

St. Francis Xavier's Presbytery

BOWEN STREET, NARRABRI, N.S.W. 2390

P.O. BOX 182

TELEPHONE

28th April, 1988

Most Rev. A-J. Kennedy, D.D.
Bishop of Armadale.
Bishops House,
Armadale.

My dear Lord Bishop,

Following our conversation last Friday, I wish to offer my sympathy once again on the death of your brother. We prayed for him at all masses last Sunday. May he rest in peace.

I wish, also, to apply for holidays over the weekends of 31st May, 7th & 14th June. Fr Bernie He has agreed to attend to the needs of the parish on that period. I am also grateful to be excused from the conference & senate meeting.

Herewith also is a report on the Diaconate Programme of Rev. John Farrell for the period of Feb 20 to April 26th 1981. In preparing the report I have tried to be unbiased but, at the same time I would like to mention a few matters for your own information.

John seems to presume ordination to the priesthood is just a matter of course. Another wor

St. Francis Xavier's Presbytery

BOWEN STREET, NARRABRI, N.S.W. 2390

P.O. BOX 182

TELEPHONE

2

he gives the impression that this year is merely formality and that it doesn't seem to have any bearing on his priestly ordination. You are aware of the lumpy sort of nature he possesses and this did not do his reputation much good in Narrabri. He seemed overly interested in his money and even suggested a farewell would be in order for him. I quickly squashed that idea. Perhaps these ideas should be included in the general report but, as he is a bit sensitive, I think it may do more harm than good - especially as he seemed a bit upset that the other priests on Vocation Team had access to Fr Le Fevre's report. I believe they should if they, under your mandate, direct this programme. Although he mostly attends Mass, in full regalia, I did not see much evidence of other exercises of piety. He seems to celebrate himself a fair deal and hasn't much concern for domestic arrangements e.g. a few times it was 10 o'clock when he arrived down for breakfast without any arrangements with the housekeeper & whilst he did a lot of visitation there were times he was out till long after I retired (and that's not without any indications as to where he was. "I've been nipped out to dinner." was his general statement - often rather more.

St. Francis Xavier's Presbytery

BOWEN STREET, NARRABRI, N.S.W. 2390

P.O. BOX 182

3.

TELEPHONE

During John's stay here the housekeeper (Ella) was on holidays. Another lady came in to cook dinner + leave the evening meal prepared. He hinted, on at least on occasion, that the idea of getting his own breakfast was a bit below his dignity. As you can see, I am a confused as to how much should go in the report. The other hand, I feel it would not be right if you to be in the dark about these matters when a decision as to whether he should be ordained to the priesthood really falls heavily on your shoulders. If I were a Bishop (*quod Deus avertat!*) I would want to see changes in these matters before accepting the responsibility of ordaining him. Perhaps I have let you down by not being a bit harder on him as requesting more accountability. At least I seem to be impressed him as he has expressed the idea he wouldn't mind coming here - at this stage I do think I'd be really happy with him as he did people off-side. Even my chief altar boy retired towards the end of his stay - (REDACTED you may remember him).

I hope I haven't been too critical of John in this letter. I shall now write the official report.

With every good wish,

I remain, Yours obediently
 C. Harry Leis