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2/6/96

Dear Leo,

My thoughts are with you today even though these words will not reach you for another few days. I wish you many happy returns of the day and may God bless you with health, happiness and many graces.

We have had a troubled week with the media turning the screws on us mercilessly. Some relief came however with the splendid Ceremony on Saturday Morning.

I have been told the parents of the 'victims' are angry with me because I did not report what was going on. Well I didn't report it because I had no firm evidence.

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Only one parent came to me and all he had to say was that John Ryan should be moved from Merewether parish. I had no further evidence apart from rumours. Then I confronted Vince and he did admit he had a problem and that made me decide to send him for treatment.

I did not know until I saw it on the paper during the week that Vince attended only one interview with Dr Peter Evans. I have been told that Dr. Evans gave him the names of other psychiatrists (at least two) whom he should go to. But he did nothing about it. In that he let me down.

I ask myself whether, even if I had direct evidence, would I have reported to the police. Probably not. In the context and circumstances of

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today - yes; of twenty years ago probably No, I think I would have tried to keep it in house.

I discussed it only with Mr Casey and he agreed with what I was doing. The other consultants were Simms, Flatley, Sylvester, and Saunders. I did not fully discuss it at a meeting. I did tell them there was a problem with Vince Ryan and Casey & I had decided to send him to Melbourne for treatment. They were happy with that, and, having spoken to some of them, I find they are still pleased at having heard no more about it then.

I am writing this to you because it is weighing heavily with me being involved, even in the background, in what must be the greatest scandal

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ever in our diocese.

The extent of depravity outlined in the Paper has shocked me! As for Vince - while we cannot judge but it is a mystery how anyone with the moral and spiritual formation of a priest could act as he apparently has done. I approved your giving him an appointment when he came back from Melbourne. I approved your sending him to USA and putting him in charge of "Renew". But I thought he was rehabilitated having no real understanding of the depraved conduct he had engaged in, and how it could only have been done by a person very deeply flawed.

Pardon me for intruding on your retirement but I want

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to let you know something of
how I feel.

Maikland is O.K. I am
writing this at Wangi - I usually
spend a few nights & days per week
here. I have two public Masses
at weekends and 3 weekday
Masses more or less of obligation,
some baptisms, occasional hospital
calls and some visiting of
parishioners. I have not made
any decision as to how long I
will stay here. I am booked
for departure July 30th for
a week in California and
3/4 weeks in Ireland.

With all best wishes

Sincerely yours
P. D. Collier