

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I begin this letter with greetings of peace to you all. We have, at this time, a second stronger wave of Covid 19 and a revolutionary atmosphere in several countries, especially here in Poland. This situation makes us more or less anxious. Peace and trust in faith is what we need most now.

I am writing this letter on the Feast of All Saints. Today I have read the Gospel of the Beatitudes many times. In the present context of life, it resounds with increased power for me.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

Today I pray that each of you may experience deep peace in the turmoil and difficulties, in fear and illness.

Along with wishes for a happy Feast of All Saints, I am also sending you the documents we developed this year.

Taking into account the legal requirements applicable to all institutes of Consecrated Life and the real need for clear and practical guidelines for dealing with sexual abuse, two documents have been prepared for our Congregation:

1. Policy Document
2. Guidance Document

Abbot Brendan Coffey OSB, in collaboration with the National Board for Safeguarding Children in Ireland and the Olivetan Congregation, has done an extraordinary job of preparing useful and clear guidelines for action. I express my deep gratitude and thanks to him.

What will you find in these documents?

1. Policy Document: This document contains the Policy of our Congregation, safeguarding structures and the procedures for responding to allegations of sexual abuse, where no other policy exists.
2. Guidance Document: This contains support documentation to be used as needed - sample policies and various other resources.

These documents were discussed, at my suggestion, by the Council and received with joy. The brothers from Wavreumont have kindly translated them into

French, for which I am very grateful. I hope we will have a Polish translation soon.

Taking into considering the competence of Abbot Brendan in this matter, I have appointed him **the official Safeguarding coordinator for our Congregation of the Annunciation**. Therefore, in any matter that you have to deal with in the area of Safeguarding, please contact him (brendan@glenstal.org) and inform me about the steps you have taken.

As I stated in the introduction to this document, this material is primarily for those communities who have not yet developed their own procedures. Any community that already has its own local procedures should continue to follow them. You can supplement the procedures and documents you already have with the material proposed here, as required. This material is not intended to replace the safeguarding policies of your own Episcopal Conferences.

With this letter I also direct your attention to the *Vademecum* issued by the CDF on 16.07.2020 which explains the canonical process to be followed in cases of sexual abuse and gives instructions on what to do. It is very useful. The English version you will find here:

<http://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2020/07/16/200716b.html>

I hope you will find the documents useful, but I wish with all my heart that you would never be put in a situation, which requires their application.

Lubiń Abbey, 1st November 2020

With warm fraternal regards



Maksymilian R. Nawara OSB

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