

**MEETING – BROTHER CHRISTOPHER**

Time: 11.30am 8<sup>th</sup> April, 2014

Location: 193 Alison Rd Randwick

Introductions and through to room within premises

Q: Brother Christopher are you aware of the investigation that SF Georgiana have been carrying out in the Newcastle area?

A: Not really no. Only what I have heard in the media.

Q: Well just let me fill you in then. We have been investigating a number of child sexual abuse allegations about Marist Brothers from the Newcastle area. As a result we have charged Brother ROMUALD and Brother DOMENIC from their time at Marist Brothers Hamilton.

A: Its Mr CABLE.

Q: Brother ROMUALD?

A: Yes. He hasn't been a Brother for about 40 years.

Q: OK. So you are aware are you that we have charged Brother ROMUALD with numerous child sexual offences?

A: Yes. I have seen it on the news.

Q: And you are aware that we have charged Brother DOMENIC, being John Darcy OSULLIVAN, with a number of child sexual offences relating to his time at Hamilton Marist Brothers?

A: Yes.

Q: During those investigations there has been a number of allegations and assertions relating to your knowledge of the offending of both Brothers ROMUALD and DOMENIC. Because of these allegations I am going to caution you that I will be asking you questions in relation to these allegations and you are not obliged to say or do anything. Do you understand that?

A: Yes

Q: I will be making notes and anything you say or do will be recorded and may be used in evidence. Do you understand that?

A: Yes.

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Q: OK Brother Christopher, I have on record that you commenced as School Principal at the Hamilton Marist Brothers at the beginning of 1969 and left at the end of 1976.

A: No that's not right. I started there in April 70 and left in December 1976.

Q: And you were the Principal?

A: Yes.

Q: And when you left Hamilton Marist Brothers as a School Principal?

A: Yes until my retirement in 2000,

Q: And what was your relationship to Brother ROMUALD at this time.

A: Well that's a very open question. We were in the same religious community. I was his leader. Lets just say he was on my staff.

Q: And where did you live at the time?

A: I lived on the grounds. The house is on the corner of Parkway Ave and Skelton St.

Q: And did Brothers ROMUALD and DOMENIC reside there also?

A: Yes.

Q: So you all lived together and you were their leader?

A: Yes.

Q: And do you recall when Brother ROMUALD was at the school?

A: Oh I'd be guessing. I think he came in about 1973 and maybe he was there when I left..

Q: Brother Christopher, SF Georgiana have obtained a statement from a CNS **REDACT** who was formerly a student at Hamilton Marist Brothers relating to Brother ROMUALD. In this statement he alleges that he had a conversation with you in December 1972, just prior to him leaving the school, where he alleges he informed you that he was leaving the school because of the sexual abuse he and other students endured at the hands of Brother Patrick, Brother Romuald and Brother Domenic. Do you recall this conversation?

A: No.

Q: Do you recall a CNS \_\_\_\_\_ at the school?

A: No. Maybe. There were a lot of students.

Q: Do you recall ever having any conversation with CNS \_\_\_\_\_ ?

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A: No.

Q: It is further alleged that CNS s father CNX came and met with you regarding CNS s younger brother CNV Its alleged that CNX told you that CNV had been molested by Brothers ROMUALD and PATRICK. Do you recall this conversation?

A: No

Q: Its further alleged that a former student at Hamilton Marist, CNP was sexually abused in class by Brother DOMENIC and left the class immediately and attended your office where he informed you he had just been abused sexually by Brother ROMUALD. Do you remember this conversation?

A: No.

Q: Do you recall having any conversation with CNP ?

A: No.

Q: It is further alleged that there was a further occurrence whereby REDACTED and CQS had an incident where Brother ROMUALD has questioned them as to whether they were circumcised and requested they both show their genitals to the class. This has resulted in Mr CQS attending the school and speaking to you regarding this incident. Do you recall this conversation?

A: No.

Q: Can I ask Brother Christopher, when you indicate that you do not remember these incidents, are you indicating that these conversations could have happened but due to the time elapse you just cant recall. Or are you indicating that these conversations just didn't happen as you would have remembered such important conversations?

A: The latter.

Q: So you are saying that these conversations just didn't happen.

A: Yes I would have remembered them.

Q: Well let me ask you this, do you recall any time that you heard anything untoward about Brother ROMULAD during your time as the School Principal at Marist Brothers Hamilton?

A: Well yes there was one occasion only. I cant recall how it was that I came to speak to him. I don't know if a student or a parent or something came and told me something.

Q: But somebody made a complaint to you?

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A: Yes. There had been a complaint about him interfering with a boy. That's what we called it back then it was interfering. I didn't even know what a paedophile or paedophilia were back then. I went to Brother ROMUALD and I had a conversation with him. What I remember about that conversation is that he said to me, "I thought I had been good in that area recently." When he said this I thought that it was an admission that he had done stuff in the past.

Q: So what did you do about this.

A: Nothing that was it. He denied the allegations of interfering.

Q: And so in relation to the allegations of interfering with a student, he denied it and that was it for you. There was no further action about that?

A: No.

Q: Do you recall the suicide of Andrew NASH, a 13 year old student of Hamilton Marist who hung himself whilst you were the Principal?

A: Yes. I do remember that.

Q: Do you recall attending his residence on the night of the suicide?

A: I don't know. I might have been there. Im not sure if I was.

Q: Ive been told that you and Brother ROMUALD attended that night along with Father Bill BURSTON, the Parish Priest.

A: It could well be. I have no memory of that.

Q: Why would you attend that evening?

A: He was a student.

Q: Why would Brother ROMUALD with you?

A: I cant recall.

Q: Was there any investigation into the suicide of Andrew NASH by the school?

A: No.

Q: Did you ever consider that Brother ROMUALD was abusing Andrew NASH and this is why he committed suicide?

A: No. I didn't consider that.

Q: Our investigations leads us to believe that Brother ROMUALD was sexually abusing Andrew NASH. Do you understand that?

A: OK.

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Q: And even though you had had that conversation with ROMUALD you still did not consider back then that that could have been the case?

A: No. I didn't consider that back then.

Q: So this occurred, this suicide of Andrew, in October 1975.

A: Yes.

Q: And isn't it the case that Brother ROMUALD was transferred from the school at the end of 1975?

A: Yes

Q: Just after the suicide of Andrew NASH?

A: Yes.

Q: This conversation you had with Brother Romuald, regarding his admissions of previous impropriety, when was that in terms to the suicide of Andrew.

A: It was around that time. Some time just before or just after.

Q: In relation to Brother Dominic, did you hear anything untoward in relating to his dealing with students at the school.

A: No. I was completely shocked to hear about his matters. I was completely shocked.

Q: OK Brother Christopher we will be making further inquiries in relation to these matters. I may come back and ask you for a formal interview relating to these matters. Similarly I may come back and ask you for a statement relating to your knowledge of the offending of ROMUALD. Whether you wish to supply one for the trial is up to you but I want you to know you will be subpoenaed to give evidence relating to the matters.

A: That's fine.

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