



From the Vatican, 16 October 2024

Prot. N.: 241/2024

Dear Vincent,

As the Secretary and the Adjunct Secretary of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your passion regarding the issue of Children of Priests. You may recall meeting Teresa Kettelkamp, now serving as the Adjunct Secretary years ago with Emer when you were in Rome.

As you know from Neville, the PCPM has just completed two weeks of meetings; one devoted to the Vulnerability Study Group and the other to the Plenary Assembly.

The Commission, with the Vulnerability Study Group, has started to outline the necessary theological, spiritual and anthropological context in which vulnerability may arise, and to a deeper understanding of vulnerability as a concept and the myriad considerations that apply to it in the life of the Church.

In this area of work, it would be helpful for the Commission and the Study Group to map out future research if you could share your thoughts on how vulnerability—broadly defined as the abuse of power and exploitation of relationships—affects (or might affect) the lives and experiences of children of priests and their mothers, particularly regarding their identity and human dignity. Please feel free to include any studies, research projects, or publications you are aware of.

One of the key findings from the Study Group, as it explored the various dimensions of this issue, is that this will be a complex project requiring time for its development. Among the different areas of research, the experiences of children of priests and their mothers will be a focus.

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To Mr Vincent Doyle

The Study Group has agreed to continue collaborating, aiming for initial outcomes around autumn-winter 2025, due to the numerous issues identified in the first meeting. As you can see, the Study Group is examining vulnerability from multiple perspectives. We hope you will participate in this phase of the work, and we welcome any insights or contributions you wish to share with the Study Group.

We look forward to hearing from you.

+ Luis Manuel Ali Herrera
+ Luis Manuel Ali Herrera
Secretary


Teresa Kettelkamp
Adjunct Secretary