



Diocese of Pembroke

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

CONFIDENTIAL

May 4, 1998

His Eminence Aloysius Cardinal Ambrozic,
Archbishop of Toronto,
Catholic Pastoral Centre,
1155 Yonge Street,
Toronto, Ontario,
M4T 1W2

Your Eminence,

I am writing with regard to a priest of the Diocese of Pembroke, Rev. Lorne Whalen. He has been studying in Toronto since 1995. As you may remember, there was an incident which occurred in 1996 involving a parishioner of St. Margaret's Parish. In a letter dated October 24 1996 you removed his faculties to hear confessions in the Archdiocese of Toronto and to celebrate or concelebrate Mass publicly.

Father Whalen has completed his studies at Regis College and has been applying for positions in the Corrections Service. He feels that he does not have the necessary qualifications and so has enrolled in a CPE course this summer. He has indicated to me that in the Fall there is a possibility of a residency at a Toronto hospital.

Father Whalen has asked me to write you to ask if you would review your decision in light of the efforts he has made to gain greater insight into his behaviour. He has indicated that he is involved in a support group for survivors as well as taking part in ongoing therapy with a psychiatrist.

I will be in Toronto for the meeting of the Catholic Church Extension May 8th as well as for the Knight of Columbus Convention May 15 -18th, I was hoping that we might have an opportunity to talk about this matter at one of those times.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Brendan M. O'Brien,
Bishop of Pembroke