

STATUTORY DECLARATION

27

I, PAUL ANTHONY BOLSTER

of **REDACTED** in the State of New South
Solicitor, do solemnly and sincerely declare as follows:-

1. I am a practicing catholic and a parishioner of the Parish of Tweed Heads of which Father Rex Brown is Parish Priest.
2. I am a regular contributor to the Planned Giving Programme.
3. I am 27 years of age and I am a Solicitor of the Supreme Courts of Queensland and New South Wales and I carry on the practice of Law at 35 Pacific Highway, Tweed Heads.
4. I have been an active member of the Parish of Tweed Heads for the past ten years and I have been regularly giving to the Planned Giving Programme during that time.
5. I assisted in the conduct of the Planned Giving Programme for 1984, together with **REDACTED** and a person who conducts Planned Giving Programmes for his living. I delivered the principal speech at the Parish Dinner, outlining expenditure for the next three years and the money required.
6. I assisted in the counting of the pledge cards and I can say that approximately \$1,600.00 per week was pledged.
7. Prior to the pledges for the current Planned Giving Programme, there were 296 people contributing to Planned Giving in the Parish. 96 of these chose not to renew their pledges. The total number of families now pledging amounts to 390 approximately.
8. I have not been afforded access to the financial records of the Parish to try to verify if the Planned Giving Programme has matched pledges and Father Brown has refused to disclose what has been received since the new Planned Giving Programme has been in operation.
9. I am also the Chairman of a Committee that was established in order to investigate the need for a catholic High School in Tweed Heads. This Committee has functioned for eighteen months. It has met approximately eight to ten times in the last eighteen months and on most occasions

Paul Bolster
Declarant

J. J. J. J.
A Justice of the Peace

the meetings have been held in the Presbytery.

10. It now appears that a High School should be proceeded with at South Tweed Heads which would necessitate the purchase of land and it is my very real fear that the money previously standing to the credit of the account of the Parish may no longer be there and no funds will be available for the purchase of the land required.
11. I must state that my experience with Father Brown in relation to financial matters is that he is extremely secretive. At one meeting that I attended at the Presbytery in relation to the Planned Giving Programme when he was requested to produce the books of the Parish so that a guide could be obtained as to income and expenditure he would not and the meeting Chairman, Mr. Peter Burns had to say to him "Father, I get the distinct impression that we are not on the same side."
12. I have had cause to attend at the Presbytery on a number of occasions since Father Brown has been Parish Priest. I would say that it would be a minimum of twenty times. Almost invariably he has been intoxicated.
13. Father Brown has been pursuing a welfare programme in the Parish which on enquiring amongst Parishioners does not have the support of the majority of Parishioners in the way that it is presently being conducted. The Parishioners are suspicious that money destined to build High Schools and extend the Hostel for the Aged is being squandered on alcohol for "drop outs" who now often to be found living in the Presbytery. A number of Parishioners have expressed to me that they would not go to Father Brown with a pastoral problem because of the people living in the Presbytery and those that have mentioned this to me are Mr. Martin Piper, a local solicitor of Budd, Budd & Piper and Mr Tony Anderson, a valuer of South Tweed Heads.
14. A number of other Parishioners no longer attend Mass at Tweed Heads and go to either Kingscliff or Coolangatta. Some of these that I have spoken to are REDACTED a Civil Engineer, REDACTED, REDACTED

Declarant

A Justice of the Peace

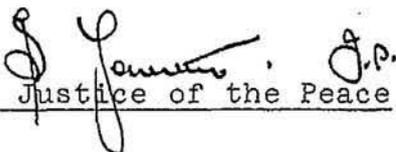
REDACT, REDACTED

15. The Deputy Principal of St. Joseph's, Tweed Heads has told me that she is not prepared to contribute to the Planned Giving Programme in Tweed Heads because she is not satisfied that the money would be properly managed by Father Brown, but had Father Hoade been Parish Priest she would have had no qualms concerning contributing to Planned Giving.
16. I say that I personally have on a number of occasions observed Father Brown intoxicated. I am concerned that the Parish money and property is being badly administered and that grave harm is being done to the Church. Father Brown has lost his good name amongst serious minded and upright Parishioners and this problem cannot be overcome in the foreseeable future. It appears even to myself, who is not medically trained, that he is and has been, almost from the inception of his appointment as Parish Priest, an alcoholic.

And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true by virtue of the provisions of the Oaths Act of 1900.

MADE AND DECLARED
 at Tweed Heads, this
 12th day of
 April, 1985, before
 me:

} 

 J.P.
 A Justice of the Peace