



PONTIFICIA COMMISSIO
PRO TUTELA MINORUM

From the Vatican, September 10th 2018

Prot. N.: 284/2018

Dear Mr. Doyle,

The Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors recently concluded their September Plenary Assembly. As promised, the situation of children of priests was discussed and the members are grateful to you for your heartfelt dedication to this issue.

The members realise the seriousness of this issue, impacting as it does on the wellbeing of children. This was also the case with the Commission as previously constituted. It is a matter that has a global resonance and the complexities are considerable. As you know, the role of the PCPM is to propose to the Holy Father the most opportune initiatives for protecting minors and vulnerable adults. Given the impact on children the members of the Commission have agreed to refer it to the working group that I chair to consider how best to proceed.

There will be some aspects of this multi-faceted question with which the Commission can deal directly, for example where a child is born to a minor or vulnerable adult. However, in other areas it will be necessary for the Commission to approach the dicasteries that have canonical competence for the oversight of clergy and religious and engage with them in this matter.

Our expectation is that from this process will emerge initiatives that can contribute to the healing of those impacted by this issue.

You, as much as anyone, will understand the complexities involved in these questions. We will do our best and I will keep you informed.

With every best wish.

Yours sincerely

The Hon Neville Owen
Chair

Safeguarding Guidelines and Norms Working Group

To Mr. Vincent Doyle,
M.A. Psychotherapist
Coordinator & Founder
Coping International