

A CONFIDENTIAL NOTE

Please do not leave in a public place.

Dear Brothers,

Our brother Kostka appeared in Canberra Supreme Court on Friday. He has returned to Blacktown with Alex. He is due for sentencing on June 5.

You can see from the report in ABC-on-line (and other newspapers) that Kostka was himself abused while in formation all those years ago. While this is no excuse for abusing others, this fact helps to explain the disorder and the pain he himself has been living with since his own days as a teenager.

Despite some claims in the media we are ready to assist all who have been victims of abuse by our Brothers whether in Canberra or elsewhere.

In the next few days I will be sending a personal letter to each Brother concerning abuse that happened in our formation houses. It is a sad part of our history. My focus is on those who have been victims and their healing. That is, the purpose of the communication is not for the Province, communities or individuals, especially victims, to 'go public' or indulge in story-telling about any wrong-doing of the past but to help those who are hurting to find some peace. So, the letter is addressed to each Brother for his own use.

I have also attached a poem written as a prayer for 'survivors' of sexual abuse. You may find an appropriate time to use it in these days of Pentecost.

Come Spirit
make us new,
bring your peace
'midst
searing pain.

Jeff