

file - MacRae
confidential
GJM

TO: Bishop McCormack
FROM: Father Arsenault *GJM*
RE: Gordon MacRae
DATE: 2 February 2002

I have reviewed the following documents:

- +JBM memo to file 12/03/01
- GJM letter to +JBM 01/02/02
- GJM response to +JBM memo 01/02/02
- GJM letter to +JBM 01/14/02
- +JBM letter to GJM 01/28/02
- +JBM memo to EJA 01/28/02

I concur that all of these documents except the 01/14/02 letter from GJM to +JBM need to be forwarded to Brad Cook for analysis.

I recommend the following:

1. You should write to Gordon today telling him:
 - that you will reply to the outstanding matters by 02/15/02 pending a final recommendation from me and Brad Cook.
 - that you will still visit him as often as you can and tell him that you see him more than most other priests
 - that you recommend that he consider seeing another priest of the Diocese more regularly (monthly) for fraternal and spiritual support (Fr. Guillemette?)

I recommend the following "sense of a recommendation," pending Brad Cook's opinion.

1. We need to review the transcription of [redacted] testimony from the civil suits against the Diocese to comment on GJM's stalwart claim of total innocence.
2. We need to review the Ron Koch survey to form an opinion on GJM's claim of its value as a proxy for "his side of the story." (Eileen Nevins or Brad Cook).
3. We ought to encourage GJM to accept the gift and hire Rosenthal with an encouragement to insure that the research is confidential and his alone.
4. We need to state clearly that the hiring of Rosenthal by GJM does not preclude diocesan support (spiritual, fraternal and otherwise).

5. If Rosenthal doesn't pan out, I have access to other national attorneys who could help. It is clear that NH counsel will be unacceptable to GFM.
6. Gordon needs to pursue his "forgiveness track" with another priest, not +JBM or EJA.
7. We need to re-state for Gordon that you motivation in this is supportive, not motivated by other influences and not a lot more than it seems. He is clearly paranoid about ulterior motives on +JBMs and the diocese's part.

Finally, I would offer the following observations and commitment to you.

1. I will have a final recommendation to you no later than 02/13/02 so that your letter to GFM can be dated 02/15/02.
2. I see your wisdom in suggesting Brad Cook as the point man for GFM but I am also concerned that given GFM's experience with him and his paranoia, that we might be opening up a line of "excuse" for later on.
3. I am busy, but I am also willing to help you bring this matter to some resolution. I would suggest that you consider having me visit GFM and debrief with Brad Cook each time. I believe that GFM needs "priestly presence" to begin to believe that we really care for him as a brother.