

20

4 January 1993

Father Peter Lechner SP
Director
Villa Louis Martin
Jemez Springs
NEW MEXICO 87025
USA

Dear Father Peter,

I feel somewhat embarrassed to be writing to you at this late stage. Early in 1992 I did ask whether you would be able to assist a Father Paul David Ryan and you kindly responded on February 14th last.

I passed on a copy of your response to Father Ryan and he was somewhat depressed by it. I hasten to add that I saw it as being perfectly honest and would have liked him to have met with you to follow up on your offer to talk with him and to have an assessment made by your staff. However, he was not happy about that suggestion, but I am pleased to say that he has now agreed to undergo some long-term counselling and I hope that it will clarify the issues involved, even if it does lead to a conclusion that there is no future in ministry.

I am afraid that we have some disappointing news regarding Gerry Ridsdale. It appears that accusations have been made following a phone-in occasion on which people were invited to report offences and Police are following up on allegations and it is quite likely that Gerry will be formally charged once these investigations have been completed. Things have been going well for him in his post in Sydney, but he has now felt the need to resign from this position and is in a very difficult period of waiting. I am sure he will appreciate your prayers.

I trust that Christmas has been a blessed time for you and thank you again for your assistance.

With every good wish.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Bishop of Ballarat