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Priests don't
seem to engage
productively! AR.

concerned what the clergy in Ballarat are thinking about him. I must admit that I am not too sure! What has been quite remarkable is the almost total absence of any enquiry about where he is or what he is doing. At the Retreats last year, I mentioned that he was completing his studies. There has scarcely been a question since. On the one hand, he was not well known in the Diocese before Ordination, since he originated in another Diocese, though he had taught in one of our larger Parishes and worked as a Deacon in another. On the other hand, I suspect that there is more to the silence than that and that the priests at least know there is a problem, even if they don't know what the problem is. We have our Annual Retreats beginning next week, so I might hear more then. However, the Priest in whose Parish Paul worked for some time when out of the Seminary before Ordination did tell me that one of his parishioners remarked to him that if Paul ever appeared in Ballarat again he would have him run out of town! It seems that there were more incidents during his time here than anyone was aware of. None of them surfaced prior to his Ordination and one wonders why. However, it does raise the question as to whether Paul will be able to function effectively as a Priest here later. I have not raised this question with him, as I think the main thing at present is for him to get himself sorted out and this seems to be happening. But it will have to be faced eventually. Perhaps we can talk about this when I come through the States next year. Unfortunately it now seems that I will not be doing so until the second half of the year, since the 'ad limina' visit will probably be scheduled for early October. So it could be September or October before I get there. In any case, I think Paul was given to understand that he would probably have two years and so would expect to be there for another year at least. But, far from assuring him that there will be plenty to do when he gets home - which would be true in any other circumstances - I find it hard to assure him that he will be able to operate here. Hence I am keeping off the subject, since I have no wish to depress him or spoil the therapy.

I am glad to know that he is being more open with you and that seems to be the case with Dr. Kinnane too. I deeply appreciate your concern for him and will be grateful for any further advice you might have for me. I will try not to be so remiss in replying next time.

Hope you had a good Christmas and every good wish for the new year.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

BISHOP OF BALLARAT.