

P.O. Box 121,
Ballarat. Vic. 3350.

27/3/80.

Rev. Fr. Paul Ryan,
Star of the Sea Church,
1404 Pacific Avenue,
VIRGINIA BEACH,
VIRGINIA 23451.
U.S.A.

Dear Paul,

I have just received your letter of March 17th. As you may imagine, I was wondering what was happening to you. I now note that you have planned to come back to Australia after Easter.

Whilst I will be pleased to see you back, I don't think you should be considering alternatives to the normal parish ministry --- such as teaching, either in School or Seminary --- at this stage. You would certainly not get a job teaching in a Seminary such as St. Paul's without some significant prior experience of parish work. Any other forms of teaching would simply be putting off the time for you to face up to parish ministry here. Hence I think that you should come back with a view to accepting a position in a parish. The need is quite great and I am confident that a place can be found which would give you every opportunity to settle in without worry.

I am sorry the other proposal (at I.C.E.L.) did not work out, but this may just be a sign that you should take another direction at this stage. I do ask you to make contact with Father John Harvey before you leave --- both for advice and for reasons of courtesy.

I look forward to seeing you. In the meantime every Easter blessing,

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Bishop of Ballarat.