 **Supporting Survivors and their Families**

Through its Safeguarding Office, the Spiritan Congregation wants to reach out to survivors and their families.

Support persons are appointed by the Congregation to be available to those who make an allegation/disclosure of abuse. Their role is to assist, where appropriate, with communication between the person making an allegation/disclosure and the Designated Liaison Person (DLP), to facilitate gaining access to information and help, and to represent their concerns during the inquiry process.

Support Persons for survivors and their families will:

* Provide information on the support services available.
* Work to identify your pastoral needs at this time in your life.
* Offer a ‘listening ear’ to you and your family.
* Liaise with Congregation.
* Attend Court hearings or other meetings where such would be deemed helpful.
* Arrange, if considered helpful, a meeting with a representative of the Congregation.
* Inform the Spiritan Congregation of your concerns, needs, fears and expectations should you so wish.
* Represent their interests to the various safeguarding committees and panels.