

Received
for 1/5/92

4th May 1992

To: Mrs. J. O'Donnell
Principal
Our Lady Help of Christians,
Eltham

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A phone call was received by myself at my home on Friday night (1st May 1992) from approximately 10.00 p.m. to 10.35 p.m. from Fr. Baker, Parish Priest, Eltham.

Initially I was thanked for an easter card and rabbit received by himself from the Prep A class and myself. The card also thanked him for our refurbished classroom. In response, I noted our family and myself have on other occasions forwarded cards to other priests and a Ballarat Bishop, and thought he may like a card. The card was sent mainly as a thank you for the upgrading of our rooms.

A compliment was then played concerning my playing of the piano.

Father then asked if I would play the piano for a Rotary night on 25th June 1992, the night commencing approximately 7.30 p.m. until around 10.30 p.m. I answered yes and could I arrange for another teacher Mrs. Osypiw to assist. * P.P.S.

After general conversation concerning our Easter holidays, Father commented on my age, saying I must be around 31 now. In response, I casually said get out of it - I'm only 29 - don't make me 31 yet!

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- Father then proceeded to query my private life. I was asked if I had a boyfriend to which I answered No -.

- Father continued by asking, "You're not the other way inclined?" When I responded saying "Sorry?" he stated that he was wondering and thinking whether I was the other way inclined. Continuing this, he added - "I tend to think whether you are 'inclined towards relationships with girls'". In response I commented - "that's rubbish, don't be silly, that's disgusting - no, I'm not into that sort of thing."

- After I quickly changed the topic to another school related matter, Father then came back to the topic of my private relationships, querying my attitude towards the same, stressing more so this time my attitude towards males. After casually saying I had not met the right guy yet - I tried to avoid the topic and sidetrack Father from querying me, as I have done in the past by saying, "why, have you found me a decent Catholic boy". I again tried then to change the topic to another matter.

- Again, regarding relationships, Father responded saying he might know a nice Catholic boy who was presently away.

- Father then again queried my attitude towards relationships asking am I interested in males and would I be interested or like to find a male - in relation to the future.

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As a result of Father's questions and previous comments I said that in the future I would hope to settle down eventually and look to having a family.

- Father quickly responded by saying "Oh - the way I'm reading into this, it appears you want the children but not the husband. When I said No, that's not what I said, he quickly repeated his previous comment by saying - well, the way I'm reading this, it appears you want the children but not the husband. I responded by saying, "No, you're not listening and you're reading into things the wrong way - that's rubbish, that's not what I said - I don't believe in that sort of thing - as far as I'm concerned, you find a man, get married then possibly look to having a family. That's the way I've been brought up, being Catholic!"

- After again changing the topic asking about Father's health, he informed me he was not really well. Getting off the topic of myself, we briefly discussed his health and general health aspects.

- Father then suggested I might cook him a meal one night and, after pausing, he continued to say "and I'll stay the night". Ignoring the second comment, I stated ^{NO} that this was not a good idea, as I'm not a very good cook and he wouldn't like my cooking! Again I quickly changed the topic.

- Once more, Father repeated a similar comment saying, "wouldn't that be the

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gossip of the Eltham Parish - Parish Priest goes to Teacher's house for (tea/dinner?), stays the night - and sleeps with Teacher.

At this point, I interrupted Father promptly saying, No, - I don't really think that's a very good idea - that's disgusting - ^{No} I'm not really into things like that Father.

After commenting that Father must have things to do, we finalised the phone call - Father saying he wants me to get back to him in a months time to discuss things further.

During the course of the phone call, I tried to change the topic several times, however, Father continued to come back to points relating to my personal life.

Although I tried to change the topic, I felt that I was obliged to remain polite whilst talking to Father, as he is a Priest and my employer.

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* In reference to the playing of the piano at the Rotary night, after I said "Yes", Father commented, I knew you'd be back me up - You back me up and I'll back you up.