

May 10, 1995

Bishop Pedro Bantigue
PO Box 8
4000 SAN PABLO CITY
PHILIPPINES

My Lord,

I wrote to you on 8th November, 1994 when I received a letter from a priest of this Diocese, Fr Denis McAlinden, requesting permission to work in your Diocese. I enclose a copy in case you did not receive it.

I now wish to explore the reasons why I could not give this permission.

In 1994 serious allegations were made against Fr Denis. In being confronted by these accusations by a priest deputed by the Australian Episcopal Conference, Fr Denis admitted to the accusations. The agreement entered into was that Fr Denis should retire to Ireland. This agreement found endorsement from those who had filed the accusations.

Some people of my Diocese have now learnt that he is not in Ireland but is supposedly working in your Diocese. They have demanded to know whether this is true.

Could you please advise me that if he has been working in your Diocese that you will now withdraw his faculties and that you will advise him to return to Ireland.

I fear that if this is not done then the people concerned could well proceed to the next step. This would have serious implications to both your Diocese, this Diocese and to Fr Denis and the Church.

Thanking you for your cooperation in this difficult matter.

Yours fraternally in Christ

Most Reverend L M Clarke, DD
Bishop of Maitland

+LMC/ed