

FR K. F. H. K.

3807

December 23, 1987

Rev. Roger A. Fortier  
Holy Rosary Church  
189 North Main Street  
Rochester, New Hampshire 03867

Dear Father Fortier:

Subsequent to your letter of December 19th and our recent meeting, and upon the recommendation of your doctors, I hereby grant your request for a six-month leave of absence for reasons of health effective January 4, 1988. I pray that this period of recuperation will allow you to begin ministry again in the early summer in a happy and fruitful fashion.

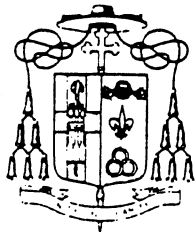
Assuring you of my prayerful best wishes,  
I am

Cordially in Christ,

Bishop of Manchester

FR R Fortier

3808



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP  
DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

MOST REVEREND ODORE J. GENDRON, D D

May 26, 1988

Reverend Eddy N. Bisson  
Infant Jesus Rectory  
121 Allds Street  
Nashua, New Hampshire 03060

Dear Father Bisson:

Subsequent to our recent conversation, this letter will confirm the appointment of Father Marcel I. Martel as Associate Pastor of St. Mary Parish in Manchester effective June 15, 1988. He will be replaced as Associate Pastor of Infant Jesus on that same date by Father Roger A. Fortier. I am confident that Father Fortier will work happily and effectively with you in caring for the needs of the good people of your parish.

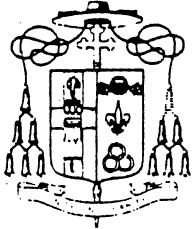
With every good wish, I am

Cordially in Christ,

Bishop of Manchester

FR R Fortier

3809



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

MOST REVEREND ODORE J GENDRON D D

May 26, 1988

Reverend Roger A. Fortier  
St. Aloysius Rectory  
48 West Hollis Street  
Nashua, New Hampshire 03060

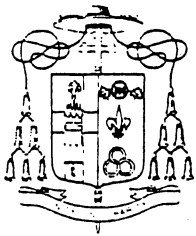
Dear Father Fortier:

Subsequent to our recent conversation, this letter will confirm your appointment as Associate Pastor of Infant Jesus Parish in Nashua effective June 15, 1988. I am confident that you will work happily and effectively with Father Eddy N. Bisson, the Pastor, in caring for the needs of the good people of the parish.

Assuring you of my prayerful best wishes,  
I am

Cordially in Christ,

Bishop of Manchester



Fr Fortier

3810

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP  
DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

MOST REVEREND ODORE J. GENDRON, D.D.

September 18, 1989

Rev. Roger A. Fortier  
St. Aloysius Rectory  
48 West Hollis Street  
Nashua, New Hampshire 03060

Dear Fr. Fortier:

Subsequent to our recent conversation, I am pleased to confirm your appointment as Associate Pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Manchester effective October 4, 1989. I am confident that you will be able to work happily and effectively with Father Leonard Foisy, the Pastor, in caring for the needs of the good people of the parish.

I have explained to Father Foisy the fact that, upon recommendation of your physician, you are to return to ministry gradually and function on a part-time basis at least initially. Once you arrive at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, I suggest you meet with Father Foisy to arrive at a mutually acceptable definition of your ministry for the time being. If I can be of any assistance in this regard, please do not hesitate to call upon me.

Assuring you of my prayerful best wishes,  
I am

Cordially in Christ,

Bishop of Manchester

*Fr. Roger Fortier*

3811

January 9, 1991

Rev. Roger A. Fortier  
Holy Angels Rectory  
8 Atkinson Depot Road  
Plaistow, NH 03865

Dear Father Fortier:

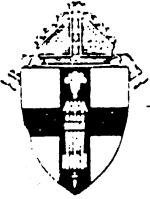
Subsequent to our recent conversation and upon the recommendation of the Diocesan Personnel Board this letter confirms your appointment as Pastor of Saint Peter Parish in Farmington, effective February 6, 1991. Will you please arrange to take the customary oath of office before my delegate in the Chancery prior to that date.

I know that the first assignment of every priest as a pastor is a special moment in his life. I am confident that your priestly dedication and your personal talents will enable you to work happily and effectively with the good people of Saint Peter's.

If I can be of any assistance to you in the weeks and months ahead, please do not hesitate to call upon me.

Your friend,

Leo E. O'Neil  
Bishop of Manchester



## SECRETARIAT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE AND CANONICAL AFFAIRS

Diocese of Manchester, 153 Ash Street, P.O. Box 310, Manchester, NH 03105-0310 603-669-3100

### PROFESSION OF FAITH FOR PASTORS

I, Roger A. Fortier, with firm faith, believe and profess all and everything that is contained in the Symbol of Faith, that is:

I believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of Heaven and Earth, of all that is seen and unseen. I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, light from light, true God from True God, begotten, not made, one in being with the Father. Through Him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation He came down from Heaven: By the power of the Holy Spirit, He was born of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered, died and was buried. On the third day He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His Kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. I believe in the one holy Catholic and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

With firm faith I believe as well everything contained in God's word, written or handed down in tradition and proposed by the Church -- whether in solemn judgment or in the ordinary and universal magisterium -- as divinely revealed and calling for faith.

I also firmly accept and hold each and every thing that is proposed by that same Church definitively with regard to teaching concerning faith or morals.

What is more, I adhere with religious submission of will and intellect to the teachings which either the Roman Pontiff or the College of Bishops enunciate when they exercise the authentic magisterium even if they proclaim those teachings in an act that is not definitive.

(OATH OF FIDELITY ON ASSUMING AN OFFICE TO BE EXERCISED IN THE NAME OF THE CHURCH:  
[Formula to be used by the Christian faithful referred to in Canon 833, Nos. 5-8].)

I, Roger A. Fortier, on assuming the office of Pastor, promise that I shall always preserve communion with the Catholic Church whether in the words I speak or in the way I act.

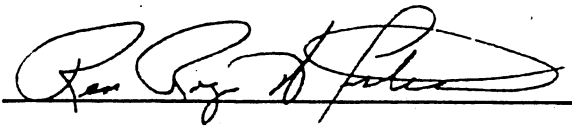
With great care and fidelity I shall carry out the responsibilities by which I am bound in relation both to the Universal Church and to the particular Church in which I am called to exercise my service according to the requirements of the law.

In carrying out my charge, which is committed to me in the name of the Church, I shall preserve the deposit of faith in its entirety, hand it on faithfully and make it shine forth. As a result, whatsoever teachings are contrary I shall shun.

I shall follow and foster the common discipline of the whole Church and shall look after the observance of all ecclesiastical laws, especially those which are contained in the Code of Canon Law.

With Christian obedience I shall associate myself with what is expressed by the holy shepherds as authentic doctors and teachers of the Faith or established by them as the Church's rulers. And I shall faithfully assist Diocesan Bishops so that apostolic activity, to be exercised by the mandate and in the name of the Church, is carried out in the communion of the same Church.

May God help me in this way and the holy Gospels of God which I touch with my hands.

Signed: 

WITNESS: 

DATE: 

June 7, 1993

CONFIDENTIAL

Rev. William D. Perri, s.P.  
St. Michael's Center  
13270 Maple Drive  
St. Louis, MO 63127

Dear Father Perri:

I spoke on the phone with Joan Thorne on June 3rd, and was delighted to hear that Roger Fortier has made such a positive adjustment to [REDACTED]. His positive attitude is certainly encouraging. I hope that he will bring the same attitude to St. Michael's when he joins you for therapy with his other lifestyle difficulties. It is in regard to these questions that I write, so that you may be made aware of the presenting issues and thus be in a better position to assist Roger.

Roger was ordained in 1980. Shortly before his ordination a member of his family approached the Diocese, expressing concerns that Roger was an active homosexual. This family member could give no definitive proof of this matter, and when confronted Roger denied the truth of the allegations. He was subsequently ordained. Several years after ordination Roger became involved in a police investigation involving the endangerment of minors. While the investigation did not lead to any legal action, Roger admitted to me at the time that he had been imprudent in bringing young men into the rectory and allowing them to view pornographic materials as well as partake of alcoholic beverages. This same sort of activity apparently also took place at the home of a male friend of long acquaintance in the town of Derry, where that man was living. Roger was requested at that time to seek counseling with a diocesan psychologist, which he did for some period of time. Again, in all of this there was never any direct evidence that Roger was acting out sexually in an active fashion.

It has recently come to my attention that for the past two or three years Roger has regularly visited this male friend mentioned earlier, who now lives in Atlanta, Georgia. While there he and this man have cruised the gay bars and actively engaged in homosexual encounters. I have also learned that



-2-

for a number of years Roger has cruised, particularly in the Nashua, New Hampshire area, where he has made numerous homosexual contacts. When confronted with these latter two points, Roger did not deny them and seemed to recognize that this is an area in his life that requires a great deal of understanding and control.

I tried to make it clear to Roger that the Diocese is concerned about both his drinking and his lifestyle problems, both because of our concerns for his personal health as well as for the Church. I tried to make it clear to him that he can minister as a priest only if and when these problems are controlled. Roger has done good work as a priest, and I would hate to see him jeopardize his future ministry because of his unwillingness or inability to deal with these issues.

If I can be of any further assistance to you please feel free to call upon me. I thank you and your staff in advance for all the help you will offer to Roger in the months ahead.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

(Msgr.) Francis J. Christian  
Secretary  
Chancellor

# ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH

3816

CENTRAL AVENUE

DOVER, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03820

(603) 742-4837

Dec. 15, 1993

To: Rev. Msgr. Francis J. Christian

From: Very Rev. Daniel O. Lamothe, V.F.

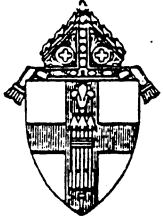
*Daniel Lamothe*

On Tuesday, Dec. 14, 1993, I met with Father Roger Fortier at St. Peter's in Farmington because [REDACTED] had appeared on the scene at the same time Father Fortier returned to the parish. A number of people were upset. Father Gary Belliveau and Paul Gregoire encouraged me to go to see him right off about this matter. Gary explained that it was the concensus of the Finance Committee and Pastoral Council that [REDACTED] not be involved in ministerial duties. The leadership did not want him involved with money or young students. The first week of Roger's return to the parish [REDACTED] was seen assisting Father Fortier. He appeared in the church sanctuary and also took a class of Religious Education. Parents were upset about this.

[REDACTED] has a police record involving domestic violence. His reputation in the town is not good. Seven months ago I spoke with the Chief of Police who recommended that he should immediately be dismissed from the rectory (at the time he was working for Roger in the rectory.) The man is not welcome with Little League or scouting because when he was involved with youth programs money disappeared. Gary Belliveau explained also that there was a "radical" change in the collection the very first weekend that [REDACTED] was no longer on hand. [REDACTED] only reappeared on the scene by attending Mass the two weeks before Father Fortier's return.

I felt it was important to talk with Roger about this matter. I explained that there had been no complaints about him, the complaints were only about [REDACTED] involvement. Roger's reaction was that people should not be telling him who his friends could be. I said that no one can say anything about his choice of friends but ministerial involvement is another matter. It was unwise to have [REDACTED] there while working or doing duties in the rectory, church sanctuary, and that it was most unfortunate that [REDACTED] ended up taking a class of Religious Education. I told him that it was the feeling of the Council and Finance Committee that [REDACTED] have no work or ministerial involvement.

Roger intended to make his regularly scheduled call to St. Louis and would be reaccessing whether or not he should stay in Farmington. There were tears in his eyes. I feel it will be very difficult for him to part company with [REDACTED]. Roger goes to the Lahey Clinic to discuss [REDACTED] Dec. 22. He wonders if all this is too much for him. I wished him well and told him my reason for visiting him was for his own welfare (including his personal health and ministerial situation.)



Secretariat for Pastoral Services  
Diocese of Manchester

3817

December 16, 1993


MEMORANDUM

RE: Father Roger A. Fortier

On December 15th, 1993, I spoke by telephone with Father Fortier, to discuss the attached memo.

Father Fortier told me that he had already spoken with [REDACTED] to inform him that he could not have any official function in the parish. He was somewhat disturbed that parishioners had jumped to conclusions on the basis of appearances, but he understood that his creditability and effectiveness as pastor was at stake, and had informed [REDACTED] that because of perceptions it would be better for him to not serve the parish in any official capacity.

Father Fortier indicated to me that he had discussed this issue in his monthly phone call to St. Louis, and felt that he had handled everything appropriately.

  
(Msgr.) Francis J. Christian  
Secretary  
Chancellor

AFTERCARE PROGRESS REVIEW  
ST. MICHAEL'S COMMUNITY

ME: MSGT. FRANCIS V. CHRISTIAN PARTICIPANT: Reverend Roger A. Fortier

RELATIONSHIP TO PATIENT: CHANCELLOR of Diocese

PHONE NUMBER: 603-669-3100 WORKSHOP DATE: May 23 - 27, 1994

Please respond to the following questions as fully and as honestly as you can. This is a progress review that will be sent to you every six months for two years as part of St. Michael's Aftercare program. If you need additional space, please attach a separate sheet of paper.

How do you evaluate Brother/Father in the following important areas of his sobriety/recovery?

I. Current status.

A. For alcoholics and chemical dependents.

1. Has he abstained from alcohol and other mood-altering chemicals? TO my knowledge - ye

2. Has he had abstinence in his bottom-line sobriety? AS BEST I CAN  
Determine - yes

3. Does he have a sponsor in each of the 12-Step Programs he attends? \_\_\_\_\_  
I am unsure of this

B. For those with biological, psychological, social and/or spiritual issues, including chemical dependency or not.

1. Has he been experiencing problems? NOT TO my knowledge

2. Is he in therapy? How often? I AM UNAWARE OF THIS

3. Does he attend any groups? I AM UNCERTAIN

II. Current Assignment:

- A. Describe the nature of his work. Roger is pastor of a relatively small one man parish near the seacoast of N.H.
- B. To the best of your knowledge, is he fulfilled in his current ministry? He appears happy and successful.
- C. Please describe Father/Brother's relationship with the diocese/congregation. It is warm with more or less regular communication over various matters.
- D. Are there any difficulties or concerns regarding Father/Brother's current assignment? Not to my knowledge

III. Medical Status:

- A. Have there been any health issues in the last six months or since leaving St. Michael's? [Redacted]
- B. Has there been a need to see any health professionals for any reason? CF A
- C. Any current medications taken? [Redacted]

IV. Psychological Status:

- A. Does Brother/Father experience stress as a problem in his life? To my knowledge, nothing of an extra-ordinary nature

B. How well does he get along with peers in his rectory/community living? He lives by himself but has regular contact with friends and a priest support group.

C. Is there any indication of prolonged depression?

not to my knowledge.

**V. Sexual Status:**

A. Do you know of any problems in regard to sexuality? \_\_\_\_\_

NO

**VI. Spiritual Life:**

A. Does Brother/Father see a spiritual director? \_\_\_\_\_

I am uncertain of this

B. How often? \_\_\_\_\_

C. Do you see growth in this area for him? \_\_\_\_\_

**VII. Additional Comments:**

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AFTERCARE PROGRESS REVIEW  
ST. MICHAEL'S COMMUNITY

3822

ME: (Rev Msgr) Francis J Christian PARTICIPANT: Reverend Roger A. Fortier

RELATIONSHIP TO PATIENT: Chancellor of Diocese of Manchester

PHONE NUMBER: (603) 669-3100 WORKSHOP DATE: October 24 - 28, 1994

Please respond to the following questions as fully and as honestly as you can. This is a progress review that will be sent to you every six months for two years as part of St. Michael's Aftercare program. If you need additional space, please attach a separate sheet of paper.

How do you evaluate Brother/Father in the following important areas of his sobriety/recovery?

**I. Current status.**

**A. FOR ALCOHOLICS, CHEMICAL DEPENDENTS AND ANYONE WHO ATTENDS A 12-STEP PROGRAM.**

1. Has he abstained from alcohol and other mood-altering chemicals? (AA ONLY) To the best  
of my knowledge.
2. Has he had abstinence in his bottom-line sobriety? (AA, SLAA, SA, OA, ETC.)

To the best of my knowledge.

3. Does he have a sponsor in each of the 12-Step Programs he attends? \_\_\_\_\_  
To the best of my knowledge.

**B. FOR THOSE WITH BIOLOGICAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL, SOCIAL AND/OR SPIRITUAL ISSUES, INCLUDING CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY OR NOT.**

1. Has he been experiencing problems? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Is he in therapy? How often? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Does he attend any groups? \_\_\_\_\_

**Current Assignment:**

- A. Describe the nature of his work. He is currently pastor of St Peter's Parish in Farmington which is the assignment he had prior to attending the program at St. Luke's.
- B. To the best of your knowledge, is he fulfilled in his current ministry? In recent conversations with me he has indicated that things are going very well in the parish and that he is quite satisfied with his present ministry.
- C. Please describe Father/Brother's relationship with the diocese/congregation. His relationship with the diocese is good and there are no problems with the lines of communication.
- D. Are there any difficulties or concerns regarding Father/Brother's current assignment? No.

**III. Medical Status:**

- A. Have there been any health issues in the last six months or since leaving St. Michael's? \_\_\_\_\_  
[REDACTED]
- B. Has there been a need to see any health professionals for any reason? \_\_\_\_\_  
[REDACTED]
- C. Any current medications taken? \_\_\_\_\_  
[REDACTED]

**IV. Psychological Status:**

- A. Does Brother/Father experience stress as a problem in his life? He led me to believe in our most recent conversation that he is not experiencing any major stress problems.



B. How well does he get along with peers in his rectory/community living? Roger lives alone  
but to the best of my knowledge has regular contact with priest support groups.

C. Is there any indication of prolonged depression?

No.

**V. Sexual Status:**

A. Do you know of any problems in regard to sexuality? To the best of my knowledge Roger  
is experiencing no problems with celibacy or sexuality.

**VI. Spiritual Life:**

A. Does Brother/Father see a spiritual director? I do not know whether he sees a spiritual  
director regularly or not.

B. How often? \_\_\_\_\_

C. Do you see growth in this area for him? \_\_\_\_\_

**VII. Additional Comments:**

From everything that he says and from all appearances, it appears that Roger  
has made a successful step back into ministry. He seems happy and there have  
certainly been no problems in the parish that has been brought to the attention  
of the diocese. We have no knowledge of any ongoing problems of the sort that  
led to his entry into your program.

**AFTERCARE PROGRESS REVIEW  
ST. MICHAEL'S COMMUNITY**

3833

NAME: Msgr. Francis J. Christian PARTICIPANT: Reverend Roger A. Fortier  
RELATIONSHIP TO PATIENT: Chancellor of the Diocese of Manchester  
PHONE NUMBER: (603)669-3100 WORKSHOP DATE: March 20 - 24, 1995

Please respond to the following questions as fully and as honestly as you can. This is a progress review that will be sent to you every six months for two years as part of St. Michael's Aftercare program. If you need additional space, please attach a separate sheet of paper.

How do you evaluate Brother/Father in the following important areas of his sobriety/recovery?

**I. Current status.**

**A. FOR ALCOHOLICS, CHEMICAL DEPENDENTS AND ANYONE WHO ATTENDS A 12-STEP PROGRAM.**

1. Has he abstained from alcohol and other mood-altering chemicals? (AA ONLY) Yes, to the best of my knowledge.
2. Has he had abstinence in his bottom-line sobriety? (AA, SLAA, SA, OA, ETC.)

Yes, to the best of my knowledge.  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Does he have a sponsor in each of the 12-Step Programs he attends? Yes.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**B. FOR THOSE WITH BIOLOGICAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL, SOCIAL AND/OR SPIRITUAL ISSUES, INCLUDING CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY OR NOT.**

1. Has he been experiencing problems? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Is he in therapy? How often? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Does he attend any groups? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Assignment:**

- A. Describe the nature of his work. Roger is pastor of St. Peter Parish, Farmington.  
It is a relatively small community, primarily a middle class laboring  
population.
- B. To the best of your knowledge, is he fulfilled in his current ministry? Roger seems to be very  
happy in his current assignment, and functioning quite effectively.
- C. Please describe Father/Brother's relationship with the diocese/congregation. The relationship  
between Roger and the Diocese is good, and I believe he is open and frank.  
Dialogue has taken place on an occasional basis.
- D. Are there any difficulties or concerns regarding Father/Brother's current assignment? To the  
best of my knowledge everything is going very well in Roger's assignment. He  
seems happy with the parish, and the people appear happy with his ministry.

**III. Medical Status:**

- A. Have there been any health issues in the last six months or since leaving St. Michael's? [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]
- B. Has there been a need to see any health professionals for any reason? \_\_\_\_\_
- C. Any current medications taken? \_\_\_\_\_

**IV. Psychological Status:**

- A. Does Brother/Father experience stress as a problem in his life? The last time I spoke to Roger  
he did not indicate any serious problems with stress.

B. How well does he get along with peers in his rectory/community living? Roger lives in his rectory alone, but continues to have a good support system.

C. Is there any indication of prolonged depression?  
Not to my knowledge.

**V. Sexual Status:**

A. Do you know of any problems in regard to sexuality? I have no knowledge of any current problems.

**Spiritual Life:**

A. Does Brother/Father see a spiritual director? I do not know.

B. How often? \_\_\_\_\_

C. Do you see growth in this area for him? \_\_\_\_\_

**VII. Additional Comments:**

From everything I see and hear, I believe that Roger has benefited greatly from his treatment at St. Michael's, and has made an excellent transition back to parish ministry. He is aware of his physical limitations, and has spoken to me in this regard about what the future might hold for him as we ask priests to take on additional pastoral responsibilities, e.g., twinned parishes, etc. I have assured Roger that we will not ask him to do more than he would be comfortable in assuming.

AFTERCARE PROGRESS REVIEW  
ST. MICHAEL'S COMMUNITY

3842

NAME: Msgr. Francis J. Christian PARTICIPANT: Reverend Roger A. Fortier

RELATIONSHIP TO PATIENT: Chancellor of the Diocese of Manchester

PHONE NUMBER: (603)669-3100 WORKSHOP DATE: August 7 - 11, 1995

Please respond to the following questions as fully and as honestly as you can. This is a progress review that will be sent to you every six months for two years as part of St. Michael's Aftercare program. If you need additional space, please attach a separate sheet of paper.

How do you evaluate Brother/Father in the following important areas of his sobriety/recovery?

I. Current status.

A. FOR ALCOHOLICS, CHEMICAL DEPENDENTS AND ANYONE WHO ATTENDS A 12-STEP PROGRAM.

1. Has he abstained from alcohol and other mood-altering chemicals? (AA ONLY) Yes, to the best of my knowledge.
2. Has he had abstinence in his bottom-line sobriety? (AA, SLAA, SA, OA, ETC.)

Yes, to the best of my knowledge.

3. Does he have a sponsor in each of the 12-Step Programs he attends? Yes, to the best of my knowledge.

B. FOR THOSE WITH BIOLOGICAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL, SOCIAL AND/OR SPIRITUAL ISSUES, INCLUDING CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY OR NOT.

1. Has he been experiencing problems? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Is he in therapy? How often? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Does he attend any groups? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

II. Current Assignment:

- A. Describe the nature of his work. Continues to be assigned to St. Peter's Parish, Farmington, a small fairly rural community.
- B. To the best of your knowledge, is he fulfilled in his current ministry? Roger indicates that he is very happy in his present situation.
- C. Please describe Father/Brother's relationship with the diocese/congregation. The relationship open, cordial, and supportive.
- D. Are there any difficulties or concerns regarding Father/Brother's current assignment? No, to the best of my knowledge.

III. Medical Status:

- A. Have there been any health issues in the last six months or since leaving St. Michael's? [REDACTED]
- B. Has there been a need to see any health professionals for any reason? See answer to A above.
- C. Any current medications taken? See answer to A above.

IV. Psychological Status:

- A. Does Brother/Father experience stress as a problem in his life? His health obviously is a concern for him. To the best of my knowledge there are no other significant stress problems.

B. How well does he get along with peers in his rectory/community living? Roger lives alone,  
and seems happy with this arrangement. He has regular contact with priest  
support groups.

C. Is there any indication of prolonged depression?  
Not to my knowledge.

**V. Sexual Status:**

A. Do you know of any problems in regard to sexuality? To the best of my knowledge there  
is no ongoing problem in this regard.

**Spiritual Life:**

A. Does Brother/Father see a spiritual director? I have no knowledge of this area of his  
life.

B. How often? I have no knowledge of this area of his life.

C. Do you see growth in this area for him? I have no knowledge of this area of his  
life.

**VII. Additional Comments:**

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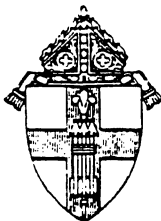
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## VI. SPIRITUAL LIFE

- A. I have no knowledge of this area of his life.
- B. I have no knowledge of this area of his life.
- C. I have no knowledge of this area of his life.





DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

OFFICE OF THE AUXILIARY BISHOP  
+ Francis J. Christian, D.D., Ph.D.

153 Ash Street – Box 310  
Manchester, NH 03105-0310

REV. ROGER A. FORTIER

ST. PETER PARISH, FARMINGTON

August 6, 1997

I. MINISTRY

Father Fortier has been at St. Peter's in Farmington for nearly seven years now. He remains very happy in his assignment, particularly in view of his health, which will be discussed later in this report. He feels it is a wonderful assignment for him. The people have been very supportive there. They are very responsive to him. He feels that the sense of community in the parish is really an outstanding thing, and it's the kind of parish that has enough activity to keep him busy but at the same time is not over demanding. Everything considered, it's an ideal type of assignment for him.

In terms of what he finds the greatest joy at this point in his ministry, he indicates that the Eucharist does remain at the center of his life, and he finds presiding at the Eucharist with the people the most rewarding thing. He also enjoys preaching very much, and finds that the people have been responsive to his efforts in this regard. These probably are the greatest sense of joy for him.

In terms of discouragement or disappointment, for some period of time his health was a problem and did limit him more than he liked in what he was able to do. That's been some discouragement for him. But outside of that, there's nothing in his ministry, he said, that he finds really distasteful. He seems to be a very happy priest at this point. He relates very well with his parishioners, and he seems to be doing very well.

In terms of down the road as far as ministry is concerned, he recognizes that he probably could not ever have a parish that is much larger than he has now. Something somewhat larger would be acceptable, but he realizes that given his limitations he is going to have to be in a smaller parish. He would like to stay in Farmington for a little while longer, another couple of years perhaps, but if something were to open up that offered him some options and some new challenges he certainly would not be adverse to looking at that.

## II. SPIRITUAL LIFE

Father Fortier says that his spiritual life is certainly at the best point it's ever been in his life. Since his treatment at Saint Michael's Center in St. Louis he really has begun to relate to the Lord in a very positive way versus the more fear-laden relationship that he had before. He does a lot of spiritual reading now, he has a spiritual director, and he finds prayer a much more important thing in his life, so for all these reasons he's in a good place spiritually.

He does make an annual retreat, and all in all, feels very good about his spiritual life.

## III. ONGOING FORMATION

Father Fortier has made use of almost all the diocesan workshops and has found them very valuable. In the past year or so, as he's begun to feel somewhat better, he also has begun to read more; so for all these reasons he feels that he's updated theologically in a good way.

He doesn't feel the Diocese could do much more to assist him in this regard at this time, and feels that we do have an excellent number of programs to help him and other priests in this regard.

## IV. PARISH/DEANERY CONCERNS

The parish, he feels, is in good place at this time. There's a wonderful sense of community. The people are very responsive. They've been able to do some things in terms of bringing the buildings into better repair. He's done some repairs in the rectory and in the church, and a lot of that through volunteer donations and labor. In that regard, the church is in pretty good shape.

He says that the strongest point of the parish, obviously, is its warm and welcoming community, and the support that the people give one another. He is somewhat concerned about the finances of the parish. They have a small debt of only about \$8,000, and they are current in all of their expenses, but the parish has lost some major contributors through death and people moving away, and he's wondering about whether or not the situation will remain as good down the road.

He is planning, with the advice of his Finance Committee and Pastoral Council, to go into a stewardship program some time in the Fall. He hopes that that will be successful. He does have a good Pastoral Council and Finance Committee that help him, and he does rely on their advice to a large extent.

He feels that the CCD Program in the parish, which has grown over the last several years, is good, but probably could be improved if they had some more funds. That's probably one area where there should be some growth.

As far as the deanery is concerned, they do collaborate and help one another as best as is possible. He's not sure that there's much more that could be done in that regard. He's happy with the deanery spirit and the support and assistance that it gives to him. Father Armand Turgeon has been very helpful to him when he needs to get away for vacation, and that's been a real blessing for him.

## V. HEALTH

At this point Father Fortier continues to be burdened to a certain extent by [REDACTED]

He does have limitations. He realizes he has to watch himself, but he feels very good at this particular time. The rest of his health is fine. The doctors are pleased with everything else. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] He does get his days off regularly, and vacations regularly, all of which he realizes is very important for him.

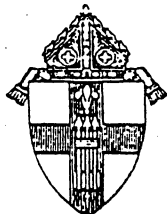
He recognizes that his health will always put some limitations on him in terms of the size of the parish he could handle, but he's more enthusiastic about his ministry at this point because his health has become so much better.

## VI. RETIREMENT

Father Fortier admits he never thought he would get to see retirement age because of his health, but now he is beginning to look at those options. He does have a fairly good insurance policy, and he is now looking to start an IRA. He is in Social Security, and does have enough quarters in to be able to qualify for some small income. He may reenter the program again to make sure he gets the health insurance when the time comes.

He says that he doesn't think he'd ever want to retire fully, that he'd like, perhaps at some point, to live in a rectory with another priest and help out, but he is looking at the various options that exist at this particular time.

I think he is realistic in this regard.



## DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

OFFICE OF THE AUXILIARY BISHOP  
Francis J. Christian, D.D., Ph.D.

153 Ash Street - Box 310  
Manchester, NH 03105-0310

October 28, 1997

Rev. Roger A. Fortier  
c/p St. Joseph Church  
265 Lake Street  
Nashua, N.H. 03061

Dear Roger:

Subsequent to our conversation of this date, this letter will confirm the fact that, effective at 2:30 p.m., in accord with the prescriptions of the Code of Canon Law, and with the knowledge of Bishop Leo E. O'Neil, I am placing you on administrative leave until further notice.

During this period of time, you will not have any of the priestly faculties of the Diocese of Manchester, and may not perform any priestly ministry of any sort in the public forum. You may, however, celebrate Mass privately. It is understood that you will be in residence at St. Joseph Parish in Nashua until further notice, and that you will continue to receive your monthly salary and benefits package, which will be funded directly by the Diocese during the period of this leave.

Should you have any questions or concerns in this regard, please be directly in contact with me.

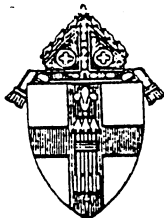
I know that the circumstances which have necessitated this leave of absence are very painful for you. I share in that pain and will certainly keep you in my prayers during this difficult period of time in your life.

Sincerely in Christ,

*Francis J. Christian*

Auxiliary Bishop of Manchester

3850



DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

OFFICE OF THE AUXILIARY BISHOP  
+ Francis J. Christian, D.D., Ph.D.

153 Ash Street - Box 310  
Manchester, NH 03105-0310

October 28, 1997

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Sincerely in Christ,

+ *Francis J. Christian*

Auxiliary Bishop of Manchester



ST. PETER CHURCH, FARMINGTON

The Most Reverend Francis J. Christian, Ph.D.  
Auxiliary Bishop of Manchester

I'm sure that the question on everyone's mind today is, "Can the terrible ~~allegations~~ <sup>charges</sup> against Father Fortier possibly be true?" We are shocked and saddened by them. We perhaps don't want to believe them, but we wonder. We know that many good and caring people, teachers, doctors, lawyers, and even priests, have been afflicted by sexual problems, and we can't help but wonder if the same thing is true in regard to Father Fortier. Only time will tell whether the allegations are in fact true, but there is one thing of which I am sure. We must pray that the full and total truth will be discovered. Our Lord Himself has reminded us that only the truth will set us free. It is only when we know what is true that we can begin to respond appropriately to the reality. It is only then that we can provide the appropriate response, if necessary, for all those who are in need. It is only then that we can put things in place for all the parties concerned in the best way possible. So we must hope that the total truth will be found. *THE DIOCESE IS COOPERATING WITH THE CIVIL AUTHORITIES IN EVERY WAY THAT IS* This will take time. Both the family involved in this matter and Father Fortier have rights under the civil law. Those rights involve sometimes complicated processes. So we must be patient, and not try to rush to a judgment, as helpful as it would be to get all this behind us. However, as we await the discovery of the truth there are some things that need to be done, and the Diocese is in the process of taking the following steps.

1. The alleged victim. *Whether or not the allegations that have been made are either in full or in part true in whole or in part, we know that the boy who has brought these charges*

*CONTACT WITH FR. FORTIER & THE ALLEGED VICTIMS LEGAL RIGHTS IF ANY OF YOU HAVE ANY RELEVANT INFORMATION PLEASE ENCOURAGE YOU TO MAKE IT AVAILABLE TO THE CIVIL AUTHORITIES*

and his family must be suffering a great deal of pain. We need to reach out to them and offer them whatever assistance that we can.

The Diocese has been in contact with his family with the offer of appropriate medical and psychological assistance for the young man and for any other member of the family who might need it. Over and above this, we have assured them of our prayers and support that God will begin a healing process in their lives. I ask you to join me in those prayers for them

2. **Father Fortier.** Father Fortier has been placed on administrative leave, pending the outcome of these allegations. This means that he does not have permission to function as a priest anywhere in this Diocese or any place else in the world. During this time we will provide him with a place to live and with appropriate monetary support. We will also comfort him as best we can with our prayers and with any other appropriate assistance that he needs as he faces this very dark night.
3. **The Parish.** Father Armand Turgeon has most generously volunteered to serve as Temporary Administrator of Saint Peter's. He has been so appointed, and will run the parish for the next several weeks. You know him well, and he has great love for you. In the meantime, the Diocese will make plans to appoint, hopefully before the holidays, a permanent Administrator for the parish, pending the legal outcome of this case.

I know that all of this is painful to everyone, and some of you may feel the need to talk about your pain in more depth. As a result, present with us today is Sister Marie West, a counselor from the staff of Catholic Charities. She will be available after Mass



to speak with any of you about any of your concerns. I will also be available after Mass to try to respond to any other questions you might have.

I said at the beginning of Mass that we are a family of faith. I believe that with all my heart. You, here at St. Peter's, are family, and you belong to the wider family of the Diocese and the whole Church. A family does not desert its members when they are in need. Whatever the reality of the ~~allegations~~ <sup>charge</sup>, several of our family members are in tremendous need. Let us draw closer together to support them and one another during these difficult days. The Resurrection of Christ promises us that God can bring good out of evil and new life out of death. It is that promise that we celebrate every time we gather here. Let us remember that promise and count on it in these dark moments that we now share together.

# State of New Hampshire



JEANNE SHAHEEN  
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

DIVISION OF FIELD SERVICES

STRAFFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
259 COUNTY FARM ROAD, UNIT #4  
DOVER, NH 03820-6015  
(603) 742-6621  
FAX (603) 749-5907

HENRY RISLEY  
COMMISSIONER

MICHAEL K. BROWN  
DIRECTOR

September 10, 1998

Office of the Diocese of Manchester  
P.O. Box 310  
Manchester, N.H. 03105

Re: State v. Roger Fortier

Dear Sir:

The N.H. Department of Corrections is in the process of completing a presentence investigation for the Strafford County Superior Court on Roger Fortier due to his recent felony convictions in the Strafford County Superior Court.

Since my understanding is that he served the Diocese of Manchester for all or most of his years in the priesthood, I would like to give your office the opportunity to provide input into the previously mentioned report concerning the performance of his duties and any other information you may have to assist the Court and myself in learning more about Roger Fortier. If you do choose to assist, please keep in mind that sentencing is scheduled for 10-9-98 so a response would be needed by 9-28-98.

Thank you.

Very Truly Yours,

*Stephen R. Carlisle*  
Stephen R. Carlisle  
Senior Probation/Parole Officer

SRC/bc

| <u>NAME</u>       | <u>DATE OF BIRTH</u> | <u>DATE OF ORDINATION</u> |
|-------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| FORTIER, Roger A. | 10/ 1/46             | 4/26/80                   |

COLLEGES ATTENDED: Nashua Business College, NH College; St. Mary's College  
 ACADEMIC DEGREES: Assoc. in Business Management; Degree equivalent Mt. St. Mary's; MA Candidate  
 SEMINARIES ATTENDED: St. Mary's Seminary, Baltimore, MD; St. Mary's Seminary, Emmitsburg, MD  
 PLACE OF ORDINATION: St. Joseph Cathedral, Manchester, NH  
 ORDAINING PRELATE: Most Rev. Odore J. Gendron, D.D.

PARISH ASSIGNMENTS

|   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| Manchester, Sacred Heart .....                          | 4/26/80             |
| Manchester, St. John the Baptist .....                  | 6/18/80             |
| Rochester, Holy Rosary .....                            | 6/27/84             |
| Leave of Absence, Reasons of Health,<br>for 6 mos. .... | 1/ 4/87             |
| Leave of Absence for Reasons of Health .....            | 1/ 6/88             |
| Nashua, Infant Jesus .....                              | 6/15/88             |
| Leave of Absence for Reasons of Health .....            | 8/25/89             |
| Manchester, Our Lady of Perpetual Help .....            | 10/ 4/89            |
| Plaistow, Holy Angels TEMP. ADM. ....                   | 10/10/90            |
| Farmington, St. Peter PASTOR .....                      | 2/ 6/91             |
| SICK LEAVE .....  | 5/13/93 to 12/ 9/93 |
| Administrative Leave .....                              | 10/28/97            |

APPOINTMENTS/SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS/ADDITIONAL MINISTRY

|  |         |
|--|---------|
| Appointed, Diocesan School Board (3 yrs.) .....  | 8/21/86 |
| Reappointed (3 yrs) 1989                         |         |
| Dioc. Moderator, NH Council of Cath. Women ..... | 3/ 7/91 |
| Resigned 8/1/95                                  |         |
| Council of Priests, Dover Deanery (3 Yrs.) ..... | 9/91    |

*M. Roger Fortier*

3857



DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

OFFICE OF THE AUXILIARY BISHOP  
+ Francis J. Christian, D.D., Ph.D.

September 18, 1998

153 Ash Street - Box 310  
Manchester, NH 03105-0310

Mr. Stephen R. Carlisle  
Senior Probation/Parole Officer  
Strafford County Courthouse  
259 County Farm Road, Unit #4  
Dover, N.H. 03820-6015

Dear Mr. Carlisle:

In response to your letter of September 10, I write in reference to Roger Fortier.

Roger Fortier has been a priest of the Diocese of Manchester since April of 1980. He served as a priest in several parishes of the Diocese during those years, and most recently in St. Peter Parish, Farmington. He is, as you know, currently suspended from priestly ministry due to the charges placed against him and his subsequent conviction.

During his years of priestly ministry; Fr. Fortier was always an effective priest. He ministered well to the people and was generally well liked by them. He did have some problems with alcohol, which were treated with in-patient care for several months. Once returning from that treatment, he did not, to the best of my knowledge, ever again drink or have any problem with substance abuse. His sexual problems with youth were unknown to the Diocese and it is, in my mind, unfortunate that he did not make use of his time in treatment to deal with those other issues. Had he attempted to deal with them, and given his success in not falling back into alcohol abuse, he might very well not have engaged in the destructive behavior for which he has been found guilty.

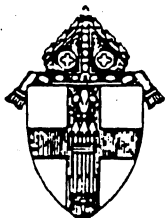
Over the years, Fr. Fortier has had several serious health problems, foremost among which is a serious heart condition. He has undergone open heart surgery on three occasions, and has had heart catheterization on several others. He has been under constant care from specialists in this regard and his heart problems will continue to be a significant issue for him for the rest of his life. His most recent assignments have had to take his health concerns into consideration and provide him with situations where he would experience minimum stress.

Thank you for the opportunity to share these facts with you.

Cordially in Christ,

*+ Francis J. Christian*

Auxiliary Bishop of Manchester



## OFFICE OF THE AUXILIARY BISHOP

+ Most Rev. Francis J. Christian, D.D., Ph.D

Diocese of Manchester

October 12, 1999

Roger Fortier 27250  
P.O. Box 14  
Concord, NH 03302-0014

Dear Roger:

Just a brief note to express my best wishes that your recovery from surgery will be most successful. I am sorry that I did not get a chance to visit you while you were in the hospital. I certainly have kept you in my prayers and hope that you are now feeling better. I am sure that having to go through another procedure was not the most wonderful of experiences. Obviously, however, it will give you much better health in the long run.

Again, be assured of my prayerful best wishes for a speedy recovery. With every good wish, I am

Cordially yours in Christ,

*+ Frank*

Auxiliary Bishop of Manchester

*Hope you're feeling better, Roger!*

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND GENERAL RELEASE

This Agreement made this 30<sup>th</sup> day of November, 1999, by and between [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] and THE ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOP OF MANCHESTER, a corporation sole of 153 Ash St., P.O. Box 310, Manchester, New Hampshire 03105-0310,

WITNESSETH That:

WHEREAS, [REDACTED] and has served a Writ against the Roman Catholic Bishop of Manchester, a corporation sole and others entitled [REDACTED] v. Roman Catholic Diocese of Manchester. and Roger Fortier, which Writ was not entered in the Strafford County Superior Court; and

WHEREAS, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Manchester, a corporation sole, has denied and continues to deny any liability for damages allegedly suffered and claimed by [REDACTED] and deny his entitlement to any relief in connection with the above-referenced Writ, and states that under no circumstances shall this agreement be construed as an admission of liability under any state or federal laws; and

WHEREAS, [REDACTED] and the Roman Catholic Bishop of Manchester, a corporation sole, in good faith, have agreed to avoid the expense and time of litigation proceedings, to resolve all of their differences by this agreement, to keep all information concerning [REDACTED] claims and allegations and the terms of this settlement completely confidential, and that this agreement adequately resolves all of the differences between the parties;

NOW THEREFORE, [REDACTED] and the Roman Catholic Bishop of Manchester, a corporation sole, agree, for the consideration and upon the terms set forth in this agreement, that:

1. [REDACTED] through his counsel has not and will not file his Writ of Summons entitled [REDACTED] v. Roman Catholic Diocese of Manchester and Roger Fortier, in the Strafford County Superior Court or in any other court.

2. [REDACTED] does for himself, his heirs, executors, beneficiaries, administrators, successors, and assigns (the foregoing releasing parties being hereinafter referred to as the "Releasers"), hereby release, remise and forever discharge, fully and finally, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Manchester, a corporation sole, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Manchester, the Diocese of Manchester, all parishes within the Diocese of Manchester, and Roger Fortier, their past, present and future officers, ministers, clerics, priests, Bishops, directors, attorneys, agents, servants, representatives, subsidiaries, partners, representatives, employees, predecessors and successors in interest and assigns, affiliates, 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 "Releasees") 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, judgments, agreements, premises, variances, trespasses, damages, execution, claims and liabilities of whatsoever kind and nature. including, but not limited to, any and all claims for bodily or personal physical injuries, mental anguish, psychological or emotional distress, property damage, medical bills, lost wages, pain and suffering, loss of consortium, 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 by [REDACTED] with respect to the claims brought in a certain Writ entitled [REDACTED] v. Roman Catholic Diocese of Manchester and Roger Fortier, served on the Roman Catholic Bishop of Manchester, a corporate sole, including all claims which have been or could have been raised in connection with said Writ.

3. The Releasors expressly agree that they and their agents, including their counsel, will not, at any time, directly or indirectly, publicize, divulge, discuss or disclose any of their allegations, claims, documents, settlement demands, and offers, including, but not limited to, the terms, provisions and obligations of this Settlement Agreement and General Release, or any other information relating to their claims against the Releasees in any manner whatsoever (including all information related to the claims of any other party or person in connection with matters arising out of the same or similar facts to those alleged in the Writ), except that the Releasors or their agents may disclose such terms to their legal advisors and accountants as may be necessary to receive professional advice and then only if such persons are expressly made aware of this confidentiality provision and agree in writing to be bound hereby, and except as otherwise compelled by final, nonappealable order from a court of competent jurisdiction. Violation of this confidentiality provision by Releasors or their legal advisors or accountants shall immediately result in cancellation of all obligations of Releasees to Releasors hereunder and the immediate return of all monies paid by Releasees to or on behalf Releasors from Releasors.

4. In consideration of this settlement agreement and in consideration of the below mentioned sum of money, and other good and valuable consideration, [REDACTED] hereby agrees to pay from the settlement proceeds herein described any and all medical bills, property damage claims, attorneys' fees, and medical, wage, attorney, workers' and unemployment



compensation liens, and any and all other claims or liens, subrogation rights or other causes of action arising out of the events complained of by [REDACTED] and released herein. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] for and in consideration of the herein mentioned sum of money, and for other good and valuable consideration, hereby agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the Releasees from any and all liens, including but not limited to, wage liens, workers' compensation and unemployment compensation liens, attorney liens, PIP liens, medical liens, and from any and all subrogation rights and other claims and causes of action arising out of the events complained of which may exist or which may hereinafter accrue.

5. Upon execution of this Agreement, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Manchester, a corporation sole, agrees to pay, One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) to the Law Office of Stephen Gaige, Attorneys for [REDACTED] for and on behalf of [REDACTED] and payable jointly to the law office and [REDACTED]

6. It is agreed and understood that this Settlement Agreement and General Release is accepted by the Releasees as a compromise of disputed claims and that it is not to be construed as an admission of liability on the part of the Releasees by whom liability is expressly denied.

7. [REDACTED] hereby acknowledges that he fully understands the terms of this Settlement Agreement and General Release and that he voluntarily accepts the agreed upon consideration for the purpose of making a full and final compromise, adjustment and settlement of any and all matters with the Releasees.

The terms of this release are contractual and not a mere recital.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, [REDACTED] having read carefully the foregoing Settlement Agreement and General Release and knowing and understanding its content, and with


the advice of counsel, signs the same as his own free act and deed this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of December  
1999.

WITNESS:

*John E. Joyce*



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
COUNTY OF HILLSBOROUGH  
(STRAFFORD)

Before me, personally appeared  and took oath that his signature by him  
herein is his free act and deed.

*John E. Joyce*  
Justice of the Peace  
Notary Public

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOP  
OF MANCHESTER, a corporation sole

Martha A. Kipp

By: John P. Quinn  
Its FINANCE OFFICER

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
COUNTY OF HILLSBOROUGH

Before me, personally appeared John P. Quinn on behalf of The Roman Catholic Bishop of Manchester, a corporation sole. and took oath that that his signature is duly authorized.

Edward J. Aisenault  
Justice of the Peace  
Notary Public

vault file

11/12/00

R. Furtier / Personal  
file

Dear Bishop John:

God Bless You: I am most grateful for your letter, and kind words. Every time I meet with you, you always lift up my spirits. I always feel spiritually and emotionally uplifted. You are truly a good shepherd.

I am grateful for all you have done for me. The only way I can repay you is by praying for you which I promised to do. Prayer is what sustains me. I pray the Lord give me the grace not to get discouraged or to despair.

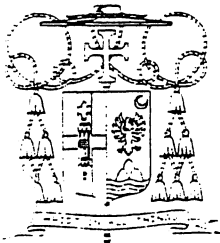
Thank you for listening to my problems. Sometimes I think it's not much to worry about, but then I realize the importance of it all not only to me but to others. I can only pray now that God's will be done, and for the grace to accept whatever happens.

Be assured of my prayers for you and my brother priests. May the Lord grace you in your ministry.

May God bless you in all you do.  
In His Love..

Roger



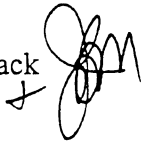


OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

3867

DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Father Arsenault  
FROM: Bishop McCormack   
DATE: August 31, 2001  
RE: Monthly Stipend of Priest in Prison

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OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

FILE: MacRae / Fortier

AUTHORIZED: Ja

Roger Fortier and Gordon MacRae receive a monthly stipend, I think, from your office. Currently I think that it is \$100 a-month plus individual expenses submitted by them. In view of my conversations with both of them today, I ask that you increase the monthly stipend to \$150 per month. If you have any difficulty with this, let me know.

# Memorandum

To: File (Roger Fortier)

From: Detective Peter Favreau; Manchester, NH PD



Date: 09-04-02

Re: Derry Police Investigation

At approximately 15:30 hrs on 09-04-02, I spoke with Lt. Thomas of the Derry Police Department regarding an investigation he conducted in 1984 involving Roger Fortier. Lt. Thomas recalled the investigation and provided me with the following information.

In 1984, Lt. Thomas (at the time Officer Thomas) received information that the owner of [redacted] might be molesting children. The owner was identified as a [redacted] and was said to be luring children from [redacted] to his home [redacted] in Derry. At that residence [redacted] would provide the kids with alcohol, video games, and pornography, and it was suspected that he was sexually assaulting the children as well.

In response to the above information, Officer Thomas conducted surveillance at the [redacted] address and confirmed that there were a number of children going in and out of the home on a regular basis. Officer Thomas spoke with neighbors of [redacted] who told him that there was a priest frequenting the address as well, and this priest was eventually identified as Roger Fortier. It was learned through further investigation that [redacted] and Fortier were showing the children gay pornography and were molesting the children "under the cover of darkness". One or two of the children were eventually identified, but none of the victims admitted to having been assaulted.

Prior to concluding his investigation, Officer Thomas attempted to interview Father Roger Fortier at his new parish in Rochester, but Fortier chose not to speak with him. Thomas was sure that the Diocese of Manchester was aware of all of this information at the time, having received a phone call from "the Bishop's secretary" within days of speaking to Fortier. In that phone call, the secretary asked Thomas if Fortier was going to be arrested, and Thomas responded by saying that they would be notified if and when an arrest warrant was issued. At the conclusion of his investigation, however, Thomas did not have enough to support an arrest of Roger Fortier and the case was closed.

After providing me with the above information, Lt. Thomas said that he would research the case and provide me with copies of the Police reports when he found them. He was sure that there was more information within the reports regarding potential victims, etc. and that all of this information would be available as soon as possible.

# Memorandum

To: File (Roger Fortier)  
 From: Detective Peter Favreau; Manchester, NH PD  
 Date: 09-04-02  
 Re: File breakdown




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File Breakdown and Timeline

Fr. Roger Fortier  
 10-01-46  
 Ordained: 04-26-80

FILE:

- 06-01-78: Letter to Fortier from Rev. Paul Groleau informing him that Bishop Gendron has assigned him to St. Joseph's parish in Salem, NH. Fortier will work for Pastor Karl Dowd. Sounds like a temporary assignment for the summer. There is a note at the bottom that says Dowd has invited him to attend clergy day at Camp Fatima on June 14.
- 06-01-78: Letter to Rev. Karl Dowd from Rev. Groleau saying that Daniel Messier and Roger Fortier have been assigned to St. Joseph's. Says it is an 8 week summer program while they are in seminary school.
- 05-19-79: Ordination (for Deacon) certificate for Roger Fortier signed by Bishop Gendron.
- ???????: Undated questionnaire announcing Fortier's assignment to Sacred Heart Parish in Manchester, NH.
- 04-26-80: Ordination (for priesthood) certificate for Fortier signed by Bishop Gendron.
- 06-04-80: Letter to Roger Fortier from Bishop (Gendron?) advising that he has been appointed as Associate Pastor of St. John the Baptist in Manchester. Will be working for Monsignor Lesmerises and Father Martel. This is his first



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assignment as priest.

- 06-04-80: Letter to Father Desjardins from Bishop (Gendron?) informing him that Fortier will be appointed to St. John the Baptist in Manchester. Thank you for all your help while he was deacon.
- ???????: Undated, unsigned letter/memo advising Fortier that he is assigned to St. John the Baptist in Manchester.
- 06-15-81: Letter to Bishop Gendron from John Burke (Director of retreat at St. Anselm Abbey in Manchester) advising that Fortier made his annual Retreat at that location in June of 1981.
- 06-11-84: Letter to Fortier from Bishop (Gendron?) informing him that he's been assigned as Associate Pastor of Holy Rosary in Rochester. Thanks for your work at St. John the Baptist in Manchester. You will be working with Monsignor Gilles Simard (pastor) and Eugene Pelletier.
- 06-11-02: Letter to Monsignor Simard from Bishop (Gendron?) informing of appointment of Fortier as Associate Pastor of Holy Rosary in Rochester.
- 06-11-84: Letter to Father Paul Gregoire (of St. John the Baptist) from Bishop (Gendron) informing of appointment of Fortier as Associate Pastor of Holy Rosary. He will be replaced at St. John the Baptist in Manchester by Father Dennis Audet.
- 09-26-84: Confidential Memo regarding Fortier from Chancery Office of Manchester. Says that on 9-26-84, [REDACTED] called Father Christian and advised that her family was friendly with father Fortier until last week when Officer Thomas from the Derry Police Department came to their home saying that he had evidence that Fortier was homosexual and that he wanted to question her son. Officer Thomas had been questioning a number of boys from the parish.
- Father Christian called Officer Thomas who had been under the delusion that the Diocese knew all about these matters. Christian assured him that this was not so and that the Diocese never heard that Fortier had any difficulties of this sort. Christian told Officer Thomas that if he had known, would help so that further harm was not done. Officer Thomas said that the Derry Police had information that a priest from Manchester was bringing young men to the home of a homosexual in Derry. The priest was Fortier.
- Officer Thomas claimed that Fortier admitted he was homosexual, admitted to one case of solicitation, and had on occasion served alcohol to minors, and had on occasion shown some pornographic film to minors. Christian told Officer Thomas that he would contact Fortier himself and that the Diocese would be anxious to work with the Police if necessary.
- On September 27, Christian met with Father Fortier. Fortier was cooperative and admitted that he had some difficulties while at St. John's. He admitted to each of the charges that Officer Thomas indicated. Fortier said he knew these things were wrong and since leaving Rochester he had "turned over a new leaf".
- Christian suggested that Fortier begin seeing Dr. Ouellette immediately and to be honest about everything. If he doesn't bring this problem under control, will end up in jail with Bishop helpless to assist. If this results in public scandal, there was the likelihood that the

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**Bishop would be unable to allow Father Fortier to function as a priest in the Diocese of Manchester and probably not anywhere else either.**

- 10-25-84: Letter to Father Christian from Dr. Ouellette saying that Fortier has been seeing him regularly.
- 08-21-86: Letter to Fortier from Bishop (Gendron?) saying that he has been appointed to the Diocesan School Board. Term of 3 years.
- 11-24-87: Letter to Fortier from [REDACTED]
- 12-06-87: Letter to Bishop Gendron from Fortier. Includes copy of letter from [REDACTED] and asks Gendron to consider this letter in his decision making.
- 12-19-87: Letter to Bishop Gendron from Fortier requesting a six month sick leave effective January 4, 1988.
- 12-23-87: Letter to Fortier from Bishop (Gendron?) saying that request for leave is granted for health reasons.
- 05-26-88: Letter to Fortier from Bishop (Gendron?) confirming appointment as Associate Pastor of Infant Jesus parish in Nashua. Will work with Father Eddy Bisson.
- 05-26-88: Letter to Father Bisson from Bishop (Gendron?) saying that Fr. Marcel Martel will be appointed as Associate Pastor of St. Mary Parish in Manchester. He will be replaced at Infant Jesus by Fortier.
- 09-18-89: Letter to Fortier from Bishop (Gendron?) confirming appointment of Fortier as Associate Pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help parish in Manchester. Will work with Father Leonard Foisy. Based on health, will return part-time until better.
- 01-09-91: Letter to Fortier from Bishop O'Neil confirming appointment as Pastor of Saint Peter in Farmington effective February 6, 1991. First assignment as Pastor.
- 01-29-91: Profession of faith for Pastors. Signed by Fortier.
- 06-07-93: Confidential letter to Father William Perri of St. Michael's Center in St. Louis, MO from Father Christian. Says he has spoken with Joan Thorne and learned that Fortier has made a [REDACTED] Hope he will bring the same attitude to St. Michaels when he joins you for therapy relating to his other lifestyle difficulties. Want to make you aware of those issues.

Fortier ordained in 1980. Shortly before his ordination, a member of his family approached the Diocese, concerned that Fortier was homosexual. The family member had no proof and when confronted, Fortier denied. Several years after ordination, Fortier was involved in a police investigation involving child endangerment (Derry). No legal action resulted, but Fortier admitted to "me" (Christian) at the time that he'd been imprudent in bringing young men into the rectory and allowing them to view pornographic materials, and partake in consumption of alcohol. The same type of activity apparently took place at the home of a

male friend in Derry. Fortier was asked at the time to seek counseling which he did for some time. There was no evidence at the time that Fortier was acting out sexually.

It has recently come to my (Christian) attention that for the past 2 or 3 years that Fortier has regularly visited this male friend who now lives in Atlanta, GA. While there, Fortier and friend cruised the gay bars and actively engaged in homosexual encounters. Also learned that for a number of years, Fortier cruised bars in Nashua, NH where he made numerous homosexual contacts. When confronted, Fortier did not deny and seemed to recognize that this is an area in his life that requires a great deal of understanding and control.

I have made it clear to Fortier that the Diocese is concerned about drinking and lifestyle problems and that he can minister as a priest only if and when these problems are controlled. Hate to see him jeopardized his future ministry because of unwillingness or inability to deal with these issues.

12-15-93: Letter to Msgr. Christian from Rev. Daniel Lamothe of St. Joseph's Church in Dover, NH. Says that on December 14, Lamothe met with Fortier at St. Peter's in Farmington at the suggestion of Fathers Gary Belliveau and Paul Gregoire. Letter talks about Fortier spending time with a friend named [REDACTED] and the finance committee and Pastoral council being upset with [REDACTED] involvement in the church. [REDACTED] is said to have a criminal record and has been involved with Little League and scouting during which money disappeared. Lamothe spoke with the Chief of Police who advised that [REDACTED] not be involved in any way from rectory activities.

Fortier is apparently very close with [REDACTED] and had him working at the church with Fortier in the sanctuary and teaching religious education. When informed of the concern, Fortier became very upset and said that no one should be telling him who his friends should be. Fortier had tears in his eyes and questioned whether or not he should stay in Farmington.

12-16-93: Memorandum from Msgr. Christian regarding Fortier. On December 15<sup>th</sup>, spoke with Fortier on the phone to discuss above memo. Fortier told me that he'd already spoken with [REDACTED] to inform him that he could not have any official function in the parish. He was disturbed that parishioners had jumped to conclusions on the basis of appearances, but understood that his creditability and effectiveness was at stake....due to perceptions, better not to serve the parish.

05-23-94: Progress review from St. Michael's—questionnaire to be filled out by Msgr. Christian. Nothing of note.

09-07-94: Letter to Bishop O'Neil from Sr. Joan Lampton, Director of Aftercare at the Servants of the Paraclete. Aftercare for treatment at St. Michael's. Please fill out questionnaire.

10-24-94: Progress review from St. Michael's—questionnaire to be filled out by Msgr. Christian. Nothing of note.

11-15-94: Letter to Bishop O'Neil from [REDACTED]

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- 02-01-95: Letter to Bishop O'Neil from Joan Lampton of St. Michael's. Please fill out questionnaire regarding March aftercare. Letter to Fortier from Lampton about March aftercare...when to arrive etc.
- 03-20-95: St. Michael's community progress review regarding Aftercare workshop from March 20. Questionnaire to be filled out by Msgr. Christian. Nothing of note except that he has transitioned nicely back to parish ministry.
- 04-11-95: Progress report of Fortier from [REDACTED]
- 06-21-95: Letter to Bishop O'Neil from Joan Lampton of St. Michael's....please fill out Aftercare questionnaire. Nothing of note in attached questionnaire.
- 08-06-97: Memo about Fortier from Msgr. Christian regarding his work at St. Peter's in Farmington. Has been at St. Peter's for nearly 7 years and is very happy. Fortier is most happy providing Eucharist and also enjoys preaching. Health is a problem but very happy and good relationship with parishioners. He recognizes that he cannot go to a larger parish due to health and would like to remain in Farmington for a couple more years. Health is best it has been for some time but still a concern.
- 10-28-97: Letter to Fortier from Msgr. Christian. Placing you on Administrative Leave until further notice. During this time, no priestly faculties of the Diocese of Manchester. You will be in residence at St. Joseph in Nashua until further notice.
- ???????: Undated, unsigned handwritten notes about "Felonious Sexual Assault", arraignment October 27 or 28 etc. Talks about [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] "Horseplay, kissing, mutual oral sex, finger in anus". "Seemed to enjoy" "Mother found out somehow, called police". Police found gay magazines. 1 other person in Farmington, started at 16, 1 1/2 years ago, 3 or 4 times.
- ???????: Undated speech on St. Peter's Church, Farmington letterhead from Msgr. Christian with some handwritten notes. Talks about allegations against Fortier, can they be true? We want the truth and Diocese is cooperating with authorities in every way. Regardless of truth, boy and family are suffering and must reach out to them. Fortier on Admin leave and must pray for him as well. Father Turgeon will serve as temporary administrator of St. Peter's.
- 09-10-98: Letter to Diocese of Manchester from Stephen Carlisle, parole officer from NH DOC. Letter requests that someone write a letter on behalf of Fortier to provide any info that might be useful in pre-sentence investigation of "recent felony convictions".
- 09-18-98: Letter to Mr. Carlisle from Francis Christian about Fortier for pre-sentence investigation. Says that Fortier served as priest most recently at St. Peter's in Farmington but is currently suspended due to charges against him and subsequent conviction. Fortier was always an effective priest and well liked. Did have drinking problem but went to treatment and solved. Sexual problems with youth were unknown to the Diocese and it is unfortunate that he did not make use of treatment to deal with those other issues. Had he attempted to deal with them, and given the success with alcohol, may very well not have engaged in the destructive behavior for which he has been found guilty. He has health problems which will be a significant issue for him for the rest of his life.

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- ???????: Undated list of Fortier's education, Parish assignments, and special assignments.
- 10-12-99: Letter to Fortier from "Frank", "Auxiliary Bishop of Manchester wishing Fortier a speedy recovery from surgery.
- 11-03-99: Copy of settlement involving a [REDACTED] and the Diocese of Manchester. It appears that [REDACTED] sued or intended to file suit against The Roman Catholic Bishop of Manchester "a corporation sole", but instead settled on \$100,000. Does not mention any details regarding the foundation for the suit.
- 11-12-00: Handwritten letter to "Bishop John" from Fortier thanking him for his letter, kind words, and visit.
- [REDACTED] Newspaper clipping of death announcement of 17 year old [REDACTED] who died "unexpectedly in his home". Says [REDACTED] was a [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]
- 08-31-01: Memo to Father Arsenault from Bishop McCormack requesting that monthly stipend for Fathers Fortier and Gordon MacRae (who are both in prison) be increased from \$100 to \$150.

**\*\*File ends with copy of NH Supreme Court decision on State V. Fortier dated August 2000.**