



Hospitaller Order of Saint John of God

Provincial Curia

Letter from Brother Donatus Forkan OH, Provincial

On behalf of the Brothers of Saint John of God, I welcome the report on safeguarding practice within our Order published by the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland (NBSCCCI). I thank the Board for the professional manner in which their review was conducted and I fully accept all the findings of the report.

I deeply regret any hurt caused to people while in our care. We must do everything we can to support anyone who has been hurt arising out of his or her time with us.

We are committed to ensuring that we fully meet the highest safeguarding standards and are working to incorporate the learning from this report into our safeguarding practises and procedures. In inviting the Board to undertake the review, we saw it as an opportunity to have a professional, independent, outside body report on our child safeguarding processes with regard to best practice.

The report acknowledges that no Brother of Saint John of God in Ireland has ever been arrested, charged or convicted in relation to a safeguarding matter and states that significant progress has been made by the Order in developing safeguarding practice. In striving for best practice we commenced an internal review of our case files in 2012 in the course of which we identified improvements that could be made to our practices and additional actions to be taken.

However, I acknowledge, with sincere regret, the report confirms that this was not always the case. In the past the Order's response to safeguarding issues fell short of what would have been required. This situation has now been remedied and the report finds that, today, the criteria outlined in the Board's seven safeguarding standards are fully or substantially met by the Order.

If you have been hurt during your time with us, I urge you to please get the help you need.

It is our responsibility to provide care and assistance to those impacted by our past wrongs. So, we have taken a number of steps to provide help and support to those who wish to contact us in the light of this report. You can contact us by using our Freephone number: 1800 941 940 or our Email address: safeguarding@sjog.ie.

To give reassurance that your experiences are heard, the Order has put in place a separate arrangement which is an independent resource and support for those who do not wish to contact the Order directly. This independent support and resource maybe contacted on Freephone number 1 800 941 939 which will ensure that you receive all necessary assistance with your support, counselling and reporting needs

You can also contact the Gardai at 01 666 3342 and Tusla at 01 663 7300
Towards Healing, HSE National Counselling Service and other support and counselling agencies are available to provide free counselling.



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Further contact details are:

Towards Healing – click to visit the website: www.towardshealing.ie

Free phone 180 303 416 (Republic of Ireland) Free phone 0800 096 3315 (Northern Ireland)

Monday – Thursday 11 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Friday – 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Towards Peace – Spiritual support for survivors of abuse by Catholic Church personnel in Ireland.

Contact: Ms Una Allen, Director

Ms Colleen Brown, Administration & Development Co-ordinator

Phone: +353 1 505 3028

Mobile: +353 86 771 0533

Monday – Thursday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Email: towardspeace@iecon.ie

Website: www.towardspeace.ie

Brother Donatus Forkan OH
Provincial

May 4th 2016