

MARIST BROTHERS

PROVINCIAL HOUSE

14 Drummoyne Avenue, Drummoyne NSW 2047
 PO Box 138 Drummoyne NSW 1470
 Phone (02) 9819 6622
 Facsimile (02) 9819 6184
 email provincial@fms sydney.org.au

3 July 2002

Brother John Thompson fms
 Provincial

Mr ^{DG}
 C/- Bill Cooper & Associates
 PO Box 472
 Mackay Qld 4740

This is Exhibit "K" to the Statement of
 DG REDACTED

Dated: 23 OCTOBER 2013

Dear Mr ^{DG}

I as Provincial of the Marist Brothers wish to acknowledge to Mr ^{DG}, his parents and family that the Brothers accept the substantial truth of the allegations of abuse perpetrated upon Mr ^{DG} by Br Raymond Foster also known as Br Celestine.

I wish to apologise to Mr ^{DG} personally and to the family for the suffering and pain caused by the abuse and the manner in which the subsequent allegations were dealt with. In hindsight a more sensitive and pastorally caring approach could have been taken to assist in addressing the significant impact of the abuse on Mr ^{DG}. It is acknowledged that abuse of the type experienced by Mr ^{DG} can and does have a profound lasting effect which adversely affects all parts of the life of the victim.

I also regret that in the aftermath of Br Foster's suicide in 1999 statements were made by some Brothers and reported in newspapers which, albeit unintentionally, had the effect of inflicting further pain and anguish on Mr ^{DG}. I acknowledge that such statements would serve to deepen still further in Mr ^{DG} his sense of guilt relating to the suicide of the Brother.

In an attempt to address the injury and injustice perpetrated upon Mr ^{DG} on behalf of the Brothers I unreservedly apologise to him for the pain and suffering he has had to endure over these many years as a consequence of the abuse perpetrated upon him as a child.

I also apologise to his parents for the abuse of trust by Br Foster in his dealings with their son. I understand that some erroneous and the misleading comments, were made during the eulogy at the Mass for Br Foster. I apologise for any hurt which these may have caused or intensified.

Yours sincerely,



John Thompson FMS
 Provincial
 Marist Brothers Sydney Province

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