



Brian Coyne

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Monday, June 23, 2006

**Re: Diarmuid O'Murchu Courses at Amberley in January 2007**

I write in relation to the Courses facilitated by Diarmuid O'Murchu in January 2007 at Edmund Rice Centre 'Amberley': *Catching Up with Jesus and Religious Life – Changing Paradigms*.

In November 2005, when Diarmuid accepted an invitation to facilitate the courses, the Province Leader of the Christian Brothers, Br Peter Dowling, wrote to the Archbishop of Melbourne, Denis Hart, to seek his approval for Diarmuid to come to this Archdiocese for this purpose. Archbishop Hart gave this approval. The courses have proved very popular with people like yourself and there were some sixty people confirmed with deposits for the *Catching Up with Jesus* Course and some eighty people confirmed with deposits for the *Religious Life – Changing Paradigms* Course.

Earlier this month, the Archbishop communicated to Peter Dowling that he had received letters alerting him to a two-page note of the Doctrinal Commission of the Bishops' Conference of Spain, published in *L'Osservatore Romano* on 15th March, 2006, concerning Diarmuid's book published in 1995, *Reframing Religious Life An Expanded Vision for the Future*. The note, written over three years ago and only recently translated into English, was quite critical of Diarmuid's book. Diarmuid and the Superior General of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart (MSC) have corresponded with the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith to clarify the matter and hope to resolve it later this year. There has been no statement from the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith critical of Diarmuid or the books recently published that are also the titles of the courses to be offered in January 2007.

In light of the Spanish Bishops' note and consultation with his auxiliary Bishops, Archbishop Hart indicated to Peter Dowling that he was going to withdraw his approval. Despite the Christian Brothers' Leadership Team putting a strong representation to the contrary, Archbishop Hart has maintained his stance. In a letter of 8th June, Archbishop Hart, formally withdrew his approval for Diarmuid's speaking in the Archdiocese of Melbourne

***Reluctantly, in light of this, the courses advertised will not proceed at Edmund Rice Centre 'Amberley'.***


Diarmuid is committed to coming to Australia in January 2007, and I am exploring other options for the possibility of the courses proceeding. Unfortunately, nothing has been confirmed at this stage, and I wanted to communicate with you promptly before you made travel arrangements or heard the news second hand. I will let you know if anything eventuates – or ask that you check our website for updates:

<http://www.amberley.org.au/omurchu.html>

I enclose your cheque to return your deposit.

My apologies for any inconvenience this has caused you and I share any disappointment you may have. Please do not hesitate to contact me about any of the contents of this letter

Yours Sincerely,

  
Andy Kuppe  
Director