

RENEWAL REST AND RECREATION, INC.

May 4, 1978

Most Rev. Ronald Mulkearns
Bishop of Ballarat
P. O. Box 121
Ballarat, Vic 3350

Your Excellency:

Thank you for your letter of April 21. It came just in time to avoid a long distance call. You had tried to get me and I was about to try to get you.

I have already informed Paul concerning your decision that he take work in south Virginia only until September. Indeed I called him on the phone the day after I received your letter (the 27th). Yesterday I listened to him for an hour and last night I talked to Dr. Kinnane for half an hour. These are my reflections:

Point No. 1: I do not think that Paul's idea of seeking further study in Europe in the field of sacred art is a good one in his present stage of development. In my judgement he would be too much by himself. He had proposed this idea to me in case he would not be able to stay the rest of the year in America. He had added that he did not think that he was ready to go back to Australia in October. Dr. Kinnane agrees that the European study is not advisable.

Point No. 2: Paul did make a suggestion, however, which both Kinnane and I feel makes sense. We are aware of the difficulty in Paul's returning at this time to your Diocese because of previous incidences. But I think there is a way out. Paul has great trust in Father Ron Pickering who works for both Dioceses in supervising the funds for a government school. He could use a secretary in Melbourne and Paul could act as his secretary. At the same time he could fulfill priestly ministry in Melbourne until such time as you may find it prudent to bring him back into your Diocese. To be sure, you may not want him back at all and Paul seems to fear that. (I have not revealed what you said at Christmas or in the present letter.) He admitted that his living in Melbourne would need the approval of Archbishop Frank Little, who may know what things Paul had done in the seminary inasmuch as some Melbourne students were involved. It is "tacky". If Archbishop Little and you agree, Paul could serve under Pickering. It would also involve Father Pickering in some responsibility for Paul. I realize that you may decide to reject this suggestion. Then, maybe Paul can work in a Diocese far removed from Ballarat.

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