

REDACTED

Kew, Victoria, 3101.

Dear Paddy,

I have arrived - last Wednesday in fact. The trip down was mostly enjoyable. I came down via the Princess Highway, although it is much longer than the Hume Highway, since I had not been that way before. It was worth the extra distance and poor road to see the beautiful scenery. The trip was uneventful except for a broken windscreen and punctured radiator, courtesy of a semi-trailer, and a slight accident by reason of my own stupidity (just backed into another car, only a scratch on both of us fortunately).

The place here is very good, a beautiful old house and very fine gardens. The company is also most enjoyable. At the moment over the Christmas vacation there are only three priests and one brother but during the year the number is fifteen with the postulants. Then of course there are usually retreatants.

When I first spoke to Peter Evans, just at the table, he seemed to favour my doing something in theology at one of the theology faculties. However, yesterday we had the first real session and after that he said that the Pastoral Institute is obviously the place for me since rather than just acquiring knowledge and getting degrees its purpose is more the spirit of things and is community based. According to him this fits in perfectly. He went then immediately to ring the Institute, since it is very late - applications are supposed to go in during the third term of the previous year - and he thought it would probably be full-up. Anyway I had forgotten that Jim Briglia, who was at St. Peter's with me, was the director as from this year. So we went out for tea and discussed it last night. It seems that I will get in alright. I have filled out the application form this morning. Of course there is a financial problem - a larger one than I had dreamed of - I was thinking it would probably be \$200-\$300. In the calendar for 1976 it says \$630 and Jim told me last night that since printing it has gone up to \$740. I hope you are not as surprised as I was. I hope I have done

the right thing going ahead and applying before getting word from you but since it is all so late and Peter thinks it so useful I decided to waste no time. As you may easily guess \$740 is right out of my line of money.

Melbourne itself I am finding very easy to get around - much easier than Sydney. La Verna is about 5 miles from the city. The Pastoral Institute is on the same side of the city as us but a few miles from here - but not at all hard to get there.

That's about all the news for now.

Yours in Xtc,

Vince