**ATTACHMENT D**

**Submission on Individual Morality**

Jesus gave a command and mission in regard to our individual morality (*see Attachments M & N*). We must love God and our neighbour as ourselves. This love involves doing positive acts of kindness for others and also keeping his Ten Commandments so that we do not offend God or our neighbours.

This love cannot be split into two parts of doing kind acts and not offending our neighbour. If you go around mistreating people, but also do acts of mercy you can hardly be regarded as loving your neighbour. You have to do both and one is not more important than the other. To love is a single indivisible concept. [[1]](#endnote-1)

Yet this is what the Church has been attempting to do over the past 48 or more years. We have been urging people to be kind to others and downgrading the importance of sinning against others and against God. We have been teaching our children this in our schools and priests’ homilies have tended to reinforce this by avoiding the problem of sin or even the obligation to attend Confession at least once a year. Likewise, they are not reminded of their obligation to receive communion in a state of grace and that, to do the opposite is to commit a sacrilege. Again, priests do not promote the Sacrament of Reconciliation as they are required to do.

This failure of the Church to teach its members the true faith has resulted in many of them having the idea that they can achieve heaven by faith and some kind acts and that they can get their mortal sins forgiven without making a confession. Some even believe that the ordinary man in the street does not commit mortal sins. The problem with these ideas is that, if all of this is so, why do we need to be members of the Church? We can believe in God, do some kind acts and ask God for forgiveness directly.

We need to go back to Jesus’ original salvation message which is reflected in the Code of Canon Law and the Catechism which emphasises both aspects of loving equally. Under this message, the Sacrament of Reconciliation plays an important role in gaining salvation for members of the Church. People are required to be kind but also moral. They will sin, but the Church through its Sacrament of Reconciliation can give them the means of having their sins forgiven.[[2]](#endnote-2)

For the past 48 or more years, the Church has been in breach of its Code of Canon Law and the Catechism and this cannot go on

1. Catholic Catechism paragraphs 1974 and 2196 [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. Catholic Catechism paragraphs 1444, 1974 and 2196 Code of Canon Law paragraphs 987 - 991 [↑](#endnote-ref-2)