



CONVENTUAL FRANCISCAN FRIARS

DATE: June 26, 2009
TO: Fr. Emil Cook, APUFRAM Board, Mission Honduras International Board
FROM: Very Rev. James Kent, OFM Conv.
RE: Policies and the Protection of Minors

It has been brought to the attention of Province of Our Lady of Consolation Definitory and me, the Major Superior, of the sexual abuse of a minor perpetrated by an employee of the mission in Liberia. From information received from Mission Honduras International Acting Board President, Mr. Bob O'Dwyer, including the fact the allegation was investigated and then corroborated by MHI board member Dave Dionisi, and with a history of numerous past complaints of sexual abuse, which were subsequently ignored or possibly "covered-up" by APUFRAM, be it known that:

The leadership of the Province of Our Lady of Consolation, as well as Fr. Edgar Ramirez Arias, OFM Conv., Custos of Mary, Mother of the Poor Custody, stand in **complete** agreement with the Mission Honduras International Board, namely:

In suspending funds to APUFRAM until its leadership demonstrates that new corrective policies are in place; that responsible leadership is **overseeing** the management of the mission sites; and that policies be established that include:

1. Child Protection Program. Approved and auditable child protection procedures for all sites operated by APUFRAM.
2. Whistleblower Policy. A policy to protect employees, volunteers, children and others reporting abuse or wrongdoing from retribution of any kind.
3. Racism Policy. Policy and procedures to protect against racism.
4. Leadership. Policies and procedures which represent a full **commitment** to protect those we serve and the selection of staff who **demonstrate the ability** to fulfill that commitment.
5. Financial Responsibility. Compliance with procedures which require grant requests, financial reports, and support audits.

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Further, as a current member of the Conventual Franciscans, Custody of Mary, Mother of the Poor, and formerly a member of the Province of Our Lady of Consolation, I strongly encourage Friar Emil Cook, OFM Conv. to ensure that the APUFRAM Board immediately create, enact and adhere to such policies.

Signed: Fr. James Kent OFM Conv.

Vicar Provincial, Province of Our Lady of Consolation