

Professional Standards Office

Established by the Bishops and Leaders of Religious Institutes
of the Catholic Church
in NSW and the ACT

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16 December 1997

Most Reverend P Wilson, DD JCL
Catholic Church Offices
PO Box 1239
WOLLONGONG SCMC NSW 2521

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Dear Bishop Wilson,

I acknowledge receipt of your documents of 5 December enclosing notes of a counselling session with father, mother and 16 year old son.

This material seems to be very much in agreement with information already available from the ABI interviews.

It seems that there are three ways of proceeding on this matter:

- 1) to pursue it as a police matter.
- 2) to commence the canonical process with the possible outcome of laicisation, or
- 3) to seek to exclude him from any further ministry in the diocese but not to attempt laicisation.

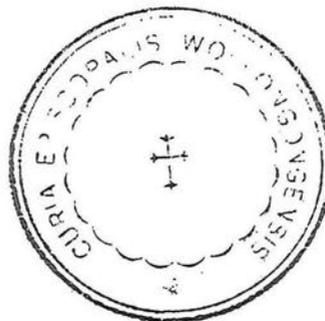
Whether or not it becomes a police matter will, of course, depend on whether the 16 year old and his parents are agreeable. The boy appears to have been a witness to actual criminal abuse of his younger brother. While one would not wish to dissuade them from police action the family would need to be warned about the implications of their taking that step, the pain of going to court and the fact that the accused will fight valiantly and seek to make it very unpleasant for anyone whom he sees as being hostile to him.

If the track is chosen of a canonical process I presume that a thorough preliminary investigation could be helpful. Howard Murray could help by reviewing the documents and following up the interview of the family of 19 September.

I would be very happy to discuss this matter further with you, after you have had a chance of considering these options.

Yours sincerely,


John Davoren



R.W. phone 18/12/
E.M. Delaney