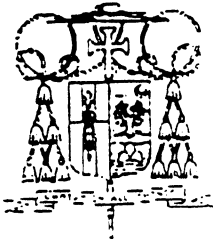


Letters from Bishop Heber
to Seamus MacLennan.



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP
DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

SEAMUS

*forwarded to us by
Seamus*

June 18, 2002

Reverend James A. MacCormack
P.O. Box 711
Jaffrey, NH 03452

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Father MacCormack,

This is a difficult letter for me to write. I sense your anger and hurt around what has happened and that they have deeply affected your recent decisions. In all honesty, they have hurt me as well. I continue to pray that both of us as men of faith will be able to reach a reasonable and just conclusion about the circumstances of your life and ministry as priest.

I am aware that your attorney has been in contact with the diocesan attorney, Mr. Brad Cook, over the last several days regarding your current situation and your desire to begin shaping a new future for yourself. As Mr. Cook communicated to Mr. McDaniel, communication through an attorney is highly unusual and contrary to the bond that exists between a priest and his bishop. While it may be difficult for you to speak or meet with me at this time, I respectfully ask that communications about your support and status as a priest of the diocese be between you and me. At this time, it seems best to be in writing. I do encourage you to consult with someone you think can be helpful and supportive to you in the decisions you make.

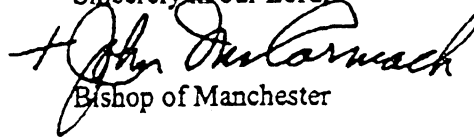
There are three concerns I would like to address with you in an effort to make clear my desire to be helpful and supportive of you. They are, (1) your current status as a priest of the Diocese of Manchester; (2) your evident intention to leave priestly ministry; and (3) the situation of St. Patrick Parish in Jaffrey. I have provided my own thoughts about each of these issues in an enclosure to this letter and would like you to respond to them.

I can only imagine how difficult this experience is for you. I have personally anguished over my seeming inability to assist you thus far and your seeming disregard for the Church in the decisions that you have made recently. Any suggestions that there are ulterior motives on the part of the diocese for what has transpired these last few months are false, and if you follow through on what you have threatened to do, I can only see more pain for you and everyone affected.

I firmly believe that you are in need of significant pastoral care and counseling. I remain willing to assist you in obtaining whatever medical or psychological care you need, but I also must bear in mind my responsibility to care for others in the Church. You have drawn many people into a difficult situation that I believe we could have resolved confidentially. Your decisions have forced me to focus my attention not only on you, but also on the well being of the Church and your brother priests.

I ask that you review this letter and the enclosure with whomever you rely on for assistance and advice. After some reflection, I ask that you respond to my request and inquiries either by mail or by fax to my office [REDACTED]. In the meantime, please know you are remembered in my prayer often.

Sincerely in our Lord,


Bishop of Manchester

Enclosure

Reverend Seamus A. MacCormack

Status as a Priest

I acknowledged your written request to leave active ministry for a period of one year by accepting your resignation as pastor of St. Patrick Parish in Jaffrey and assigned you to reside at St. Joseph Cathedral while at the same time granting you permission to take an extended three-month vacation prior to resuming a dialogue with me about your priestly life and ministry. I also postponed my original request that you make a retreat under the direction of Abbot Matthew Leavy, OSB, which I offered as a means to assess God's will and plan for you in terms of your life and ministry. You were informed that during this time of vacation you would receive a monthly stipend and the associated benefits equal to that of a priest and pastor ordained in 1997.

As of today, you have not reported to your assignment. You have chosen to remain living in Jaffrey in violation of my request that you not do so. My request that you relocate is based solely on what I believe is best for you, the people of St. Patrick Parish and their new pastor.

Today I repeat to you my request that you report to your assigned residence. I have offered you a great deal of latitude while in residence, giving you a lengthy vacation in an effort to allow you to step aside from the evident pressures of this situation. If you do not accept this assignment, I will have no other choice than to respond to your lack of cooperation according to the provisions of Canon Law.

Leaving Priestly Ministry

In your letter to me dated May 3, 2002, you requested a one year leave of absence. I did not grant your request for a formal leave of absence at the time and asked that you make a private retreat under the direction of Abbot Matthew Leavy, OSB, to clarify and discern with and before God your reasons for this request. Notwithstanding what I noted above, your recent decisions to use the media and to retain a civil attorney and to represent through him that you have been demoralized, demoted and manipulated is very disturbing to me. You continue to reorganize facts and, through what I can best characterize as reconstructed recollection, reshape everything that has happened to you in order to serve a purpose that I struggle to comprehend.

If you intend to permanently leave priestly ministry, I ask that you express this to me clearly in writing. The traditions of the Church and Canon Law have specific provisions in place to respond to such a request by a priest. If your intent is to step aside from active ministry and to examine your priestly life and ministry, I ask that you express this to me clearly in writing. Together we can revisit these matters and work out a plan that best suits your need to do so. Regardless of which you choose, I will do all I can to support you through the provision of pastoral support, spiritual and psychological counseling and sustenance in conformity with our diocesan policies and the law of the Church.

St. Patrick Parish, Jaffrey

As you know, I have assigned Fr. Roland Cote as pastor of St. Patrick Parish in Jaffrey. I remain concerned about the well being of the people of the parish, and I urge you to respect them and allow them to begin to heal from the experience that they have had these last few months. I reiterate again my request that you relocate your residence to a location away from Jaffrey immediately so that the people of the parish can move on with their life as a community of the Lord.



June 18, 2002



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

June 1, 2002

Parishioners of Saint Patrick Parish
87 Main Street
Jaffrey, New Hampshire 03452-6139

Dear Friends,

I am mindful that Fr. MacCormack's request to leave active ministry and my acceptance of his resignation as pastor have been the source of upset and concern for many of you. I must say from the onset that I am uncomfortable writing about the personal decision of a priest to request a leave from active ministry and the discussions he and I had on this matter. However, because of the unrest that this has occasioned in your parish, I feel it necessary to attempt to clarify the situation to better help you understand the situation and, also, to enable you to welcome and support your new pastor.

After receiving several letters and calls of concern regarding pastoral matters and communications that Fr. MacCormack had with some parishioners, I asked a member of my staff to meet with him. In doing so, it was my objective to provide Fr. MacCormack an opportunity to respond to the concerns that were raised and to learn what effect these were having on him personally. In that meeting, Fr. MacCormack himself suggested that a medical evaluation would be helpful to him and to me, in order to assure us both that we address his health in an informed manner.

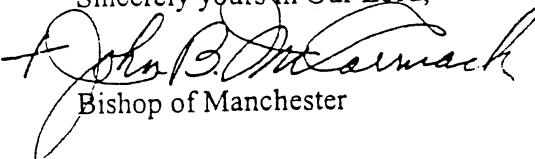
Fr. MacCormack and I met on two other occasions and spoke on the telephone about the options he had, based on his request for a leave. My ultimate decision was that he take residence at a rectory in Manchester plus an extended vacation during the summer and that we meet again in September to discuss his future plans.

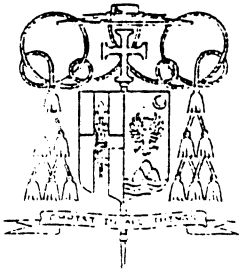
There is nothing more difficult for me as bishop than to see a priest in need of support and care and to find that I am not able to help him as much as I would like. I am deeply sorry that part of his understanding about these matters, matters that are normally handled in a personal and confidential manner, were made public and, as a result, have been upsetting and confusing to many of you

I ask that you join me in praying for Fr. MacCormack. God has given him many fine gifts that have served you well. As a result of his resignation as your pastor, I have begun the process of assigning a new pastor for St. Patrick Parish. Until then, I have asked Fr. Thomas Coover to provide pastoral and sacramental ministry for you.

Please be assured that I pray for you, for Fr. MacCormack and for the bond we share as members of the Church. There is no question that all of us have been affected and disturbed by these recent events. It is my prayer that God's peace and presence abide in your minds and hearts.

Sincerely yours in Our Lord,


Bishop of Manchester



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

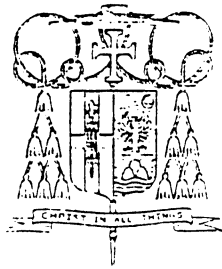
Dear Seamus,

Attached is a letter which reflects our conversation on the telephone yesterday.

I am praying that you accept this. Please call me before the end of the day, today.

Sincerely,
+ Jim McLaughlin

May 24, 2002



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

May 24, 2002

Reverend James A. MacCormack
Saint Patrick Rectory
87 Main Street
Jaffrey, NH 03452

Dear Seamus,

It was good to talk with you yesterday. I gather from our telephone conversation that this past week has been truly difficult for you and that you are pained by ail that has transpired over the last few months. I want to reiterate what I have said before, that I will do anything that I can to assist you to regain your health so that you can explore your future in priestly life and ministry.

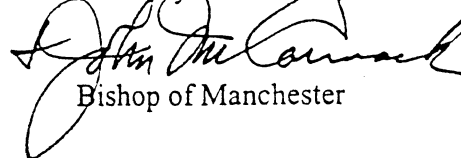
As I mentioned to you on the phone yesterday, I am assigning you to reside at St. Joseph Cathedral effective Saturday, May 25, 2002 and granting you a three month period of vacation in order that you may find time for rest and refreshment and be free to focus on your spiritual, emotional and physical well being. I hope that your visit to Ireland and your retreat there will be enjoyable and engaging. I ask that you follow through on the recommendation of the Southdown report, namely, to enter into counseling. If you want some help, I will be pleased to recommend the names of some therapists. After these months, I would like to meet with you to discuss your plans regarding life and ministry.

You are blessed with many wonderful gifts from the Lord, Seamus, as well as some challenges to face as you integrate them into effective priestly leadership and service. In order that you and I can stay in touch, I ask that you let my office know where you can be contacted when you are away from Manchester for a period of more than two weeks. I would like to have an address and a telephone number where you can be reached. I have asked Eve Mongeau in the Personnel Office to arrange with you the continuance of your remuneration and benefits during this period of time.

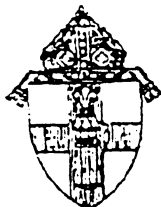
Finally, I would like to address the issue of your possible presence in Jaffrey. As you are aware, I am concerned that your presence could slow down whatever healing needs to take place in bringing the parish together. Therefore, I ask that you not work or minister in the area and that any visits you make to the home of a parishioner or resident be limited to an overnight at most. From our conversations I sense that you trust that this is necessary for your own good and the good of the parish. Would you please write a note to me that acknowledges your acceptance of this arrangement.

As you enter this period of rest Seamus, may the Lord who called you bless you with good health, abundant peace and patient understanding.

Sincerely in our Lord,



Bishop of Manchester



Diocese of Manchester

153 Ash Street - Box 310
Manchester, New Hampshire 03105-0310
603-669-3100 (voice)
603-624-7447 (facsimile)

FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

Date: May 24, 2002

To: Reverend Seamus MacCormack

Re: CONFIDENTIAL

From: Kaye Gibson, Executive Secretary
Office of the Bishop

To Fax Number: 32-6633

Pages:

Notes: Confidential communication from Bishop
McCormack follows.

Kaye

The contents of the following pages are intended for the addressee only. If you have received this transmission inadvertently or the fax was incomplete, please contact the Sender noted above immediately.



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

COPY

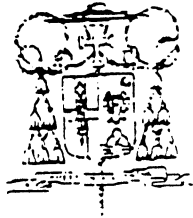
Dear Seamus,

Attached is a letter which
reflects our conversation
on the telephone yesterday.

I am praying that you
accept this. Please
call me before the
end of the day, today.

Sincerely,
+ Jim McLaughlin

May 24, 2002



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

May 24, 2002

Reverend James A. MacCormack
Saint Patrick Rectory
87 Main Street
Jaffrey, NH 03452

COPY

Dear Seamus,

It was good to talk with you yesterday. I gather from our telephone conversation that this past week has been truly difficult for you and that you are pained by all that has transpired over the last few months. I want to reiterate what I have said before, that I will do anything that I can to assist you to regain your health so that you can explore your future in priestly life and ministry.

As I mentioned to you on the phone yesterday, I am assigning you to reside at St. Joseph Cathedral effective Saturday, May 25, 2002 and granting you a three month period of vacation in order that you may find time for rest and refreshment and be free to focus on your spiritual, emotional and physical well being. I hope that your visit to Ireland and your retreat there will be enjoyable and engaging. I ask that you follow through on the recommendation of the Southdown report, namely, to enter into counseling. If you want some help, I will be pleased to recommend the names of some therapists. After these months, I would like to meet with you to discuss your plans regarding life and ministry.

You are blessed with many wonderful gifts from the Lord, Seamus, as well as some challenges to face as you integrate them into effective priestly leadership and service. In order that you and I can stay in touch, I ask that you let my office know where you can be contacted when you are away from Manchester for a period of more than two weeks. I would like to have an address and a telephone number where you can be reached. I have asked Eve Mongeau in the Personnel Office to arrange with you the continuance of your remuneration and benefits during this period of time.

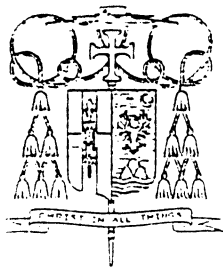
Finally, I would like to address the issue of your possible presence in Jaffrey. As you are aware, I am concerned that your presence could slow down whatever healing needs to take place in bringing the parish together. Therefore, I ask that you not work or minister in the area and that any visits you make to the home of a parishioner or resident be limited to an overnight at most. From our conversations I sense that you trust that this is necessary for your own good and the good of the parish. Would you please write a note to me that acknowledges your acceptance of this arrangement.

As you enter this period of rest Seamus, may the Lord who called you bless you with good health, abundant peace and patient understanding.

Sincerely in our Lord

John J. Conroy
Bishop of Manchester

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OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

May 16, 2002

Reverend James A. MacCormack
Saint Patrick Rectory
87 Main Street
Jaffrey, NH 03452

Dear Father MacCormack,

After a great deal of consideration of the matters, which you presented to me in your letter of May 3, 2002, I accept your resignation as pastor of Saint Patrick Parish in Jaffrey, NH, effective May 24, 2002. It is clear to me that the issues which you raise support your sense that they are serious and it is necessary for you to remove yourself from active ministry.

It is my hope that you and I can work on the future of your life as a priest together in dialogue. My request is that you make arrangements for a retreat with Abbot Matthew Leavy, OSB as soon as possible. I am sure that you will find it helpful in discerning the issues that concern you. I am mindful too that you feel alone and hurt by the process in which the issues raised by some of your parishioners have been addressed. Hopefully the retreat will be helpful in these matters too.

After your retreat, I am willing to reconsider your taking a leave of absence. As I understand the issues, that you face as a priest, they are best addressed in an environment where you can count on the active presence and support of other priests. If the plan for you to address your personal issues allows for it, I am willing to assign you to some pastoral work, as long as it does not interfere with your personal efforts.

This weekend, I want you to speak to the people of your parish about this matter and to share with them that this will be your last weekend serving them. I ask that you explain to them that there has been a misunderstanding between you and me and that you have miscommunicated the substance and spirit of our conversations. I also ask that you inform the people that you are sorry for this miscommunication, for any upset that this has caused them and that you are resolved to clarify these issues with me so that what is hurt can be healed. Finally, please inform the people of the parish that it was you who requested to leave active ministry as their pastor and that I accepted your resignation as pastor. Please reassure the people of Saint Patrick Parish that I will do all that I can to achieve what is best for you and for them as a parish.

Seamus, I am aware that you are hurt by all of this, but I am also very concerned that an entire parish community is now in pain. Although we both know that some people have been

hurt by some of your choices and actions, many parishioners have expressed to me their deep gratitude for your devoted ministry during these past years. I am grateful too.

May the Lord grant you the gifts of His peace and consolation as you face these challenging days.

Sincerely in our Lord,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John B. Carmack". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "C".

Bishop of Manchester

Edward Thompson, Jr.

Bernard J. Hampsey, Jr.

May 20, 2002

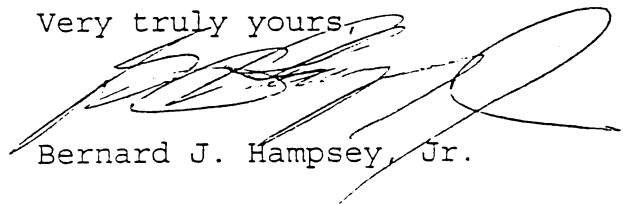
Rev. Seamus MacCormack
Saint Patrick Church
87 Main Street
Jaffrey, NH 03452

Dear Fr. Seamus:

Yesterday, I became aware of a serious rumor that reflects upon me personally and perhaps professionally. As I understand it, your supporters are angry because, although many attempts were made, Bishop McCormack refused to meet with any of them. On the other hand, your supporters are under the impression that I met with Bishop McCormack concerning your situation.

To set the record straight, I wrote to Bishop McCormack on two occasions. I used personal stationery and not court stationery. I never spoke by telephone nor did I meet in person with Bishop McCormack or Bishop Christian.

Very truly yours,



Bernard J. Hampsey, Jr.

BJH/dmb

c: Most Reverend John B. McCormack

Church Improvements: Jeffrey Parish



Fr. Seamus Improvements
CHURCH

- Outside Lighting
- Replaced Some Stained Glass Windows
- Floors Waxed
- Carpet Installed
- Additional Sanctuary Lighting

\$
250.-

Fr. Seamus Improvements
CONVENT

- Replaced Windows
- Installed New Carpeting
- Purchased Freezer
- New Kitchen and Bathroom Floors
- Water Fountain

Fr. Seamus Improvements ***RECTORY***

- Replaced Windows
- Removed Asbestos
- Installed Insulation
- Painting
- Added Front Deck
- Added Hand Rails
- Installed Outlets
- Ran Wiring
- Updated Plumbing
- Replaced Toilets
- Removed Carpet
- Refurbished Hardwood Floors
- Installed Glass Office Doors
- Replaced Interior Lights
- Tiled Kitchen Floor
- Installed Exhaust Hood
- Wallpapered Entire Rectory
- Planted Flower Gardens
- Installed fireplace mantle, bookshelves
- New Curtains
- Window Shutters
- Stairwell Runner
- Removed Old Ceiling
- Flagpole and Lighting
- Installed Cable TV
- New Furniture
- New Household Accessories – Towels, bedsheets, etc.
- Updated Kitchen Equipment
-

PASTORAL DUTIES

- Coordinator/Teacher of 2nd Year Confirmation Students
- Administrator Fiscal Management
- Crisis Management Team/Conant High School and St. Patrick
- Facilitator at Cheshire County Department of Corrections
- Grief Management/Family Counseling/Conflict Behavior Manager
- Jaffrey-Rindge Ambulance/Knights of Columbus Chaplain
- ASSIST Team Coach for after school lifting
- St. Patrick School Board Advisor
- Hospital Visits
- Emergency Calls
- Hospital Visits
- Mentoring Program
- Pastoral Counseling
- TEAM Jaffrey Member
- Interfaith Clergy Group

Discussion Topic for
St. Patrick's Parish Pastoral
Council Meeting 10/7/93

This pre-dates Seamus.

It was submitted to us as
evidence of unrest in the
Parish directed at Father Kelley,
prior to Seamus' arrival.

CONFIDENTIAL: FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

*St. Patrick's Parish
Pastoral Council Meeting
Discussion Topics
October 7, 1993*

The primary purpose of this part of tonight's meeting will be to discuss the overall status of St. Patrick's Parish, the role and effectivity of the Pastor, the role and effectivity of the Pastoral Council, and the role and general acceptability of the laity in the life of this parish.

We have the potential for a very active and faith motivated Parish community but many of us see it developing a very serious malaise. We have had several previously very active families leave this Parish recently, several others have expressed their thoughts about doing the same but have not as yet done so, and numerous others have stated that they do not feel "nourished" or motivated by this Parish. Several people have confided that they are seriously considering returning to their prior Protestant denomination to meet their needs, or they are considering quitting "Church" participation altogether.

These are very difficult situations for the individuals, and of course frustrating, and frightening, from the Parish standpoint as well. These people present a very real message that this body had better pay attention to and get about the real purpose of helping to build a Parish that lives up to our vision statement, and meets peoples needs.

If we, as Parish leadership, can get serious about these issues, and the perceptions listed below, and begin to implement the remedial programs that we have discussed "ad nauseam" in previous meetings, then this will be a Council that is exciting and worth being a part of, and worthy of our investments of time, talent, and spirit. If, however, we can not achieve a mandate, and support, to develop positive programs that, with the peoples help can be designed to make people feel welcome and spiritually and emotionally fulfilled then we should all stop wasting our time and abandon the concept of a Pastoral Council.

What we truly need has to come from you Father Kelley. You have to break out of your restrictive, secretive, and protective mold and empower lay people to help this Parish. This Council, and those we bring in to assist with specific programs can make your life much easier if you just allow it, and also, I believe make this Parish better as a result. Being a single Priest in a Parish is a very tough job, no one can expect you to do it all alone. That is why the Church has developed the idea of lay involvement. We need to have it happen here.

Attached is a brief list of concerns that have been expressed by various members of the Parish community relative to their deep concerns about where St. Patrick's is heading.

On behalf of the Council, and the Parish,

Mike Neyens & Bill Schofield

People are leaving the Parish, as evidenced by the results of some of the census replies, (up to one-third of the respondents in several groups have left the Parish or the Catholic Church altogether).

People are calling expressing their concerns about;

- uninspiring liturgies
- demeaning and/or boring sermons
- lack of a welcoming spirit ("a dead Parish")

"The Pastor is gone too often, he's never here..."

"Month's mind mass canceled without notice...."

"I have worked in Religious Ed for x years and Fr. Kelley doesn't even know my name."

"The Parish is without direction, or purpose..."

"Father Kelley asks us to come to him with our problems or concerns, but if you are a woman you might as well forget about it, he may give you lip service but he will ignore you, or your concern..."

"We spend a lot of time in the school but about the only time we see Fr. Kelley is at lunch, or at programs, he's hardly ever there for teaching."

"I feel down after mass at St. Patrick's, the lack of spirit, the lack of welcoming, the demoralizing sermons,...."

"We moved here recently, from a very active Parish, and my husband absolutely refuses to attend Mass at St. Patrick's, as a matter of fact he dislikes it so much that he often times misses Mass altogether..."

"We never know what is going on with Parish finances, we have reduced our contributions greatly..."

"We have been in the parish for a number of years now and I can't remember the last time Father used the word "sin" in an instructional manner."

"If you're not one of Fr.'s favorites, forget about being selected for any ministry"

There are other quotes that could be listed but the purpose is to present to you Father, a sampling of the concerns that are running through the minds of many Parishioners, and in fact through the minds of many of the Pastoral Council members as well. The purpose of presenting these concerns is to shock you into the reality that this Parish needs significant rebuilding, and that many people are deeply concerned about whether or not it can, or will ever happen. The Parish is comprised of so many wonderful people who deserve more than they are getting, but who are also very willing to help to make it right. However they see your attitude and your guarded nature as standing in the way. You have to change, and you have to empower the people to help. They want to help, they need to help, and they are willing, those who are left.

Seamus: Meeting Notes 5/23/02
w/ Bishop McBratney

May 3, 2002

*11:00 a.m. Meeting with Bishop MacCormack
and Father Seamus MacCormack*

Questions and concerns that Father Seamus has about the situation he is in

What was the complaint in full?

What was said and who made complaints?

Need to see all the paperwork

Many questions unanswered

Why was the Dean not informed of allegations and a simple process followed?

Is my understanding that the Dean would be informed by the Bishop and/or Chancellor of said reports and then Dean would meet with said Priest. After interviewing the Priest the Dean would report back to Bishop and/or Chancellor with results.

Father Seamus met with Chancellor by passing the Dean and it was determined at that time that Father Seamus should seek full psychological evaluation.

Father Seamus suggested his innocence and volunteered to be tested and it was said that this would look good for Father Seamus. My impressions after my meeting with Father Arsenault that the psychological testing was already put in place prior to my meeting.

From the time of the allegation to post psychological evaluation why was there no Pastoral care for Father Seamus.

Why was there no phone call if these allegations were serious at anytime offering support? No visitation from the Diocese to Father Seamus, no assistance for possibly taken a weekend off.

Pastoral Care:

More attention was placed on individuals who made the allegations

I felt as though I was already judged guilty and had to strive to prove my innocence.

I have informed the Pastoral Council as of all allegations.

I never went beyond the Pastoral Council.

I have never starting a writing campaign nor have said anything from the pulpit

Pastoral Council was promised a visitation and discussion with the Chancellor Father Arsenault after Father Seamus's evaluation. Father Arsenault cancelled any visitations with the Pastoral Council.

If there was a problem why did not the Finance/Pastoral Council see a problem with me earlier on?

The Pastoral Council suggested to me upon arriving on June of 00 to be aware of the Bishop's cousin running the Parish and the secretary doing whatever she wanted.

Does anyone have a clue that these people ran the church prior to the Parish? It is obvious that there is a power struggle, clear and simple. The Pastor came in to gain control of Parish operations and liturgical ministries. My being the Pastor I hold people accountable as well as I am held accountable for my actions.

My Thoughts:

This situation is very upsetting to me.

This has been causing stress, physical and spiritual stress.

I feel let down and disappointed on the accusations of a few people that have caused such great attention from the Diocese.

I feel as though my ministry is less effective now as a result of this situation.

I feel humiliated and marked as a troublemaker.

The serious lack of Pastoral care causing me great concern.

Letters to Brad Cook, Esq.

THE LAW OFFICES
OF
ROBERT E. MCDANIEL

Bradford Cook, Esq.
Sheehan, Phinney, Bass + Green
1000 Elm Street
Manchester, NH 03104

June 13, 2002

RE: Seamus MacCormack

Dear Brad:

To confirm our discussion of Tuesday, our client does not wish to speak with Bishop McCormack. In addition, he requests that Bishop McCormack not disturb his parents.

Let me describe this case for you one last time.

Seamus MacCormack was systematically persecuted and punished by the Diocese because he was a potential whistle-blower. He was not in the inner sex circle which was known and sanctioned by high-ranking Diocese officials. He was not a participant, but he knew too much as a result of having been directed to a dead priest's rectory apartment, where he witnessed a systematic clean-up, the purpose of which was to remove evidence of a deviant sexual lifestyle. The contents of the residence were so extensive that they could have filled a pornography shop: an array of leather garments in various sizes, sado-masochistic sexual devices, (including the kind found by the coroner on the dead priest) a number of wigs and disguises, pornographic magazines, videotapes both commercial and homemade, sex enhancing drugs, and items of child pornography. The assemblage was shockingly extensive and obviously not solely for personal use.

Deeply troubled by this lurid scene, Seamus had to sit down and gasp for breath. He took little comfort from the comment of a senior Diocese official who, while busily packing up the materials, assured him "We've done this lots of times."

According to the witnesses and certain documents, the entire collection was taken to a church-controlled site in Concord and destroyed. Everything, that is, except the computer.

These events led directly to the destruction of Seamus' career at the hands of the Diocese.

As a parish priest, as your records will show, Seamus devoted himself to the task of renovating the parish and inspiring his parishioners. A self-described workaholic, he created an unprecedented enthusiasm among those who had been spiritually starved for years. Immensely popular in the community, Seamus worked tirelessly to unite, to lead, and to breathe new life into a disenfranchised constituency. All seemed well until the nightmare began.

An ineffective secretary, recommended for replacement by the parish counsel, sought support from a few malcontents. Under Bishop McCormack's orchestration, what should have been a minor personnel issue inflated into the full-scale agenda to discredit Seamus, or, if necessary, to destroy his career. Ludicrous complaints were brought to the Bishop, who used them to justify, of all things, a psychological evaluation. Seamus went along with it, hoping his cooperation would stop the proliferation of absurdities, including the Diocese' heads-up to the evaluator that Seamus had become paranoid and did not have "any prudent sense of with whom to share confidences." Neither of these concerns was borne out in Seamus' evaluation.

Then, in a newspaper interview, Seamus made the observation that the church was spending more effort protecting pedophile priests than helping good ones. The Bishop responded immediately.

Ignoring the pleas of dozens of parishioners, the Bishop determined to demote and transfer Seamus. In writing, he ordered my client to tell his parish that he had lied to them, and to apologize for lying to them. Most humiliatingly, Bishop McCormack directed Seamus to tell the parish that he had requested to leave the parish and that McCormack had accepted a "resignation." To follow the Bishop's directive would be Seamus' ultimate degradation, inferring that his entire priesthood had been a sham. Seamus was acutely concerned that, given the current church crisis, parishioners might leap to their own conclusions. The Bishop attempted to extort from Seamus a public confession that he was a liar, a man not worthy of belief. The purpose of this tactic was lost on Seamus at the time. It is not lost him now.

My client's calling and his profession have been destroyed in what I can only describe as a cover-up of a cover-up.

It is the responsibility of the Diocese to repair the damage which it has inflicted upon this man whom Bishop McCormack himself describes as gifted.

We are making the following proposal in full settlement of all claims:

1. The Diocese provides the sum of \$30,000 for Seamus' re-education in a field he has selected.
2. His remuneration of \$1,000 per month, and benefits, continue for two years from July 1, 2002.
3. His car lease payment contribution and allowances continue for the same period.
4. He receive rental and relocation allowance of \$1,000 per month for one year.
5. His seminary student loans are forgiven in full, approximately \$56,000.
6. He is compensated for his loss of profession and calling; for the infliction of emotional distress and for his defamation and humiliation in the amount of \$200,000.

The total cost of this settlement is \$ 327,000.

We are not interested in Bishop McCormick's maneuverings, his attempts to influence this matter, or his efforts to color the testimony of potential witnesses – all of which I have confirmed.

Moreover, we can dispense with pious discussions about "healing". The audacious use of terms such as "shakedown" and "blackmail" tells me that church officials are conscious of their culpability, and, that where Seamus MacCormack is concerned, healing is the last thing on their minds.

Our offer expires at close of business Monday.

Very truly yours,



Robert E. McDaniel

THE LAW OFFICES
OF
ROBERT E. MCDANIEL

Bradford Cook, Esq.
Sheehan, Phinney Bass + Green
1000 Elm Street
Manchester, NH 03104

June 10, 2002

Re: Fr. James MacCormack

Dear Brad:

Having heard nothing from you since our discussion early last week I presume the diocese is just buying time. I hope that is not the case because there isn't any time.


Following the catastrophe which the diocese inflicted upon his life, Seamus now must rebuild again from the beginning. Each day puts him further behind in this process. Each day costs him opportunities which he could capture, but which the diocese's unwillingness to step up and accept responsibility prevents.

"Honest self-revelation, which can be painful to do, is required not only of individuals but the church as well. At times, certain events compel the church to face evil within itself."
John B. McCormack, February 1, 2002.

I do not ask that Bishop McCormack follow his own wisdom in this case. I don't care whether he faces the evil in the church or not. I simply demand that he and others involved in the systematic destruction of Seamus MacCormack's life, profession and calling repair the damage which they intentionally inflicted upon him. Seamus did not ask to be pulled into the darkest side of the church. He did not ask to witness an expertly executed, routine, sanctioned cover-up, and he did not deserve to be the victim of organized retaliation orchestrated at the highest levels of the diocese.

I read that the conference of U.S. bishops takes place in Dallas later this week. We must have this matter satisfactorily concluded before Bishop McCormick departs for Dallas.

Very truly yours,



Robert E. McDaniel

Fax

To: Brad Cook

From: Bob McDaniel

Fax: 641 2243

Pages:

Phone: [Click here and type phone number]

Date: 06/13/02

Re: [Click here and type subject of fax]

CC: [Click here and type name]

Urgent For Review

Please Comment Please Reply

Please Recycle

Hi Brad,

This is my last word on Seamus.

Regards,

Bob McDaniel

May 18, 2002

Father MacCormack:

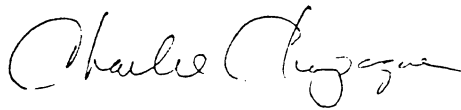
I am not the most religious guy in the world but I know a fair and honest leader when I come in contact with one and you are certainly high on my list.

I believe you have the necessary charisma, religious training and leadership skills to accomplish anything you set your sights on in this life. It is unfortunate that Bishop McCormack doesn't have the leadership qualities and skills to realize the strength you deliver to his organization.

You are the first, and most likely the only, religious person I have seen who has the capacity to deliver meaningful and heartfelt sermons, some of which incorporate your own life experiences. You are incredibly talented in being able to extrapolate and interpret meaningful life lessons from the scriptures and communicating those lessons to a congregation.

You are certainly a blessing in my life and the lives of many others.

May God bless you and Max forever;



Charlie Champagne




May 20, 2002

Most Rev. John B. McCormack DD
Office of the Bishop
Diocese of Manchester
153 Ash Street
P.O. Box 310
Manchester, NH 03105-0310

Dear Bishop McCormack:

I am writing this letter as a very sad, disappointed parishioner of St. Patrick Church because of your decision to remove Father Seamus MacCormack as our Pastor as of Sunday, May 19, 2002.

This is a very bad decision.

Your decision has torn our parish apart. His last Mass at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday was a very emotional one. Parishioners were reacting as if they were attending a funeral Mass of a dearly loved and respected person. Tears were flowing as many of us received the Blessed Eucharist from him, perhaps for the last time in his vocation as a priest.

You, not only, have forbidden him to say Mass at our church, but you have left a very big void in the lives of us who attend Mass on a daily basis. You have taken that away from us. Why, why, why????

I have written to you twice and your answer to my letters were very generic. I wonder if you ever read them?? You never answered my questions or concerns. In fact, the last response I received signed by you was in an envelope addressed to me, but the letter that was enclosed was addressed to another parishioner!!!

Perhaps you are too concerned regarding your part in the terrible scandal that is happening in the Boston Archdiocese.

I pray that you have not destroyed a young man who has been denied his vocation as a priest and that he will continue to have his faith.

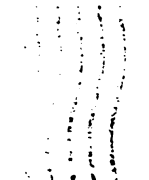
Sincerely,


Ann Chamberlain


c.c.: Most Rev. Francis J. Christian, D.D. Ph.D
St. Patrick Parish Council

JAFFREY, NH 03452

St. Patrick Parish Council
St. Patrick Rectory
87 Main Street
Jaffrey, NH 03452



March 28, 2002

Lorraine C. Coll


Rev. Edward J. Arsenault
Diocese of Manchester
Office of the Chancellor
153 Ash Street
Manchester, NH 03105

Dear Rev. Arsenault,

This letter is being written in response to some of the allegations being made against Father Seamus MacCormack at St. Patrick Parish in Jaffrey.

I am not a parishioner of Saint Patrick's parish, however, I have had the pleasure of working with Father Seamus for the past 13 months, as the bookkeeper/accountant. Consequently, I feel that I am in a unique position to speak, and hopefully bring clarity to the situation at St. Patrick's.

First, I want to state that Father Seamus did not ask me to write to you, and since I will no longer be employed by the Parish after the month of April, I have nothing to gain by writing this letter. I do so simply because it is the right thing to do. Second, I would like to state that although I am aware that members of the Parish have tried to organize a rally behind Father, I have not been a part of it. The reason for this is that as an employee of the Parish and Diocese I felt it would be inappropriate due to confidentiality issues.

It is my understanding that some of the accusations against Father Seamus include creating a hostile working environment in the office. He allegedly did this by having fits of rage directed at the former secretary, Miss Jonell Johnson, by abusing his dog, and by behaving inappropriately towards women. It is to these specific charges that I write this letter.

For the record, I would like to state that I have never seen Father Seamus lose his temper. He is a very mild mannered man. I have never seen him abuse his dog. Father Seamus treats his dog better than some people treat their children. Father Seamus has never acted inappropriately towards me and I have never witnessed him acting inappropriately towards anyone else.

Since I was not at the office on Jonell's last day, I cannot witness to the last conversation between she and Father Seamus. However, I have witnessed Jonell's work ethic and I stand behind Father's decision to let her go.

In my opinion, Father Seamus has done his very best for Saint Patrick Parish. He deserves the support of his parish, and the support of the Diocese.

I believe that in this time of scandal in the Church, where all priests are suspect simply because of the collar they wear, it is imperative that people speak up for all the good and kind priests who serve us all. Father Seamus MacCormack is one of those priests and I have been honored to work with him.

Please feel free to contact me if I can be of any assistance in this matter. I can be reached on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons at St. Patrick's, or I can be reached after 5:30 on weekdays or on weekends at [REDACTED]

Respectfully,

Lorraine C. Coll

cc. Bishop John McCormack

WILLIAM M. DRISCOLL

[REDACTED]
MOST REV JOHN B MCCORMACK DD
BISHOP OF MANCHESTER
153 ASH ST
MANCHESTER, N.H. 03105

13 MAY 2002

DEAR BISHOP MCCORMACK,

AS A 73 YEAR OLD LIFE LONG ROMAN CATHOLIC I AM APPALLED AT THE MANNER IN WHICH YOU AND YOUR OFFICE HAVE HANDLED THE CONTROVERSY AT ST PATRICK PARISH HERE IN JAFFREY.

YOU HAVE IGNORED THE COUNSEL AND WISHES OF AN OVERWHELMING NUMBER OF MY FELLOW PARISHIERS IN FAVOR OF THE INNOCENT AND FALSE ALLEGATIONS OF A DISCONTENTED AND MALICIOUS HANDFUL OF "WELL CONNECTED" ICONOCLASTS.

IN SPITE OF NUMEROUS LETTERS OF SUPPORT, A PETITION OF ADVOCACY FROM OVER 300 PARISHIONERS, AND MANY TELEPHONE CALLS TO YOU AND YOUR OFFICE ON BEHALF OF OUR PASTOR --- WE ARE STILL IN THE DARK AS TO WHY HE HAS BEEN REMOVED FROM US

YOUR ACTIONS HAVE NOT ONLY DEVASTATED THE CAREER OF A DEVOTED AND EFFECTIVE PRIEST, YOU HAVE ALSO CHALLENGED THE VERY CORE OF OUR COMMITMENT TO THE CHURCH.

ENCLOSED ARE OUR DONATION ENVELOPES... WE WILL HAVE NO FURTHER USE FOR THEM.

Sincerely,

Wm M Driscoll

May 12, 2002

Bishop John McCormack
215 Myrtle St.
Manchester, NH 03105

Dear Bishop McCormack:

I am furious with your condemnation of Fr. Seamus! This is McCarthyism at work, and you have allowed it to happen. We in Jaffrey have suffered with several priests who made our religion drudgery, and now when a few parishioners are vocal about some problem they are having with Fr. Seamus, you abdicate the responsibility of leadership. Did you ever consider consulting with the vast majority of the parish?

Fr. Seamus has been cohesive, not divisive in Jaffrey. He took the administrative action in this church that was necessary for him to be able to act effectively as the priest. Those actions are not always popular, but he waited and gathered his facts before taking action--something you should have done.

And he has done a terrific job of being our priest. The Mass is again a pleasure to attend. The rectory and convent are again livable and something to be proud of for the Catholic community and the whole town. St Patrick's School is again receiving the attention of the priest. Sick and dying parishioners are being visited regularly, and many other priestly functions are finally getting done.

Pedophiles have been far better protected by the Church than has Fr. Seamus and all because of these negative parishioners. In light of all the horrific problems that the Archdiocese has been covering up, I would think you would have become more enlightened toward the needs and concerns of a parish that was finally coming out of the doldrums of the past few decades. Fr. Seamus is a decent, honest young man, and yet like the angry mob yelling, "Crucify him!", you have pounded the first nail.

My faith can take little more. When Fr. Seamus leaves, I will too.

Sincerely,

Ruta King

cc: Father Seamus MacCormack, St. Patrick's Church

St Patrick

From: [REDACTED]
To: <stpatrick@monad.net>
Sent: Thursday, May 09, 2002 8:45 PM
Subject: Thank you Father Seamus

I have heard much bad news this year and last. I have a new neighbor that could win contests on who is the biggest a--hole in the world. My nephew lives in Manhattan and when the World Trade Center was destroyed he and his wife were within a few blocks of them. And now I hear you are leaving St Patrick's. Wow.

Does the leadership of the Catholic church know who I am? Do they know that one of your homilies changed me into a better person....and that most of them made me think about changing? Do they know that as a 45 year old guy I would rather ignore religion altogether and just sleep in because the stresses of my day and of my life weigh on me almost incessantly? DO they know that when an older priest incessantly tells me that I am a hopeless sinner with my only option forgiveness by God that that hurt me deeply even though I have been active in the community as a BUILDER OF COMMUNITY for all of my adult life and have never hurt anyone intentionally? No, the Catholic Church apparently has little knowledge of me, for if they did they would know that when a builder of community comes, he is to be revered and cherished and like a fine wine or vintage car. It is something to behold.

As a parishoner of St Pats for the last 8 plus years, I have seen a youngish guy- You, come in and just because it is in your nature, you started to build....you built character and friendships and trust and rebuilt the rectory and built honor into the priesthood and helped middle aged guys like me become more comfortable with my frailties and gave me a way to explore other options....you, like me are a builder, it is in our nature....but the Catholic church, my Catholic church, clearly is in trouble when they make arbitrary decisions like this most recent one.

I would like you to keep in touch with me Father, if you have the time in your new endeavors, wherever they may be. I will remember your words, I will remember your wisdom. I will remember your 'building'. I will remember you... for all time. My email address is as above and here [REDACTED] and my phone number is [REDACTED] and you may know me as Ed Surprenant, the guy that greeted you with a Boy Scout problem as you first arrived. We are doing well with our second troop in town here and are having fun BUILDING young men with character and honor and we will miss your direction...I don't know what else to say...I am not happy with this decision and if you would like, please forward this to the people that do not know me Bishop McCormack and the like....for as busy as you have been here in Jaffrey, you knew me. God Bless you Father.

Sincerely

5/10/2002

Ed Surprenant



Most. Reverend John B. McCormack
 Diocese of Manchester
 Office of the Bishop
 153 Ash Street P.O. Box 310
 Manchester, NH 03105-0310

Dear Most. Reverend John B. McCormack:

I have been a member of the Catholic Church all my life. I grew up with fond memories of Jaffrey and of St. Patrick's. As a young adult, my college years, I did not practice my faith as I was taught as a child mostly because I did not enjoy going to church. More recently I became married and have returned to the church, in a large part due to the consanguinity between Father Seamus McCormick and my family.

I feel I have to take this opportunity to express my opinion about the situation concerning Father Seamus. I want to point out the positive aspects of Father Seamus' work here at St. Patrick's Church, St. Patrick's School, the Jaffrey public schools and the Jaffrey community. I have yet to see a priest have such a positive relationship with such a large and diverse population of parishioners and community members in all my life. Jaffrey is a small town and new, good or bad, travels fast so I feel I am aware of many of the complaints against Father Seamus stemming from a select few. I am also aware that the you have yet to thoroughly investigate all matters concerning the allegations concerning Father Seamus because if you had you would realize the majority of the parishioners have nothing but respect and admiration for Father Seamus. You would also realize the lack of character and good citizenship of the primary female complainers, people from which you have based your decisions. With such poor decisions making skills, it is no wonder you have found yourself in the predicaments you face today.

I feel your action, or lack of action, is grossly negligent. You have lead by a poor example. You are a man of God and yet have not conducted yourself according to the law of his love. How am I supposed to teach my children to love and trust the people of God in their lives when they behave in such fashions? What role model are you setting for the children around the world and in my hometown? Such behavior, in the past and present, will be the demise of the Catholic faith. People cannot trust you to lead by example. We cannot trust that you will love and protect the adults and children of our communities. You are sending the message of, "I don't care!" It is ironic your organization gleefully accepts our money ~ not our opinions. I have always wondered about priests and other members of the clergy. What makes them so special that God speaks to them and not me? What would I have to do in my live to experience such a privilege? What can I do to be a better person so God will deem me worthy of communication? I have yet to uncover the answers to my questions. I do, however, know that you are not any closer to God than I. If God were present in your heart and soul you would not conduct yourself as such. I sincerely hope you will take a reprieve and consider what is important to your parishioners, your life, and your life's work. Learn to make decisions on behalf of the people you serve instead of on the behalf of yourself. ~ I will pray for you.

Regards,

Sarah Tuccelli

Sarah Tuccelli

St Patrick

From: [REDACTED]
To: <stpatrick@prexar.com>
Sent: Monday, May 13, 2002 1:24 PM
Subject: Father Seamus MacCormack

My Concerns for Father Seamus:

I don't know who reads this mail. But I would like to express my concerns and feelings for Father Seamus.

I was quite surprised about his announcement at the end of the 7:30 mass. It brought tears to my eyes to know they want to transfer him. I think Father has done an awesome job and has brought so many people back to the church.

With all whats going on in the World today we need Father Seamus at St. Patrick. The people love him and he has done so much to make Jaffrey a better place. The work he has put into the church and the Rectory shows he cares.

Father handed out roses at mass yesterday to all the Women in the church and he stated he had removed most of the thorns. But for some reason someone has put thorns in Fathers Seamus. He has expressed at a prior mass about his dog and on Ash Wed. he was feeling pain about it. Well after yesterday mass the look on everyones face showed they all now feel that pain.

My friend from Gardner attended mass the week before, because she had heard so much about him from me and others. She introduced herself aftermass to him and about going to Kimballs. She was so happy to meet him.

On his first East Sunday mass I had brought him a white chocolate cross because he had made such an impression. He is such a people person.

I am asking if there is anything my husband Michael and I can do to make this situation better, please give us a call because we are not registered at the church. My heart goes out to him..

we care....

Lana & Michael Fred
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

5/13/2002

Linda M. Guyette



May 11, 2002

Bishop John B. MacCormack
Diocese of Manchester
153 Ash Street
Manchester, NH 03104

Dear Bishop MacCormack:

I am writing to express my enormous disappointment in your decision to remove Pastor Seamus MacCormack from St. Patrick's Parish in Jaffrey. I have been a parishioner of St. Patrick's since I was a baby and, despite my recent move to Peterborough, continue to attend St. Patrick's Church. I, like the majority of the Parish, am devastated by the news that Father Seamus will be removed from our Parish. At no time did you or anyone from the Diocese consult the people of St. Patrick's Parish to find out what we want. If you had, you would have found that St. Patrick's Parish loves, trusts and respects Father Seamus. He has brought more to our Parish in his short time here than other priests and pastors have contributed in much longer stays. Statistically, attendance at the Masses has soared since Father Seamus arrived at St. Patrick's Church and the monies contributed to the Parish have increased dramatically as well. But more importantly, Father Seamus has been responsible for bringing many people back to the Church, especially younger people, like myself, who have had our share of disillusionments with our religion and the Catholic Church. He is loved by both young and old alike. My parents have a great deal of respect for him and have greatly enjoyed having him as their pastor. Even my two children, ages 10 and 8, enjoy going to Mass now and actually listen to and pay attention to Father Seamus's homilies. No priest has ever tried to relate God's Word to us and our every day lives the way Father Seamus has.

I believe your decision to remove Father Seamus from St. Patrick's Parish was based almost entirely on the complaints of just a few members of the Parish. Did you take the time to actually investigate these complaints? It is my understanding that Father Seamus has done some things that caused concern to some parishioners and he may have stepped on a few people's toes in the process. For many years now, certain individuals have been used to getting their way in the Parish and have thought that their wishes were more important than those of the Parish on a whole. When Father Seamus, as St. Patrick's new pastor, attempted to make changes within the Parish, it did not sit well with those individuals. It is those individuals who have managed to make their concerns, once again, more important than those of the Parish in its entirety.

Recently, a petition signed by more than 300 parishioners of St. Patrick's Parish was sent to you in support of Father Seamus. However, it appears that the Diocese of Manchester has chosen to ignore the will of the Parish, instead paying heed to the disgruntled complaints of just a few, by removing Father Seamus from St. Patrick's.

Whatever Father Seamus's faults, the punishment certainly does not fit his "crime". He is a young priest, and a new pastor, who has done nothing more but to try to run his parish as he sees fit. Admittedly, he has probably stepped on a few toes doing so. However, rather than remove him from a Parish that loves and respects him, he should be mentored. Surely, an older, more experienced pastor from a nearby parish could offer him guidance. Isn't that the way we teach our young and less experienced?

It is obvious from all of the media reports that you are currently embroiled in the horrible sex abuse scandals rocking the Catholic Church. Perhaps due to your involvement in the current sex abuse scandals, there are more important issues requiring your attention than whether Father Seamus has ruffled a few feathers at St. Patrick's Parish. Therefore, the people of St. Patrick's Parish in Jaffrey should be able to decide whether Father Seamus should be allowed to stay or to go. If you were to go to the parishioners of St. Patrick's, I'm sure you would find that the great majority want Father Seamus to remain in our Parish.

At a time when Catholics everywhere are questioning their commitment to their religion and the Church, you have taken a young priest from our Parish when we need him most. And at a time when the Catholic Church desperately needs priests, especially young priests, you have taken away a young priest's first pastorship and have caused him to question not only the Diocese's decision, but probably his commitment to the priesthood as well. Your decision to remove Father Seamus from St. Patrick's Parish in Jaffrey has robbed our Parish of a fine, caring and dedicated young priest, someone that our Parish desperately needs in these trying times.

I beg you to reconsider your decision and reinstate Father Seamus MacCormack as pastor of St. Patrick's Parish in Jaffrey.

Respectfully yours,

Linda M. Guyette

Your Excellency,

I have always felt very proud to be a Catholic, knowing that meant representing truth regardless of the situation. Especially as the Church struggles with its present crisis, I've been questioned by non-Catholics about the integrity of the hierarchy in the Catholic Church. But my faith remained steadfast.

What angers me most is the Diocese's redundant reference to the egregious accusations, so apparently vindictive, made against Father Seamus MacCormack's character, as a 'misunderstanding'. How absolutely ludicrous! Is the 'misunderstanding' the Diocese's neglect investigating the allegations; or is it the failure on their part to say "Father Seamus, you're a good man and we don't understand what prompted these comments, but we stand behind you 100%." (Even as a parent, I've ALWAYS put trust in my children. If it later becomes necessary to reevaluate this trust, at least they were 'innocent until proven guilty.')

Where is your trust in a man who has brought families back to Church, a community to a much needed peacefulness? Where is your faith in a priest who has vision, compassion and uncompromising moral standards? A priest who serves as a role model and mentor to our children?

Out of respect we agreed to cancel a large public forum eager to show support and belief in the integrity of Father Seamus. And how does the Diocese respond? By making a mockery of these many parishioners, religious leaders, townspeople, who took the time to voice their support, by hoping, I imagine, to appease the masses with platitudes.

The irony! An institution plagued by years of condoned improprieties failing or refusing to acknowledge and commend the 'good' being done by priests such as Father Seamus.

I feel totally betrayed. And *this* has truly tested my faith.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Walker



Dear Bishop McCormack,

I wrote to you in February regarding our Pastor, Father Seamus MacCormack at St. Patrick's Church in Jaffrey, N.H. I explained to you how he helped my family when my brother Jack Dupre was killed. We didn't know who to turn to, but, because of our faith in the Catholic religion and Fr. Seamus MacCormack's unrelenting support we overcame obstacles that no one should have to endure.

Jack's death was caused by the hands of 5 young men from this town and 4 of whom were parshoners of St. Patrick's Church. Fr. Seamus also helped their families go through the difficult times as 3 of their sons went off to prison.

I can honestly tell you that our family would not have survived this crisis without Fr. Seamus's help. I know there is no one that could fill his shoes. I also know no one in the diocese helped **him**, help us.

Now I hear that because of **one womans** allegations to ruin him, he may leave the priesthood. How can this be? What does it take to get support from his Bishop? I urge you to take a stand on this matter. I also know for a fact that people will be giving a lot less money to the church if Fr. Seamus leaves. My father plans to stay a parishoner and change his weekly donation of \$12 to .25. I pity the next priest that takes his job to try to raise the funds necessary to run the church, rectory, convent and the school.

I have enough faith in God, to know you will make the right decision.

Sincerely,

*Jonell Johnson
fired secretary*

Pattie Dupre Ferland

[REDACTED] 561

or [REDACTED]

April 16, 2002

Dear Father Seamus,

It was last Sunday April 14, 2002, that my family and I have learned from your homily during the 7:30 am morning Mass that you are experiencing quite difficult personal problems.

People, who strongly and honestly believe in God, (not two faced) are persecuted every day only in different ways. We sincerely believe in God, Who created the heaven and earth, the sunrise and sunset, besides we are true to ourselves and to others.

Talking by my own experiences a soul can be ruined forever, and like you Father said "integrity suffers" greatly because of false accusations or injustice.

These days most people thrive on the misery of others and take great pleasure in it, to do harm to other people. They don't have anything better to do, I would say, that's probably why they are doing such awful things to others. They don't have any morals, values, ethics etc. They cannot distinguish between right and wrong. I empathize with you Father and I truly know the pain to the core of one's being. I was proud of you Father when you said, "I am not going to apologize," it means that you Father like my family stand for the truth and we are living by principles. Dear Lord God, who was prosecuted and crucified for the truth so I think some of us are not any different because we serve Him to the best of our belief and faith on a daily basis.

It's just puzzles me Father, every time, I see that all the people coming to the Masses and going to communion. Almost every one of them, and once they leave the doors they do evil. When I am thinking how many people are going to communion on a weekly/daily basis the world should be peaceful place to live. However, this is not the case. One has to have a pure heart and mind to take Eucharist and live by this.

On a positive note, Father, you are doing a nice job for the parish and community with all your heart and energy. I don't know the nature of your problem or the details other than only hope that God gives you all the strength you need now to go through turbulent times and the truth prevail sooner or later. In addition, I believe in the power of a prayer that will always help when a person is going through personal or professional trials in life.

My family and myself will keep you in our prayer that the "twisted truth" will become plain truth again and everything will go back to normal. Nowadays, more then ever we need to pray honestly to God for His grace and mercy on the entire world.

In closing, may God gives you the strength and His blessings to overcome this testing time and that you Father will enjoy serving God and people anew.

Best regards,



P.S.

Father, please keep my family name confidential.



Rev. Seamus MacCormack
 Saint Patrick Church
 87 Main Street
 Jaffrey, NH 03452



Personal →

April 10,2002

Dear Bishop,

This letter is in support of Fr. Shamus McCormick, of St. Patrick Parish, Jaffrey,N.H..

I have been a parishioner for the past twenty-five years. The parish has never been more alive and vital. Many people who I have never seen at Mass have returned to church.

On a personal level, I have been recovering from a very devastating divorce, raising two teenage children, and working through the annulment process. Fr. Shamus has been very supportive, informative, and professional. Lending an ear, a shoulder, and many a tissue.

On a professional level, I am a R.N. at the local community hospital. I work night shift in the emergency department. Myself and other staff members have called Fr. many times in the middle of the night. He responds quickly and graciously. He is very supportive of the patient, the patient's family, and any staff members dealing with the situation. { for example-nurses, doctors, or ambulance crew } For the record, never have I noted the odor of alcohol. After fifteen years in the emergency room it is an odor I'm very familiar with. Other staff members from the other floors have commented to me how impressed they are with Fr. Shamus.

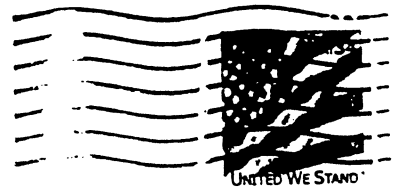
As far as the allegations, I ask you to consider the fact that Fr. Kelley was at St. Patrick's for a very long time. Certain people had become comfortable with their roles within the church. Change is always difficult. These priests have very different administrative styles.

I thank you for your attention.

In Prayer,

Cathy-Anne Desbiens

Al & Cathy Designs



Fr. Shamus McGernick
Main Street
Jeffrey NH
03452

03452/0005





photo & card by betsy

4/10/02

Dean Stammers

Enclosed is a copy
of the letter I sent
to the Bishop.

Please know we offer
our prayers, support and
friendship.

Al + Cathy Desbriens

April 15, 2002

Dear Father Seamus,

I am very sorry to hear that some people have made accusations against you. Although I am a member of this parish, I am from Winchendon, and out of the loop. I don't know what claims have been made and I don't want to know because I won't believe them anyway. I am sure you are not perfect, but I've only heard of one human who was and look what they did to him! I just wanted you to know you have my support and prayers. It's difficult enough to be a priest in these times. I've often said to myself who can this man or any priest talk to? I hope you have some sort of support among fellow clergy. Believe me when I tell you that you are all in my prayers.

I'm sure you don't recognize my name; I'm just one of the faces, a middle aged woman with a cane. I am truly sorry I won't be in church to support you in the coming weeks due to hip replacement surgery this week. I will be there in spirit. I do think you are trying your best to create a community of faithful and have some fun while doing it. You have my wholehearted support.

I would appreciate being remembered in your prayers and also the person who is caring for my spoiled dog while I am in rehab. She will have her hands full!

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lorraine Gauthier". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

Lorraine Gauthier

March 25, 2002

Most Rev. John B. McCormack DD
Office of the Bishop
Diocese of Manchester
153 Ash Street
P. O. Box 310
Manchester, NH 03105-0310

Most Rev. McCormack,

My husband has been a lifelong resident of Jaffrey, and I came to town almost 40 years ago when we were married. I have seen many changes in St. Patrick's parish; such as when the entire community saved the school when it was near closing its doors, to the fund raising campaign to renovate the church, all of which we proudly participated. But the biggest impact I have seen in our parish was the arrival of Father Seamus McCormack. Our parish seemed dormant for many years and Father Seamus' presence has revitalized not only the parish but also the entire community.

My husband is an usher, and on Saturday evenings we always arrive early and sit in the same pew. When my daughters and their families would attend the Saturday service they usually were guaranteed a seat in the same pew in which I was sitting. Since Father Seamus has come to our parish, the masses have grown such in attendance that my daughters have learned that if they want to sit with me they need to arrive early. There is no such thing anymore as choice seating. And this is a good thing. Our packed church now has an atmosphere of warmth, love and spirit, which was long overdue. Not only is it amazing to see the increased attendance of youth at masses but I cannot believe the amount of elderly people in attendance, most of whom I did not realize belonged to our parish.

When my mother in law, Germain Blair, became afflicted with alzymers, we were no longer able to care for her and applied to Good Shepherd Nursing Home. We were confident she would be admitted, as she was a lifelong member of the Parish and Town. All the feedback was positive until they came to interview her in her home. She was denied admission, and we were devastated and didn't know where to turn. We turned to Father Seamus and it took several months, but she was finally admitted and last May, she died with dignity.

It has been brought to our attention that some negative feedback has come to your office regarding Father Seamus and I feel the need to voice my opinion. For too long, a handful of parishioners have been so called "running the parish". We had no real direction. When Father Seamus came, it was like a breath of fresh air to have someone who was willing to take command, give directives, and enforce some guidelines. As these changes came about, we witnessed so many people coming forth with the desire to serve on committees or just plain help out with projects. Our church is alive again and we need to keep it that way. The respect he has earned from non-Catholics in the community was reflected at the Ecumenical service he held for the 9-11 victims. There was standing room only - every church and civic organization in the community was represented.

We get a warm feeling about our parish when we drive by and see lights on in the rectory and know that someone is there, or when we drive by and see our pastor in jeans with a shovel in his hands. The Lord knew what he was doing when he placed Father Seamus in St Patrick's parish in Jaffrey. He is certainly an answer to our prayers.

I hope my petition for Father Seamus has shed a small ray of light on the self-sacrificing and dedicated work he is doing at St. Patrick's. Thank you for allowing me to express my concerns.

Sincerely yours,

Gloria Blair
(Mrs. Frank Blair)

April 5, 2002

Most Rev. John B McCormack DD
Office of the Bishop
Diocese of Manchester
153 Ash Street
PO Box 310
Manchester, NH 03105-0310

Re: St. Patrick's Church, Jaffrey

I am writing this in regards to Father Seamus. We will be holding our budget money in escrow until the matter of allegations against Father Seamus, which we believe to be totally nonsense, and untrue, are proven or dropped.

Since Father Seamus has been at St. Patrick's here in Jaffrey, NH, the church has come to life. We have never seen St. Patrick's Church so full of spirit and our community has been enhanced greatly by him. He has truly reached out and touched many people who had left the parish and has brought many new members in. We personally had once left the Catholic Church because our spiritual needs had not been met and we feel that Father Seamus has helped us grow spiritually.

We expect to see proof to any matters that are determined true, and if this is not done we will have to search our hearts and come to a decision as to whether we will remain in the "institution of the Catholic Church", or take our faith, which we hold dearly and will never change – elsewhere. At this moment we are truly questioning the politics of the Catholic Church.

If he ends up being removed or transferred without proof of guilt to the allegations to the parishioners of St. Patrick's Church, we may find it necessary to leave also.

Sincerely,

William M. Rose

Joyce A. Rose

[REDACTED]

FILE

Beth Royce Shotton



March 29, 2002

The Most Reverend John McCormack
Bishop of the Diocese of Manchester
P.O. Box 310
Manchester, NH 03105-0310

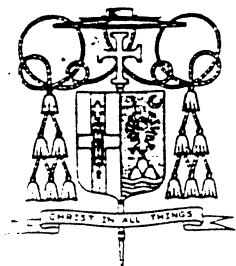
Dear Bishop McCormack:

My name is Beth Royce-Shotton. I have been employed by Father Seamus MacCormack and St. Pat's from the beginning of Father Seamus' time here. My husband is also employed by St. Pat's school and Rectory. We live diagonally across the street from the Rectory and the Church. We both clean for a living and feel if there was any funny business going on we would surely know about it. Father Seamus has been a great priest, I have seen him work hard on a daily basis. I have never witnessed him doing anything out of line. In regards to the allegations. I am of a strong opinion that the person making the allegations is wrong. I won't bother with the details unless you ask me, but I do stand behind Father Seamus with all of my faith. Father Seamus did not ask me to write to you but I am doing so to show my support for him. Father Seamus has faith that you will stand behind him and believe that he has done nothing wrong. I ask that you please do not disappoint Father Seamus or the rest of the parishioners who think so highly of him. The allegations are coming from someone who, in my opinion, is trying to take advantage of a stressful time. May god be with you and the Church at this time.

Sincerely,

Beth Royce-Shotton

BRS/hs



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

April 4, 2002

Beth Royce-Shotton

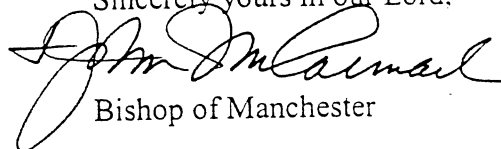


Dear Beth:

I appreciate your taking the time to write to me in regard to Father Seamus McCormack. I am grateful that you have shared with me your appreciation of his priestly work in the parish. Obviously, his ministry has touched you personally in a very positive way and for that I am grateful.

When misunderstandings arise in a parish I am concerned that whatever solutions are found be in the best interest of the priest and of the parishioners. I will certainly be working in that direction in the weeks ahead with Father Seamus. As I study the various issues that have arisen I assure you that I will take your comments most seriously. Please pray with me that the best possible solution will be found for the misunderstandings that have arisen. With every good wish, I remain

Sincerely yours in our Lord,


Bishop of Manchester