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Father Brian V Finnigan  
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BELGIUM

Dear Brian,

I was feeling guilty about not having replied as yet to your letter of May 26th when your letter of June 21st arrived today. Accordingly, I hasten to respond.

I am very grateful to you for keeping in touch and letting me know how things are going.

I am glad that you enjoyed the Canon Law Conference in England and was intrigued at the vision of your meal with Frank Morrissey, Ralph Brown and Monsignor Dunderdale and the President of the Canon Law Society of America at Monsignor Dunderdale's Club. Maybe you can script something for the next series of the Monty Python Show. It was good that you also caught up with Archbishop Cassidy, who has since been made Cardinal as expected. It was great that you also had the chance to concelebrate with the Pope when in Rome.

Reverting to the Canon Law Society Meeting in England, I note a paper entitled "The Code of Canon Law as an Expression of Natural Law". If you do happen to have retained copies of the talks given, I wonder whether it would be possible to have a copy of that one, as I am required to prepare a paper over the next three or four weeks for presentation at our meeting in Brisbane in September. My topic is the relevance of Church Law and it occurs to me that this could well overlap with the subject to which your letter refers. However, if you don't have the document to hand then think no more about it.

Whilst asking you about documentation, on a more serious level, I wonder whether you might be able to take the opportunity of your being at the Catholic University of Louvain to enquire about Religious Education courses there. I have been talking to Kevin Maloney about what he might do next year to prepare for his

involvement in the Religious Education Centre in the future. We are agreed that something in Europe would be desirable at this time. This is no reflection on the American scene but simply an acknowledgement of the fact that it would appear to be desirable to have some wider view represented in our agency such as can be gathered from the experience of a European University. If you could come up with any documentation on the R.E. programs available at Louvain I would be grateful to receive it. Evidently Tom Doyle of the Melbourne C.E.O. suggested that Louvain might well offer a useful course.

I am glad you caught up with Dan Boylan and Ellie was certainly delighted to receive your card indicating that you had visited the grave of Vin Fennelly.

The Doctoral Dissertation on the Moderator of the Curia should prove worth looking at in preparation for your return to that office. When you do come back we will have to get down to the business of trying to give somewhat clearer job descriptions to all of those who are involved in the Diocesan Curia. Things tend to have grown without any overall pattern and it will be good to try to clarify relationships and responsibilities, without trying to become too authoritarian.

I did hear of the death of your sister-in-law. I was away when it actually occurred but learnt of it later. Be sure that she is in my prayers.

I trust that the experience at Louvain will be a rewarding one and that you are not too exhausted with the travelling backwards and forwards to take up these opportunities. We do hope to have you back in reasonably good shape at the end of August!

With kind regards and every best wish,

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Bishop of Ballarat