



Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2016

*"We need to see each child as a gift, to be welcomed,  
Cherished and protected..."*

*Pope Francis, 2015*



Hugh McKenna  
Provincial, OFM

Dear Friends,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome this latest Safeguarding Newsletter, which gives us an opportunity to update you on the many things that are happening. Our annual celebration of Safeguarding Sunday reminds us all of the great work that is being done by our friars, staff and many volunteers to ensure that our friaries are places that are safe for all people, but particularly for children.

As Franciscans we are committed to maintaining the highest standards of safeguarding and if you have any concerns I urge you to contact one of our local safeguarding representatives or our Designated Liaison Person, Mr. Tom O'Donnell.

The National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland (NBSCCCI) has issued updated Standards and Guidance which is available on [www.safeguarding.ie](http://www.safeguarding.ie). In line with this, we have updated our own Safeguarding Policy which is available on our website, [www.franciscans.ie](http://www.franciscans.ie).

Early in 2017 we will be providing training courses for friars, staff, volunteers and the general public to ensure that the new Standards and Guidelines are fully understood and implemented across our Franciscan Province in Ireland.

Finally, I want to thank you for your continued support and to thank all of our staff and volunteers who give so generously of their time to work with us in providing a healthy and safe environment for the children of the future.

The Safeguarding Committee continues to work to ensure that we are doing all that is required of us in adhering to Standards and in following guidelines.

Our Safeguarding Monitors, Maranna and Monica continue to monitor the work at local level and to feed back any suggestions that can support the work that we're doing. As Hugh has indicated, with the arrival of the New Standards from the NBSCCCI we are now able to schedule training dates. On the reverse side of this newsletter you can see when and where this training will be available. We would like to encourage as many of you as possible to attend a training and to bring any questions you may have about Safeguarding to this forum. We look forward to meeting you then.

The Franciscan Safeguarding Committee

### 2017 Training

#### For Guardians and Local Safeguarding Representatives

##### **Date and Venue:**

19<sup>th</sup> January – Merchants Quay, Dublin

##### **Time:**

11am to 1pm – Training

1pm – LUNCH

#### Safeguarding training across the Province

##### **Date and Venue:**

7<sup>th</sup> February – **Killarney**

8<sup>th</sup> February – **Gormanston**

9<sup>th</sup> February – **Cork and Killiney**

10<sup>th</sup> February – **Clonmel**

13<sup>th</sup> February – **Athlone**

14<sup>th</sup> February – **Ennis**

15<sup>th</sup> February – **Galway and Waterford**

16<sup>th</sup> February – **Multyfarnham**

17<sup>th</sup> February – **Rosstownlough**

23<sup>rd</sup> February – **Merchants Quay, Dublin**

##### **Time:**

3pm to 5pm – Friars, Staff and Volunteers

7pm – General Public

Please contact Provincial Office for further details 01-6742500