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**CONFIDENTIAL**

10 November, 1993

**MEMO TO: REV. BRIAN V. FINNIGAN, VICAR GENERAL**

**FROM: REV. GLYNN MURPHY, CONVENOR, SPECIAL ISSUES COMMITTEE**

**RE: FR. P.D. RYAN**

Following the meeting of the Special Issues Committee on Tuesday November 9, 1993, the Committee strongly advises the immediate cessation of all financial assistance and stipend to Father P. D. Ryan. It is understood that Father Ryan has taken himself to London, England, without any reference to the Bishop, Bishop's Office or Special Issues Committee.

As payments are made through the Diocesan Finance Office on the 28th of each month, it is therefore recommended that instruction reach the Finance Office well before the 28th of November, instructing that no further payments be made into Father P.D. Ryan's account until further notice from the Bishop of Ballarat.

It is also advised that should any accounts arrive at the Diocesan Offices due to the fact that they have been incurred without authority by Father P.D. Ryan, they should be immediately returned to the people who sent them with a covering note stating that Father P.D. Ryan had no authority or right to bill the Catholic Church for such goods or services. It should be made clear that any such debts are the personal responsibility of Father P.D. Ryan.

Currently Father P.D. Ryan has all faculties revoked, other than the faculty to celebrate Mass in a private manner, which does not give rise to any belief that he holds an ecclesiastical office. It is the firm and urgent advice of the Committee that even this faculty be immediately revoked and that the fact is relayed to Father P.D. Ryan in a letter sent to him care of Father Pickering in England. The Committee believes that the Archdiocese of Melbourne will have a current address for Father Pickering.

It is also the advice of the Committee that instructions should be given by the Bishop or Vicar General of the Ballarat Diocese that Father P.D. Ryan be struck off the Marriage Celebrants list for the Commonwealth of Australia.

Further, the Committee advises that the Bishop or Vicar General (or at their request another suitable person) send two letters:

- a) To the Chairman of the Episcopal Conference of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, stating in confidence that Father P.D. Ryan is believed to be travelling within their vicinity and that he is a priest not in good standing within his own

Diocese.

- b) Another letter to the English College in Rome, Italy, where it is believed Father P.D.Ryan has had contact with certain individuals and where he may well intend travelling in the near future. (The letter would be to the Rector of that College, again in confidence, informing him that Father Ryan is not in good standing within his own Diocese).

While regrettable that it has come to this stage, the Special Issues Committee believes that it is patently obvious that Father Ryan has nothing but contempt for the normal channels and authorities of his own Diocesan Church and that if left to his own devices will undoubtedly attempt to portray himself as being a priest in good standing, with faculties, who will be undoubtedly willing to take up an ecclesiastical position in a location and style of his own choosing. The Committee believes that the authorities of the Ballarat Diocese must do all that is reasonably possible, in a confidential manner, to give fair warning to other Church authorities who may be approached by Father Ryan.

As Convenor of the Special Issues Committee, I would appreciate written notification as to any action which is decided upon stemming from the above advice.