

P.O. Box 121,
Ballarat. 3350.

10/11/77.

Rev. Fr. Brian V. Finnigan,
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Caldwell Hall,
Catholic University of America,
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20064,
U.S.A.

Dear Brian,

I have been remiss in not having acknowledged earlier your letters of September 2nd and 25th. I won't make excuses, but simply apologise. Thank you for keeping me informed of progress. I trust that things continue to go well and that you have settled in to the new life-style. Reports from the Cathedral men seem to confirm that you have the situation well under control.

I received a letter from a friend of mine in De Pere, Wisconsin, Father Ben Mackin, who told me that he met you at the Canon Law Society meeting at Houston. He said it was at the end of the Conference when he was introduced to you, but he hopes to look you up in Washington. Frank Madden stayed with him for a while during his tours last year. Ben is a fine fellow and I hope you meet up with him again. Barry Ryan gave good reports of his visit to the States and to Peter Murphy in Santiago. He seems to have learned a lot from his trip, though I haven't yet had the chance to talk to him in detail about it.

There hasn't been any recent report from Paul Ryan, but here again the fault is mine. I will try to make contact with him shortly. The reports I have had sound quite encouraging, but what the future holds remains to be seen. It sounds as though there is quite a team of Australian priests at the University and I trust this makes the exile more tolerable.

Because I have been out-voted by other Bishops (the Pope wants to see us in regional groups next year) it seems that my overseas trip next year will be in the later part of the year -- around September-October. It will be a while before I finalise any arrangements and I will keep you posted re getting to Washington, though you may well have finished there before I make it.

Wishing you all the best for the present,

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Bishop of Ballarat.