

INTERVIEW WITH FR. PETER SEARSON, P.P., DOVETON

on: Friday, 25th June, 1993

in: the Office of the Vicar General

at: the meeting was arranged for 3.00 p.m., began at 3.30 p.m. and concluded at approximately 4.45 p.m.

Present: Monsignor G. Cudmore, V.G.
Rev. Peter Searson
Rev. T. Doyle

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During the discussion the following points were made:

- Monsignor Cudmore presented Father Searson with the complaint by Mr. REDACTED that he (Fr. Searson) had defamed his son's REDACTED reputation before the families of REDACTED friends and had intimidated his friends in order to have them cease their relationship with REDACTED
- A letter supporting this was written by Mrs. Colleen L'Huiller, a student teacher.
- The allegations against Father Searson were supported by the Principal of the parish primary school, Mr. Ray Adams.
- Mr. REDA, Mrs. L'Huiller, and Mr. Adams had sought and had been given an interview with the Vicar General on the morning of Friday, 25th June.
- Father Searson denied the allegations, was reluctant to admit any wrong, thought the family were ungrateful and were part of a faction against him.
- When confronted with the letter and reminded of the discriminatory nature of his conversation with the children and their parents, Father Searson ceased to deny the facts, continued to deny any wrongdoing, eventually admitted the dangers to and the dislocation of other people's perceptions, and the possibility of legal action by Mr. REDA
- Father Searson denied deceit about previous incidents, and was very inconsistent about his previous military history.
- On two occasions the Vicar General informed Father Searson that he was being given a formal warning in accordance with Canons 1740 and 1741, and that this would be confirmed in writing.

*Omby
Searson*

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- Father Searson agreed to undo any damage that he had done through these incidents. He did not appear to understand or seemed unwilling to comprehend the seriousness of the situation. He agreed that he would not discriminate against the people who had made the complaint and would be "more wary" in the future. When pressed about this last remark he was unable to elucidate.

Comment

Overall it was a very unsatisfactory interview in terms of discerning the truthfulness or otherwise of Father Searson's statements or an indication that he really understood the seriousness of the situation. He did recognise that he was being given a formal warning.

Mr. [Signature]
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