

CONFIDENTIAL REPORT: BRO. GREGORY SUTTON

My supervisory role as Principal of St Bartholomew's School has given me many opportunities to question the professionalism of Bro. Gregory Sutton in a number of important areas:

- Communication: There is no communication between us at any level, other than that which I initiate. When asked for information I invariably find a curt note in my pigeonhole.
- Time spent at school: It has always been of concern to me that Bro. Gregory has left the school with the dismissal bell, has never been available for after-school activities, working bees, P+F meetings or functions. He spends a great deal of his free time in his classroom or on the playground, or goes home for lunch, leaving a minimum time for interaction with the staff. This has caused considerable resentment among a generally sociable group many of whom spent long hours in voluntary labour preparing grounds for the centenary and for sporting fixtures.
- Programming: Despite numerous directives at staff meetings outlining requirements for programmes, Brother continues to hand up abysmally inadequate programme documentation. His attitude appears to be that he considers it a waste of time, and inserts a few loose sheets in a manila folder to 'keep me happy'. These contain only a token gesture towards detailed aims, objectives, content and evaluation, and invariably only cover the basic subjects. I was foolishly lenient with

him when on Year Five, recognising that he had taught the class for fifteen years, though I still asked for additional documentation on several occasions. However, this year I appointed him to a new class, in the hope that I could force him out of the undoubted rut he was in - a move which did not please him at first! I requested programmes in Week 5, giving all staff the full five weeks' warning, and was extremely disappointed to receive an even 'scrappier' five or six pages of programme, some of which were only copies of REDACTED Camp programme. I returned the folder to him on the same day, asking that a full programme covering all subjects including music, Art, P.E., Media etc. be handed in by the end of the week. I received the additional material by Friday though I have yet to receive the kinds of Aims, Objectives, content and evaluation in all subjects that every other staff member submits - some of whom have been teaching twice as long as Bro Gregory!

Parental Complaints: Throughout my 2½ years at St Bartholomew's, I have had a series of complaints from parents, alarmed by Bro. Gregory's methods of conducting his class. These concerned isolating children, questionable content in language lessons, punching - hitting children who failed to measure up in his maths class, special friendships with small groups, playing cards with a group of children at his desk and other more serious

complaints which I have dealt with elsewhere and are contained in my confidential file. After one such complaint I interviewed both child and teacher separately, keeping the matter strictly confidential at the parents' request. To my consternation, Bro Gregory guessed the source of the complaint and went to the 11 year old child, confided in her that he had been 'carpeted' because of her mother's complaint, and warned her not to tell her mother anything about him in future. This naturally caused the child and the family a great deal of emotional trauma!

The above aspects of the teacher in question taken together, give serious doubts about his attitude to teaching, to our school and its community, and to me as the authority figure. I am amazed that he has been able to act so unprofessionally during his teaching career, or if it has only happened since commencing at this school, I can only conclude his appointment here was not to his liking & he hoped for more. More likely still, is the fact that his personality problems prevent him from addressing his responsibilities as a professional, primary teacher, and until these matters are dealt with and he learns appropriate ways of interaction with adults and children, he should not be in a classroom situation.

SIGNED

A. Julia O'Sullivan
 Apr 13th 1987.