

Meeting between Coping International, founder and Psychotherapist, Mr. Vincent Doyle and Archbishop Ivan Jurkovič, Permanent Observer of the Holy See, at his residence, Geneva, October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

---

- **Does the Holy Father understand the problem of Mental health related issues, relating to silence and children of ordained?**

Answer: “Yes the Holy father does understand this problem. There exists a responsibility on behalf of the Catholic Church. Moreover, the priest who father’s a child has more than a financial responsibility, not forsaking the latter, but a relationship of ‘being close’ to his child.”

- **What does the Pope intend on doing to ensure “kids are cared for” considering the above-mentioned problem relating to mental health?**

Answer: “A holistic approach is required toward this issue. Quality of life is important.” Vincent Doyle asked, “is it possible for the Holy See to state something along the lines, regarding the issue pertaining to children of ordained, “be not afraid to approach your Bishop / Religious Superior, if you are the child of a priest or mother of the child of an ordained person?” Archbishop Ivan answered in the affirmative, “yes this is possible.”

- **Is the issue regarding children of ordained a child protection issue for the entire Catholic Church?**

Answer: “Yes, absolutely.”

- **Do numbers matter relating to quantity of children of ordained? Secondly, would a smaller number of children of ordained persons in any way lessen the gravity of the situation?**

Answer: “Numbers are important from a statistical perspective. However, from a church perspective, no numbers in no way lessen the gravity of the situation.” Side note, the Gospel according to Luke, Chapter 15, the Parable of the Lost Sheep was happily referenced mutually but not elaborated upon.

- **When is the report in reply to the 2014 Concluding Recommendations, on behalf of the Holy See expected and will it include / reference children of ordained?**

Answer: “The report is being worked on as we speak.” The Archbishop continued to assert the importance of working groups such as Coping and research completed by same, to assist the church, so she may grow in knowledge.

Statement on behalf of Coping International:

- Coping founder, Mr. Vincent Doyle, Psychotherapist, met with the Permanent representative of the Holy See to the United Nations, Archbishop Ivan Jurkovič on Sunday October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at his residence in Geneva. Coping would like to begin by thanking the Archbishop for his hospitality and kindness and understanding toward an issue that is very sensitive.
- In a meeting that lasted over one hour, both parties spoke at length about the issue affecting children of ordained, both coming toward a mutual understanding, recognising the importance of local authority in such matters, recognising the valuable contribution of the Irish Catholic Bishops, 'the Principles of Responsibility Regarding Priests who father Children while in Ministry.'<sup>1</sup>
- It was understood by both sides that acknowledgement of retrospective emotional neglect and hurt caused by imposed silence was important for the church to understand at every level from a child protection perspective, never denouncing the gravity of psychological abuse or child neglect caused by absence or silencing. The Archbishop indicated that the Pope understood this pain as experienced by children of ordained worldwide.
- The Holy See Representative acknowledged a document issued to him by Coping International, of which a copy for His Holiness was included, detailing the nuanced psychological trauma and problems associated with this issue as vital and very important towards this issue, and expressed his gratefulness regarding same.
- The issue of idealist statements as a response to the issue of children of ordained and related matters was acknowledged by both parties, statements that merely state the obvious<sup>2</sup> and was mentioned initially by Mr. Doyle. Archbishop Jurkovič acknowledge that a deeper knowledge of issues affecting same, would be of benefit for concerned, not commenting on any comments that may or may not have been issued by anyone.
- Coping will in part, and occasionally liaise with the Permanent Representative of the Holy See, when and wherever warranted to afford a deeper knowledge of issues affecting children of ordained for the mutual benefit of all concerned, affected.
- The importance of acknowledgement from the Holy Father, was acknowledged, and how continued ecclesial silence on related matters might compound an already difficult situation, as experienced by children of ordained.

End.

*Mr. Vincent Doyle.*

**Coping International Coordinator & Founder.**

15<sup>th</sup> October 2017, Geneva.

---

<sup>1</sup> [www.copinginternational.com/guidelines](http://www.copinginternational.com/guidelines)

<sup>2</sup> C.F.: Stating that a child should be cared for by his/her father is only stating the obvious... it sidesteps the issue of mental health, a deeper issue facing children of ordained. C.F.: <http://www.copinginternational.com/holysee/> [His Eminence, Cardinal O'Malley statement, 2017.]