

TEL. (BISHOP'S HOUSE) 72 2218

St. Mary's Cathedral Parish,

P.O. Box 93,

Armidale, N.S.W. 2350

11 March 1977

Rev N. Collins,  
 President  
 St Patrick 's College  
 Manly.

Dear Father,

With respect to your enquiry regarding REV PETER KNEIPP and his general conduct etc while here for the summer vacation, I am very happy to state that in every way Peter made a very favourable impression here. His efforts to fit in with the house community, to share the work load of visitation and Sunday Liturgy and his general readiness to pick up the thousand little trivial bits and pieces that go into the workaday world of a parish priest are worthy of commendation. He should do well as a priest because he prays, studies and is prepared to work. Would there were more like him.

With respect to JOHN FARRELL. I feel a little biased against John and my comments may be jaundiced because of his angular personality (or mine). The Bishop and I don't seem to agree on what I regard as important and it may be fairer to John that other opinions are considered about him as well as mine.

During the vac. he was available for any help we might have wanted in regard to liturgical efforts. He is not keen on drudgery, and likes to be part of the social (broad sense) side of the presbytery life. I think he is lazy, and I think he is a front-runner, likes the spot lights. Try him on a job and suddenly he is off to Sydney or somewhere.

That's what I mean about being getting another opinion. He is not a type to bring scandal to the Church or Clergy. He invites comment from all corners because he seems to leave an impression in every corner. He may become a good priest but for mine he will be in need of some help in "listening" and communicating TWO WAY not just one way which is my way of saying that he thinks what he wants to do and prepares to do it BEFORE seeking advice. Well, Neil this is somewhat tedious for you and your consultants but I offer it in the hope that if there is a genuine vocation here it is not spoilt by being too tentative about what I regard as correctable faults in a man's personality. (Excuse the typing).

With best wishes and hopes that what I have ~~sent~~ written may be of positive use,

Yours Sincerely in Christ,

*St. Michael*