

Interview of 17.12.93 with ACN [redacted], the Father, Mr. Brian McLeod, Youth Advocate Officer, Alexis and Michael Hill at the Community Youth Advocate's Office

The question was asked "What is the response of the Brothers to the demands?" I acknowledged that most of the requests were either very reasonable or already in place. We went through each of those and a letter below indicates the response.

The interview was difficult as it was not possible to clarify anything with the lad concerned as he felt it was too painful for him to talk about. This has made the whole discussion and clarification difficult at all stages. The Youth Advocate Officer assumed much greater significance, and in fact at times was even telling us how the boy thought and felt. I continued to address comments to the lad. I apologised to him for any hurt that may have come to him through contact with Marist Brothers and particularly with JKC. I pointed out that the Brother had defended himself and it was not clear just exactly how many of the lad's present problems would be totally due to his contact with JKC. I acknowledged the stress on him, the family and also the problem of the arthritis. The Youth Advocate Officer had indicated that the arthritis had been intensified because of this problem.

The lad indicated that he was very happy with his work with the school counsellor but was also going to a psychologist recommended by the Youth Advocate and the school counsellor. The school counsellor strongly denies this. Again they requested a formal response to the demands that they had put forward. I repeated the offer of paying for any therapy. At this time the father's health scheme will cover the basic costs of therapy and the

-2-

Brothers would make up the shortfall. Again indicated that Br. Kostka would be not working with boys in the future.

I invited ACN to keep in touch with me. He asked what announcements would be made about the departure of Br. Kostka. I commented that no formal announcements would be made which would include any discussion of this matter. It would be better for everyone if the most positive action were to ensure that the processes of education were to continue with staff and that the Headmaster and school counsellor were to follow up any possible other negative reactions from students.

It also had to be borne in mind that Brother had strongly denied anything overtly improper. The Youth Advocate Officer continued to speak in terms of actual sexual abuse. I indicated that I would speak to the Brothers community in the sense that Brother had come to the end of a teaching career; he was already teaching beyond the normal span that Brothers were full-time in the classroom, and that in accordance with other Province policies, it was appropriate for him to move at that time.

I outlined that education processes were already in place with regard to the Brothers concerning questions of sexual propriety and conduct. I supplied the Youth Advocate's Office and also the parents with a copy of the draft statement of the Catholic Bishops regarding sexual conduct of clergy and church employees.