion about one of my priests requesting for ministry. Let me request you to keep these informations strictly confidential to the extent that nobody should know that you asked for my opinion.

I should like to tell you that there is some truth in what you are told. I knew that he had some problem with alcohol and I believed that he had corrected himself and stopped drinking. Now after he left for the States I am told he has not changed. The other allegation with girls was whispered to me here and there. But now after he left atleast one case was proved. Recently I was in the States and heard of so many cases ^{of priests}. Hence I am also trembling to recommend him, though he has a letter from me. So please keep this information confidential and do what you think best. There is a possibility that people misunderstand me if they come to know about my letter. So please keep it confidential.

I wished to meet with you when I visited the Precious Blood Monastery in Manchester. I was also sorry to learn that you were not keeping good health. Assuring you of my prayers and requesting yours for me and the missionary diocese,

Fraternally yours in Christ,

+ *Leon A. Tharmaraj*
Bishop of Kottar.