TO PAST STUDENTS OF CLONTARF, CASTLEDARE, TARDUN, BINDOON

Some time ago I wrote to you about former child migrants searching for relatives overseas. That service is still available through Sr. Tania at the Catholic Migrant Centre. She is in regular contact with Mr. Mike Lyons in England, who does the relevant search-work there. There are, as you know, other agencies too - for example, the Child Migrant Trust (Margaret Humphreys).

The Christian Brothers also offer a Travel Assistance Fund for those who have recently found family in the U.K. or Ireland and who cannot afford the cost of an airfare. Application forms are available on request from our office at 450.5311.

This HELPLINE is now open and is available to all former students of our Institutions who need help. Please feel free to call 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. Monday to Friday. The line is manned by Les Harrison who is a very experienced clinical psychologist; he is assisted by a receptionist who is also a trained counsellor.

We know that there are former residents of our Institutions who need help. We encourage former students who need assistance to use this Helpline. Les Harrison will help you decide what sort of help best suits your needs. He will be assisted by a small panel of expert professional people led by Jane Brazier, a very experienced senior social worker seconded part-time from a Government Department. The panel will help assess the wider needs of former students over the next few months, so that proper services can be provided. Present difficulties, of course, may stem from the accumulated effect of many factors, from early childhood right up to recent experiences.

This panel is independent. Their work will in no way be controlled by the Christian Brothers.

Please pass on this information to others you may know.

We are especially anxious to contact those who may be most in need, those who may be "lost". So please contact anyone you know who is in real need of help, whether it's chronic loneliness or homelessness, or whatever.

The Christian Brothers have made a commitment to all former students of Clontarf, Castledare, Tardun and Bindoon. The independent HELPLINE is one major step towards fulfilling that promise.

I am well aware that many students at our Institutions had very positive experiences and now lead very productive lives. This letter invites you to contact any less fortunate "old boys" you may know and advise them of the services available.

For further information, phone me at 450.5311.

Yours sincerely,

Br. G.T. Faulkner, cfc
Provincial Superior