



Safeguarding Development Newsletter

(July 2019 – Issue 10)



***“SEE OUR CHILDREN AS THEY ARE – UNIQUE PERSONS
WHO HAVE A SONG TO SING, A DREAM TO LIVE.
CHILDREN ARE ENDOWED WITH AN INNER POWER THAT
CAN GUIDE US TO A MORE LUMINOUS FUTURE.”***

Maria Montessori (1870 – 1952)

Safeguarding Development Group (22 June) Report

Network (23 March) Review

All felt there was much to be pleased about regarding the event:

- the hope and energy communicated by Colette O'Doherty (Keynote Speaker);
- the homeliness of the venue;
- the open discussion that took place;
- the response to the various resources launched.

New Resources

Based on recent visits to LSGs most wished to customise the 'Ministries Leaflet'. The 'Volunteer Ministries Information Pack' was deemed to represent a policy position regarding OSA 'Recruitment Procedure' and therefore, was for adoption across the Province. IT Guidelines are to be considered by each LSG and to be acted upon according to local needs.

New 'Audit'

Ultimately, the goal was to identify learning and insights about current practices so that achievements can be noted and praised, and 'gaps' can be addressed in a very practical and supportive way.

LSGs Progress Reports '18 – '19

A huge improvement was acknowledged in the quality of the reports submitted. More was being written. Individual initiatives were praised. A greater level of awareness was noted among proactive LSGs. Further consideration needed to be given where responses or plans are 'vague'. In particular, 'Plans' for the coming year in some cases said little or nothing under some Standards: *Creating Safe*

Environments. Good teamwork was evident in 'Proposed Actions' that were led by different LSG members and this was to be encouraged.

Standard 6 – Communications

Safeguarding Promotion W/End will take place 28/29 September. A leaflet is to be prepared based on the liturgy readings & circulated to each LSG.

New SDG Members

For the moment three potential new members have been identified. It was agreed to allow each to attend the next meeting, if available, on a 'taste & see' basis. Thereafter, individual positions can be reviewed and, if appropriate, the Provincial will issue a formal written invitation.

Eight new members in total are needed by April 2020 to ensure continuation of the work.

Safeguarding Development Group

Ashling Hotel, Dublin

Meetings Schedule 2019 – 2020

5 October 2019

16 November 2019

25 January 2020

23 May 2020

(10am – 3pm)

Safeguarding Network 2020

Horse & Jockey Hotel

28 March 2020

Local Safeguarding Representatives

At the OSA Mid-term Chapter in Emmaus Retreat & Conference Centre (26 June), Joan Donovan (SDG Member) reporting on *Child Safeguarding* work over the last two years stated: *"If it's not happening locally, it's not happening!"* This was supported by her use of a quote from John Henry Newman:

*I sought to see the face of God
I climbed the highest steeple,
But God declared,
"Go down again,
I dwell among the people."*

If you would like to listen to the personal experience of a Dublin based Safeguarding Group follow this link:

<https://www.icatholic.ie/safeguarding-irish-church/>

National Board 'Annual Report

'18 – '19



"There was a slight increase in the number of allegations notified to the National Office during 2018/19 over the figures for the previous year. The increase was from 135 in 2017/18 to 143 in 2018/19, which is a rise of approximately 6%. However, there was an overall decrease in allegations related to the sexual abuse of children, from 108 in the previous year to 88 in the year being reported on, a decrease of 18.5%.

The allegations that were notified in 2018/19 are charted in Fig. 1 below and are displayed according to the month in which

they were made to the National Office. In total, there were 143 allegations notified, of which 82 (57%) related to diocesan clergy. And 61 (43%) related to members of religious congregations, including three from female congregations."

The total number of notifications made to the National Office in the ten years from 2008/9 to the year 2018/19 illustrate a decreasing trend overall.

Follow link for details & relevant graphs:

https://www.safeguarding.ie/images/Pdfs/Annual_Reports/Annual%20Report%202018.pdf

Offences by Irish Citizens Abroad



Serious offences committed abroad by Irish citizens or residents are now covered by the Criminal Law (Extraterritorial Jurisdiction) Act 2019. Rape, murder, sexual assault and manslaughter are now liable to be prosecuted under Irish law. This law also enables Ireland to ratify the Istanbul Convention (Nov. 2015) on combatting violence against women.

This has relevance for any alleged abusive behaviour committed by Irish priests and religious ministering overseas. The practice that has been established in Ireland with the Garda Síochána's *Sexual Crimes Management Unit* is that all allegations against Irish priests and religious, irrespective of the location of the alleged offence, should be reported. The civil authorities will now determine whether to investigate and whether to subsequently seek a prosecution in the Irish Courts.

APOSTOLIC LETTER
ISSUED MOTU PROPRIO

BY THE SUPREME PONTIFF
FRANCIS

“You are the Light of the World”



New norms to address the abuse of children and vulnerable adults by clerics and religious are contained in this letter by Pope Francis (effective June 2019). To set universal standards across diverse cultures and in the face of current bad practices, where they exist, is a major challenge. However, the Pope is crystal clear that allegations of abuse of children and vulnerable adults, and the abuse of authority must be reported and addressed worldwide without exception.

“This responsibility falls, above all, on the successors of the Apostles, chosen by God to be pastoral leaders of his People, and demands from them a commitment to follow closely the path of the Divine Master. What more closely concerns the successors of the Apostles concerns all those who, in various ways, assume ministries in the Church, or profess the evangelical counsels, or are called to serve the Christian People. Therefore, it is good that procedures be universally adopted to prevent and combat these crimes that betray the trust of the faithful.”

For full text see link below:

http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/motu_proprio/documents/papa-francesco-motu-proprio-20190507_vos-estis-lux-mundi.html

The Hope of Easter

Archbishop of Brisbane, Australia, Mark Colderidge who attended the Vatican meeting on the protection of minor (Feb. 2019) gives an honest and hopeful view of the church’s future in a brief interview available here:



<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-48213135>

**Dublin Archdiocese &
Office for Religious & Extern Priests**

Friars appointed to a Dublin Parish and/or providing supply in an oratory open to the public must be vetted separately by the Office for Religious & Extern Priests, Dublin Archdiocese. This is separate to a friar being vetted as an Augustinian Priest for the Irish Province.

For those visiting the Archdiocese it is worth noting that for once off events, like weddings or funerals, you do not need to be vetted. Each priest will however be asked to present a valid Celebret and to complete the ‘Sign-In/Out Attendance Book’ in the sacristy.

Furthermore, as happens often with a wedding, a priest may officiate at the wedding on a Saturday and then the next day Sunday, wish to con/celebrate in the local parish. In this case, given that it is the public Mass of the parish, garda vetting under the auspices of the Office for Religious is required. Such applications are processed by the OSA Safeguarding Office in liaison with Sr. M. Louise O’Rourke (Asst. Vicar for Religious & Extern Priests), Clonliffe College, Dublin, 3.

