

that the Abbot should give more conferences on the Rule and on monastic values.

One very concrete way in which the community can re-affirm its commitment to these core monastic values is by establishing a Customary; we believe that this could be an occasion, not only for revising the community's monastic practices, but also for re-affirming your commitment to the monastic values which underlie the practices.

Part of this re-commitment to the practices of the monastic life is the recognition that we are accountable, to God and to the brethren, for our actions and our omissions. People often think of accountability only in relation to expenditure, and this is important, but accountability extends to the whole of our life. At our profession, we gave undertakings about the way we would behave. We will be held to account for the way we fulfil those undertakings.

Recommitment to the values of the monastic life, and recognition of our accountability: these are issues that I shall come back to later on. Let me now address some other issues.

The last four years have seen allegations of child abuse brought against two members of your community, Father **RC-F41** and Father David. A Visitation report would not be complete, indeed would not be realistic, if it did not reflect the sadness and pain caused by these allegations and by the events that have taken place in the courts of law.

These events were certainly a searing experience, not only for the monks in question, but also for the whole community. Abbot Stephen and I give it as our view that the community has probably not yet fully resolved the hurt that has been suffered. This is no surprise: all of you have been bruised by what has taken place – not only **RC-F41** and Father David but also the rest of you, because you are their brothers and when they are hurt, you are hurt. We believe it is important to do what is possible to enable the community to