

Kostka Chute
Interview 14 September, 2000

On one level this was a very pleasant interview but on a deeper level there were some difficult moments in it.

Overall Kos maintains that he is very happy in his current work at Farmhouse. To a certain extent this is no doubt true but occasionally I get second hand reports of a different picture. It still remains open to question as to whether or not Kos actually agrees with the fundamental concept of Farmhouse! Sometimes the YA's are frustrated by his attitude towards them. It would seem that, all the retriic aside, Kos still sees the YA's as people who "help the Brothers" to run Farmhouse. The concept of equality would seem to be quite foreign to him.

Overall his health is quite reasonable. He was recently diagnosed with type 2 diabetes (along with his twin sister) but is not on any medication. The arthritis continues to affect him particularly hands and hip, although he says that the knee is fine.

The question remains as to how long he can maintain his current workload at Mittagong. There is a general consensus among other members of the community that Kos needs the affirmation of others, particularly adult groups who go there, as much as Farmhouse needs him as the Coordinator of the kitchen. There is no doubt that he has made yet a hallmark of his career as a Brother.

Next year is his golden jubilee and he intimated that he would like to remain at Farmhouse for as long as Chris is there. However I suspect that he will find it very difficult to relinquish the role when the time comes to do that. Chris particularly senses a need in Kos to control others. It is interesting that when Claud adopted the habit of going down to the Centre for morning tea each day Kos dropped the same habit. The theory is that he does not like competition!

Kos mentioned that he would like to do some renewal. I replied that this would be feasible after he finished at Farmhouse. He did not have any comeback to that.

Clearly Kos relates well with older people but occasionally has difficulty with the YA's. I have said to Chris (but not directly to Kos) that the essential purpose of Farmhouse is the spiritual development of young people and not that of keeping Kos happy. If push really came to shove then Kos would need to finish early but I would be less concerned about that now than I would have been last year.

I also had to raise the unpleasant issue of complaints received from two sources concerning previous behaviour. I am not sure that Kos heard exactly what I was saying when I reported to him the effects of his need to control on some young people from the past. I urged him to integrate that into his spirituality. Again I am not sure that he understood what I was saying. By the same token he did not deny the feedback that I was passing on to him.

He said that he got a lot out of the "Transitions" seminar run by Sean Sammon earlier this year. However he failed to follow that up with any concrete suggestions.

At the end I thanked him for his ongoing contribution to the ministry at Farmhouse.