

CSAS

Safeguarding Matters

Welcome to the 26th issue of Safeguarding Matters

This is the regular Newsletter that CSAS releases to all those within the Church with some responsibility for safeguarding vulnerable groups. Should you have any comments—please email Sally Robinson (sally.robinson@csas.uk.net)

SAFEGUARDING AS MINISTRY 2012/13

In April 2011 a number of Clergy came together to consider ‘safeguarding as ministry’, exploring the values, beliefs and attitudes that connect priestly vocation with safeguarding. A number of participants expressed their deep feelings and delegates said how greatly they valued the conference and the opportunity to share experiences.

The experience of those facilitating this event combined with participant feedback led CSAS to consider holding similar events in each province, believing that the events would be beneficial in furthering a culture of safeguarding throughout the Catholic Church in England and Wales.

Over the past fifteen months CSAS organized five such provincial gatherings with Bishops being asked to nominate clergy to attend.

These events were not about ‘training’ but ‘learning’, an opportunity for everyone (participants and facilitators) to share, explore, reflect and discuss safeguarding. The focus was exploring ‘safeguarding as ministry’. Understanding safeguarding as core to the gospel message and priestly vocation.

“I found the whole experience very positive and gained a lot from talking with others and sharing our experiences. Thank you for the opportunity to reflect more deeply on the issue of safeguarding in relation to the parish setting and my own priestly ministry.”

These events proved enriching in terms of learning and sharing and contributed to promoting both a culture of safeguarding and a ‘One Church’ approach. It was therefore a great disappointment that the Bishops in Wales decided not to nominate any priests for the event organised for Wales... it seems they missed a treat!



Province of Liverpool, 14-15th May 2012



Province of Westminster, 19-20th February 2013

Queensway House
57 Livery St
Birmingham
B3 1HA
www.csas.uk.net



Province of Birmingham, Hawkstone Hall

9th & 10th Oct 2012

MISSION COMPLETE!

We did it!! Implementation Day came on 1st April and the restructuring of safeguarding has gone ahead with no major hitches. At last count, around 260 Congregations have signed up, and another 40 or so are in the course of doing so. The formation of the new commissions has gone well, with “meet and greet” occasions having been arranged in many dioceses and held in order for diocesan and religious safeguarding staff to get to know each other and discuss working arrangements. There have been fewer than expected queries about the restructuring, and most of these have been resolved satisfactorily.



What has been achieved since the model was first proposed some 2+ years ago is tremendous. In view of this, it is entirely right that sincere thanks and congratulations should be offered to all those who have contributed to making the potentially difficult journey much easier: to the Implementation Group, the Project group, to CoR, to the diocesan and religious commissions, and to all at CSAS. The new arrangements are due to be reviewed after twelve months of operation, so at this stage it might be fairer to say “Mission ALMOST complete”. But the signs are good.

NEW STANDARDS OF SAFEGUARDING LEARNING

Following the new standards set out in a ‘Towards a culture of Safeguarding’ 2012 a steering group was set up to develop a national learning program. As a result we now have:

- A safeguarding induction leaflet and induction pack for Safeguarding Representatives
- A safeguarding induction leaflet and induction pack for Commission Members

The next issue of “Safeguarding Matters” is due out in November 2013.