



TEL. 2-2647

BISHOP'S HOUSE,
WILLIAM STREET,
ROCKHAMPTON,
QUEENSLAND.

9th December 1964.

Rev. Father R. Durham P.P.,
Presbytery,
Thozet's Road,
ROCKONIA.

Dear Father Durham;

I wish to officially confirm your appointment as Parish Priest of Neerkol. The appointment will take effect from Friday 5th February 1965.

The position is not an easy one, but I feel that you are ideally suited to it. Your responsibility does not extend in any way to the grazing property adjoining the St. Joseph's Home.

As I look at it, Neerkol is a parish in which there is a large Institution where you happen to live. Needless to say the people are visited as in any other parish and are asked to contribute as in any other parish.

All of the schools - each class of our own school at Neerkol and the State schools - are to be given weekly catechetical instruction. As I have told you often, I feel a tremendous responsibility towards the children at Neerkol, who have neither mother nor father to look after them. More has to be done for them than for ordinary children.

Again let me emphasise that if you require any help, for example, guest speakers, special counsellors, to help in the children's formation for life, all you have to do is to tell me.

The Institution will pay you £200 a year as a Chaplain's fee. If the people's contributions added to that do not arrive at what your salary should be according to the Diocesan Synodal decrees, the Diocese will make up the deficit. However it should be pointed out to the people that they have an obligation to contribute as in any other parish. They are, in fact, relieved of certain burdens insofar as the Institution provides them with a central church at no cost to them.

I know that the children of Neerkol will be in good hands and that they will find in you a real Spiritual Father, guide and friend. You will miss the people of Rockonia and Frenchville for whom you have a great affection, but any sorrow you might have in

2.

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leaving them will be lessened by the thought of the importance of the work that is being given to you in the Parish of Neerkol and at St. Joseph's Home.

Asking God to bless this work which is of such great responsibility.

Yours sincerely in Our Lord,

F. Francis Roche

Bishop of Rockhampton.

*kindest regards to Anne & Marty, 10/12/64
FR*