

Divine Saviour Convent
Dillon Court
Netham Road,
Redfield, Bristol, BS5 9PF

2.9.06.

CUMBERLEGE COMMISSION

From the beginning it needs to be said that we are a very small group of Sisters in England situated in Bristol in the diocese of Clifton.

We have "Deo Gratias" no incidents of Child Abuse among us, but we do know one or two people against whom accusations been made.

I am sure many people will write in the same vein, that once there are accusations or suspicions against a person, even though they may be proved totally innocent they seem in general to be scarred for life. This surely cannot be right. There really has to be a way found in order that this situation can be avoided.

There does not seem to be a procedure that everyone conforms to when suspicions or accusations are levelled at a person or persons. It would be helpful if there was a National procedure which could be followed on a countrywide basis. If it is not possible on a National level at least on a diocesan level. I am not going to quote cases but where there is no procedure stated or followed there is confusion and hurt.

The thoughts as stated above may seem difficult to get around, but we are talking about a very difficult subject.

COPCA has filled a vital role in guiding priests, religious and laity through a minefield of legislation. It may be a suggestion that they would remain in place for at least another five years.

Probably diocesan setups are reasonably alright, it is all still very new and possibly in time these setups will improve. No doubt in time representatives of various congregations, parishes and other organisations will come to feel happier with the procedures as stated.

Sr Paula Langford C.F.S.
Sisters of the Divine Saviour..