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My Lord Bishop,

I was hoping to catch up with you at the assembly, but got caught short by having to come home for a funeral. As I ma going on hols this month I wanted to communicate with you before you head abroad.

First off let me say I thought the assembly was pretty good - it was positive at least, and well formatted. I particularly appreciated your words at the Mass, and thank you for sharing them with us.

I have decided not to go to the U.S. this year as I intended for hols - I have a really noble motive costs too much! But also I decided I needed time to think and so removed the temptation - all in light of our last discussion. I do appreciate some of the pressure you are under at the moment with the guys who are on sick leave etc so it is better for me to hang loose and see how the Spirit moves us. I am not so sure I have changed my assessment of me being P.P. here at Penshurst, but if I can survive so can it for the time being non e vero? Likewise re some of the other issues I raised with you.

I am going for a wander vacation, plus retreat at the end, from July 26th. Peter Molenaar will do full time supply in my absence. If you want to get in touch with me I ll leave phone numbers here - basically I will be in Mildura, Sydney and Melbourne.

We are just completing the renewal of the Planned Giving program here - that is waiting for all the pledge cards to come back in - it was strongly indicated by parishioners that they did not want an outside fund raiser company or to be doorknocked - so I will see if they put their money where their mouths are soon. So far with 50% in the trend is O.K. - all increased or kept the same pledge only 2 are less. I am hoping we will reach our goal because a part of it is to develop a Savings Trust fund for future interest earnings to supplement the Planned Giving - which we will need in the not too distant future as our paying population is decreasing slowly. I am afraid faith does'nt pay a great part in a lot of peoples attitude to giving. Whatever!

I have enclosed a cheque for \$250 for what I owe you. My Lord, I cant find a record of what I have paid, so cant work out what I still owe if any. I should'nt let it go on - its all from my studies and that's been over for awhile, so if you let me know and I'll pay it out if you want.

If you want to have a chat before you head off let me know, or I'll see you when you return (I'm trying to think what I want in Rome!).

Take care and thanks

Paul David Ryan
July 4th ← (symbolic eh?)