

## **The Gambia & Sierra Leone.**

*We [appreciate] your valuable work in aid of children of Catholic Priests around the world. [They have cordially made] “an undertaking to inform [Coping] if such matters [Pertaining to Children of Priests] may arise in the future.” The Episcopal Conference recommends that “it remains the responsibility of the individual Dioceses or Religious Congregations to inform the appropriate ecclesiastical authorities in case such allegations or suspicions [pertaining to Children of Priests]” who have in turn agreed to work with Coping. The Episcopal conference has stated verbatim as follows:*

*[Absence of known cases/proven cases] does not preclude the fact or situation of cases where suspicion of Priests having improper relationships with women is made. The Episcopal Conference has not at any time negotiated or settled claims around the matter under discussion [children of Roman Catholic Clergy]. As you may be aware, the figure of the Episcopal Conference does not override or interfere with the internal ordering of individual Dioceses and Religious Congregations.*