

St. Mary's, Marino, Dublin.

9th. November, 1963.

My very dear Brother Provincial,

I was really pleased to receive your letters today. The interval since your last letter had been unusually long, and I was wondering if you might happen to be ill. Thank God you are still on deck. I hope that your health rises superior to the battering that it continues to receive in the way of worries, especially the sordid ones. What experiences we have with regard to collapse in the matter of the second Vow. Now you have the case of even an old man. I'm not of your opinion with regard to Brother Maximus Fodger, unless his lapse was something short of interference. For anyone with the tendency there is always the danger of further outbreak, and we are bound to protect both the boys and the good name of the Institute. It could well mean that a boy who has been the victim of such a weakness on the part of his teacher would become a moral collapse, and be in serious danger of losing his soul. God has been extraordinarily good in protecting us from scandal in the past. I feel that we are bound to do all that we can to remove every possible danger of any recurrence of this sad weakness. So for my part, I would not accept for renovation of Vows, any Brother of Temporary Profession who shows that he is afflicted with the weakness. With regard to Brother X. Condell, I would be inclined to clear the way for him to become a Coadjutor if there is no personal reason to the contrary. I mean by 'personal' reason, any oddity that might suggest that the Brother is a crank, and merely wants to 'try' something else. If he is thought to be obviously unfit for the work of a coadjutor, I would not endeavour to hold him.

You have done wonderful work in your interviews with the Hierarchy. Bishop Young responded well to your fine approach, and Archbishop O'Brien seems to be very well disposed. I would like to see the Waiwara School gone on with if you and your Council think that it is a good venture; that is principally if you feel that an opening there would bring the benefits of a Catholic education to boys who at present are deprived of it, or can secure it only by making an unreasonable sacrifice. Your other move re Chatswood is excellent, and I hope that it will bear fruit. How much better work could be done for a larger number of boys if there was adequate accommodation at Chatswood.

With regard to the disposition of your Consultors next year, I should think that that will be a matter for yourself. If you can afford to have them out of school, and free from other office, it would, to my way of thinking, be all to the good. There are many things that call for attention in a Province, and it is very desirable that the members of the Council be not overworked, or worked to the extent that they will not be able to give the thought that should be given to the development of the Province. It would be well for the Council to be sufficiently free to enable them, and especially the Provincial, to make frequent contact with the Brothers, more particularly with the Local Superiors. Perhaps you will not be able to do this next year.

I meant to tell you that Brother Paul Mullane is due to sail for Australia on the 25th. of this month. The Superior General allowed the extension on account of the recent arrival in Ireland of his sister who lives in the States. Something will have to be done about these holidays. Brother Paul has been at home practically all the time since he arrived in Ireland. At least he has been in secular quarters. And that has gone on for over six months. I am sure that that is altogether opposed to Canon Law, and would be forbidden at once if it were brought under the notice of the Sacred Congregation. I am not surprised that Gilbert has decided to come to Ireland next year. Maybe he is thinking in terms of the States. What does Paul intend doing? Paul Keaney I mean. Perhaps you do not know. I am glad that your Bursar is getting down to the question of the Deeds. Of course it will take a good deal of time. You need have no fear of being left far behind in your endeavour to finalise these Deeds. I have written to ask you about Bede O'S's return. The N.M. is certainly very firm in his attitude, and I can well understand his point of view. I am not very much inclined towards his return, but I must say that I would not hold it up, because I have had practically no experience of him beyond what I heard and saw at Albion when he was there for the Visitation. That did not reflect well upon him, or rather, it did not suggest that he was suited to our life. I will write again soon. Warm regards to self and Council.

Yours truly,  
 Rev. Fr. S.H. Young  
 P.L. Duffy