

OFFICE OF THE SERVANT GENERAL

August 17, 1989

The Most Reverend Ronald A. Mulkeams, D.D.
Bishop of Ballarat
P O Box 121
BALLARAT, VIC. 3350
(5 Lyons St. South)
Australia

Your Excellency,

Please excuse my tardy response to your letter of August 4, 1989. I just concluded visitation at our Europe House and had General Council Meetings, and so now am giving over due attention to your inquiry.

The Servants of the Paraclete have as our mission to provide treatment programs of a therapeutic and spiritual nature for priests and Brothers in personal difficulty. This includes the area of sexual misconduct with children and minors, as well as other sexual conflicts in addition to a wide range of personality and emotional problems. Our Programs here in Jemez Springs specifically focus on sexual misconduct with children and minors. I have enclosed a brochure which describes these facilities and Programs.

I would share an historical note. Seven years ago we suppressed the canonical foundation of "Via Coeli." Over the years, the name Via Coeli had come to be associated with custodial care and penitential houses. Starting in the late 1970's, we have developed strong therapeutic programs of a psychiatric and psychological nature with the spiritual component being integral. Our ministry in years past was fitting for those times. However, creating the facilities of Foundation House and Villa Louis Martin communicates better the emphasis we place on offering therapeutic programs of quality calibre for priests and Brothers in significant personal and social trouble.

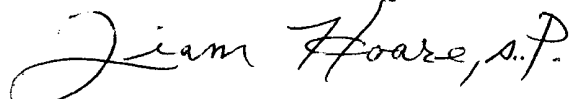
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I would like to specifically respond to the personal concern about which you wrote, regarding the priest in question who has been out of active ministry for some time. Our Programs in Jemez Springs would offer appropriate resource and treatment for him. As described in the enclosed brochure (page four), we first evaluate thoroughly all prospective candidates for treatment, so we might offer the what is best therapeutically for the individual. The cost for the week long evaluation runs about \$1,100.00. The average per diem cost of a Program is \$105.00. These costs include room and board, plus fees for the therapeutic professional personnel. The average length of a treatment program is five months, but can be extended if individual needs warrant such. For Dioceses and religious communities for whom these costs would be prohibitive, we offer some financial assistance through our fund raising efforts, and the costs can be negotiated. It is most desirable that a man's superior can attend a Discharge Planning Conference with our Professional Staff during the final month of treatment.

I wish to commend you and your Brother Bishops of the Australian Conference for your interest and concern for well-being of the priests of your Diocese, and likewise the wellbeing the people of the Dioceses. As you know, resources and treatments are available today which in many cases can alleviate and heal much of the personal pain and suffering which some of our priests experience in isolation and humiliation due to sexual and personality difficulties. The collective help we can together provide these men in turn serves to protect the people and in many cases, returns to the parishes priests who are significantly more effective and compassionate.

Your Excellency, thank you once more for your letter of inquiry on behalf of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference. The reason the Servants of the Paraclete exist as a religious community is to assist priests and Brothers in a wide variety of personal difficulty and pain. Be assured we stand ready to assist you and your Brother Bishops in any way possible.

Yours in Christ's Spirit



(Very Rev.) Liam J. Hoare, s.P.
Servant General
Servants of the Paraclete

Program Director
Foundation House

Enc. 1.