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Bishop's House
Lismore, N.S.W.

P.O. BOX 1, LISMORE, N.S.W. 2480

27th March 1985

14

Rev. Father R. Brown, P.P.,
Catholic Presbytery,
P.O. Box 25,
TWEED HEADS N.S.W. 2485

Dear Father Brown,

On a number of occasions last year we talked of your health and related important matters. As a result of these discussions you visited Dr O'Neill in Armidale and also went for a while to "Damascus" in Brisbane.

However, I believe from my own observations and from the concerned comments of some of your parishioners, that further treatment for some of those health conditions is urgently necessary.

Furthermore, as I told you yesterday when we met, I have been receiving for some months now letters and telephone calls from a number of people who know and care for you. These people have given me cause to believe that your pastoral role as Parish Priest is being adversely affected.

I believe that I have tried to help you through this difficult time, which must put a great strain on you. Having consulted the Council of Priests, I feel obliged to ask you to take six months sick leave. During this time you can be free of all pastoral and administrative responsibilities and will be able to get all the medical and spiritual help you need to be restored to health.

I will be meeting again with the Council of Priests on 16th April and would appreciate an answer to this letter before then, so that your reply can be tabled at the meeting. Should you be unwilling to accept the offer I have made it will be necessary for me to seek the Council's advice as to the next step that should be taken.

If you consider that I am misinformed either as to the state of your health or the state of the parish I would appreciate your advice as to how this misinformation can be corrected.

With best wishes for the coming Easter Season,

Yours sincerely,

John Satterthwaite

BISHOP OF LISMORE