

May 26, 1993

Atty. James Higgins
Sheehan, Phinney, Bass & Green
1000 Elm Street - PO Box 3701
Manchester, NH 03105-3701

Dear Jim:

Just a brief note to inform you that after considerable discussion with Monsignor Quinn, it appears that we have no real explanation for the reference to "2 minor males" in his memo to me of November 21, 1983. Obviously, we never became aware of a second minor being abused by Gordon MacRae. It is possible that the victim about whom we did become aware reported to his counselor that he thought another minor might have been in the same situation, and that counselor thus reported two possible instances of abuse to the diocese. It is also possible that the counselor might have mentioned the possibility of two occasions of abuse, meaning two occasions with the same minor, and that Monsignor Quinn understood that to mean two separate minors. These possible explanations, however, are really best guess scenarios, and we cannot explain the reference in any other fashion. In my meeting with Father MacRae on December 5th, it is clear that we talked about only one minor. I am sorry I cannot clarify this for you any further.

A second point of interest and/or concern. Prior to his attempted suicide I had been informed by a canon lawyer, who is a consultant to the Servants of the Paracletes, that Gordon MacRae and his civil lawyer had plans to return to New Hampshire not only to fight the current indictment but also to try to overturn the charges to which he had pleaded guilty a couple of years ago, and upon which apparently the [REDACTED] civil suit is at least in part based. The canon lawyer felt that we would want to know this in view of delaying any settlement we might be tempted to make. Personally, I cannot see how they could overturn the previous admission of guilt. It is also possible that the suicide attempt will change their plans.

I offer these facts to you for whatever action you feel is appropriate.

Sincerely yours,

(Msgr. Francis J. Christian
Secretary
Chancellor