

13th October, 1989

Rev Father Peter Lechner S P
Vicarius
Villa Louis Martin
Jemez Springs
NEW MEXICO 87025
U S A

Dear Father Peter,

Thank you for your letter of October 3rd. I am grateful to you for your prompt attention to my request for the admission of Father Gerald Ridsdale and for your prompt response to my letter concerning him. I have forwarded on to him your letter of October 3rd and asked him to advise me of progress in his efforts to secure the appropriate documentation for his departure for the United States.

I have made it clear to Father Ridsdale that it is unlikely that it would be possible for him to work in this diocese in the future, should he be deemed able to work in the priestly ministry at all and he accepts this fact. I have not yet made any enquiries from other Bishops, as I was waiting for some recommendation after his time at Jemez Springs. However, I will take the opportunity of the meeting of the Australian Catholic Bishops to take place late November-early December to sound out the possibility of someone placing him in the event that it is deemed prudent to do so.

I note your emphasis on the desirability of a meeting with staff members and myself at the end of the program. I will certainly try to fit in with any arrangements. I will have to travel to Rome in September of next year, but this will probably be too late for such a meeting as you envisage. In any case, I will try my best to see what can be done when the time comes. In the meantime, my thanks for your promise of assistance.

With every good wish,

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Bishop of Ballarat