

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

30 September 1991

Mr John F Taylor
Underwriting Manager for Australia
Catholic Church Insurances Limited
GPO Box 180B
MELBOURNE 3001

Dear John,

Re: Special Issues Liability Insurance

Reluctantly I find myself in a position of needing to write to you under the conditions of Special Issues Liability Insurance which require immediate notice to be given to your Company of "any circumstances of which the Insured shall become aware which might subsequently give rise to a claim against the Insured".

In the documentation provided to Bishop Connors relating to any details affecting this issue I made reference to a priest against whom allegations of homosexuality were made many years ago. Following these allegations the priest was sent to the United States of America for treatment by a psychiatrist. Earlier this year a complaint was made about advances to a sixteen year old youth. The family of the youth was satisfied that the priest should be moved from the Parish and sent for counselling. There was no involvement of Police.

Subsequently the priest concerned has moved again to the United States with a view to taking further psychiatric advice and spiritual counselling. However, a couple of weeks ago a priest of this Diocese phoned me to say that he had been called to the home of parishioners who were very upset because their son had been charged with several counts of interference with young children. I understand that this was not the first occasion on which the person in question was charged. In the course of their somewhat angry conversation with the priest the mother of the person who has been charged with these offences told him that the accused has made a statement to the Police in which he has made allegations against the first-mentioned priest of this Diocese relating to a period when he was Chaplain at a Catholic Secondary School some years ago. I understand the case is to come before the Courts on December 20th next.

I know nothing more than what has been reported to me. There has been no approach to this office by Police or anyone else nor am I aware of the details of such allegations as have been made to the Police. However, I thought that I should alert you to this situation in case anything further comes of it. I am sending a copy of this letter to Father Dan Torpy who is a member of the Regional Special Issues Committee so that I might have access to advice from that Committee.

With every good wish,

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Bishop of Ballarat