

Cardinal George Pell, Archbishop of Sydney, gave an address on 'Authentic Catholicism vs Cafeteria Catholicism' at the Catholic Voice Annual Dinner in Cork on 29th July, 2011. The following is the text of the address (slightly edited) from the current issue of the Catholic Voice newspaper.

Where Have All the Fighters Gone?

Renewal: The Australian Experience

Let me now explain what I have tried to do in Australia. First of all I had to deal with the abuse scandal and in this I was given some very good advice from a former Supreme Court Judge. He told me that the scandals would bleed us to death year after year unless we took decisive action.

I was also summoned by the Premier at the time who made it clear that if we did not clean the Church up, then he would, and so we made a determined effort to do so. Incidentally, the Premier was a deeply irreligious man who also denounced religious leaders as yesterday's men; this was back in the 90's and he has been gone from political life for about a dozen years!

So we did clean it up; we set up an independent commission, we set up a panel to provide counselling and a system to pay compensation — and please God the worst of it is behind us.

Cardinal Pell: the responsibilities of Church leadership

I have found in all my work as archbishop that in order to do anything you first have to know where you are and what you are trying to do. Two things are probably at work: within all the Christian communities and, certainly the Catholic Church, there is a fundamental tension between the people on one side — who we might call Gospel Christians — who give priority to the New Testament, to Christ and to the Word of God and, what you might call liberal or radical Christians, who give the priority to the contemporary understandings. That tension runs right through all the Christian communities.

The second and the more important tension which is present in Australia is the tension between a small and growing secular minority, who are well placed in the media and universities, and the Judeo-Christian majority. The secularists are steadily pushing a political agenda, trying to undermine the traditional Christian foundations, and they are also trying to drive Christian spokesmen out of public life. This also goes for priests.

I am determined to continue speaking out: why should I become the only man in Australia not able to exercise his democratic right to free speech? People are quite free to accept or reject what I have to say. We have as much right as anybody else to speak out. Of course we also need lay political figures who can speak out because it is not always productive for the clergy to be speaking, but I am absolutely sure that regular silence from the hierarchy and from the priests is not good at all.

Network of services

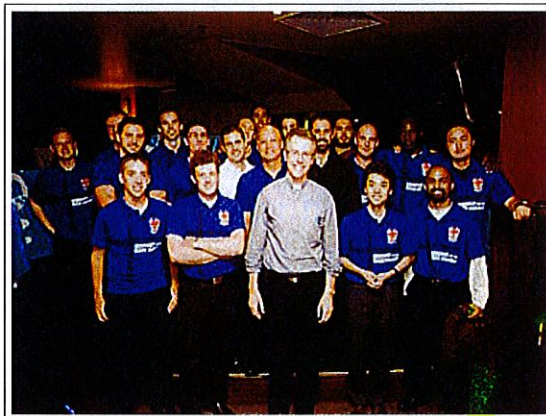
Australia is 26% Catholic and we are now the largest denomination, having passed the Anglicans. We have a huge network of services: we educate 20% of all Australians in our schools, operate 23% of hospitals, we provide 55% of palliative care, which we are trying to extend given the emerging push for euthanasia. There are also a couple of Catholic universities and an immense welfare system, mostly financed by the government.

The religious in Australia are disappearing but against that I invited the Nashville Dominicans to come to Sydney and they have been there

Cardinal George Pell, Archbishop of Sydney, gave an address on "Authentic Catholicism vs Cafeteria Catholicism" at the Catholic Voice Annual Dinner in Cork, Ireland, on 29 July 2011. The following is the edited text of Cardinal Pell's address.

since 2007. They are all young, attractive and wear the full habit and since arriving, about ten young women have joined them. In Sydney we can now get out the news to encourage young women who might be contemplating a religious vocation.

Priestly vocations are up in quite a number of dioceses and I think it is interesting to work out what those dioceses are, to take a look at their churchmanship, their ecclesiology, their style and I think that, almost universally, the vocations are in



Sydney's Good Shepherd Seminary Rector, Fr Anthony Percy, with seminarians the dioceses which are thoroughly Catholic.

In Sydney we have the highest rate of Church practice, about 18%, and a lot of the reason for this is that we have many ethnics. The hardest constituency amongst young people is my community — the Anglo-Celts — because there has been a large amount of inter-marriage over the last 150 years. But we are getting many conversions from the Asian groups — the Koreans, Chinese and Vietnamese. In fact we are getting many vocations from the Vietnamese, who now proudly announce that they are the new Irish.

Of course the Irish founded the Church in Australia and I received the most precious gift in my life, my faith, from my Irish Australian mother. I think therefore we have to pay tribute to the contribution which Ireland has made to the Church in Australia.

In Australia, as elsewhere, we have to struggle with the conviction that we are part of the Universal Church, led by the Pope, and that means something in everyday life. For example, the Bishop of Toowoomba recently had to be removed after over ten years of dialogue with the Holy See. It was a tragedy and didn't need to happen but the Bishop wouldn't back down or give any ground and so they were forced to say, "Enough is enough."

So we have to battle against this incipient anti-Roman sentiment. Cardinal George of Chicago has a thesis that in many places the Catholic Church in the USA, in its style, is becoming Protestant — a church of individual judgement, with less concern for the Pope, the hierarchy and Catholic teaching — and there is no doubt that very senior elements in the Democratic Party are working to separate the hierarchy from many of the people in the United States.

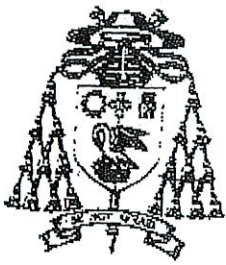
I am sure that this is happening in other parts of the world also, with some politicians preferring the establishment of what they call 'national churches'. Of course this has to be resisted.

Abuse scandal

One of the major challenges to be faced has been the abuse scandal and in this I was given some very good advice from a former Supreme Court Judge. He told me that the scandals would bleed us to death year after year unless we took decisive action. I was also summoned by the Premier at the time who made it clear that if we did not clean the Church up, then he would, and so we made a determined effort to do so.

So we did clean it up: we set up an independent commission, we set up a panel to provide counselling and a system to pay compensation — and please God the worst of it is behind us.

The second thing I did was to reform religious education, which is of course fundamental to the future, and I was absolutely determined that I would change it no matter what. I called a friend of mine home from Rome, made him the Vicar for Education, and we commenced the immense task of writing a comprehensive Christ-centred Catholic text on faith and morals for the whole thirteen



ATTACHMENT

2

St. Patrick's Cathedral
Melbourne Vic 3002

29 October 1996

Mr Peter O'Callaghan QC
600 Bourke Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Dear Mr O'Callaghan,

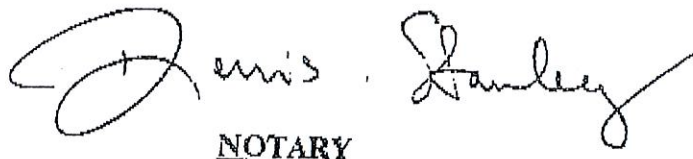
In accordance with Canon 1717 of the Code of Canon Law, by virtue of this letter I appoint you as my delegate to investigate matters pertaining to professional misconduct and sexual abuse alleged on the part of priests, religious and lay workers who at the time of the alleged offence were under the control of the Archbishop of Melbourne.

With many thanks for your readiness to undertake this onerous task, and all good wishes,

Yours sincerely in Christ,

+ George Pell

ARCHBISHOP OF MELBOURNE


NOTARY

Independent Commissioner
Peter O'Callaghan Q.C

Owen Dixon Chambers West
18/15
205 William Street
Melbourne 3000

25th July 2011

Tel: 9225 7979
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E-mail pjocallaghan@vicbar.com.au

Private and Confidential
Fr Kevin Dillon
St Mary's
GEELONG VIC 3220

Dear Fr Dillon

Re: Herald Sun

I refer to what was attributed to you in an article in the Herald Sun 24/7/11 headed "*Priest Urges Clergy Abuse Reform*".

The essential imputation of this article is that in my role as Independent Commissioner I have not been independent of the Archdiocese, but am part of a process 'geared more towards preserving the Church's reputation and finances than providing justice'. This calumny gravely impugns my personal and professional integrity.

I reject, and record my surprise and outrage, that you should make such an imputation without providing me with a prior opportunity to respond, so as to refute what will now irretrievably become part of the public record.

You state "*I am in regular contact with 20 – plus victims from across the Archdiocese and certainly the ones I speak to have many and varied criticisms about the process and its outcomes*".

As a matter of fairness, I invite you to identify those 20 – plus victims, and their many and varied criticisms so that I can appropriately respond.

In that context I note your statement: "*We need to ask (victims processed under the Melbourne Response): have they found it intimidating? Have they found it comforting? Have they found it belittling?*"

To ask these questions of 300 plus victims, requires them to reveal their identify and the nature and detail of the complaint, which I have no doubt would be abhorrent to the great majority. In my experience the great majority of victims desire more than anything else the preservation of their confidentiality.

You state: *"The approach – in which complaints were investigated by church appointed 'independent commissioner' Peter O'Callaghan QC – left many victims feeling belittled". (Emphasis supplied)*

Let me say at once that if there are any victims who feel 'belittled' from my dealing with their complaints, I would be anxious to know who they are and in what circumstances they feel so belittled.

If there is substance in their claims of being belittled, it is vital that I be advised of when, where and how this occurred, so that appropriate remedial action can be taken.

I await your urgent reply.

Yours sincerely


Peter J O'Callaghan
Independent Commissioner

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 Telephone: (03) 5222 1977
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**Basilica of St. Mary of
 the Angels, Geelong**

31st March 2011

Mr. David Curtain QC
 Henry Winneke Chambers
 Level 2, 535 Bourke St.
 MELBOURNE 3000

Dear Mr Curtain,

Thank you for your courteous and understanding approach to XXXXXXXXX at the Panel meeting on Monday March 21. Your considerate leadership of the evening was much appreciated.

You may recall that, towards the end of the meeting, I raised the matter of legal costs for victims seeking an "ex grata payment" from the Archdiocese. While I recognise that the Compensation Panel does not determine policy with regard to the "Melbourne Response", you seemed to indicate that recommendations from the Panel, should it choose to make them to the Archbishop, might be an effective means of moving towards an improved approach to assist established victims.

I am enclosing a letter I wrote to the Archbishop on November 20 last year with regard to the situation of Mr. YYYYYY YYYYYY. My understanding is that he is yet to accept the Panel's recommendation of an ex-gratia payment, and that the delay is based on his hope that his legal costs can be added to the payment.

The Archbishop's secretary replied to my letter (enclosed). Soon after I spoke to the Archbishop about my letter, but his reply was simply: "I have passed that matter on to my advisers". Since then, I have heard nothing, either verbally or in writing.

The validity of legal costs being added to the ex-gratia payment is outlined in my letter to the Archbishop. The central element of the argument reads:

"When "The Melbourne Response" was established, it was built on a substantial legal foundation. A Queens Counsel was appointed as the Independent Commissioner, other important people in the process, including members of the Compensation Panel, were or are lawyers, and the processes followed were generally legally-based.

Given that legal base, it is essential that those who seek to use the process in order to further a complaint will need to seek legal counsel and therefore incur the costs associated with such legal counsel.

Accordingly, I would suggest that when a Compensation payment is awarded by the Compensation Panel, and therefore the complaint associated with the payment is designated as justified, it is appropriate that the payment made is exclusive of the legal costs incurred by the complainant - costs which the system itself renders essential”

I am hoping that you and / or the Panel might give this matter further and hopefully speedy consideration in order that XXXX XXXXX's application at least can be successfully completed.

XXXXX is a man of few means – he wears worn, second-hand clothes, and drives a dilapidated '80's Commodore which is not far from being unroadworthy. Despite this, he remains a dignified, courteous and extraordinarily patient human being whose life, as the “Melbourne Response” process has found, has been grievously affected by the abuse he suffered at the critical age of just nine years.

I would be personally very grateful if this matter could be given earnest and speedy consideration.

With thanks,

Yours sincerely,

FR. KEVIN DILLON
Parish Priest

David E Curtain QC

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6 April 2011

Father Kevin Dillon
St Mary of the Angels Parish
150 Yarra Street
GEELONG VIC 3220

Dear Father Dillon,

I refer to your letter of 31 March 2011.

Victims occasionally appear represented before the Compensation Panel, although they are always advised that no legal costs will be awarded.

I respectfully disagree with your statement to the Archbishop of Melbourne that "it is essential that those who suit to use the process in order to further a complaint will need to seek legal counsel".

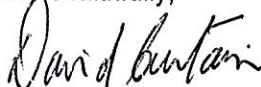
Indeed, I believe the process is set up so that the opposite is true, that is that victims do not need to seek legal counsel.

There are occasions when victims bring support people, to speak for them, and there are occasions when some victims are not able readily to articulate their experiences. However, we seek and usually obtain professional opinion and are greatly assisted by medical reports in relation to the effect on victims of the abuse they have suffered.

In addition, the Panel has considerable experience in communicating with victims in such a way as to be able to form a proper view of the impact on victims of the abuse they have suffered.

I stress that these are my personal views, but I hope I have been of some assistance to you.

Yours faithfully,



David Curtain

ATTACHMENT (6)

Herald Sun

Priest urges clergy abuse reform

- Hamish Heard
- From: Sunday Herald Sun
- July 24, 2011 12:00AM
- 4 comments

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Father Kevin Dillon has called for reforms on dealing with clergy sex abuse. Picture: Geelong Advertiser
Source: News Limited

A PRIEST in charge of one of Victoria's biggest parishes has broken ranks with the Catholic hierarchy to demand an overhaul of the way it deals with victims of clergy sex abuse.

Father Kevin Dillon has called for reforms such as scrapping the controversial Melbourne Response process, including its "heartless" \$75,000 cap on compensation.

He said the process set up by former Archbishop George Pell in 1996 to investigate sexual abuse complaints and compensate victims should be replaced with a "transparent and independent" process outside the control of the Melbourne Archdiocese.

The priest at Geelong's St Mary's of the Angels Basilica, Fr Dillon said many of the 300-plus victims processed felt it was geared more towards preserving the church's reputation and finances than providing justice.

"I am in regular contact with 20-plus victims from across the archdiocese and certainly the ones I speak to have many and varied criticisms about the process and its outcomes," he said.

The approach - in which complaints were investigated by church-appointed "independent commissioner" Peter O'Callaghan QC - left many victims feeling "belittled".

"We need to ask (victims processed under the Melbourne Response): have they found it intimidating? Have they found it comforting? Have they found it belittling?" Fr Dillon said.

He said the compensation cap lacked generosity and compassion for those whose lives had been permanently scarred by sex abuse.

The response also disadvantaged victims by putting them into an "adversarial" situation where they were pitted against top-level lawyers without any legal representation of their own.

"From day one, they should be provided with an experienced advocate, who accompanies them compassionately through the system," Fr Dillon said.

His calls have won the support of victims who claim the church's response lacked compassion and failed to recognise lifelong pain inflicted on them.

The Archdiocese did not return the *Sunday Herald Sun's* calls.

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ATTACHMENT 7

AGENDA INBOX

VICTORIA HAS ITS SAY



THE WEEK'S BIG HITS ON heraldsun.com.au

- 1 The \$1 million car crash in Monte Carlo
- 2 Footballer's rape case secrets revealed
- 3 Amy Winehouse found dead
- 4 Public servant's motel sex compo claim
- 5 Rebecca Judd gives birth to baby boy



WERE YOU TUNED IN THIS WEEK?

How old was Amy Winehouse when she was found dead recently?
a) 27 b) 28 c) 29

Who is the best AFL play-by-play commentator on TV?
a) Anthony Hudson b) Brian Taylor c) Dennis Cometti

ANSWERS: b, c

The kids must be all right

Readers have varying opinions on private versus state education – and how to pay for it – but all agree that children must be the priority

IF you decide to have children, you must also accept the inevitable costs ("Parents driven to bankruptcy", *SHS*, July 24). Good parenting at home will go a long way towards a stable child becoming a stable adult. Schooling is important, good parenting is vital and sadly not that common these days.

Gordon, via web

Education vital

I CHOSE to educate my children at a private school because I believed it to be the best possible education and gift that I could give them.

When I enrolled them, I was able to afford that but, unfortunately, I lost my job and have struggled ever since to make ends meet. Fortunately, the school has been understanding and allowed some concessions as they realise that continuity and certainty play an important role in the lives of young people.

I won't be able to leave my children anything financially when I go, but I will ensure they are well educated.

Rod L., Melbourne

Don't judge

HAVE a heart for some of these parents. Some live in country areas or suburbs where the alternative school is a really poor substitute.

Sam, via web

Pay up

I TEACH at a government school which regularly makes the top 10 list of government schools for VCE results.

Our annual fees are in the area of \$200 and includes provision of instrumental music lessons. We still get parents who won't pay their school fees.

Frank, via web

Not kids' fault

IT'S not right for your children to know that their education is a burden to the family's budget.

If you can easily afford it, great. If you struggle to afford it, that's the parents' fault and shouldn't be blamed on the child.

Lynne, Melbourne



We've been in both systems; there's really no significant advantage to private schooling.

Kids from public schools have to learn to mix with and get along with people from all walks of life and that's a valuable skill.

Kate, via web

Poor state

I SEND my kids to private school because the only other option is a nearby state school which is horrendous.

It can be a bit tough but I pay fortnightly to ease the strain a little. Those who don't pay make it harder for the rest of us, as they increase the costs to cover for people who shouldn't have their kids enrolled.

Megan, via web

It's up to you

I ATTENDED a state school in the western suburbs and subsequently completed a Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Laws. I have a very successful career and own my own home.

State schools are what you make of them. Unfortunately, though, the push towards private schools has led to increased funding in this area of the education system and decreased funding for state schools.

Nicole, via web

It's a business

IF you use a service and you do not pay for it, of course the service provider is going to come after you. School administrations should not be blamed for

the financial mismanagement of parents, nor should they bear the cost of parents' misplaced or unaffordable aspirations.

Adam, via web

Best to invest

ARE people actually suggesting that struggling families shouldn't have their kids' education a priority? In a lot of areas, the state schools are of a poor standard.

If that's what taxpayer-funded education is, then I applaud parents for putting their money into the best investment in life: a good education.

Wendy, via web

Preserve icon

FLINDERS St station is an important icon of Melbourne. It's what sets Melbourne apart and makes

LETTER OF THE WEEK

You made a special delivery!

ABIG thank you for the wonderful surprise in our home delivered *Sunday Herald Sun* (July 24). A 24th special edition with the wonderful news of Gadel Evans! Fabulous win!

I was aware of the result as I had been watching the terrific SBS live coverage each night.

I was confident that neither of the Schleck brothers had the time and ability to retain the small time advantage they took into the final stage, which is unofficially known as the 'race of rain'.

I'm writing this as I'm a home delivery customer and I've never pays a week and also as a member of the Gadel Evans Executive Committee.

Gordon Jennings via email

Melbourne Melbourne. It is an important part of our life.

We don't want this landmark turned into another hotel, skyscraper, or whatever Robert Doyle has decided.

Tearing down important buildings like that to put another hotel or shopping precinct on it isn't what's wanted.

The front of the building must stay the same or Melbourne won't be Melbourne any more. It will be just another place.

Historical buildings must be preserved or you are doing all of us a mighty insult and loss and disservice.

Appreciate the uniqueness of this building and what it means to Melburnians and do your best to preserve what we can see of it as it is. Too much development isn't a good thing sometimes. It only means money to developers and a loss of an icon important to us.

It's time that Mr Doyle stepped aside. I think he's lost sight of what Melbourne is.

Rhonda, Melbourne

Sour taste

I THINK Dani Venn (left) is lovely, so happy and bright. I can't think why any one would be so nasty when they don't even know her ("Victim of unsocial network", *SHS*, July 24). They are the ones with a problem.

You are only as good as the last dish you cook, that is the one everybody remembers.

Good luck, Dani.

Enid, via web

Venn-detta

THIS is just the saddest thing. It seems that so many people in our society these days have a need to find someone or something to hate.

I feel so sad for Dani Venn. She's done nothing wrong and certainly nothing to deserve this vilification.

The despicable comments being made say more about the people making them than they do about Dani.

I hope she's a strong girl and has lots of support from family and friends and I hope she manages to survive this all right.

All the best to her in the future.

Chris, via web

Get a life

IT'S staggering to think people have nothing better to do than set up a web page to "pay out" others.

The girl they are worried about has the guts to get out and do something with her life, while they hide behind a Facebook page to knock someone.

What a sad indictment on character.

Rex Huntley via web

Clearer view

Father Kevin Dillon (*Sunday Herald Sun*, July 24) criticised the Melbourne Response generally and in particular the Independent Commissioner.

I was appointed the Independent Commissioner in 1996, and since then I have found that more than 300 persons have been victims of clergy sexual

abuse. Complainants continue to come forward. Fr Dillon's criticisms have been published without my being given any opportunity to respond.

I refute those damaging criticisms. Fr Dillon claims that 20 plus victims have many and varied criticisms about the process and its outcome. I asked Fr Dillon to identify these victims and their criticisms, so that I can appropriately respond, but this request has been ignored.

Fr Dillon states: "The approach — in which complaints were investigated by 'church appointed' Independent Commissioner Peter O'Callaghan QC — left many victims feeling belittled".

It seems incredible that many (i.e. the majority) of the 300 plus persons whose complaints of sexual abuse I have accepted (thus entitling them to free counselling and psychological support and to compensation) have felt belittled.

The great majority of the complainants have met with me, detailed their complaints, and a week or so later have been formally advised that I have found they were sexually abused in the manner described by them, and that I will refer them to Carelink and the Compensation Panel.

That being done, my role is complete. How could anyone, let alone hundreds, feel belittled by my accepting their complaint of deplorable sexual abuse.

I note that only a handful of complaints have not been accepted. Fr Dillon states: "The Response also disadvantaged victims by putting them into an 'adversarial situation' where they were pitted against top level lawyers without any legal representation of their own".

This is erroneous. No such situations occur. It is common for complainants to be accompanied by lawyers when I meet them.

If an alleged offender denies the complaint, a hearing is conducted to determine whether the complaint is established. Senior Counsel appears to assist the Commissioner, and if the complainant is not represented ensures that the complaint is duly presented.

The complainant is often represented by a lawyer, as is the alleged offender. Complainants are in no way disadvantaged.

Peter O'Callaghan QC, Independent Commissioner

Father Kevin Dillon (*Sunday Herald Sun*, July 24) criticised the Melbourne Response generally and in particular the Independent Commissioner.

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Peter O'Callaghan QC, Independent Commissioner

Fr Kevin Dillon

From: Fr Kevin Dillon [frkd@stmarysgeelong.com.au]

Sent: Friday, 12 August 2011 5:17 PM

To: 'pjocallaghan@vicbar.com.au'

Subject: Response to July 25 e-mail

Dear Mr. O'Callaghan,

I write in reference to your e-mail of July 25, concerning the article published in the on-line edition of the "Sunday Herald Sun" of July 24.

I was surprised that you read the article as a personal criticism. It comprised three elements: (a) direct quotes from me about the *process* of "The Melbourne Response" – not about the role of the Independent Commissioner in particular; (b) references made by me to the reporter (Hamish Heard) concerning the views of "The Melbourne Response" of some victims who have experienced it; (c) general comments from the reporter. All these concerned only the *process* of "The Melbourne Response" – certainly not the "personal and professional integrity" of yourself as Independent Commissioner, nor of any other person involved in that process.

I have read the article several times. The sole reference to "The Independent Commissioner" was in sentence of the reporter explaining that role in the investigation of complaints. It is clear that the reporter's comments were that it was the "approach" i.e. the process, which "left many victims feeling "belittled"" - not the Independent Commissioner personally.

Indeed, during my telephone conversation with the reporter, on several occasions I specifically indicated to him that neither my comments nor any criticisms of victims were directed at the Independent Commissioner, either personally or professionally. In a more recent conversation I had with him, he confirmed that this was at all times my approach in responding to his questions about the process of "The Melbourne Response". Neither his questions nor my answers concerned those people who, like yourself, are working within its structures and boundaries.

Your request of me to identify the victims who have made pastoral contact with me came as another surprise. I believe it would be improper of me (in the extreme) to identify them to anyone without their express consent. However it would also be unnecessary, since you already would have the contact details of those victims who have experienced "The Melbourne Response".

My suggestion and / or request, as specified in the article, was that the "The Melbourne Response" would offer all "processed" victims (whose contact details are still valid) the opportunity to evaluate their experience of that process – a process of which the investigation by you as Independent Commissioner is one of a number of components. (The Compensation Panel, Carelink, and the over-riding "philosophy" of "The Melbourne Response" are just three of the other integral components.). No breach whatsoever of confidentiality would need to be involved.

In your e-mail you appear to have had a special difficulty with the suggestion that some victims might feel "belittled" by the process of "The Melbourne Response". I acknowledge that you have dealt personally with many more victims than I. Given the nature of the offences against those victims, it would be likely that any process such as "The Melbourne Response" might well be "belittling" for some - perhaps many, perhaps

26/09/2011

most.

But surely our task, if we are to be indeed a compassionate Church, is to do all we can to reduce and hopefully minimise any "belittling" in the process. I suggest that a proper evaluation of that process (1) by the victims who have utilised it, and (2) conducted under the direction of "The Melbourne Response", therefore preserving confidentiality, would be a critical and most useful initiative in achieving the best possible process, with hopefully a minimisation of any "belittling" of victims.

I hope these thoughts are helpful.

Yours sincerely,

FR. KEVIN DILLON

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Basilica of St. Mary of
the Angels, Geelong

20th November 2010

Most Rev. Denis Hart
Archbishop of Melbourne
"James Goold House"
228 Victoria Pde.
EAST MELBOURNE 3002

Your Grace,

A couple of weeks ago, I spent some hours with Mr. XXXX XXXX, who suffered sexual abuse as a nine-year old at a Catholic Church-operated camp. The offender was a lay supervisor at the camp who I understand is now in prison for offences against other children.

The offences against XXXX XXXXX have been confirmed by the Independent Commissioner, who acknowledges the considerable impact they have had on XXXX's life, significantly effecting his education, family life, self-esteem and capacity to generate an income consistent with his intelligence.

He has been awarded a compensation payment of \$50,000 – which is about 80% of the maximum offered by the Compensation Panel. However, from this amount he will need to pay the legal fees which were necessary for his complaint to be found proven.

When "The Melbourne Response" was established, it was built on a substantial legal foundation. A Queens Counsel was appointed as the Independent Commissioner, other important people in the process, including members of the Compensation Panel, were or are lawyers, and the processes followed were generally legally-based.

Given that legal base, it is essential that those who seek to use the process in order to further a complaint will need to seek legal counsel and therefore incur the costs associated with such legal counsel.

Accordingly, I would suggest that when a Compensation payment is awarded by the Compensation Panel, and therefore the complaint associated with the payment is designated as justified, it is appropriate that the payment made is *exclusive* of the legal costs incurred by the complainant - costs which the system itself renders essential.

In the case of XXXX XXXX, it would appear that he has incurred legal costs of around \$10,000 – roughly 20% of his ex gratia payment. In many compensation payments, a proportion of 20% in legal costs would be seen as somewhat “on the light side”.

I am writing to ask that in the case of XXXX XXXX, who appears to be in significant financial need, the legal costs be *added to* rather than *deducted from* the ex gratia payment. For some abuse victims, this might not be a major difference, but I suggest that for [REDACTED] this 20% is of much significance.

Further, there is much to recommend that the strategy of the “Melbourne Response” payments to victims should, *in all cases*, reflect the necessity of the Archdiocesan system that legal advice be engaged by the complainant, and that legal costs of *up to one-third* of the compensation payment be *added to* the payment rather than having to be paid by a victim whom the system has found justified and deserving of that payment.

I would be more than happy to discuss either of these suggestions further, either with yourself or any of those who advise you in this difficult area.

With thanks in anticipation,

Yours sincerely,

FR. KEVIN DILLON

PROPOSAL FOR A PASTORAL FUND FOR ESTABLISHED VICTIMS OF CHURCH-RELATED SEXUAL ABUSE

- # The Archdiocese requests Parish Priests to subscribe their parish to a Pastoral Support Fund for established (via Police and / or “The Melbourne Response” and / or “Towards Healing”) survivors of church-related sexual abuse.
- # Parishes contribute a pledged amount of a minimum of \$20 per week, up to a maximum of \$50 per week to the Fund. It would be appropriate that either the Parish Council and / or the Parish Finance Committee give approval for the sum to be contributed. The initial commitment would be for two years, after which its operation would be reviewed.
- # A “Pastoral Fund Panel” would be established to administer the Fund. It would comprise four people (or more), of whom at least two would have significant “on the ground” pastoral experience in assessing and assisting people in financial need e.g. St. Vincent de Paul, Salvation Army, social workers etc. . It would be preferable that half the members NOT be Catholic.
- # Quarterly payments would be forwarded to the appointed Pastoral Fund Secretary / Treasurer.
- # Claims on the Fund could be made by any person who has been acknowledged, either through the Police, the “Melbourne Response” or “Towards Healing”, as a “primary” or “secondary” victim of church-related sexual abuse.
- # Claimants would **not** need to detail to the Pastoral Fund Panel either the background of the offences made against them, nor the degree of harm they have suffered. That they have been established as victims / survivors, whether primary or secondary, will render them eligible to claim on the Fund.
- # Claims will be based on an assessment of the personal financial requirements of established victims.
- # The Pastoral Fund Panel’s sole focus would be to assist the financial and pastoral needs of the victim.
- # Victim Support Groups would be eligible to apply for an allocation of funds (up to 25% of total contributions in any given year) in recognition of the critical role such groups play in assisting victims, in many cases in acting as the first crucial point of contact for victims who have reached a point where they are seeking help.
- # Of any “surplus” funds at the end of the year, 50% would be retained to be added to the funds contributed by parishes during the following year, in case demand was greater. Victim / Survivor support groups would be eligible to approach the Fund for a “bonus”, provided they could demonstrate the need.
- # Any further surplus funds would be given to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul to be distributed as it saw fit.
- # In addition to the specific benefits provided to abuse victims in financial need, the establishment of this Fund would generate many benefits for the Church in its mission.
- It would be a clear demonstration of the commitment of the parishes of the Archdiocese to the command of Jesus: *“As often as you did it to one of the least of these, you did it to me”*.
 - It would put into genuine focus the words of apology from the Pope and Bishops in acknowledging the practical and financial harm for many victims in so many areas of their lives.
 - It would send a message to an increasingly cynical public – Catholic and others – that the Church recognises with genuine and practical concern those whose day-to-day existence is adversely affected by the abuse which has been a disastrous part of lives.
 - It would not require any major financial commitment from any parish – simply a small contribution from many parishes. No parish could claim it “could not afford” \$20 per week in order to play its part in addressing such an important need for both victims and the Church itself.

St. Mary of the Angels' Parish, Geelong

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Basilica of St. Mary of
the Angels, Geelong

13th October 2011

Mr. Francis Moore
Business Manager
Archdiocese of Melbourne
228 Victoria Pde.
EAST MELBOURNE 3002

Dear Francis,

Some months ago (I think it was at one of our discussions regarding Catherine Arthur), I gave you a copy of a document I had written outlining the potential of a Pastoral Fund for victims of Church-related sexual abuse. A copy is enclosed.

Though it was a draft document only, I believe its basic premises were sound and that it could, with a little "fine-tuning", successfully address many of the inherent problems which confront abuse victims, as well as presenting a genuinely compassionate face of the Church for both Catholics and the wider community.

With a small amount being contributed by each parish, and each parish choosing its contribution, a significant sum could be available with little or no financial burden to the Church community as a whole.

I also gave a copy of the document to the Independent Commissioner, but received no response – positive or negative.

I would be interested in, and grateful for, your response to the procedure as suggested in the document. Naturally, I would be more than happy to discuss the concept further with you personally, or with anyone whom you might delegate for such a discussion.

Yours sincerely,

FR. KEVIN DILLON
Parish Priest



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the Angels, Geelong

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3rd February 2012

Most Rev. Denis Hart
Archbishop of Melbourne
"James Gould House"
228 Victoria Pde.
EAST MELBOURNE 3002

Your Grace,

In October last year, I wrote to Mr. Francis Moore with a proposal that the Archdiocese establish a "*Pastoral Fund for established victims of church-related sexual abuse*". A copy is enclosed.

Earlier in the year, at separate personal meetings, I had handed a copy of this Proposal both to Mr. Moore and to Mr. Peter O'Callaghan QC. Having received no response from either, I wrote again to Mr. Moore, and he replied on December 9 (copy attached).

Mr. Moore advised in his reply that I bring the Proposal to your personal attention – hence this letter.

Mr. Moore writes that "*It would seem to be implicit in your proposal that the Archdiocese and parishes are not responding pastorally to the victims of sexual abuse*".

This, I believe, indicates a misunderstanding of the Proposal by Mr. Moore, or perhaps an inadequate presentation on my part of its purpose and operation.

The Proposal simply states that the abuse suffered by many victims can often, through Post-traumatic Stress Disorder and other psychological problems, impact both on their capacity to earn, and / or to make use of whatever income they have in a wise and prudent manner. This means that in later life, many abuse victims find

themselves in dire financial circumstances. The Proposal simply wishes to address this need, when present, for people in such circumstances, and it offers a strategy quite separate from the "Melbourne Response" so as to encompass all established victims resident within the Archdiocese, not only those directly associated with the "Melbourne Response".

As Mr. Moore states, the support offered through Carelink involves counselling and / or medical support. However, this proposal seeks to address the need of victims whose finances are such that they cannot put food on the table or pay for other basic living needs. The St. Vincent de Paul Society always offers its clients the essential support without "asking questions". The preservation of an abuse victim's personal dignity, especially on the local level, can be severely compromised if local SVDP support is the only help available.

The Proposal asks nothing from the Archdiocese, other than initiating a requirement whereby parishes are requested to volunteer an amount of their choice of between \$20 and \$50 per week as a contribution to the Fund. This could generate around \$300,000 per year. I suggest that even the poorest parish could manage \$20 per week. After two years of operation, the use of the Fund could determine whether or not it would need to be continued, and at what level of contribution.

As the Proposal states, its implementation would speak volumes for the practical and genuine concern of the Church, at its "grass-roots level", for those whose lives have been severely or permanently damaged through sexual abuse inflicted by Church personnel.

I would be grateful for an opportunity to explain the Proposal to you personally and in greater detail. I do not suggest that the Proposal in its present form will necessarily cover all the bases. It may well need adjustment and modification. But I do believe it addresses in a practical manner a genuine pastoral and practical need for people for whom the Church has a particular responsibility.

With thanks in anticipation of your consideration,

Yours sincerely,

FR. KEVIN DILLON