

Fr Brian Lucas

To: John F. Davoren
Subject: RE: JF Armidale

There have been developments - positive I think. The mother rang me back. She spoke with the son and as it turned out he was pleased that she had contacted the Church. He was pleased to know that JF was not acting as a priest and commented that he was glad he had been 'punished'. They do not seem to want to go to the police. The son wanted some time to think about his options. The family seemed to have had a round table involving also a daughter who the son disclosed to in confidence a year ago and that seems to be positive for everyone with lots of hugs etc and a realisation that parents were not to blame and that the son would not be rejected. It also appears to be positive that he felt believed - that was apparently his fear that he would be rejected. I told the mother to keep in touch as they want to and we will respond as we can. She said she had given the son my number. I have informed Bishop Matthys of this. I doubt that JF would run the Nestor option. Usher and I interviewed him and that would be conclusive evidence against him canonically I think.

Brian

-----Original Message-----

From: John F. Davoren [SMTP:john.davoren@pso.catholic.org.au]
Sent: Wednesday, 7 February 2001 4:48
To: Fr Brian Lucas
Subject: RE: JF Armidale

Dear Brian,

I suggest that the lady calling you be encouraged to encourage her son to make a formal complaint in the usual way through the contact line 1300369977. We can then follow up with support etc. Unless he takes action himself it is very difficult to follow through on messages from a third party, even a mother of a victim.

I agree with you about the police. They would be the best bet if he can be persuaded to talk to anyone. It might also help the Church in sorting out our friend JF who, I believe may be thinking of following the lead of John Nestor to Rome. With that in mind there may be some advantage in beginning a canonical process if this complaint comes to anything. There have been a few involving JF that did not go very far. In the middle of one short lived process he almost convinced another bishop that he should be given an appointment!

At the moment there is very little that can be done about JF as you know, and while the facts may not be much in doubt, equally they are not very clear. What does the Bishop need to know before he can proceed? Has he notified his legal advisers?

It sounds as if there might be a fair degree of disturbance in this family [at least on the part of the principal victim] and I doubt if "counselling" will be much help, and therapy is not likely to be acceptable. This has some of the hall marks of a messy civil action if the mother decides to stay with it, and not be talked out of action by the son. As you know there is no automatic benefit in his making a complaint; the process can be painful and frustrating, especially if there is little or no money at the end of the rainbow.

John Davoren
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