

December 16, 1975

Rev. P. Evans, O.F.M.,
 "La Verne" Retreat House,
 REDACTED
 KEW. 3101 VIC.

Dear Father Evans,

I am indebted to Sister Evelyn Woodward, R.S.J., Ph.D., for information about you and the nature of your apostolate as Priest-Physician and Psychiatrist. I also have an acquaintance of yours as parishioner, ^{CND} whose letter of referral in respect of Father Vincent G. Ryan is enclosed herewith.

Father Ryan has been my assistant at St. Joseph's, Merewether for the past two years. The problem which now brings him under your care became known to me about one year ago. The circumstances then were such that he knew that I was aware of what happened, and thinking the embarrassment he suffered from so knowing, would have been more eloquent than any possible advice of mine, I decided to say nothing. Unfortunately this was a mistake on my part because apparently such a condition does not come right without the help of treatment. The current incident is more serious, involving altar boys and more than one.

Father has left the parish and gone to his parents' home where he has asked to be permitted to stay until about mid-January. After that he will go to "La Verne" Retreat House under your care, to stay for as long as you might suggest. I shall be grateful to you also for advice as to whether he should take a chaplaincy in Melbourne for a year or so or whether he might attend some tertiary Institute such as the Institute of Catechetics, or a course at a theological Faculty. He is a very intelligent young priest - a Roman student with a degree in Canon Law and very pastoral in his outlook. He was a great success in the parish despite the fact that he is severe in his manner of dealing with people and preaching.

I think Sister Evelyn has told you the necessary details and there is perhaps no need for me to say more. I hope you will be able to help him with his problem, because I know that if he can be cured he can be a most effective priest.

I shall be anxious to hear from you, and be assured of my co-operation in any manner of treatment that you might think necessary.

Very sincerely yours,

(Rt. Rev. Monsignor P.D. Cotter)

VICAR CAPITULAR