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October 12, 1982.

The Honorable Ed Lumley M.P.,  
Stormont-Dundas,  
302 Baldwin Avenue,  
Cornwall, Ont.

Dear Ed:

Some months ago, I asked Fr. Gary Ostler to contact you about the plight of Reverend Carl Stone, an American priest from Malone, New York who had applied to work in our diocese. Father Stone received his education in Ottawa-Hull and worked in British Columbia with the native population in his early ministry. He also worked in Cornwall in past years. Having retired from active ministry in Albany, New York, Father Stone wished to return to Cornwall where he had established friendship with the priests of the Diocese of Alexandria-Cornwall and where he would have easy access to visiting his elderly father still living in Malone.

Father Stone applied for landed immigrant status in November 1981 while accepting my appointment as chaplain at the Saint Joseph Villa in Cornwall and chaplain at Mount Carmel House in St. Raphael, Ont. Since that time, he has been working with temporary extension permits. When Father Gary contacted you, you suggested that Mr. Fernand Fern met and Father Stone was given until October 29th in this country.

The problem at hand concerns a sexual offense for which Father Stone was tried and convicted in a court in Albany. This was the first time that Father Stone was convicted on this or any other offense. He since has sought treatment at Southdown in Aurora, Ontario. He continues to visit monthly as an out-patient. He received a suspended sentence and is presently being monitored by a probation officer here in Cornwall. This being confidential due to Father's integrity and ability to function here in the community.

I firmly believe that Father Stone has sought help for his problem, is responding well to treatment and should be allowed to stay in this country. He is doing excellent work at Saint Joseph Villa and Mount Carmel House. He is a regular member of a priest prayer group which meets weekly and he continues to visit a psychiatrist at the Southdown Treatment Centre.

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Father Gary assures me that his dossier with Immigration in Cornwall is complete. Father Stone was told on Thursday of this past week that he would have to apply for landed immigrant status at the Consulate in Albany, N.Y. and, upon inquiry by telephone with an officer at the Consulate, that this procedure will take six months for its completion. This means that since his extension permit runs out on October 29th 1982, Father Stone will have to cease his work at Saint Joseph Villa and Mount Carmel House. This is what I would like to avoid. He has shown himself responsible both in his personal conduct and in his ministry. Due to his role in the community, I would ask you to keep this matter confidential. I believe his case warrants special consideration and I would ask you to do whatever you can to assist in this matter. We both realize that as I ask this, there is a time factor of 17 days at play.

My sincere thanks for whatever you can do to help me in this matter. If he were to go, I have no priest to replace him in the work he is doing.

Faternally yours,

Eugene P. LaRocque,  
Bishop of Alexandria-Cornwall