

"St. Mary's", Marino, Dublin.
7th. January, 1954.

My very dear Brother Consultor,

Apologies for not acknowledging your welcome letter of 23rd. December sooner. The last couple of weeks have been a good deal broken up here, and I have not had an earlier opportunity of writing to you.

With regard to Brother Marcian Quaine:

You may not have read the first letter that I wrote to the Provincial about his case. In that I emphasised the difficulty that writing entails and told the Provincial that a personal word would be more effective. I thought that the Provincial had the intention of visiting Tasmania before Christmas, in order to complete his contacts with the Brothers of his Province, and it was because of that that I felt he would have an opportunity of referring to the matter with Brother Marcian. I feel sure that the question does not lend itself to treatment by letter. Unfortunately I did not hear of the trouble until after I had left Tasmania, and I was hoping against hope that for some reason I might get the chance of meeting Brother Marcian in Melbourne. But the chance did not eventuate. It would be better to wait until the Provincial meets Brother Marcian, when he could make a discreet reference to the report that was

I am thankful for the full account that you took the trouble to send about Kalgoorlie. The Superior-General is most anxious, as we all are, that the altogether unsatisfactory state of affairs at Kalgoorlie should be remedied as soon as possible. They have been tolerated too long, and I am glad that you are so anxious yourself to get under way with the renovations and additions. Of course I do not mind in the least what form the solution of the problem takes, so long as the interests of the Brothers are served, but the latest developments are so contrary to what I was assured was the only thing to be done, that I was surprised. As soon as you can get the vote of the Council sent herewith the usual request for permission to go ahead, and to borrow the necessary money (if any borrowing will be necessary), and I am sure that the General Council will send back its decision very promptly.

We are all anxiously awaiting the arrival of the Bundoora Juniorate plans, and are hoping the plans for a Novitiate will soon follow in their wake. The General Council is very keen that Juniorates and the Novitiate should be set up as soon as possible. The training of the Scholastics could be continued effectively at Strathfie for some time, if necessary; but until the second Novitiate comes into operation there will be no increase in the numbers of Brothers going out to the schools each year. And it is very clear that there is urgent need for more and more Brothers. The news about Warrnambool Schools, and Monastery, is very good, thank God. A new era seems to be starting in the 'Boo. I hope that some of the 'ancient glory' will be restored.

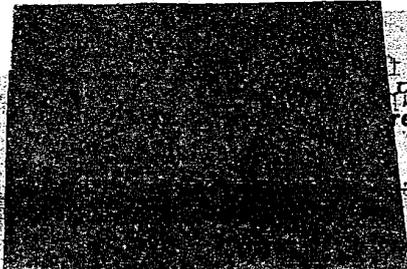
P.S. Congratulations on success of the students you have retained excellent scores to both Province by your encouragement of the boys in their studies.

M.D. I meant to ask you when writing about the Juniorate plans where the Council intends building the Novitiate. I am glad that the feelin is for Box Hill for the Scholasticate. That, as far as I remember, was the original intention, and it seems to me to be sound. Will you be able to secure more land adjacent to our present property? On which site at Bundoora do you intend building the Juniorate? There was some talk a couple of years ago of getting trees planted around the Bundoora property, and so of preparing as soon as possible some measure of privacy, as well as providing shelter from the winds, and beautifying the place generally, but I suppose that nothing has been done yet. Somebody told me that Brother Leo Fitzgerald is particularly well informed in the matter of trees and shrubs.

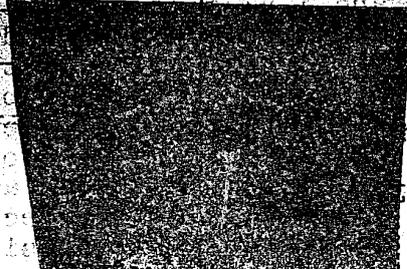
There is nothing in the way of news here. The First is still in Rome, concerned mainly with the extensions at Marcantonio, which will provide necessary accommodation for the boys, and also a place for the General Council. At least that is the present intention. But there are all sorts of difficulties to be overcome with Italian officials, and the work has not yet started. So it looks as though there will be no transferring to Rome for a considerable time yet. The All Blacks play their Test against Ireland tomorrow, Saturday. There will be a full house even though not many here play Rugby. The All Blacks are expected to win, but the locals will probably give them a run for their money. Warm regards to yourself and the other Consultors, as well as the Provincial, Bursar, and best wishes for the New Year. I am etc. Your affte. Br. *R.D. Duffy*

P.P.D. 500 H. 71. 3275.

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Christian Brothers' College,
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