



Redemptorist Statement of Commitment to Safeguarding

Our commitment to Christ

Redemptorists are a community of priests and brothers committed to Jesus Christ whose message embodies God's abiding love for everyone and the inalienable dignity of each person. Each Redemptorist publicly professes his commitment through vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, so that he will imitate Christ more closely through actions that bring healing, hope and respect for everyone.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is the ongoing work of championing the dignity and wellbeing of every person and enriching the human desire to live in love, be safe as possible and experience the goodness of life. Safeguarding is also guarding, protecting and advocating for those who are most vulnerable, wounded and abandoned; those whose dignity has been stripped away; those whose safety is compromised and whose opportunities for participating fully in life are restricted.

Acknowledging our failures

Redemptorists acknowledge our failure to always safeguard the lives of those to whom we minister, both as communities and individually and the tragic consequences of these failures which have inflicted suffering on children and adults. We wish to strengthen our commitment to safeguard all people.

An Apology

Redemptorists apologise unreservedly to each person, each family and each community who have suffered on account of the abusive behaviour of an individual or the collective negligence of our community culture. We applaud the courage and strength of those people who have come forward to address the wrong done and seek redress for the harm suffered.

Commitment to Safeguarding

The very purpose and foundation of our vocation is to love one another as deeply as Christ loves us. Each life is a gift from God – sacred, holy, and unique and Redemptorists give their lives to the mission of building relationships that enhance life.

Redemptorists therefore commit themselves to the following actions that will better safeguard the wellbeing of everyone and strengthen the opportunities to live life more fully.

- a. We will honour and reverence the dignity of every person, and do all in our power to safeguard, and enrich the wellbeing of every person
- b. We value the importance of relationships and will act with integrity in our relationships with all people, building trust and creating a safe space for a rich encounter.

c. We will be mindful of the risks to the safety of everyone and educate ourselves into a fuller awareness of our behaviours.

d. We will implement the ten National Catholic Safeguarding Standards and use these standards to develop a more inclusive culture of welcome, acceptance and respect.

e. We will be transparent in our safeguarding processes, policies and procedures where they do not compromise privacy and confidentiality. We will submit our actions, policies, and procedures to an independent process of review and audit.

f. We are accountable for their actions to God, to each other and to society. Therefore Redemptorists willingly comply with:

- i. country, federal and state laws related to safeguarding
- ii. canon law and Church protocols related to safeguarding;
- iii. the policies and protocols of the Redemptorists for safeguarding children and adults at risk; and
- iv. the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

g. We value community life and its power for good. Therefore, we will regularly review the culture of our communities and develop ways to better safeguard the wellbeing of those we encounter in their ministry.

h. We will coordinate training for every Redemptorist leader, member, employee, and volunteer so that the whole organisation can act as one body to safeguard the well-being of everyone.

i. We respect the privilege of trusting relationships in our ministries. To safeguard that trust, we will have in place a process for independent supervision for every Redemptorist member in ministry, every person employed in a leadership role with the Redemptorists, and every volunteer in a leadership role.

j. We will screen those applying to enter into the mission of the Redemptorists and review all our formation processes.

k. We are called to be healers of wounds. As members of the National Redress Scheme and accountable to our own Constitutions and Statutes, Redemptorists will provide financial and other forms of redress to help right past wrongs and support the healing / repair of damaged relationships.