



Diocese of Wollongong		
21 DEC 2007		
Bishop	Charismatic	DPA
Refer		
File	Reply	

St Anthony's Parish Picton
20 Stratford Road Tahmoor NSW 2573

Telephone: 02 4683 2230

Facsimile: 02 4683 2235

Email: picton@parish.woll.catholic.org.au

Most Rev Bishop Peter Ingham DD
Catholic Church Offices
PO Box 1239
Wollongong NSW 2500

19th December 2007

Dear Bishop Ingham,

We, the undersigned, wish to carry out a duty of conscience in regard to our brother priest Fr John Nestor.

Each of us has been contacted by *Kamira Stacey Consulting* about allegations made against Fr John Nestor in relation to camps he ran between 1989 and 1993. We were contacted because we were involved in the running of some of the camps.

We wish to respectfully make two points to you: first, we did not co-operate with the investigation because we thought it would have been fairer, and seen to be fairer to Fr Nestor, if an investigative body mutually acceptable to the Diocese and Fr Nestor be employed. Furthermore, the mode of enquiry used by *Kamira Stacey Consulting* does not give sufficient scope to properly assess the circumstances of the camps.

Second, and most importantly, we never noticed any actions of an immoral nature by Fr Nestor on the aforementioned camps.

We have always found Fr Nestor to be a faithful and dedicated priest. For us even the length of time taken to resolve this matter, a time in which Fr Nestor has been left without an official position to exercise his priestly ministry, is a painful injustice. Therefore, trusting in your well considered judgment, we sincerely hope that there is a way forward in the priestly ministry for Fr Nestor, either in Australia or overseas.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr Bernard L Gordon
Parish Priest
Picton

Fr Mark De Battista
Assistant Priest
Camden