

14 December 1998
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The Reverend Peter Rushton
 The Rectory
 68 Church Street
 MAITLAND NSW 2320

Dear Fr Peter

Greetings and Peace.

I am in receipt of your letter and I'm grateful to you for the assurances you have given me. I was deeply impressed with your willingness to see this as a moment of God's working in your life, to bring about a better commitment within the Priesthood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I am in the process of making contact with the removalists so that an apology could be made on behalf of the diocese and I will indicate to them your willingness to apologise to those persons who were involved in the initial packing and move.

I write to also confirm that in the documents that have been tended to us through the legal representatives there is an unequivocal statement which revokes any suggestion at all of child pornography or anything associated with it.

Given all that has taken place I have suggested to Bishop Beal, and after discussing this further with Dr Howard Johnson, it would be my suggestion that you consider a 30-day retreat early in 1999, perhaps at St Mary's Towers, Douglas Park, or in some other suitable venue, with a spiritual director who would be able to assist and encourage you in reflecting on the deeper issues and shadows that enabled and encouraged the particular situation we have been dealing with in the last few weeks.

Please be assured of my constant prayers for you and my desire to see the priesthood of all of us restored to holiness in Christ, in whom all our offerings of life, however weak, are accepted and glorified. Every Blessing.

Yours sincerely

+Roger Herft
 Bishop of Newcastle

P.S. Enclosed is Dr. Johnson's report to me which I discussed with him on 9/12/98. RHL

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