

FR Gordon MacRae

6850

March 23, 1988

Gordon J. MacRae
52 Summit Road - Apt. 12
Keene, New Hampshire 03431

Dear Gordon:

Subsequent to our recent meeting, this letter will confirm the extension of your leave of absence from the ministry for a period of one more year. As we discussed, I would be most anxious to have you return to ministry at the end of this period of time. I continue to pray, however, for the success of your work in alcohol rehabilitation in the Keene area.

I have given further consideration to your request that your faculties as a priest be extended beyond those that you already have, e.g., to offer a weekly Mass at Spofford Hall, so that you might be able to be of assistance to parishes in the Keene area as the need arises. After careful reflection, I have decided not to extend your faculties in that fashion. The principal reason for this is that I do not feel it appropriate for a priest to be on a leave of absence and, at the same time, function regularly and publicly as a priest. I am willing to consider case by case requests in unusual circumstances should they arise, but otherwise will ~~not~~ extend your faculties in a more general fashion.

Trusting you will understand my concerns in this regard, I am

Cordially in Christ,

Bishop of Manchester