



Safeguarding News November 2023

Greetings all,

Welcome to your Safeguarding *HeartBeat* segment.

The audit is over!

It is with a thankful heart and a sigh of relief that we can proclaim that the safeguarding audit of the Congregation has occurred. Two auditors from Australian Catholic Safeguarding Limited (ACSL), came to North Sydney on Monday 16 October, and met with the Congregational Leadership Team and the Professional Standards Team. They shared the results of the desk-top audit they had undertaken, reviewing the written narratives and the documental evidence we had provided. Their feedback was encouraging, stating that the Congregation's commitment to Safeguarding is obvious.



The auditors worked from North Sydney and Kensington during the week, interviewing 28 vowed members of the Congregation, and seven paid employees. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to these people who were interviewed. This can be a harrowing process, and yet all approached the interview with courage and a heart of service. It was wonderful to see how faithfully and genuinely, those who were interviewed, represented the Congregation.

At the conclusion of the week, the auditors provided a summary finding of the audit to the Congregational Leadership Team and Professional Standards Team. The feedback was also very encouraging and spoke to our future work which was expected (and for the most part) already planned.

The final written audit report of the Congregation is expected to be available possibly before Christmas, at which time it will be posted on our website. This will be quite a Christmas gift like never before!

I am truly thankful to all of you, and how we have journeyed in this process together. Thank you all!

We can all now approach the Christmas season with a sense of relief and look forward to our continued hard work together in 2024.

Blessings,

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