



Our Lady Help of Christians Parish, Eltham

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29th December 1991

Most Rev. T. F. Little
Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne
P.O. Box 146
EAST MELBOURNE Vic 3002

Dear Bishop Frank,

Please God, as you write this you are enjoying a relaxing Sunday evening, perhaps after watching what turned out to be the last day of the second Test...or at any rate after having had a cheering day.

I wish you God's blessings and the sure knowledge of his presence in 1992.

Thank you for your Christmas card, and for the copy of the letter you forwarded to Peter Cantwell; thank you also for the phone call last week. Mind you, my name is - when it has to be used - is Wilfred, not William: I also noted that the rumours you mentioned on the phone had solidified into allegations by the time you wrote to Peter on the same day. I trust that natural justice will prevail and that one is presumed innocent until proven guilty (if that is the appropriate word)...and that I may answer to allegations, a thing I would never bother to do with rumours.

There have been two developments really interesting to me. Firstly, with your use of the formal phrase 'growing chemical dependence', I was prodded into realising how much my smoking has increased in the last six months - perhaps not the result you may have expected, but very beneficial for me to take on board, and in due course attend to. Secondly, since Christmas morning and the last Mass over and done, life has been very undemanding and I have responded beautifully! I said to the housekeeper yesterday that I'm at my best when I'm doing nothing! This seems to line up very well with Peter's advice that I must learn to say no, and to do it often.

I wonder if the worm is already turning! With less work and more time, and the new experience of saying no "because of my doctor's advice", I'm certainly feeling a bit better about things. And a phone call from Joe O'Connell, and another from Deaks (on Christmas Day) makes me feel that perhaps you don't have to die first before someone appears to care.

Well, Frank, I hope this letter buoys your hopes in the reading as it has buoyed mine in the writing...well, typing!...and thank God for "lift-off". I guess I should send a copy of this to Peter Cantwell. I'll be happy to talk with you when you return.

Best wishes,

HENRY STREET, ELTHAM, 3095

Wilfred Baker
(KNOWN AS "BILL")

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