

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

[January 2024]

**The Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors
The Bishops of the Metropolitan Ecclesiastical Province of Tamale
The Religious Superiors' Conference of Ghana**



COMMISSIO
TUTELA MINORUM

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POS. N. *CMF 1a*
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2 | MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

- i) Whereas the Apostolic Constitution *Praedicate Evangelium*, in Article 78, §1 establishes the ministry of safeguarding as a specific and permanent activity of the Roman Curia;
- ii) Whereas the Supreme Pontiff enumerated to the Commission “I urge you to assist the Conferences of Bishops – this is very important: to assist and oversee in dialogue with the Conferences of Bishops – in establishing suitable centres where individuals who have experienced abuse, and their family members, can find acceptance and an attentive hearing, and be accompanied in a process of healing and justice” (Address of His Holiness Pope Francis to the Commission, 29 April 2022);
- iii) Whereas the Apostolic Constitution *Praedicate Evangelium*, in Article 78, §2 establishes the Commission’s mandate to “assist diocesan/eparchial bishops, Episcopal Conferences and Eastern Hierarchical Structures, Superiors of Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life and their Conferences in developing appropriate strategies and procedures, through Guidelines to protect minors and vulnerable persons from sexual abuse”;
- iv) Whereas the Supreme Pontiff, explicitly instructed the Commission “on an annual basis, to prepare a report on the Church’s initiatives for the protection of minors and vulnerable adults.” (Address of His Holiness Pope Francis to the Commission, 29 April 2022);
- v) Whereas the Supreme Pontiff outlined that “This report will be a factor of transparency and accountability and – I hope – will provide a clear audit of our progress in this effort. Without that progress, the faithful will continue to lose trust in their pastors, and preaching and witnessing to the Gospel will become increasingly difficult.” (Address of His Holiness Pope Francis to the Commission, 29 April 2022);
- vi) Whereas the Motu Proprio *Vos Estis Lux Mundi*, in Article 2, §1 requires “one or more public, stable and easily accessible systems for submission of reports, even through the institution of a specific ecclesiastical office”;
- vii) Whereas to “propose better methods to enable the Church to protect minors and vulnerable persons and to assist the healing of survivors, in the recognition that justice and prevention are complementary” (Address of His Holiness Pope Francis to the Commission, 29 April 2022);

The Parties establish by this Memorandum of Understanding a collaboration in which they agree to jointly pursue the realization of the Canonical, spiritual, pastoral, and human rights requirements, surrounding the protection of minors and vulnerable adults.

INTRODUCTION

The Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors (Commission) hereby sets out to establish a Memorare Initiative (MI) in the Metropolitan Ecclesiastical Province of Tamale, in collaboration with the Bishops of the Ecclesiastical Province, and the Religious Superiors' Conference of Ghana. The purpose of this collaboration is designed to:

- Provide outreach to victims and survivors (V/S) of abuse and receive them in a safe environment, by providing material and human resources in a stable and accessible structure. In this pursuit, it will listen and care for persons who have experienced abuse, facilitating reporting in a non-judgmental and discrete environment.
- Assist the needs of V/S, their family and community by offering pastoral, medical, legal and informational support to persons impacted by primary and secondary abuse. This assistance will be offered through providing referral services, for professional treatment, free of charge for V/S. As such, the MP might help V/S access local resources and professionals, while also monitoring the effectiveness of these services.
- Enhance and facilitate access to reporting systems for V/S, consistent with Article 2 of the Motu Proprio *Vos Estis Lux Mundi*. Promote and oversee follow-up communications, after the submission of a report to afford V/S information on the status of their reports.
- Provide advanced formation courses to specialized staff, focusing on safeguarding practices and philosophy, while still considering locally, personally, and culturally sensitive aspects of the material. The primary objective of these courses will be to lead the creation of a safe Church.
- Facilitate a robust capacity building effort, that, while initiated from a collaboration at the national level, will be effectuated and operationalized at the diocesan level, respecting the principle of subsidiarity and the Canonical rights and responsibilities of the local Ordinary

KEY PARTIES

The Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors (Commission)

The Bishops of the Metropolitan Ecclesiastical Province of Tamale

The Religious Superiors' Conference of Ghana

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

1.0 The Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors (Commission) will:

- i) Promote and facilitate a collaboration among the actors in this MoU, and subsequent Memorare Plan, by supporting and encouraging the One Church collaborative model, between the Bishops and Religious
- ii) Provide the MI with information about good practices formulated by the Universal Church in the protection of minors and vulnerable adults
- iii) Screen and certify candidates for the position of Memorare Advisor (MA), responsible for the mapping and designing of the MI
- iv) Administer the Memorare Fund (MF) to:
 - i) Provide the Metropolitan Archbishop of Tamale with initial grant money to fund:
 - a. A consultancy contract for a Memorare Advisor (MA) to:
 - i. Negotiate and establish a collaboration between Bishops and Religious
 - ii. Map safeguarding programs and stakeholders in the Ecclesiastical Province
 - iii. Develop customized training curriculum and materials
 - iv. Develop a sustainable business plan, detailing all cost and revenue streams, proposing cost sharing models as appropriate
 - v. Recruit, nominate and train all qualified personnel to work in the MI
 - ii) Provide additional grant funding, based on the needs outlined in the sustainable business plan, produced by the Memorare Advisor

2.0 The Bishops of the Ecclesiastical Province of Tamale will:

- i) Submit potential MA candidates to the Commission, for pre-approval
- ii) Promote and facilitate a collaboration among the actors in this MoU, and subsequent Memorare Initiative (MI), by negotiating and signing onto a collaborative partnership with the Religious
- iii) Support the faithful workings of Memorare Initiative
- iv) Commit to reporting requirements to the Commission

3.0 The Religious Superiors' Conference of Ghana will:

- i) Submit potential MA candidates to the Commission, for pre-approval
- ii) Promote and facilitate a collaboration among the actors in this MoU, and subsequent Memorare Initiative (MI), by negotiating and signing onto a collaborative partnership with the Bishops of the Ecclesiastical Province of Tamale
- iii) Support the faithful workings of Memorare Initiative
- iv) Commit to reporting requirements to the Commission

SIGNED BY:

The Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors

Name H.E. CARDINAL SEÁN O'MALLEY

Date 6-12-2024

Signature + Seán, O'Malley

H.E. Archbishop Philip Naameh, Archbishop of Tamale

Name Most Rev. Philip Naameh

Date 5th September 2024

Signature + Philip Naameh

H.E. Bishop Peter Paul Yelezuome Angkyier, Bishop of Damongo

Name Most Rev Peter Paul Y. Angkyier

Date 5th September 2024

Signature + Yelezuome Paul

H.E. Bishop Alfred Agyenta, Bishop of Navrongo-Bolgatanga

Name Most Rev. Alfred Agyenta

Date 5th September 2024

Signature + alfo

Sede Vacante, Bishop of Wa

Name Most Rev. Francis Bomansaani

Date 5th September 2024

Signature + Bomat

H.E. Bishop Matthew Yitierh, Bishop of Yendi

Name Most Rev Matthew Yitierh

Date 5th September 2024

Signature + MMEZ

The Religious Superiors' Conference of Ghana

Name _____

Date _____

Signature _____