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3rd - 10th September 1967/95

Visitation Report of BINDOON

COMMUNITY LIST

Br. P. Bruno Doyle (Superior)	Br. C. Cletus O'Neill
Br. T. Peter O'Sullivan (SS)	Br. F. Salvius Marques
Br. P. Sebastian Dwyer (C)	Br. N. Norbert Tuppin
Br. M. Albeus Ryan (Bursar)	Br. G. Grignon Schaefer
Br. C. Matthias Dawe	Br. J. Conrad Thiel
Br. L. Marius Newman (T.P.)	

HORARIUM: Monday to Friday

5-45 a.m.	Rise	
6-00	Morning Prayers and Meditation	
6-45	Mass (The boys rise on Tuesday and Thursday)	
7-25	Breakfast (Lecture)	
6-00 p.m.	Tea	
6-45	Beads, Lecture, Visit (Office)	
7-30	Rosary with the boys	
8-30	Conference	Particular Examen is made
8-50	Recreation and Supper	privately at mid-day or
9-30	Final Prayers.	after lunch.

Saturday

12 noon	Dinner
5-30 p.m.	Tea
6-00	Lecture, Visit, Office
7-30	Rosary with the Boys followed sometimes by a Film
9-30	Final Prayers
Particular Examen is made privately	

Sunday

6-30 a.m.	Rise
6-45	Morning Prayers and Meditation
7-30	Mass
8-15	Breakfast (Office and Particular Examen are said in private)
12 noon	Dinner
5-30 p.m.	Tea
6-00	Beads, Intentions, Office
7-30	Rosary with the Boys and Benediction
9-30	Final Prayers

OBSERVANCE: The attendance of the Brothers in the morning is fairly regular, with some unpunctuality (Br. Marius being the chief offender), and with Br. Salvius occasionally absent. During the football season - nearly six months in W.A., about half the community journey to Perth (60 miles) every Saturday. They have been in the habit of going to Clontarf for tea (no Lives, Martyrology or Lecture being read), remaining for the Films and returning to Bindoon at a late hour. Meanwhile at Bindoon during their absence, all Exercises are made in private. It is an unusual practice, conflicting with Act of Chapter *176. Personally, I think that once a month to Perth is reasonable. During Visitation, the Brothers wore the habit to the mid-day meal, but it is not the usual practice for all to do so. The habit is very easily discarded. Attendance at the evening meal is anything but punctual; the Brothers tend to stop work as suits them. As there are no long distances to travel, there seems to be no excuse for being late.

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OBSERVANCE(Continued): Neither Council Meeting nor Sunday Conference is held; Accusation is seldom remembered; the House possesses no Martyrology; Thanksgiving after Communion is never the full fifteen minutes; the Friday evening lecture on the Passion is read at breakfast. One gets the impression that compliance with the broad essentials is all that can be expected from Bindoon. I did my best to disillusion the community on this score and intimated that now that the farm policy has been stabilized a normal standard of observance will be expected.

CHARITY AND COMMUNITY SPIRIT: The Brothers get on fairly well together; the arrangement of duties is such as to minimise friction. All the same, the Brothers feel that the Superior favours unduly the two agriculturalists: Brs. Grignon and Marius. At times the Brothers are hard on the Chaplain, for not all the banter is without a "barb". Dom William is not in any way offensive; he is regular and punctual and devoted to his work as Chaplain

PERSONNEL: Br. Bruno Doyle, the Superior is completing his first term of office. He has done wonders with the finances; all admit that he has a good grip of the activities associated with the farm and has planned wisely. Possibly, he has pushed on too quickly with the clearance of the land; eight hundred acres of heavy country calls for so great an effort that the spiritual life those concerned in it is inclined to be given second place. These are the Brothers who either curtail their Exercises or are too tired to perform them properly. Unfortunately, too, he has done little to make the place attractive - in reality it has a completely run-down and delapidated appearance. Some painting is being done but the general impression to the visitor is one of untidyness and neglect. Gardens, buildings (the two front buildings), the boys and even some of the Brothers leave a very poor impression. One even feels embarrassed to see visitors wandering about the place. If something is not done soon, the battle of the maintenance will be lost. Br. Norbert Tuppin should be on this work; however, the new Workshop and the new Pig sheds are occupying all his time and will do so until the end of the year. The domestic staff consists of but two - a male chef and a female laundress whose husband is a cripple. The boys do all the charges (as boys usually do them when they are mostly unsupervised) - there are only twenty of them for all the tasks. It is ludicrous to consider taking paying boarders under these conditions. In addition the water supply cannot meet the dry autumn demands. Had not Br. Brendan Kelly found water on the tableland in March of this year (yielding 200 gallons an hour) the position would have been desperate. In my opinion, more use should be made of the potential of the Air-strip. Ten points of rain yield over 150,000 gallons of fresh water. Storage to the measure of almost a million gallons is needed to tide over summer and autumn. Now that the debt is considerably reduced, some attention must be given to this matter and to the brightening up of the boys' sections - dining room, dormitory and classrooms. Particularly, do the roofs of the two front buildings need attention before anything be attempted inside. Finally, in the sphere of public relations, in meeting visitors especially, is there room for improvement on the Superior's part. Br. Sebastian Dwyer is hardly a ideal guest master yet he has to do it all. In spite of his shortcomings in other directions, the Superior is anxious to have a good observance obtain; he felt that my remarks to the community at the end of the Visitation would strengthen his hand in achieving a satisfactory standard, for long established customs die hard.

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PERSONNEL (Continued):

Br. Peter O'Sullivan is remarkably active for his sixty-five years. His cup of happiness is overflowing at the moment, for his wool cheque was £5,200 for 75 bales (2,703 sheep shorn) and in the last three weeks over 2,000 lambs were dropped. These could bring from £2.10. 0. to £3 at Mid-land in November (The Commonwealth Games will keep prices up). Mick Gleeson returned in March, so that there are three caring for the sheep. Conditions for Mick have improved; he has meals by himself; a utility presented by the Lotteries Commission relieves Mick of the cost of providing such a vehicle. Valuable fencing, especially along the Geraldton Highway, can now be attended to, thus enabling cattle to be grazed in these paddocks. Br. Peter has been given charge of all stock; to some extent, this solves the grazing problem but sheep are still Br. Peter's first concern and he panics if feed is not over-abundant: he likes to see plenty of it about. He is a good shepherd and could teach Br. Conrad, his assistant quite a lot, but with Mick's return he was inclined to relegate Br. Conrad to the cattle only. A veiled suggestion that Br. Conrad might have to be sent to Tardun to be taught sheep farming has had the desired result. The Superior rightly exercises some measure of control on policy. It was he who, after consultation with Departmental experts, changed the lambing time to early spring when feed was plentiful, and replaced the Romney-Marsh and South-down rams by Dorsets. There is no doubt but that the property can carry more sheep, particularly if the pastures are not disturbed by ploughing for five years or so. The Superior has come over to the view that the property is a grazing one, and that whilst crops for a year or two help the new land to be won over, their chief use should be for pasture. Thus, his policy is to open up only first class land along the water courses, and the tableland (second class) for winter grazing. The year has been a marvellous one: already the average rainfall has been passed with the country looking its best for years.

Br. Sebastian Dwyer at seventy-five still maintains an interest in the classroom. The youngsters are given a good grounding in the basic three R's - there are few cultural trimmings.

Br. Albeus Ryan is now living happily at Nazareth House, Hilton Park near Fremantle. Having personally arranged for his retirement there, he is delighted with the care and attention he is receiving; his going from Bindoon leaves the office of Bursar vacant. It is pleasing to see him so satisfied with his environment. The constant stream of old friends and ex-pupils gives him great consolation as well as brightening up his declining years.

Br. Matthias Dawe, the life line of Bindoon for supplies and materials is showing signs of the hard life he has led. A hernia, too, is troubling him. Yet he is ever cheerful and ever busy, and quite equal to the banter that is directed to him. He is somewhat critical of the Superior

Br. Cletus O'Neill has improved in outlook under Br. Bruno. He is an efficient maintenance man, even if a little taciturn. He is extremely sensitive, taking offence very easily and not readily forgiving. He has become somewhat fixed in his habits, being here so long. He is valuable not only in the realm of the workshop, power house and the water supply, but is responsible for the boys' dormitory and lockers. He does this after his own fashion (tidiness is not his strongest point) but he is devoted to the task.

Br. Salvius Marques has charge of the Pigs, Poultry and Peas. He is

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PERSONNEL (Continued): very methodical and has everything in first class order. At the same time he manages never to miss out on whatever is to his pleasure or advantage. His relationship with boys is suspect but proof is difficult.

Br. Norbert Tuppin, besides being back on the building programme, teaches First Year Woodwork and will proceed with this class to the Junior Standard. As a result, and because they are easy to manage, his discipline is satisfactory. He suffers from periodic outcrops of boils; the doctors have not yet produced a cure. In community he is noisy, a likely cover-up for an inferiority complex. He finds it hard to hold a conversation with the Superior.

Br. Grignon Schaefer is pressing for a Dispensation. All palliatives seem to have failed to alleviate his lower urges. He wants to be free before harvest.

Br. Conrad Thiel is very happy to be stationed here. He is looking and feeling well. Although he much prefers to be an agriculturalist, he is prepared to learn the care of stock. He would fit the task of Bursar in place of Br. Albeus. He is neat and tidy and has a turn for the books. In addition, he never fails to make up his spiritual exercises.

Br. Marius Newman has improved in health since coming to W.A. in April. The work asked of him is not beyond him; rather is it easier than at Bundoora, since he can get the help of boys in lifting loads. When he came over he was inclined to be forward and regard all as his equals. He is fitting in much better now. In spite of his disability, I feel that he is too unpunctual, and occasionally neglectful of some of his spiritual exercises. The monthly private interview has not been regular. I impressed on the Superior its importance, especially in his regard.

SCHOOL:

CLASSES

Grade III	1	13yrs	Br. S. Dwyer				
Grade V	5	13	1st Yr.	9	13-6yrs	Br. B. Doyle
Grade VIIB	3	14	Out of School Boys: 8			
Grade VIIIA	2	11	Total = 28 (1 non-catholic)			
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RESULTS - 1961

Junior Public: 4 Passes; 3 Partial Passes; 1 Failure.

BOARDERS' FEES

£30 a term; the Lotteries Commission contribute 10/- a week as does Child Endowment.

ANALYSIS OF ENROLMENT

Migrants: 13; Welfare Cases: 6; Boarders: 8.

REPORT

The introduction of a few boarders has raised the general level of academic standard. Co-operation, respect and a friendly attitude were at all times in evidence. The tastefully fitted-out new Chapel in the Administration Block will be a great help in the cultivation of piety among the boys. The Lord Abbot has not yielded in his attitude towards the introduction of boarders. The few in residence are not known to him and are referred to in public as Private Cases.

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FINANCE: B/S as at 30th November 1961

	<u>Bank Balance as at 31/8/62</u>	
Total Income	£32,966. 6. 5.	
Total Expenditure	£27,254. 0. 0.	<u>£3,065. 7.10. 0/D</u>
Excess I/E	<u>£5,712. 6. 5.</u>	

Total receipts to 31/7/62	£27,700.10. 6
Total expenses to 31/7/62	£23,758.10. 1.

By the end of the year, the only debt owing will be the Loan from Clontarf.

FARM:

STOCK

Sheep: 2,700 ewes; 2,000 lambs; 50 rams.

Cattle: 90 cows; 85 calves; 30 steers; 4 bulls.

CROPS

Wheat: 1,115 acres; Peas (for freezing by Peters Pty Ltd): 106 ac.

POULTRY

Hens: 2,200

Roosters: 2,100

PIGS

10 sows; 1 boar; 50 piglets. The intention is to build up to 40 sows.

ORCHARD

A local resident, Mr. J. Schafer, cares for the orchard; its revenue should be up to that of previous years.
The Superior looks after the olives.

ANNALS: All house books have been written up to date. School rolls will be kept from now on, because of the boarders.

J. J. Levander