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21st September 1992

Brother G.T. Faulkner
Congregation of Christian Brothers
Holy Spirit Provincialate
'Westcourt'
53 Redmond Street
MANNING WA 6152

RECEIVED
27 SEP 1992
4.15 Letters

Dear Brother Faulkner,

Thank you for your letter dated 14th August.

I am disappointed by your reluctance to hold further meetings between the Christian Brothers and Voices. I feel that however wide the gap between our organizations may be, a final agreement satisfactory to both sides is more likely if regular dialogue is maintained. We understood the purpose of the first meeting was exploratory, to try to establish some basis for future discussions. It was unfortunate that it was organized in such haste.

The three conditions for future meetings as laid down by you are acceptable to Voices.

We see the main purpose of future meetings to be the need to work together, so that eventually a solution to the issues which confront us may be achieved. I am sure that the Christian Brothers are just as anxious as Voices to see this controversy laid to rest once and for all.

I am confident that a specific and agreed agenda could be arranged before each meeting. Perhaps in the first instance, we could discuss this on the telephone. Voices has no objection to the names of participants being exchanged before each meeting.

Regarding the two matters which you mention as not being finalized at our last meeting, the second, counselling, seems to have been resolved.

The first matter mentioned by you, a public enquiry, is obviously more difficult and needs further discussion.

Other issues of concern to Voices are:

1. The removal of Brother Keaney's statue at Boys' Town, Bindoon
2. The renaming of Boys' Town
3. Compensation for men who were exploited as children i.e. non-payment of wages and other factors
4. Compensation for illness and other long-term disadvantages resulting from physical, psychological and sexual abuse suffered in childhood at Bindoon, Clontarf, Castledare and Tardun.
5. How all of these matters can be resolved with minimum damage to the Church, which Voices does not wish to see harmed more than can be avoided.

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There may be other matters arising out of these which will need to be discussed. No doubt the Christian Brothers will have issues of their own, relevant to this controversy, which you will wish to raise and we would appreciate being informed of what they are.

I look forward to hearing from you in the near future in the hope that we can work together to see these issues resolved. They are not going to go away and the sooner they are addressed, the better for all of us.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bruce Blyth". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Bruce Blyth
Executive Director