

Appendix 3

Glossary of Terms

Ad Limina visit: Each bishop of a diocese is obliged to visit, at stated times, the "thresholds of the Apostles", Saints Peter and Paul, and to present themselves before the Pope to give an account of the state of their dioceses. The last Ad Limina visit made by the Archbishop of Dublin was in 2006.

Administrative leave: A procedure whereby a priest accused of sexual abuse steps aside, without any admission of guilt, from his responsibilities, including any parish commitment, while an investigation takes place.

Advisory panel: A panel set up by bishops and heads of religious orders to advise them in dealing with allegations of clerical child sexual abuse. The functions of the panel were set out in the *Framework Document* (see Chapter 7). The advisory panel is sometimes called the advisory group but the functions are the same.

Archbishop's House: The headquarters of the Archdiocese of Dublin.

Archdiocese: In this report means the Archdiocese of Dublin.

Canon law: The body of law by which the Catholic Church is governed.

Chancellery: The office of the Archdiocese which assists in the discharge of the functions of the chancellor.

Chancellor: In canon law, the person who is to ensure that the acts of the curia are drawn up and dispatched and that they are kept safe in the archives of the curia. In the Archdiocese of Dublin as in many other dioceses, his principal duty is to attend to canon law matters on behalf of the Archdiocese.

Child: A person who has not yet reached his or her 18th birthday.

Child abuse guidelines: Guidelines issued at various dates by the Department of Health – see Chapter 6.

Children First: The current guidelines in relation to child sexual abuse issued in 1999 by the Department of Health and Children.

Child Protection Service: The office in the Archdiocese of Dublin which now deals with all complaints of child sexual abuse (see Chapter 3).

Child sexual abuse: child sexual abuse occurs when a child is used by another person for his or her gratification or sexual arousal or that of others.

Church: The Catholic Church

Church Penal Process: This is the canon law judicial process to investigate an allegation of an offence and to determine whether or not to impose or declare a penalty for that offence. There is also a non judicial process.

Clergy: Bishops, priests and deacons.

Conference of Bishops/Episcopal Conference: The gathering of all bishops in a defined area. The Irish Bishops' Conference is the single conference of bishops for the island of Ireland.

Conference of Religious of Ireland (CORI): An umbrella body for more than 130 religious congregations across the whole of Ireland. (This organization was previously known as the Conference of Major Religious Superiors.) The purpose of the Conference is to serve the leaders of these congregations and through them the members. It provides a forum where religious can work together on the mission they hold in common.

Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF): is one of the offices which assists the Pope in governing the universal Church. It was originally founded in 1542 as the Congregation of the Sacred Inquisition. Its main function now is to promote and safeguard the doctrine on faith and morals throughout the Catholic world: everything which in any way touches such matters falls within its remit. It deals with cases of child sexual abuse against clerics.

Curia: The Roman curia consists of the departments and ministries that assist the Pope in the government of the universal Church. A diocesan curia is composed of those people who assist a bishop to govern his diocese.

Delegate: In canon law, the person appointed by a bishop or head of a religious order to conduct the preliminary investigation into an allegation of clerical child sexual abuse; in the *Framework Document*, the delegate is the person appointed to oversee and implement the procedures for handling allegations of clerical child sexual abuse.

Discovery: The legal term to describe the provision of documents by one party to another in legal proceedings.

Faoiseamh: an organisation which provides telephone counselling and a counselling and psychotherapy referral service for people who have been sexually, physically or emotionally abused by priests or religious. It is funded by the Conference of Religious of Ireland (CORI) and by a number of Catholic dioceses including the Archdiocese of Dublin.

Fr Brendan Smyth: He was a Norbertine priest who received widespread media coverage in 1994 when he pleaded guilty to 74 cases of child abuse in Ireland. He was sentenced to 12 years imprisonment and he died in prison. The perceived failure to extradite him to Northern Ireland to face similar charges created political controversy and led to the fall of the Fianna Fáil/Labour coalition government in late 1994.

Ferns Report: The report into the handling of complaints and allegations of clerical child sexual abuse in the diocese of Ferns was published in October 2005.

Formation: The education and spiritual development of those training for the priesthood or religious life.

Framework Document: Report and Recommendation of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Advisory Committee on Child Sexual Abuse by Priests and Religious. Also known as the Green Book. It was issued in 1996 and replaced by *Our Children, Our Church* in 2005.

Holy See: The term refers to the seat of power of the pope as Pastor of the Universal Church together with other organs of government of the Roman Curia. The term Apostolic See is also used.

Incardinated and excardinated: Diocesan priests who are ordained for the service of a diocese are said to belong to that diocese. Priests from other dioceses may apply to become a priest in a diocese. After a period, the priest may apply to be 'incardinated' into the diocese in which he is working. If this is agreed between the two dioceses, he is 'excardinated' from his original diocese and 'incardinated' into the new diocese.

Laicisation: This is a term used to describe the situation where a priest successfully applies to be relieved of his priestly duties.

Norms: rules or procedures.

Ordinary: This is a term used in canon law to describe all of those who have ordinary executive power. This includes diocesan bishops, vicars general and major superiors of clerical religious institutes.

Our Children, Our Church: Child Protection Policies and Procedures for the Catholic Church in Ireland. It was issued in 2005 and is the follow up to the *Framework Document*.

Papal Nuncio: The Ambassador of the Holy See to Ireland – see Chapter 3.

Paramountcy principle: The principle that the welfare of the child is the paramount concern.

Precept: an order from a bishop to a priest – usually restricting him in carrying out some or all of his priestly functions.

Risk assessment: The process of determining whether a person presents a degree of risk to a child.

Secret archives: This is a safe or cabinet where documents which are of great sensitivity need to be kept in conditions of maximum security. Examples of such documents include documents relating to clerical child sexual abuse.

Standards of Proof

Balance of Probabilities: The standard applied in civil proceedings: is this evidence more likely than not to be true. This was the test applied by the Commission to the evidence it received.

Beyond a reasonable doubt: The standard of proof applicable in criminal proceedings.

Moral certainty: The standard of proof required for judicial decisions in canon law.

State Agencies: The Gardaí, the Department of Education and Science and the Health Service Executive (HSE) (and former health boards).

Supply work: This is the term which is used where a priest asks another priest (not necessarily from the same diocese) to carry out his parish duties while he is away for whatever reason. In the Archdiocese of Dublin, supply work is frequently carried out by members of religious orders and societies. It may also be carried out, for example, by priests who are visiting from abroad.

Suspension: A penalty available under canon law which debars a priest from exercising his priestly ministry for a limited period.