

**It would be best if this communication was read out rather than placed on the community notice-board. It is a 'family' communication.**

Dear Brothers,

Today our brother Kostka presented himself to the police and court in Canberra to be charged with offences dating back to the 1980s. There was a strong media presence and the case is likely to be widely covered, hence this personal note to you.

Kostka was accompanied by his lawyer, Greg Walsh, and Alexis. He was formally arrested and later released under certain conditions.

The charges against Kostka were the subject of articles in newspapers last year. He has received every assistance since to prepare himself for this day and what is to come. Our thanks to the Mittagong community for their personal support during these past months.

Alexis, as our point-man for such matters, has been a tower of strength to Kostka. He will probably be making a Press Release tomorrow. You would all appreciate that in matters before the courts both Kostka and the Marist Brothers as such have to be extremely careful and yet find the right words for his accusers. If people ask you about the case, this Press Release will provide you with an appropriate line of response.

All contacts with accusers or media are to be forwarded to Alexis: (02) 9649 7170. After the coming weekend Alexis will be at Blacktown and this number will change. In cases of urgency you can contact him on his mobile as in our directory. Better not to give this number to others.

In speaking of the Body of Christ, Paul writes, "If one part is hurt, all the parts share its pain. And if one part is honoured, all the parts share its joy." (1 Cor 12:26) Kostka is hurting. His accusers are hurting. The Canberra community and Marist College are hurting. We are all hurting. We share their pain and shame just as at other moments we have shared their joy and honour. Now is a special moment to be good brothers to one another and to those around us whose trust in us may be disturbed.

Jeff

17 Jan 2008