

St. Francis Xavier's Parish Moree

33 Gwydir Street,
Phone : (067) 52-2886

P.O. Box 270,
MOREE, N.S.W., 2400.
30 August 1993

Most Rev KM Manning DD
Catholic Bishop of Armidale
Catholic Chancery Office
PO Box 93
Armidale 2350

Dear Bishop,

^{CPE} had occasion to call this morning around another matter and in conversation raised the matter of the allegation of her son's being sexually abused by Fr John Farrell during his time here as an assistant. She was angry around the fact that "the Church had done nothing for those boys". She went on to claim that the anger was shared by other Parishioners as well.

I explained that at the time I had been invited in to speak with the boys and their parents and that I had been advised that the ^{REDACTED} did not want me to call. Accordingly, I had respected that wish. ^{CPE} said that she had never given such advice. I acknowledged her understanding of the matter and went on to repeat that it was the advice I had received and that I had acted upon.

I went on to say: that the Diocese regretted all that had happened; that the Diocese recognised her son's right to proceed with civil charges anytime during his life as there was no statute of limitations and that the Diocese acknowledged that right; that the Bishops had stated publically the Church would provide adequate counselling/therapy for any victim who needed that help, that the promise was made seriously and would be honoured. I gave her a copy of the Bishops' recent public statement.

^{CPE} said that at this stage she saw no indications of traumatization in her son.

It may be opportune for you to write to the family asking her to speak with you around the matter. Pastorally it would certainly be helpful here in the Parish if a formal apology were to be issued. I would presume that legal advice would need to be sought before proceeding that way as the apology would be a statement which could be tendered to a court as evidence that the Diocese deemed the allegation as substantiated. In fact my comment to ^{CPE} implied that I knew her son was among the alleged victims and I may have been injudicious to have responded the way I did. Either way it seems appropriate to brief you of the conversation. The matter is difficult as it is sensitive.

I trust you are keeping well.
I am, dear Bishop,
Yours sincerely,

Bernara Flood