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Most Rev P Wilson DD JCL
 Bishop of Wollongong
 PO Box 1239
 Wollongong SCMC NSW 2521

Dear Philip,

I wish to draw your attention to unresolved matters concerning my suspension from parish activities at St John Vianey's School on 24th April, 1996, and suspension from all public ministerial duties on 30th April, 1996.

In regard to the matter of 24th April, I was suspended by Fr Paul Ryan, then Diocesan Administrator, on the stated grounds that Mr T White, Director of the Catholic Education Office, had informed him that there were "rumours" about me. Naturally, I asked what were these "rumours" and who (if any known person) had reported them. Fr Ryan stated that he did not know. On 26th April, 29th April, 14th May and 21st August, I again asked Fr Ryan to ascertain the source and nature of these rumours, without any success. On 21st August, Fr Ryan promised that he would ascertain this information for me, from Mr White, and let me know. I have not heard from Fr Ryan since that date.

In regard to my suspension from all public ministerial duties on 30th April, 1996: On verbally suspending me, Fr Ryan refused to give any details of the complaint made against me (except that it was of a sexual nature), nor any details of the evidence tended concerning the complaint, nor when the complaint was made, nor who the alleged offense was against, nor who had received the complaint. He suggested that Fr Brian Lucas would be able to tell me more; but Fr Lucas claimed to know only that it involved a juvenile, and was alleged to have occurred in 1991.

I have now been suspended from all public ministerial duties for almost five months, without being given any further details by the Church. On 21st August, Fr Ryan promised to get me, at least some of these details; as I said, I have not heard from him since that date. All of these details, I point out, were- in regard to the criminal charge I am facing- speedily supplied by the police. I presume that the complaint to the Church is connected with the criminal charge, but I would prefer that this be clarified, and am mystified at the secrecy on the Church's part.

The course of these events reflects poorly on the Church. As someone who has dedicated his life to its service, I find the attitude painful in the extreme.

While I have kept this letter brief, I must say that the secrecy has not quieted nagging suspicions that certain officials of the diocese have been less than fully candid in regard to this matter. An openness towards dealing with me in these two matters would do much to allay my doubts.

With my continuing prayers, and begging your prayers for me,

Fr J G Nestor
 (Fr) John G Nestor.

