

c.c. J. Beus
c.c. The Rev. Monsignor Hilton Deakin

3 January, 1992

Rev. Fr. P.L. Searson
The Holy Family Presbytery
Power Road
DOVETON VIC 3177


Dear Father Searson,

We refer to the state of affairs that currently exist in the Doveton Parish concerning the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, in that you encouraged the formation of a group calling itself St. Vincent de Paul and that in last March you banked a cheque for \$1000.00 which was a donation to the Society from the City of Berwick into other than the Society's account, without permission.

We believe we have displayed great forbearance to date in trying to reach a compromise, but in fairness to our membership and particularly the members of the Dandenong Regional Council it has now been decided that the Society should seek restitution. We, therefore, advise that unless we receive a cheque for \$1000 payable to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and that you give an undertaking that your parish group will refrain from calling itself the Society of St. Vincent de Paul or purporting to be a branch of the Society within fourteen days from the date of this letter, we will refer the matter to our legal advisor for appropriate action.

For the Society to contemplate such action against a priest is very extreme given the reverence we hold the clergy and the special relationship we enjoy in the vast majority of parishes. We would, therefore, implore you to consider the proposition of disbanding your group and encouraging them to seek membership with the legitimate branch of the Society in your parish. The return of the money however, would remain a prerequisite for any such settlement.

Yours faithfully,


K.P. CURRY
GENERAL SECRETARY

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