AUBE I
Complaint File – Paul L. Aube
(Confidential Envelope)

CONFIDENTIAL
Re: Paul Aube

This boy came through town on the 13th, so I had a talk with him. He will be at the [redacted]. It may be difficult for him to get back to see you but he will do so when you call him.

I think the boy should have Psychological Testing and Evaluation.
August 23, 1968

J. Edward Conners, Ed.D.
1180 Beacon Street
Brookline, Massachusetts

Re: Paul Aube

Dear Doctor Conners:

This will confirm the appointment which I made today with your secretary in behalf of our seminarian, Paul L. Aube of 368 Portland Street, Berlin, New Hampshire. We should like to have you run him through the customary psychological tests and to give us a report at your earliest convenience.

This young man has been attending Queen of Peace Seminary, Jaffrey Center, New Hampshire as a candidate for our diocese. The faculty feel that he cannot stand up under duress and would probably crack under pressure. His efforts are good but his aptitude is questionable. He has had a rather difficult career and, although he is a good lad, his ideas are somewhat confused, his self-control not the best, his work confused and his aptitude only average. He denies help and becomes disturbed when it is given to him. I personally fear that he is a poor risk but the Bishop wishes to have you check him before making a final decision concerning his advancement.

With appreciation and cordial good wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Rt. Rev. Thomas S. Hansberry, P.A.
Vicar General
August 23, 1968

Mr. Paul Aube
368 Portland Street
Berlin, New Hampshire 03570

Dear Paul,

This will confirm your appointment with Doctor J. Edward Conners of 1180 Beacon Street, Brookline, Massachusetts for Thursday, August 29, 1968 at 2:00 P. M. to take the customary bank of psychological tests. Doctor Conners is a psychologist (not a psychiatrist) and he had done good work for us before. We have confidence in him.

The doctor's phone number is 617-232-5929.

I shall be in town on Thursday if you wish to stop in on your way, but perhaps you will go to Boston by another route. I shall see you after we have the doctor's report anyway. This should be the following week.

With cordial personal good wishes, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

Rt. Rev. Thomas S. Hansberry, P.A.
Vicar General
September 10, 1968

Very Rev. Eugene Robitaille, SS., CC.
Queen of Peace Mission Seminary
Jaffrey Center, New Hampshire 03454

Dear Father Eugene:

Enclosed is a copy of the confidential report of J. Edward Conners, Ed.D. who administered the psychological tests to Paul Aube at our request. I tried to reach you by telephone today but was unable to do so. If I do not get in touch with you on Wednesday, I shall definitely do so on Thursday. I shall be in the office for an hour on Wednesday morning, possibly 10:30 to 11:30 but will not be available in the afternoon or early evening.

Will you please look over this report and the commentary on Paul’s summer work and let me know whether you think he should return for Third Theology? I think we should remember that this young man had a very frustrating experience with the Servites in Canada.

You will probably note in reviewing his file that Paul never did attend the first two years of college but went right into Philosophy in Ottawa of all places!

My personal inclination is to try him for at least another semester. With good direction, he may be able to find himself. Doctor Conners seems to think well of him.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

Rt. Rev. Thomas S. Hansberry, P. A.
Vicar General

Enc.
October 30, 1974

Alberto Miyara, M.D.
251 Elm Street
Claremont, New Hampshire 03743

Dear Doctor Miyara:

Thank you for your letter of October 22, 1974 concerning Father Paul Aube. I was glad that I had an opportunity to talk with you on the telephone about this last Thursday. I had seen him on the 20th when I was in Berlin for the rededication of the parish church. He seemed to be in fine fettle and showed no signs of illness.

Father Aube has a strong desire to do teaching but sometimes overestimates his ability. He has a tendency to take on too many extra-curricular activities which are really not necessary, especially since parish obligations alone are enough to keep him more than busy. I thought you should know this, since you are his physician, however, I presume you will keep this information confidential.

I have talked with our Vicar for the Clergy who is also chairman of the Personnel Board for our priests. He is well-acquainted with Father Aube and we both like him. We shall keep him in mind in the future and I shall personally try to keep in touch with him.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely yours,

Rev. Msgr. Thomas S. Hansberry
Administrator Diocese of Manchester

cc: Monsignor Gendron
December 29, 1975

Rev. Paul L. Aube
St. Aloysius Rectory
48 West Hollis Street
Nashua, New Hampshire 03060

Dear Paul:

After talking with you on the phone today I checked in our files and found the name of the doctor who gave you psychological testing a few years back. According to our records his address is as follows:

J. Edward Connors, Ed.D.
Consulting Psychologist
1180 Beacon Street
Brookline, Massachusetts 02146

I mentioned your call to the bishop, and he agreed with what I told you about the policy of the person involved making his own appointment with a psychologist or psychiatrist.

I hope that this information will be helpful to you, and if there is anything else I can do please don't hesitate to call me anytime.

In Christ,

George E. Ham
Vice Chancellor
January 4, 1976

Dear Bishop,

We had a long conversation, Paul and myself.

I was firm; but I tried to show compassion.

The doctor's appointment is scheduled for this Wednesday morning;
The healing process is on the way, let's hope.

An interview with you should be requested within the week.

...So I can now leave for a Florida vacation, leaving Monday morning. Return the 19th.

Yours in Christ Jesus,

[Signature]

Rev. Raymond S. Desjardins
January 15, 1976

Reverend Raymond S. Desjardins  
Saint Aloysius Church  
48 West Hollis Street  
Nashua, New Hampshire  03060

Dear Father Desjardins:

This is just a brief note to thank you for discussing with Father Aube the matter about which we recently talked. I hope that your conversation will bear much fruit. If there is anything you feel I should be aware of in the days ahead, please do not hesitate to bring it to my attention.

Cordially in Christ,

Bishop of Manchester
June 22, 1976

J. Edward Conners, Ed. D.
Consulting Psychologist
16 Country Way
Needham, Massachusetts 02192

Dear Dr. Conners:

May I take this opportunity to acknowledge receipt of your letter of June 15th, and thank you for this comprehensive report of your evaluation of Father Paul Aube.

You may be sure that I shall give the contents of your report serious consideration as I endeavor to assign Father Aube to exercise his priestly ministry in a manner which will be for his own benefit, as well as for the benefit of those he serves.

With every good wish, I am

Cordially yours,

Bishop of Manchester
August 27, 1981

PERSONAL/CONFIDENTIAL

Dr. Ernest C. Desjardins, Ph.D.
Clinical Psychologist
439 Middle Street—PO. Box 101
Portsmouth, New Hampshire 03801

Dear Dr. Desjardins:

This letter will serve to confirm the conversations you had by telephone with Bishop Gendron on August 20th, as well as my telephone conversations with you of August 24th and August 26th. All of these telephone calls, as you know, were in reference to Father Paul Aube who had been referred to you for a complete series of psychological tests in order to ascertain whether or not Father Aube is afflicted by any emotional or psychological disorders.

You are aware that [redacted] of Rochester, New Hampshire, has alleged that Father Aube has been engaged in homosexual activities with her son, [redacted], for approximately the past two years. She is in possession of this information from [redacted], a psychologist, [redacted], as well as from the boy's uncle in whom he has confided. Quite obviously, Bishop Gendron is most concerned about these allegations and wishes to pursue whatever investigation is necessary to ascertain both if they have any foundation in fact and, if so, how Father Aube can be helped so as to preclude any repetition of such behavior.

At this time Bishop Gendron has taken the following steps: (1) Father Aube has been ordered to avoid any and all contact with [redacted] in person or by phone. (2) Beginning August 28th, Father Aube has been asked to take an extended vacation from Holy Rosary Church so that he will not find himself placed in any situations which might be compromising. (3) Father Aube has been requested, and has readily agreed, to undergo a complete series of psychological tests which I mentioned above, and has agreed to sign a waiver so that you may share the results of these tests as well as your recommendations with Bishop Gendron. I have personally spoken with Mrs. [redacted] in regard to these three points and have assured her that if the tests show any psychological problems the Bishop will certainly make sure that Father Aube receives the follow-up therapy required to assist him in overcoming such
problems. It is my impression that Mrs. [redacted] may feel it necessary to directly give to me, hopefully with the participation of her son, a complete history of the alleged relationship. If, in fact, this is something she wishes to do, I will attempt to obtain permission from the family to share it with you so that you may use it in the process of your evaluation of the various tests you will be administering.

In the report which you send to Bishop Gendron, he would appreciate the following information. (1) Whether any serious psychological problems are part of Father Aube's lifestyle and if so, what they are. (2) If such problems exist, whether Father Aube can remain in the active ministry at this time. (3) If he can continue to function as a priest, whether he should remain at Holy Rosary in Rochester or be assigned to another priestly assignment. (4) What conditions you would place on him in the future ministry he may undertake. (5) What sort of ongoing psychological therapy is required, if any, in regard to whatever problems may be uncovered.

Gratefully recognizing the adjustments you have made to your own schedule to be of assistance to us in this regard, your report will be anxiously awaited at your earliest convenience. As in past cases of referral, please forward your bill for services directly to me:

With every good wish, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Rev. Francis J. Christian
Chancellor
August 31, 1981

Dr. Ernest C. Desjardins
439 Middle Street
P.O. Box 101
Portsmouth, N.H. 03801

Dear Dr. Desjardins:

This past Saturday and Sunday I was at Holy Rosary Parish in Rochester to assist the pastor with the weekend masses. On Sunday, August 31, I met, at her request, with Mrs. She felt it important that someone in the Diocesan Administration be informed of the specific details of her allegations against Father Paul Aube. I obtained her permission to share her comments with you so that you can use them in your testing and evaluation of Father Aube's psychological status.

Mrs. states that her son, first became acquainted with Father Aube through some of his friends from Holy Rosary who were in the Confirmation class of the parish. In the late winter of 1980, when was 15 going on 16, his girl friend asked him to play the piano for her and several of her classmates who, as part of their confirmation project, were presenting a musical program in the area nursing homes. On several occasions when Mrs. went to the Church to get her son from a rehearsal, Father Aube mentioned to her how nice a young man her son was. Mrs. in return mentioned to Father that her son was having problems and was seeing a psychologist. Father Aube indicated his interest in helping as well, and took the initiative to have come to see him on a regular basis. He was seeing him at least once a week and often would get home from these sessions very late in the evening. Shortly after beginning these meeting with Father Aube, stopped dating the girl he had been seeing. Mrs. questioned the girl about what had happened and was told by her that Father Aube had told that she wasn't good enough for him.

At this point Mrs. began to get suspicious about the situation. Her son, who formerly would talk about Father Aube a lot at home, became very reticent about him. One one occasion, Mrs. was sorting some papers on her son's floor and found some pages on which it was written that he missed Father Aube and couldn't live without him. Mrs. subsequently discovered both from her son's psychologist and from her brother in law in whom confided, that Father Aube had begun to engage in homosexual activities with during this time. Apparently things began with a hug and a French kiss. Sometime later was in aKler in Father Aube's room at the rectory and Father Aube, it is claimed, opened the boy's pants and performed fellatio on him. This
supposedly occurred at least two times. On at least one other occasion in Father Aube's quarters it is claimed that [redacted] and Father Aube were naked in bed together. Mrs. [redacted] does not know, however, if any sort of homosexual intercourse ever took place. Neither does she know if similar sorts of experiences ever took place outside of the rectory. According to [redacted], Father Aube did all this to him to prove to him that he was a real man, capable of true sexual fulfillment.

Apparently in January of 1981 [redacted] told Father Aube that he had revealed these things to his psychologist and, after hearing this, Father Aube broke off the relationship. At this time, according to Mrs. [redacted], [redacted] is confused about and ashamed of the whole situation.

Mrs. [redacted] again stated to me that she does not want to deal with any of this on a legal or public level because she does not want to subject her son to that sort of humiliation. She is concerned that Father Aube receive the help he needs so that no other young men will be subjected to what she claims has happened to her son. She indicated that other members of her family who know of the situation, e.g. her sister and brother in law and another sister, are having a hard time accepting that the Church is really doing anything about all this. She herself, however, appears convinced that we are doing the proper thing. She is afraid, however, that [redacted]'s father, from whom she is currently being divorced, may find out about the situation. His reaction, given his view of "real men", she feels would be very negative and he would be difficult to control. For these reasons as well as her own fear that [redacted] may try once again to seek out Father Aube, she continues to push very strongly for Father Aube's transfer.

Needless to say, Mrs. [redacted] is convinced of the absolute truth of all the allegations mentioned. I do not believe that she is vindictive, however, and have once again assured her that the testing which is in progress will conclusively show whatever problems may exist in Father Aube's life and enable you to recommend the best course of action for him. She knows that Father Aube is on vacation and will not be present in Rochester for the next few weeks. This seemed to bring her a great deal of relief.

Trusting that the details of the allegations against Father Aube will be of some help to you, and assuring you again of Bishop Gendron's gratefulness for your assistance in this matter, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Rev. Francis J. Christian
Chancellor
MEMORANDUM

TO: The File
FROM: BEC
DATE: August 3, 1993
RE: 

[Redacted] is a young man who [Redacted]. He contacted Monsignor Christian some months ago to indicate that he had been improperly hugged and approached by a Fr. Obey (?) some years ago. Monsignor Christian was contacted by [Redacted] and I responded to a call on Monday the 2nd of August 1993. He indicated that [Redacted] one of which allegedly stemmed from the improper advances of Fr. Obey. I offered to have us have [Redacted] examined by any counselor or psychologist of our choice in the Diocese. If we desired. He also inquired as to what the procedures were in the Diocese, if any, to receive claims for improper conduct. I indicated to him that the Diocese had serious concerns about any person who was abused by anyone, especially those under the official guise of the Church and would consider requests for help and counseling costs and the like. I also indicated that unless the Diocese was persuaded that it some responsibility or liability, it was not entertaining demands for settlement of claims. He indicated he understood what we were saying and he was not making any such claim nor was his call to be interpreted as any kind of a threat. He came on quite reasonably and without seeming to have a secret agenda, although he obviously was looking to see whether there was some fund available to pay alleged victims so that he could get whatever recompense he could for his client. I indicated I would check with Monsignor Christian and get back to him concerning this matter. Fr. Obey has had treatment and was removed from any ministry which would involve contact with children. The events allegedly occurred either in [Redacted] and were some years ago, perhaps raising a statute of limitations issue, a fact admitted by [Redacted] who also acknowledged that he understood that this matter is now before the New Hampshire Supreme Court.
October 14, 1993

Bradford E. Cook, Esquire
Sheehan, Phinney, Bass & Green
Box 3701
Manchester, New Hampshire 033105

Re: 

Dear Brad:

I am writing to follow up on our recent conversation regarding [redacted] and his potential claim against Father Aube. As you suggested, I am forwarding the evaluations prepared by [redacted] and [redacted] and [redacted]. I think it is interesting to note initial assessment prior to [redacted] disclosure. Even before discussing the issues with Father Aube, [redacted] indicated difficulties were consistent with post-traumatic stress disorder.

Please contact me after you have had a chance to review the evaluations. [redacted] remains interested in having us resolve this matter through private discussions.

Very truly yours,

Alan J. Cronheim

AJC:mc
enc.
November 1, 1993

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

Monsignor Francis Christian
Diocese of Manchester
PO Box 310
Manchester, NH 03105

Dear Monsignor Christian:

Enclosed find a letter dated October 14, 1993 (not received until approximately a week and one-half later) along with enclosures concerning a [redacted] and his potential claims against Father Aube. After you and I have had a chance to read them, we should discuss them so I can get back to [redacted].

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Bradford E. Cook

cc: James Higgins w/enclosures

BEC:6423-DP3
PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Msgr. Francis J. Christian
Secretary/Chancellor
Diocese of Manchester
153 Ash Street, PO Box 310
Manchester, NH 03105-0310

Re: Fr. Paul Aube

Dear Msgr. Christian:

I have had an opportunity to review the Bishop’s proposed letters to 
I appreciate your sending them to me for 
review. As we have discussed, from a technical legal perspective, I could 
quarrel with the nature of the response. However, on a goal-oriented basis, I 
think you and I are in agreement with the intent of the letters.

I would respectfully ask that the Bishop consider including in each 
letter language which demonstrably acknowledges Fr. Aube’s personal 
recognition of his problem and his forthrightness in discussing it with Church 
hierarchy. I would also request that the intensive nature of his treatment with 
Dr. Desjardins be referenced as well as his success over the last 13 years. I 
think it would also be helpful to indicate that Fr. Aube’s psychologist believes 
that he has made enormous and responsible progress and that, although he 
has not had a parish ministry in the last 13 years, he did successfully conclude 
a ministry to the sick and dying at the Elliot Hospital.

In my judgment, the letters should not only acknowledge Fr. Aube’s 
past problems but should focus constructively and redemptively on his efforts 
and success over a considerable period of time. It might also be appropriate
to suggest that the last 13 years have been very painful for Fr. Aube as well and that with the help of ongoing treatment, careful and continued oversight by the Diocese, and God's grace, it is hoped that he can continue to be a constructive and valued member of the clergy.

As you know, from 1981 to 1986, Fr. Aube saw Dr. Desjardins once a week, and from 1986 to 1988, he saw Dr. Desjardins monthly. In fact, in 1981 Fr. Aube initiated discussions with the Diocese concerning his need for help and counseling. Over the last year, Fr. Aube has been seeing Dr. Desjardins weekly and is being carefully evaluated and monitored. Based on my personal discussions with Dr. Desjardins, I understand that Fr. Aube's periodic re-evaluations have been very favorable.

I think it is important to communicate to the [redacted] not only that Fr. Aube and the Diocese have recognized and aggressively treated his problems but that he is to be commended for 13 years of focus, success and dedication and that he has successfully continued his religious ministry, albeit closely monitored, over a considerable period of time. I think it is important that the [redacted] understand that the Church, although not approving of Fr. Aube's conduct, is considerate not only of the pain caused to [redacted] but of its own priest. I believe that if the Church think that the Church is not willing to support the successful efforts of Fr. Aube, they will be encouraged to strike out against him.

I hope my thoughts have been constructive and that you would consider some modifications in the Bishop's correspondence to reflect them.

I have genuinely appreciated our discussions and your assistance.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

John T. Broderick, Jr.

JTB:dam

cc: Bradford E. Cook, Esquire
May 23, 1994

CONFIDENTIAL

Attorney John T. Broderick
707 Chestnut Street
Manchester, NH 03104

Dear Attorney Broderick:

Enclosed please find copies of the letters that I have sent to  
I have made some modifications to these  
letters, trying to take into account your recent suggestions.

In reference to points #1 and 2 in the letter to  
believe it would be wise to have Father Aube consider doing the following  
two things: (a) write to  
some appropriate brief expressions of  
sorrow, and (b) having Dr. Desjardins write a brief letter to  
indicating that Fr. Aube has been successfully in his care for thirteen  
years. It is possible that these communications will help  
be more comfortable with what I am saying in my letter.

Please be in contact with me if I can be of any further assistance  
in this regard.

With every good wish I am

Sincerely yours,

Leo E. O'Neil
Bishop of Manchester

Enclosures
May 23, 1994

Bradford E. Cook, Esquire
Sheehan, Phinney, Bass & Green
1000 Elm Street
Box 3701
Manchester, NH 03105

Re: Fr. Paul Aube

Dear Brad:

As you know, you and I spoke a few weeks ago about the draft response to the __________ complaint. I expressed my view that I thought the letter was too narrow and legalistic and that it should be modified in accordance with my letter to Monsignor Christian dated May 4, 1994. Since our conversation and my May 4th correspondence, I have not heard from anyone.

I think it is very hard to discern intentions, and I am concerned that a narrow legalistic response may generate an unwarranted reaction. I think it would be more appropriate to write a more spiritual letter, which would allow all of us to more carefully gauge reaction.

As you know, Fr. Aube has denied any inappropriate conduct with __________ and I think it is essential that the Diocese’s response be understanding, compassionate, spiritual and strong.

I would like the opportunity to personally review Fr. Aube’s personnel file at the Diocese and would ask that you make the necessary arrangements for me to do so. I would appreciate hearing from you on where matters presently stand with the __________. If a letter has, in
fact, gone out and/or a response received, I would appreciate receiving copies.

Very truly yours,

John T. Broderick, Jr.

JTB:dam
May 26, 1994

Monsignor Francis Christian
Diocese of Manchester
PO Box 310
Manchester, NH 03105

RE: Father Aube/John Broderick

Dear Monsignor Christian:

Enclosed find a letter dated May 23 from Mr. Broderick. Please call me and I will make arrangements with Broderick to comply with his requests. It was my understanding you were going to be sending him copies of the letters recently sent to [redacted] and his father. If they have not been sent, maybe I should send them in light of this letter.

Sincerely,

Bradford E. Cook
BEC:jf

cc: James Higgins, Esq.

BEC/6423-DC2
August 4, 1994

The Most Reverend Leo E. O'Neil, D.D.
Bishop of Manchester
657 North River Road
Manchester, NH 03104

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Bishop O'Neil:

Please excuse my delay in responding to your letter of July 12, 1994. I have reflected and prayed about my response and have been deeply anguished as to how to proceed.

My loyalty to the Church and my obedience to you are obligations I take very seriously. My clinical health and well-being are also of enormous importance to me. I have been prayerfully and respectfully attempting to strike a balance between competing concerns and responsibilities.

The priesthood of Jesus Christ, that He has called me to share with Him, is my whole life. I would die for it and/or accept any cross He wants me to carry because of it. I have never taught anything that was contrary to His teachings and the teaching Magisterium of His Church. I have never abused or taken advantage of dispensing any of the Sacraments to my own end or profit. I have always stood by His Church and intend to continue to stand for and by Her, for His Glory and Praise. In short, though I realize I am not perfect, I have always been totally committed to the ideals of the priesthood He has called me to share with Him, as well as to His Church and the Holy See of Rome, and I intend to persevere in doing so for the rest of my life, with and by His grace.

It is not my intention to re-assert my prior personal discussions and correspondence with you or to any longer attempt to dissuade you from the policy decisions you have made. I am asking you, however, to see me in totality and to recognize the need I have for a viable, fulfilling and priestly future. I believe that God has given me unique gifts and talents which I have fully shared during my twenty five years in the clerical state, particularly with the sick and dying. I would hope that I could continue my efforts as a priest by doing academic research that would greatly benefit the now specialized field of clinical pastoral care, as especially dispensed to the sick and dying. Whether I can or not is likely to be your decision.

At this point, though I am innocent of the allegations against me, I am willing to undergo a comprehensive, extensive and independent out-patient psychological evaluation from a psychologist of my choice who specializes in your areas of concern. Obviously, the
details of this evaluation and the confidentiality surrounding it are issues I will need to discuss with you. If the results of this evaluation are acceptable, I would ask that I be allowed to retain my priestly faculties and continue my ministry, in the research field of health care, specifically with matters dealing with clinical pastoral care, in a constructive way and with your unconditioned blessing. If the results are not according to your standards I would expect that the following alternative would be implemented.

In the alternative, I would ask to be placed on an indefinite sabbatical leave for academic research about matters dealing with the Sacramental, ethical, moral, economic and spiritual dimensions of health care, especially in the now specialized and important discipline of clinical pastoral care. During that time I would continue to retain my priestly faculties, although I would be open to accept ministerial restrictions that would facilitate your purposes and needs.

Obviously, under either scenario, I would need financial support from the Church, which I have not enjoyed over the last year. My personal financial situation, at this present time, is very grave.

I can assure you, Bishop O'Neil, that I am not a recalcitrant priest who intends any disloyalty or disrespect. I have a deep and genuine respect for your ecclesial office of Bishop and Spiritual Shepherd of His disciples. I would never intend to be insubordinate in any way to your Episcopal authority in matters of Faith and Morals.

I hope you can understand my very deep dilemma. On the one hand, the Doctor who has successfully treated me for the past thirteen years clearly tells me that an in-patient evaluation is not indicated and could potentially be detrimental to my continued growth. On the other hand, my Bishop has told me that such in-patient evaluation is something he is mandating of me. I am anguishing and assiduously seeking a compromise which allows me to safeguard the stability of my clinical success while at the same time acknowledge the authority, judgment and spiritual leadership of my Bishop.

I humbly ask you to work with me to resolve this problem, with God's Grace.

Rest assured of my continued prayers for you and your difficult ministry.

Respectfully, through the brotherhood of His Priesthood,

(Rev. Fr.) Paul L. Aube
August 4, 1994

Dear [Name],

Monsignor Christian and I have had the opportunity to confer and discuss [redacted] meeting with you and us and your settlement request in this matter.

Frankly, we were saddened by what we heard and believe [redacted] sincere. From a pastoral and caring perspective, the Church wants to assure him of its concern and regret for any effect on his life which the matters discussed may have had. In that spirit, the Church is willing to help his recovery and provide some compensation for his costs in dealing with his problems.

From a legal perspective, I think both the statute of limitations problems, discovery problems and liability problems in connection with the Diocese as a target are substantial. However, as we discussed, we do not approach these matters primarily as legalisms if they can be resolved in a healing and constructive manner.

The Diocese has authorized me to offer [redacted] in settlement of his claims. Obviously, there would be no admission by the Diocese of any liability nor is there any accompanying admission to be implied concerning any personnel of the Diocese. We would ask for a Confidentiality Agreement protecting both parties from disclosure of the terms of the settlement or existence of the claim. While this might be deemed to benefit the Diocese primarily, it also would obligate the Diocese to inform [redacted] if any inquiry or request were made concerning his claim, its
settlement or the like, allowing him the opportunity to seek to have any disclosure prohibited or limited.

Please discuss this offer with [redacted] and let me have your response as expeditiously as possible. If you wish to discuss this matter, please feel free to call me.

Sincerely,

Bradford E. Cook

BEC:jf

cc: Monsignor Francis J. Christian
    Personal & Confidential

BEC/6423
August 9, 1994

Rev. Paul L. Aube
Post Office Box 4602
Manchester, NH 03108

Dear Fr. Aube:

In my desire to be sensitive to your needs in obtaining the second psychiatric evaluation which is absolutely necessary before I will assign you to a new ministry in the diocese, I am willing to offer you one other option in addition to the two others we have already discussed.

I am willing to allow you to seek the new evaluation at Villa St. John Vianney Hospital in Downingtown, Pennsylvania. This is a treatment center exclusively dedicated to the care of clergy and religious and comes highly recommended to me. It has a competent staff and is frequently used by a number of dioceses around the country. Villa St. John Vianney offers a comprehensive psycho-diagnostic assessment program four days in length. The difference between this program and the others we have discussed is that it is offered on an outpatient basis, that is, the patient goes to the facility each day for the testing program but stays overnight either at a local motel or perhaps a rectory in the vicinity. It seems to me that this approach comes very close to the outpatient format which you have consistently requested.

As a result, you may choose to have the evaluation done at Villa St. John Vianney with the same conditions as we previously discussed, that is, that all the results and recommendations be made available to me, and that you be willing to abide by whatever professional recommendations are suggested.
I will give you until noontime on Tuesday, August 16, to respond in a positive fashion to this opportunity and be in touch with Monsignor Christian, who will make the suitable arrangements for your entry into the diagnostic program. If you have not been in touch with Monsignor Christian by that time, I will be forced, as indicated in my previous correspondence to you, to place you on administrative leave, without priestly faculties, until such time as you comply with my request.

I hope that this final offer on my part will enable you to be more comfortable in seeking the psychological evaluation which is requested.

Sincerely in Christ,

Bishop of Manchester
August 17, 1994

The Most Reverend Leo E. O'Neil, D.D.
Bishop of Manchester
657 North River Road
Manchester, NH 03104

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Bishop O'Neil:

Thank you for meeting with me at your residence on August 9, 1994. I was pleased with our meeting. I am sincerely grateful that you are open to an out-patient evaluation. You have repeatedly told me that I needed to comply with what you are asking of me for my own good and protection and not out of obedience to you. So, after much prayer, consultation, reflection and meditation, I have discerned and come to the following decision.

In order to show my good faith to protect the Diocese and myself, and as a sign of respect for your office of Bishop, I am willing to follow through on the opportunity you are presently providing me, even though it is not clinically indicated and advised, as a means to bring this to a mutually acceptable closure, with one condition.

Upon serious reflection and prayer on the possibility of future ministry, I am brought to conclude that your options and mine are quite limited. I cannot return to parish ministry because that would place the Diocese at risk, based on an agreement the Diocese, through Msgr. Christian, chose to agree to with a family back in August of 1981. Unfortunately, I was not given an opportunity to have any input into that agreement, nor do I know the details of its terms. However, because of that agreement, an assignment to full time parish ministry would certainly put the Diocese and me at an unreasonable risk. That I am not willing to do. I cannot return to chaplaincy work without satisfying your need of disclosure regarding allegations against me. This is something that I am not ready to subject myself to and something that you suggest makes me unemployable. It would seem that this certainly eliminates any traditional active ministry that I can envision in trying to protect both the Diocese and myself, under the present conditions. So where does this leave us?

I am, therefore, asking that you clearly indicate what you see as specific and viable ministries for me when I receive a positive evaluation from Villa St. John Vianney Hospital. Under such a scenario, I would expect that the conditions of the first proposal made to you in my letter of August 4, 1994 would be agreed to and followed through. If, in good conscience, you can provide me with these specifics and they are viable ministries
which permit me to use my God given gifts and talents, and you agree to the terms of the above mentioned proposal, I will act upon your opportunity of August 9, 1994, as soon as possible after my scheduled operation.

If this is not acceptable to you or if the result of the evaluation is not according to your standards, I humbly request a commitment that you will implement the second sabbatical proposal I made to you in that same letter of August 4, 1994. May I suggest that you seriously consider that proposal as a viable solution, in light of the limited options and your latest position.

I believe that this is a reasonable concern, compromise and request to bring this matter to an amicable and Christ-like conclusion for the good of His Church and the good of my health. I hope and pray that you can see it in the same light.

Rest assured of my continued prayers for you and your difficult ministry.

Respectfully in the brotherhood of His Priesthood,

(Prev. Fr.) Paul L. Aube
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP
DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

August 17, 1994

CONFIDENTIAL

Rev. Paul L. Aube
Post Office Box 4602
Manchester, NH 03108

Dear Father Aube:

It causes me great pain to write this letter. However, I feel that you have left me no alternative. Since you have refused to comply with the requests I have continually made of you over the past several months, I am hereby withdrawing your priestly faculties and placing you on administrative leave effective August 16, 1994, at noon. This means that you may not celebrate any of the sacraments of the Church, nor exercise any preaching or teaching function as a Catholic priest in public and/or with any members of the Catholic Faith Community. In my letters to you of May 23, 1994 and July 12, 1994, I warned you that I would have to remove these faculties unless you received "in house" psychological evaluation at a religious institution. I offered you two choices in my letter of July 12, and a third choice in my letter of August 9. You rejected my offer of July 12 in a registered letter to me delivered nearly a month later, and now you have also failed to respond to my letter of August 9 with its deadline of noon on August 16, 1994. Hence, this notification confirms what I told you would occur, ipso facto, during my meeting with you.

The recommendation I have made to you must be fulfilled before you return to ministry. Serious charges have been made against you and until this time you have not shown good faith in helping me find a just resolution to this situation.

When you see fit to go through such an evaluation in one of the mentioned facilities and abide by whatever recommendations are made by that facility, I will be pleased to restore your priestly faculties and work with you to find an appropriate assignment.

In closing may I once again state, Paul, that I am distressed that your unwillingness to cooperate with me has made it necessary for me to take this step.

Sincerely in Christ,

+ Leo E. O'Donell
Bishop of Manchester
November 28, 1994

Atty. Brad Cook
Sheehan, Phinney, Bass and Green
1000 Elm Street
Manchester, N.H. 03105-3701

Dear Brad:

Enclosed please find the check for the agreed upon amount payable to [redacted] and Alan Cronheim. Once all of the papers are finalized for signature, I trust you will send a copy to me for our files.

Thanking you for your kind assistance in this matter, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

(Msgr.) Francis J. Christian
Secretary
Chancellor

Enclosure

153 Ash Street, P.O. Box 310, Manchester, N.H. 03105-0310
Tel. (603) 669-3100                FAX (603) 669-0377
December 5, 1994

Mr. Ray Dumont
Gallagher Bassett
Bedford Commons
Bedford, NH 03110

RE: [Name Redacted]

Dear Ray:

The above captioned matter, which was never the subject of a suit but which has been the subject of extensive negotiations, involves a [Name Redacted] who has presented Monsignor Christian and me with a detailed explanation of a series of problems which he encountered after being improperly approached by a priest in Rochester some years ago.

While there is little independent proof, his story is credible and his claims obviously sincere and his intent also clear, to pursue this matter through the courts if settlement could not be reached.

After serious consideration, the Diocese concluded that it was best to end this matter expeditiously for a modest amount of money which has been done. A Confidentiality Agreement and General Release have been obtained in exchange for a payment of $25,000.00. Monsignors Christian and Molan have asked that I send you the details of this matter so that the appropriate reimbursement under the Diocesan Insurance Program could be arranged.

Should you have further questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Bradford E. Cook

BEC: jf

cc: Monsignor Molan
Monsignor Christian
GENERAL RELEASE

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, that [redacted] of [redacted] for and in consideration of ONE DOLLAR ($1.00) in hand paid and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, and by these presents, does for himself, his heirs, executors, beneficiaries, administrators, successors and assigns (the foregoing releasing parties being hereinafter referred to as the "Releasor") hereby release, remise and forever discharge fully and finally, The Roman Catholic Bishop of Manchester, a corporation sole, and its past, present and future officers, directors, agents, servants, representatives, employees, subsidiaries, affiliates, partners, predecessors and successors in interest and assigns, and all other persons and/or entities to the extent that such other person and/or entity is liable or could be deemed liable by, through, or under them (the foregoing released parties being hereinafter referred to as the "Releasee") of and from any and all past, present or future cause and causes of action, all manner of actions, suits, demands, claims, debts, sums of money, accounts, reckoning, bonds, bills, specialties, covenants, controversies, judgements, agreements, premises, variances, trespasses, damages, execution, and liabilities of whatsoever kind and nature, including, but not limited to, any and all claims for breach fiduciary duty, breach of obligation to supervise or select clergy, breach of duty of loyalty, and any and all damages and expenses of any nature whatsoever, past, present and future, foreseen or unforeseen, known or unknown, which have been incurred or which may be incurred in the future, upon or by reason of any matter, cause or thing whatsoever from the beginning of the world to the date of these presents. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, this release specifically pertains to all events complained of concerning contact between [redacted] and Father Aube including all claims which have been or could have been raised in connection with the aforementioned contact.

The Releasor shall not bring, commence, maintain or prosecute, directly or indirectly, any action at law or proceeding in equity or any legal or administrative proceeding or other claim for damages or other relief against Releasee based in whole or in part upon any act or omission of Releasee, anywhere in the world, including, without restricting the generality of the foregoing, any claim, demand, cause of action, obligation, damage or liability, based upon, arising out of, or connected in any way whatsoever with any act, cause, matter or thing whatsoever by, or on behalf of, Releasee.
This release may and shall be pleaded as a full and complete defense to, and may be used as the basis for an injunction against, any action, suit or other proceeding which may be instituted, prosecuted or maintained in breach hereof anywhere in the world.

This release is in no way to be considered an admission of any liability on the part of any party, by whom any and all liability is specifically denied.

Releasor hereto acknowledges that he has been represented by counsel in connection with the matters contained in this General Release, that each has had an opportunity to fully discuss these documents with such counsel prior to executing the same, that each understands the effect of this document, and that each has executed such documents voluntarily.

The terms of this release are contractual and not a mere recital. This release may be executed in any number of counterparts, all of which when taken together shall constitute a single release.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, having read carefully the foregoing release and knowing and understanding its content, and with the advice of counsel, sign the same as their own free act and deed this ____ day of 1994.

WITNESS:

STATE OF
COUNTY OF

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this ____ day of ___, 1994 by

Justice of the Peace
Notary Public
STATE OF [REDACTED]
COUNTY OF [REDACTED]

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this 23rd day of November, 1994 by

[Signature]
Justice of the Peace
Notary/Public
CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT

This Confidentiality Agreement is entered into this 23 day of [Date] by and between [Name] of [Location] and the Roman Catholic Bishop of Manchester, a corporation sole, with a principal place of business at 153 Ash Street, Manchester, New Hampshire.

WITNESSETH:

In consideration of the mutual covenants contained herein, the parties stipulate and agree as follows, to wit:

1) Background has stated claims against the Roman Catholic Bishop of Manchester for damages alleged to have resulted from improper actions by Father Aube against [Name]. The said Bishop denies liability. The parties have agreed to settle their dispute. The claimants are concurrently signing a release.

2) Covenants. Each of the Parties agree:

a) not to disclose any information concerning the other obtained in the process of settling this matter to any other person or entity whatsoever.

b) not to disclose the terms of this Settlement Agreement to any person or entity. Each party understands that the other or others may be compelled to disclose documents or give testimony in response to legal process and agrees to give the other notice of any such request in order that the other may contest such request.

3) Enforcement. This is part of an agreement of settlement binding between the parties, and shall be specifically enforceable.

4) Counterparts. This Agreement may be executed in multiple, counterpart copies, no one of which need be signed by both parties, and all of which shall constitute a single, fully executed original.
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have this 23rd day of September, 1994 set their hands.

WITNESS:

[Signature]

Individually

The Roman Catholic Bishop of Manchester, a corporation sole

By: [Signature]

Francis J. Christian, Chancellor
duly authorized

FRANCEN M. MORASSE, Notary Public
My Commission Expires May 4, 1999
December 5, 1994

Dear [Redacted],

Enclosed find a fully executed set of documents in the [Redacted] matter along with the check of the Diocese payable to you and [Redacted] in the amount of $25,000.00. I am glad this matter could be resolved and again express the best wishes of the Diocese, Monsignor Christian and myself to [Redacted] for his continued progress and fruitful future.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Bradford E. Cook

BEC:jf
CC: Monsignor Christian

BEC/6423-EG3
December 6, 1994

Monsignor Francis J. Christian
Diocese of Manchester
PO Box 310
Manchester, NH 03105

Dear Monsignor Christian:

Enclosed find the settlement documents with [redacted]. Please sign each and have each notarized and send me back all four. I will keep the two for the Diocese here in our file, sealed and secure.

Also enclosed find a copy of a letter I have sent to Ray Dumont with a copy to Monsignor Molan as you requested.

Should you have any questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Bradford E. Cook

BEC:jf

BEC/
Dear Bishop Gendron,

I have enjoyed being a parishioner of Holy Rosary Church for several years and have enjoyed many happy times here. All twelve of my children have enjoyed being here in the parish also.

I now have a problem which I feel I can only talk to you about. My [redacted] has been with me for a short while and during that time has seen Father Aube several times. She feels that has a vocation to be a nun. However, Father Aube seems to have other designs on her life. I know my [redacted] has been seeing him a lot and I am not sure where their activities are going to lead. [redacted] has a Doctor's appointment in another week and that will determine what we will have to do. I thought that I should say something at this time. God only knows who else he may have seen.

I don't know what course you should take but I felt as a mother that there was no other alternative but to tell you. Please correct this situation.

Sincerely,
November 7, 1977

Dear [Name]

In response to your recent letter, let me assure you of my gratefulness for sharing your concern for your [name] with me, and of my desire to insure that any priest counselling [name] do so in a fashion that truly leads to [blank] welfare.

In this regard, I would welcome more information in detail, if that is possible, about the situation you refer to in your letter. At this point I am not sure that I understand fully the problems about which you speak. At the same time, I would like to have your permission, if the situation warrants it, to reveal your concerns to Father Aube. I am sure that you understand that I cannot discuss such a matter with him without honestly presenting to him the facts as you see them.

I will await, therefore, further communication from you regarding these points. In the meantime, however, I will pray that God will help all of us to understand the situation clearly and respond to it in the way He desires for the welfare of all those concerned.

Cordially in Christ,

Bishop of Manchester

[Note: A handwritten note is present at the bottom of the page, discussing consultation with a person named [name], expressing concern that the allegations were true, and dated 6/30/78.]
Memorandum

On this date, Lois Webb of the Portsmouth Office of Catholic Charities called. She had some information regarding Father Paul Aube which she felt it was important that we be aware of. Her information comes from [redacted], who is the head of Information and Referral for the Stratford County Welfare Department.

Father Aube for several years has been counseling a [redacted] has had a long history of family problems and been heavily involved in drugs and drinking. Since Father Aube has been in Concord, [redacted] mother has had a difficult time with him and has, on several occasions, called Father Aube for advice, which he gave her over the phone. Two weeks ago, [redacted] hitched a ride to Concord and spent the night allegedly with Father Aube. Subsequent to that occasion, Father Aube took [redacted] and two friends from the region to the beach in Maine. He arranged to pick them up outside of the Rochester area, explaining that he was not allowed to be seen there. Mrs. [redacted] is of the opinion that [redacted] continuing contact with Father Aube is undermining the other professional counseling that he is receiving. (At one point Father Aube convinced [redacted] not to commit himself to Hampstead Hospital for alcoholism and drug abuse)

Mrs. [redacted], however, at this point, is not willing to come forward and let us use her name in this regard. I explained to Lois Webb -- who understood perfectly -- that I could not confront Father Aube with this situation unless I had a source of information to base myself on. I asked her to contact Mrs. [redacted] and explain this fact to her, and ask her to feel free to let us know if she did change her mind in this matter now or at a future date. I feel it would be important to confront him for two reasons:
(a) So that we could share this information with [redacted] from whom he may be hiding these sorts of incidents.
(b) To make sure he knows that we are aware that he is obeying only the letter of the law but not its spirit in regard to his appearance in the Rochester area.

Rev. Francis J. Christian