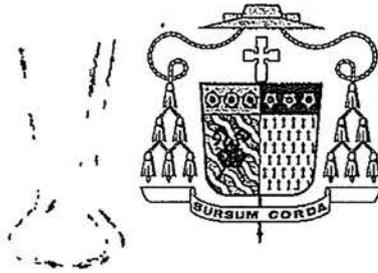


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*Bishop's House
Lismore, N.S.W.*

AUSTRALIA

7th April, 1987

His Eminence,
Cardinal Antonio Innocenti,
Cardinal Prefect,
Congregatio pro Clericis,
Piazza Pio XII, 3,
00193 ROMA.

Your Eminence,

RE: PROT. N. 179622/I

Further to my letter of March 23, 1987 in which I acknowledged receipt of Your Eminence's letter of January 23, 1987 and the enclosed copy of the Brief of the Advocate for the case of removal of Father Paul Rex Brown, a priest of the Diocese of Lismore, I now wish formally to respond to Your Eminence by presenting my comments on the Brief.

In presenting these comments I wish to make some preliminary observations.

1. I had a close and friendly relationship with Father Brown for the many years during which he was the Diocesan Chancellor and my personal Secretary. He was a trusted adviser and enjoyed my confidence and was trusted by his peers. During those years I noticed that there was a disintegration of his health and his ability to function in a balanced way as a result of his over-indulgence in alcohol. When he moved from the Diocesan Curia to the office of parish priest it was my fervent hope that this appointment would be a new beginning for him.
2. Over a long period of time I urged and encouraged Father Brown to seek proper professional assistance for his problem with alcohol. This was done not only as an act of pastoral responsibility but also as an expression of my deep concern for the personal welfare of a brother in the priesthood.
3. The Advocate for Father Brown attempts to create the impression (page 137 Advocate's Brief) that the removal of Father Brown resulted from some form of personal vendetta I had against Father Brown. I assure Your Eminence such is not the case. My motivation has always been to seek what was in the interests of the common good of the parish of Tweed Heads and the personal welfare of Father Brown.