CMSM Inaugurates a New Position for the Protection of Minors

SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND (June 2, 2017). The Conference of Major Superiors of Men is pleased to announce the hiring of the Rev. Gerard J. McGlone, S.J., Ph. D., to serve as Associate Director for the Protection of Minors. The appointment was announced today by the Rev. John Pavlik, OFM Cap., Executive Director. This newly created position responds to the Conference’s desire to designate a person singularly devoted to serve as a primary resource person of the Conference for its Member Institutes as they participate in and develop programs for the protection of minors. Fr. McGlone will assist institutes in addressing their common commitment to make the Church and the Member Institutes places of safety for children and to stand in unity with the efforts of the universal Church to create safe environments.

Fr. McGlone will formally begin his position in mid-August.

In August of 2016 the leadership of the CMSM accepted a series of recommendations made by a specially formulated National Advisory Council composed of professionals and experienced leaders after a two-year study of the efforts of its member institutes in and through their programs, policies and procedures to fully affirm and collaborate with the ecclesial hierarchy of the United States in applying the values and principles articulated in the Charter for the Protection of Children. One recommendation of the Advisory Council held that the Conference of Major Superiors designate one person to singularly serve the members in these matters, and especially to offer assistance to small institutes with limited resources so that compliance might be achievable by all institutes, regardless of size. The National Board of the CMSM determined that the person hired for this new position should be tasked to gradually implement the ten recommendations of the National Advisory Council announced last summer. Since the autumn of 2016, the Conference worked to define the tasks to be undertaken by the Associate Director, to find funding for the position, and to conduct a broad search for candidates for this position.

Fr. McGlone will leave his current position as Director of Counseling Services, Staff Psychologist, and a member of the Faculty at the Pontifical North American College in Rome, Italy, to accept this role on behalf of men entrusted with leadership in religious institutes in the United States. Because Fr. McGlone has previously served the Church and religious life in the United States through a position at St. John Vianney Center in Downingtown, PA, and as a consultant on formation of new members, and as a retreat director, he is well known to both leadership and members of individual institutes.
The leadership of the Conference will formally introduce Fr. McGlone as director at the August 2017 National Assembly and will present a vision for this new position. Executive Director, Rev. John Pavlik, OFM Cap., stated: “I look forward to collaborating closely with someone I have grown to admire for the breadth and depth of the expertise and knowledge he brings to the field of promoting the safety of children within the ecclesial community. Jerry knows religious life very well, and will, I am certain, generously serve our members to advance the cause and the practices of both safety for children and a balanced and healthy lifestyle for members of religious institutes.”

CMSM President, Very Rev. Brian Terry, SA, Minister General of the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement, stated: “The Conference is deeply grateful to Fr. McGlone for joining us in our commitment to provide safe environments for all children. Fr. Jerry brings a wealth of experience which will assist our members and the Church.”

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The Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM) supports and offers resources for U.S. leaders of Catholic men’s religious institutes. CMSM promotes dialogue and collaboration on issues of religious life as well as peace and justice issues with major groups in church and society. There are more than 17,000 religious priests and brothers in the United States.