

Draft apology

Copy Fr Farrelly- file

Dear Joan,

Fr Adrian Farrelly has conveyed to me the substance of the meeting held at Centacare on April 20, 1999.

As Archbishop/Auxiliary Bishop of Brisbane I write now to say how sorry I am for what you suffered at the hands of Francis Devunian. You were taken advantage of in a most shameful way. He abused the position he had as a priest, the friendship your parents & family had with him & the trust you placed in him as a pastor. I am sorry that you were not believed when you told other priests what had happened to you. I am deeply saddened to hear what this abuse affected this abuse had on you, the faith of your own mother & father & of your sons. You have been let down badly by those from whom you had every right to expect more. I am very moved by the courage you have shown in talking about a tragedy that has so profoundly affected your whole life. Be assured that I shall do all I can to ensure that no other vulnerable young person suffers as you did.

Words are a limited vehicle for acknowledging what the enormity of what you have undergone & for helping the process of healing. Still I offer you this apology as a some recognition of the wrong done you and as ~~another~~ harm you suffered as a result.

Admin/VICAR / CASES OTHER THAN MARRIAGE / APOLOGY - DRAFT