



STAR OF THE SEA CHURCH

17 May 78

My Lord Bishop

I meant to write this a week ago upon receiving your letter. However, what with ending semester and coming down here -... you know!

Many thanks for your kind words & encouragement. I see my 1st letter arrived in the midst of your efforts, but my follow up was too late in coming. Now this one plus one or two from Fr Harvey is really going to muck up the sequences.... I don't think we would do any good in a chain mail organization.

Finally I'll answer your letter (20th & 21st April). I'm glad you've got your dates for Rome & really look forward to your visit. I hope you will stay with me at Holy Trinity - and Fr. Little if he's with you. What I've done in that regard is ask Fr M'Spind (Superior at H.T.) to tentatively reserve the guests suites there for you (or Fr L.) for the last couple of weeks in Sept. or early October. So when you get your dates firm'd, could you get Adrian to let me know. Of course all this is quite flexible... if you prefer to stay elsewhere. The guys at H.T. have been great and I thought it would be a nice gesture if a Aussie bishop's honoured their base - apart from it saving you some money. I assure you it would be no imposition on them - quite the contrary. If his grace is accompanying you there is ample room - and

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perhaps it would give me a chance to see him too. Whether it's up to you. One of the things Dr K. thinks I must do sometime before settling permanently is to "lay the ghosts" of my past as it were. That is see people whom I've hurt or the reverse. I presume Frank Little knows about me and as I've great respect for him he would have to be one on my list.

Going by all these letters I basically agree with you about waiting to ^{your} September visit to discuss things. Personally I'm happy with that arrangement only it does leave a couple of problems as I think Fr Harvey would have written to you about by now — not that they are insurmountable. I do appreciate your maintenance of confidentiality and that I would not wish to change under any circumstances ... even if it means me not being able to stay after summer. I'll put the Bishop's address at the end. Bishop Sullivan only wanted an OK letter from you if I stay ~~before~~ ^{beyond} that period — more ~~so~~ because of courtesy to you as to put ... also of course I imagine because it would not be a period when ~~so~~ extra supplies are the norm. What I've done so far is: tell the pastor here — Fr Paul Gaughan — (he's available until $\frac{1}{2}$ September approximately, and, that beyond this time you haven't decided my movements — be it further study in Europe or what. He can work with that though I know he is keen to have me until approx Easter of 79. This is a very very good parish but there is little development liturgically. Fr Gaughan is keen for me to set up the whole works & start it off for the parish. Overall of course that's a 3-5 year program. As I envisage my contribution — I can lay it out & set up the structures by September — and if ^{it's} possible — by staying until Easter go through ~~the~~ 2 major seasons helping consolidate and see them on the way.

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Fr Gaughan has been really good to me - and perhaps he's hoping I'm a liturgical superman... though he's eclectic whatever - I'm glad & would be glad to do what I can to repay him & the parish's kindness - also for the opportunities staying here has afforded me in practicing what I've learnt and living in normal circumstances without a 'cloud of knowing' restricting me - is allowing me to grow & build my own restrictions according to proper values, care of circumstances and through my ministry. I'm very well accepted here - as me - of course being a foreigner help. Anyway - if you still feel you would rather wait and discuss things in September - it's OK by me... I simply asked for permission to cover the whole period so Fr Gaughan could plan more fully. - but I would not want that at the expense of confidentiality.

I do my comps in mid July - but I do not get results until late August - early September. (Fr Austin will be down under). So if you felt I ought to go on to Europe for more study - which I would like to do - I can't enroll anywhere in time for the Fall semester - Sept to Xmas. I can see that a lot of this all depends on what we discuss, conclusions drawn and on my status at home.

Dr Kennan's idea basically was that I should know my future - so if staying at La Beach or anywhere was just putting off decisions he was against it - and said I should go home. However if I know where I stand then he sees nothing against La Beach - it would be part of a process rather than aimless uncertainty - hence my last letter.

I personally feel I'd like to stay away longer - or for more time - apart from reasons I've mentioned before - but also for just more time to settle, accept and grow. Seeing you in Sept. will be of utmost importance for me and I finally look forward to it.

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I'm going to DC tomorrow to see Fr John & will ~~see~~ have a visit to DRK - he asked me to as he's overly concerned about whether I'm being dumped or not. So I'll show him your letter and use the time to reflect with him.

You mentioned sending a cheque - I've not got yet - I'm not worried if you have not sent it, but if you have I'll have to start tracing it. I'll use it to reimburse myself & pay my board - that will almost use it up.... There's no worries about the debtors person!

Hope this letter makes sense my Lord. If you want me to call by phone I can - I won't be here for the next 10 days I'm going to take a break - I'm bushed after semester among other things. - I think I did alright with exams. Passed Latin - believe it or not. Got an A for "Liturgical Year" & have yet to get the results on the others. Next is the revision for the comps - yuk.

I hope my arrangements at Holy Trinity will be acceptable for you. There is plenty of privacy there. Also it's nearer the airport if you want me to collect you all. Perhaps if you stay you would say mass for the community?

I'll write again in a few weeks. Please continue to keep me in your prayers - they must be working.

Yours in Christ
Paul R.

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