

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION REGARDING FRATER BARTHOLOMEW (BART)forMR. TONY CARROLL OF CARROLL AND O'DEA

Spratt

BACKGROUND

Bart has been a primary teacher since about 1969. He has taught in Far North Queensland and New South Wales and the A.C.T. He has characteristically been a person who worked largely alone and worked best alone. Not a good team man but a sound teacher and usually popular although occasionally had a reputation for favourites. During 1985 in northern New South Wales his Principal received comments regarding unwise association with students. He was alone with students in class. Students were seen standing very close. Occasionally he would take students on messages in the car with him. To a large extent it seemed to be one boy and one girl involved. They were aged about eleven.

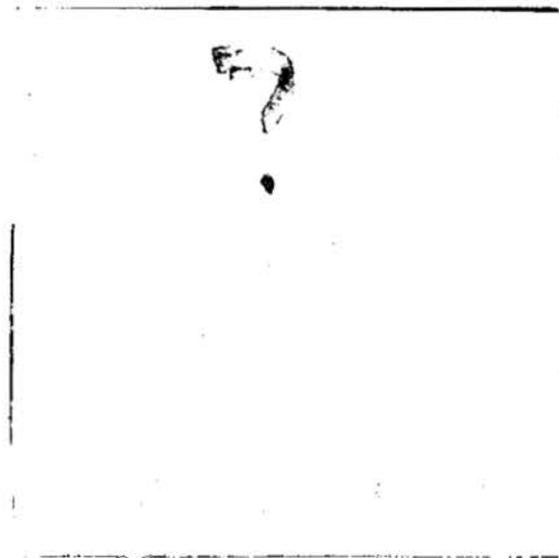
The Principal of the Northern Rivers school had a difficult relationship with Bart. Brother Alexis was notified and discussed the matter with Bart. The Principal had prepared a letter of reprimand with a contractual section for signing by Bart. The letter/agreement was handed to Bart for signing pointing out that he was not to be alone with children after school or in isolated situations. Bart agreed and signed. Following this no further comments came regarding his behaviour for some twelve months. The Principal was reasonably satisfied.

Just over twelve months later, further complaints. In a process of counselling two students said Bart was confiding too much in them, treating them like adults and they were being alienated from fellow students because of favouritism. Again, the question of taking students for rides and being alone with them. Complaints by staff and parents.

Brothers Alexis and Alman were involved. Bart was removed from the school. The Principal was under stress. The Principal had divided loyalties. There was implied criticism of the Principal from the C.E.O. and the Principal's own Order. Although there was no specific incriminating evidence, there were suspicions. Seems largely to have been a problem of being out of touch with his feelings for Bart. Brother Alexis confronts strongly and Bart goes to Melbourne to see Brother Vince Ryan, a Clinical Psychologist. Brother Ryan assessed that he needed strong therapy. Brother Ryan doubted that Bart even knew what his feelings were, to be able to talk about them.

Therapy arranged with psychiatrist in Sydney. At the last minute Bart unable to follow through. Brother Michael Hill involved in selecting the therapist. Bart informed that he would not be returning to teaching unless he underwent a thorough period of therapy. He was unable to comply with this. Bart obtained a job as administrator at a seminary. He was quite successful here until there was a change of Rector. He could not see eye to eye with the new Rector. Eventually he was told his position would be terminated. Bart then resigned. He was also having some problem medically with gallstones. An elective operation was planned.

About August 13th, Alexis receives phone calls from Brother X. Concerned about Bart. The father of a twenty-seven-year-old from far north Queensland who was an ex-student of Bart, had come to see X. The twenty-seven-year-old son had just suicided. The twenty-seven had mentioned earlier to his own brother that he had had improper relations (interfered with) with Bart when twenty-seven was in his class (aged 11). He had on-going thoughts



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of uncleanness and was upset. Twenty-seven had a history of difficulty with relationships, especially with girls. He felt unclean. The brother of twenty-seven told the father. The father confronted Bart after the suicide. Bart did not deny. The father took no further action. The original phone call to Alexis from X was because Bart had talked about jumping off the bridge.

Two days later, I think August 13th, (the earlier date was more like August 9th or 10th for X and the twenty-seven-year-old), Brother P. approached Alexis. Brother P. had been approached by a concerned parent south of Sydney at Onslow. Brother P. was a school principal himself. The parent had seen strong written evidence and official of evidence of Bart interfering with ten to twelve-year-old children in a serious manner. Seems to have been five years ago. Police were investigating and regarded it extremely seriously. All the material concerned a period of some four or five years ago. Children and the parents of children in the original class were being interviewed. The situation looked extremely serious. The parent contacting was very concerned and even distraught for the Brothers' good name, angry at Bart. Wanted to see Alexis. Alexis reluctant, consulted legal advice and declined to see parent to protect both parent and self and Brothers. Great concern for children. Possibility of therapy if needed. Assurance given to parent that matter would be followed up strenuously.

Alexis approached Bart. Bart did not deny although strongly denied the extent and number of people involved. However, Bart was at last ready to undergo therapy. The best places for such therapy are in the U.S. and Canada. Arrangements made for Bart to go to Therapy Centre in the U.S. Bart left for evaluation at Therapy Centre on Friday, August 18th.

20th August, 1989.