



COPY

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27 October 1993

Rev G Ridsdale
Blessed Sacrament Monastery
326 Lonsdale Street
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Dear Gerry

Greetings. I trust all is well.

When we had our meeting at St Francis Monastery, Melbourne in early September, I mentioned the possibility of seeking Legal Aid for yourself. While you and many others are grateful for Mr A.W. Le P Darvall's defence and representation, I presume the time is coming or has arrived when you are unable to pay his fees. As you are aware other charges are on the horizon and we do not know about the possibility of further charges down the track. The advice of the Special issues Committee is that the Bishop is not in a position to authorise further loans for any future costs of a legal nature. Hence the necessary arrangements for Legal Aid should be completed as soon as possible.

You expressed the opinion that it was pointless for you to defend writs for civil damages. I wonder whether it is a better idea to have legal representation as supplied by Legal Aid to ensure full protection of all your interests.

An affirmative response to your petition is expected from Rome within a few weeks which will release you from all obligations and rights arising from ordination to the priesthood. The question will arise as to how the information should be handled. As you are aware it has been suggested that some complainants would not have come forward if it were clear the Church was taking appropriate action. It could be useful for your defence if the response from Rome was known by those likely to be concerned. Maybe your lawyer would have some ideas.

With regards and best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Rev. Brian V. Finnigan,
VICAR GENERAL.