

July 3, 1995

Paul David Ryan

REDACTED

Dear Paul David,

Unfortunately it gives me no pleasure to have to write again at this time because I do so in the light of yet another claim which has been made against the Diocese of Richmond (and thus against this Diocese) by a person who alleges abuse at your hands. The complainant in this instance is a BWC [REDACTED]. He is seeking financial compensation for the alleged abuse. The Diocese has already been put to considerable expense in the treatment of an earlier complaint and I wonder whether there might be others?

In my earlier letter to you I raised the question of your willingness to seek laicization in the light of the clear impossibility of your being in a position to exercise priestly ministry in the future. You made no reference to my request in your own reply. I now put it to you again that the situation has been reached where it is manifestly in the interests of the Church that you agree to submit an application for laicization. I am sure that I can arrange for an appropriate person in Perth to assist with the procedures and I ask that you indicate to me your willingness to set these in motion. In the meantime, any faculties which you might have retained even to the private celebration of the Eucharist are now formally withdrawn.

I am sorry to have to write in this vein, but I have no option. I trust that you are finding some satisfactory work and are getting your life in order.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Bishop of Ballarat