

**RAY FOSTER**  
**INTERVIEW 3/6/96**

We spent considerable time going through the Champagnat Resource Centre. Ray is getting a very good assembly of various items. So far it has taken over the entirety of the former study. We will probably need to put a bit of a brake on it if he wishes to expand further. He says that he is bombarded with requests (and of course I visited the community during the week of Champagnat celebrations) he also maintains that he has never been busier in his life. The Champagnat Resource Centre together with Marist Family News, the necrology, and sundry other activities keep him on the move. By the same token he also claims that he has never been happier.

I asked him directly about how the dysfunctional elements of the community affect him. He replied that although he gets disappointed at times, he feels that they are doing as best they can. He is more than happy to remain there and to continue his various activities.

I approached the subject of the content of the recent Superior's Conference with him and asked how he had reacted. He was initially cautious in his reply but rapidly became quite open about it. He said that he had not slept well the night before and that he was quite anxious at the beginning of Robert Grants presentation. However, he felt that the day was extremely beneficial for himself, even to the point of being able to contribute in the small group discussions.

He then went on to talk about his own experience of frequent abuse from the ages of 5 to 13. Clearly that has left a deep mark on him. He continues to receive counselling from Ron Perry although the frequency has diminished in recent months. He commented that he wishes he had been able to seek help 20 to 30 years before he actually did so. By the same token he is extremely pleased that at last he mustered up the courage to do so.

My overall impression is that Ray is coping reasonably well in what can be a very difficult situation in the community. He does not expect to work miracles nor should anybody place those expectations on him. I sense that he is a non-threatening presence to the others and this is probably what they need. I would like to assist him by confronting [REDACTED] on their resistance to becoming identified with the single Eastwood community.