



ST BERNADETTE'S PARISH CENTRE

14 Wheeler Street
LALOR PARK NSW 2147
Tel: 9672.4037 Fax: 9671.5377
Rev. Fr. Andrew Robinson, Parish Priest

17th September, 2013

To: Father Christopher de Souza and Dianne Dawson,

The following information is a response to the three statements that Father Christopher de Souza VG EV and Dianne Dawson - Acting Professional Standards Manager asked me to respond to in writing. These three statements were presented at a meeting held on Thursday afternoon the 12th of September at the Diocesan Offices of the Parramatta Catholic Church.

Statement 1. Stephen Joseph Robinson has been involved with the parish since 2006.

Response: Stephen Joseph Robinson became involved with the parish preparations for the 25th Anniversary of the Second Church. This involvement was at the level of writing a hymn to the parishes patron saint – Saint Bernadette and of composing a new musical setting of the Catholic Mass propers and playing the piano for the event.

Statement 2. Stephen Joseph Robinson was charged with offences against boys under the age of 18 years in 1998 and was incarcerated for 18 months.

Response: Stephen Joseph Robinson was charged and consequently sentenced on two matters. One sentence was for sexual assault (not against a minor) for which he received a 18 month sentence. The second sentence was for an indecent act before a minor who was 17 years plus at the time for which he was given a 9 month sentence. After 15 months his appeal against both sentences came before the Supreme Court of Criminal Appeal. The 18 month sentence was quashed and the 9 month conviction not overturned as the sentence had been served.

Statement 3. Stephen Joseph Robinson acts as a volunteer in relation to the preparation of celebration of religious services which include children and young people.

Response: Stephen Joseph Robinson has been involved as a part-time volunteer by playing the piano for the parish choir at a Sunday mass when his weekend work commitments have permitted. He has worked under two choir masters who had all been fully informed as to his background of being charged and sentenced. His involvement in this manner was not seen as a problem, as it did not involve unsupervised face to face contact with children. His involvement only became a problem when Broken Rites Australia, researching the Catholic Church noticed items about Stephen Robinson's contribution to the parish liturgies on St Bernadette's Lalor Park website under the parish history section. Information of his contributions was put on the website in good faith, because there was nothing to hide. His involvement with the parish came to an end at the directive of the Parramatta Diocese when a meeting was held with Mr Paul Davis on Tuesday 24th April 2012. It should be noted that all Catholic Parish Mass congregations include children and young people and that Stephen Joseph Robinson is free to attend mass in any Catholic Parish.

Trusting that this information is helpful to your enquires in the matters of concern.

Yours sincerely,

A. Robinson

Father Andrew Robinson
Parish Priest St Bernadette's
Lalor Park, NSW