

St. Patrick's Missionary Society



Annual Report 2016



Mission Statement

We are a small Society but we have a big dream: we are committed to making a difference in the world through the power of Jesus' counter-cultural vision of life: of love and truth, of freedom and hope. It therefore means working for unity and reconciliation in such a way that ethnic, religious, national, cultural and historical differences are overcome. It means crossing boundaries created by culture, language, and world view. It compels us to seek out the least, the last and the lost, to accept the uniqueness of peoples and recognise the special gifts bestowed on them by God's Spirit. We strive for a more just, inclusive and compassionate world. In the words of Pope Francis, "we have to state, without mincing words, that there is an inseparable bond between our faith and the poor".

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Message from the Society Leader

St Patrick's Missionary Society

has been proclaiming the Gospel message for the past eighty-five years to different peoples around the world, offering education and development in a variety of situations, and nurturing Church communities to maturity. Founded in Ireland and beginning our missionary work in South Eastern Nigeria, our presence has spread across Africa and beyond to places like Brazil and Grenada, expanding boldly over the decades.

Our work on mission, through the generous support of our many benefactors, enables us to share the Good News of Jesus and serve Him as living examples of His compassion.

Our missionary service relieves the burden of poverty on people and advances the education and development of peoples. Our work is needed, even more today than in the past, in faraway places and at home here in Ireland. So, we continue to be involved in our traditional missionary focus of spreading the Gospel, building up the Church communities and facilitating the development of peoples in many countries in Africa, and in Brazil and Grenada.

In recent years, our Society, which had been predominately Irish, decided to become 'international' and to invite young men from Africa and Brazil to join us. Now, we are actively promoting vocations to the missionary life in many countries, and we have invested heavily in structures and personnel to facilitate the training and formation of the men who respond to the call to missionary priesthood. Currently we are educating over eighty seminarians in Africa and we have witnessed a new surge of life and energy in the Society through the priestly ordination of thirty-three African members over the last eleven years; a clear manifestation of the working of the Holy Spirit in our decision to become 'international.'

This past year, as well as doing our long-established missionary work, our missionaries are assisting people in the war zone of South Sudan, we are working in education projects in Northern Nigeria under the threat of the ISIS affiliated terrorist group Boko Haram, we are supporting the Church in a very political tense Kenya, we are facilitating developmental projects in poverty-stricken Malawi, we continue to help people rebuild their homes in the aftermath of hurricane Ivan in Grenada and we are standing in solidarity with people disturbed by the civil unrest in Cameroon. Many of our missionaries live and work among people who are on the margins of society, and are involved in undertakings to improve the quality of life for people who are among the least, last and lost of our world. This report gives some examples of the projects we supported in 2016.

With the continued help and prayers of our benefactors and supporters, the priests and members of St Patrick's Missionary Society remain committed to helping all people in our world in the name of Christ and to making the conditions of living better for many peoples in our world.

With much gratitude,



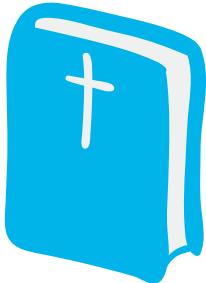
Rev Victor Dunne,
Society Leader



Fr Victor Dunne, on a recent visit to Bauchi, northern Nigeria.
(Photo: P. Esekon SPS)



Some of our Projects and Programmes



EVANGELISATION & RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Training and supporting local catechists; training local leaders, community development; youth activity programmes; promoting religious formation in schools.



HUMAN RIGHTS

Civic education; legal aid; advocacy, raising public awareness and training; defending women and children; land rights.



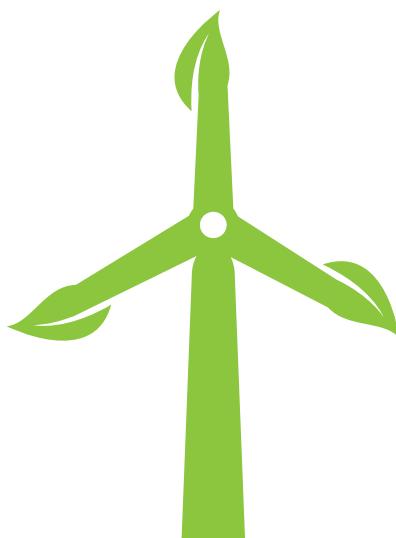
HEALTH CARE AND SOCIAL WELFARE

Providing local health centres; HIV/Aids programmes and Home Care; providing clean water by drilling boreholes and protecting local wells; caring and providing resources for the physically and mentally handicapped.



ENVIRONMENT

Supporting local communities to seek restitution for environmental damage by major oil companies; seeking shareholder support in challenging destructive methods of oil extraction; promoting alternative sources of clean energy; divesting from fossil fuel companies.





EDUCATION

Building schools and classrooms; providing educational materials; school fees; prioritising girls' education; school supervision; promoting educational excellence at regional and national level.



SUPPORT FOR NEEDY CHILDREN

Caring for AIDS orphans; providing corrective surgery for physically handicapped children; support for local crèches, orphanages and supplementary feeding programmes.



ACADEMIC & VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Trade schools; assisting academically talented youth; forming and educating future priests; providing third level bursaries; promoting and resourcing further studies.



SAFEGUARDING

Training and resourcing professional Safeguarding personnel; developing and implementing Safeguarding structures and policies in all our institutions, programmes, parishes, and houses; offering Safeguarding personnel and resources to other churches and institutions.



BAUCHI, NIGERIA

Bauchi, in northern Nigeria, is an area seriously affected by the activities of the terrorist organisation called 'Boko Haram'. They use suicide bombers to kill indiscriminately; they kidnap school children; shoot people gathered in church and declare that they will wipe out the western style school system.

Fr Patrick Esekon from Kenya works there building communities, supporting education, providing health care, training youth and spreading the message of peace and reconciliation. He strives to replace the fear and terror with hope and faith in the future. He provides a direct challenge to the terrorists and to their message of hate and destruction.



St Vincent De Paul members donating foodstuffs and clothing to displaced families at Yola Village. The Society received funds from St Patrick's Missionary Society.



"This photo (left) was taken when I called to the family of DanJuma Yakubu in Kwagga village. The small child in my arms (called Patrick!) was born in the mission car as I was bringing his mother to hospital in Nabordo town."
Fr Patrick Esekon

Central Africa

LUSAKA, ZAMBIA - HOME OF JOY

Home of Joy is an orphanage for girls in the city of Lusaka, Zambia. At present twenty-nine girls live there in small family structures supervised by foster mothers. They receive basic academic education and training in domestic and home craft skills.

Home of Joy was established by a congregation of Sisters in August 2000. Sr Saleth is the director and Sr Mallega is the administrator.

There are two sections in the home – one for girls under fifteen years of age and one for those over fifteen. The girls over fifteen attend St Joseph's College for further education and skills training in technology and nutrition.



The home depends entirely on generous donors to provide for the upkeep and education of the girls. We assist them regularly.

Fr Samuel Gichanga





NAKURU, KENYA – CARING FOR HIV/AIDS PATIENTS



*Fr PJ McCampbell writes
from Nakuru:*

“The HIV/AIDS Project, Nakuru, helps AIDS patients at a very basic level; patients who have very low or no income. If they get a good regular diet of nutritious food and fruits, and take their ARV medication, their overall health can be kept up reasonably well. So we provide each patient with a regular monthly food and fruit package for this purpose. We also cover any hospital bills they incur, and also the funeral expenses when any one of them dies. We pay rent for those who are unable to do this because they have no income. Quite a number of these patients are abandoned and are struggling on their own. Some have children and have the usual challenges of feeding and looking after them in their difficult circumstances. The help given to them by the project is very much appreciated.”



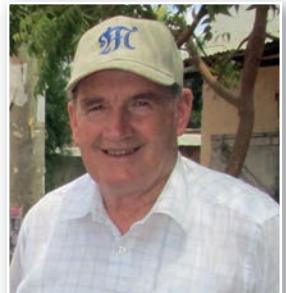


KITUI, KENYA – WATER

Water is life!

This is very true in places like Kyuso in Kitui County, Kenya. It is an arid area where the local people depend on subsistence farming and herding their livestock. During the long dry season every year there is a water crisis.

One way of addressing the problem is for a group of families to get together to construct a shallow well. Eight of these family groups have formed in Kyuso and they have received help from Fr Michael Kane. He works along with the groups to provide technical advice, a qualified well digger, an Afridev hand pump and pump installation. The group provides the site for the well, casual labour and an organisation structure.



Maintenance and sustainability are the responsibility of the group and they provide for this by collecting a small levy from the users of the well. One well can provide drinkable water for up to 30 families plus water for their livestock and some run-off water for a small kitchen-garden.





DROUGHT IN TURKANA, KENYA

During 2016 the seasonal rains failed in large areas of East Africa. Turkana in northern Kenya was one of the severely affected areas. Our six members working in Turkana reported the deteriorating conditions. Livestock were perishing as pastures dried up and the nomadic people who depend on their animals for their livelihood were suffering from food shortage.

We responded by donating €30,000 to the Diocese of Lodwar for food to be distributed through their nursery school system. Nutritious food for nursery school children is a vital intervention in times of drought and hunger.

The small children are always the most vulnerable when the food supply runs low. At such times enrolments in schools that provide food increase dramatically. School feeding programmes are one of the most efficient and effective means of combating famine.



COMUNIDADE NOSSA SENHORA DE APARECIDA, SÃO PAULO

Large South American cities struggle to plan and supervise the expansion required to accommodate thousands of people streaming into already overcrowded urban areas. Very often migrants set up their own temporary structures on any available plot of public land. Soon they form a community and work together to secure their homes against constant threats from local authorities. Our Lady of Aparecida Community in São Paulo, Brazil, is one such community.

Fr Dermot Daly, their pastor, writes:

“From the beginning they set about building a temporary community centre that served as a meeting place and a church. Three years ago they built a parish church and now they are building a new permanent community hall with financial help from St Patrick’s. Recently the community were able to get the electrical company to connect all the houses and install meters. Before that the connections were clandestine – a dangerous situation with millions of tangled wires going in all directions! They now pay a fixed price bill but the people are happy because it gives them a legal fixed abode which is important for many reasons but especially when looking for work.”



Above: The community celebrating their feast day of Our Lady of Aparecida. Right: Work on the new community hall, rooms and toilets. Pictured above with Fr Dermot Daly are some of parents and their children at catechism.



Human Rights

Recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)



HUMAN RIGHTS IN KENYA

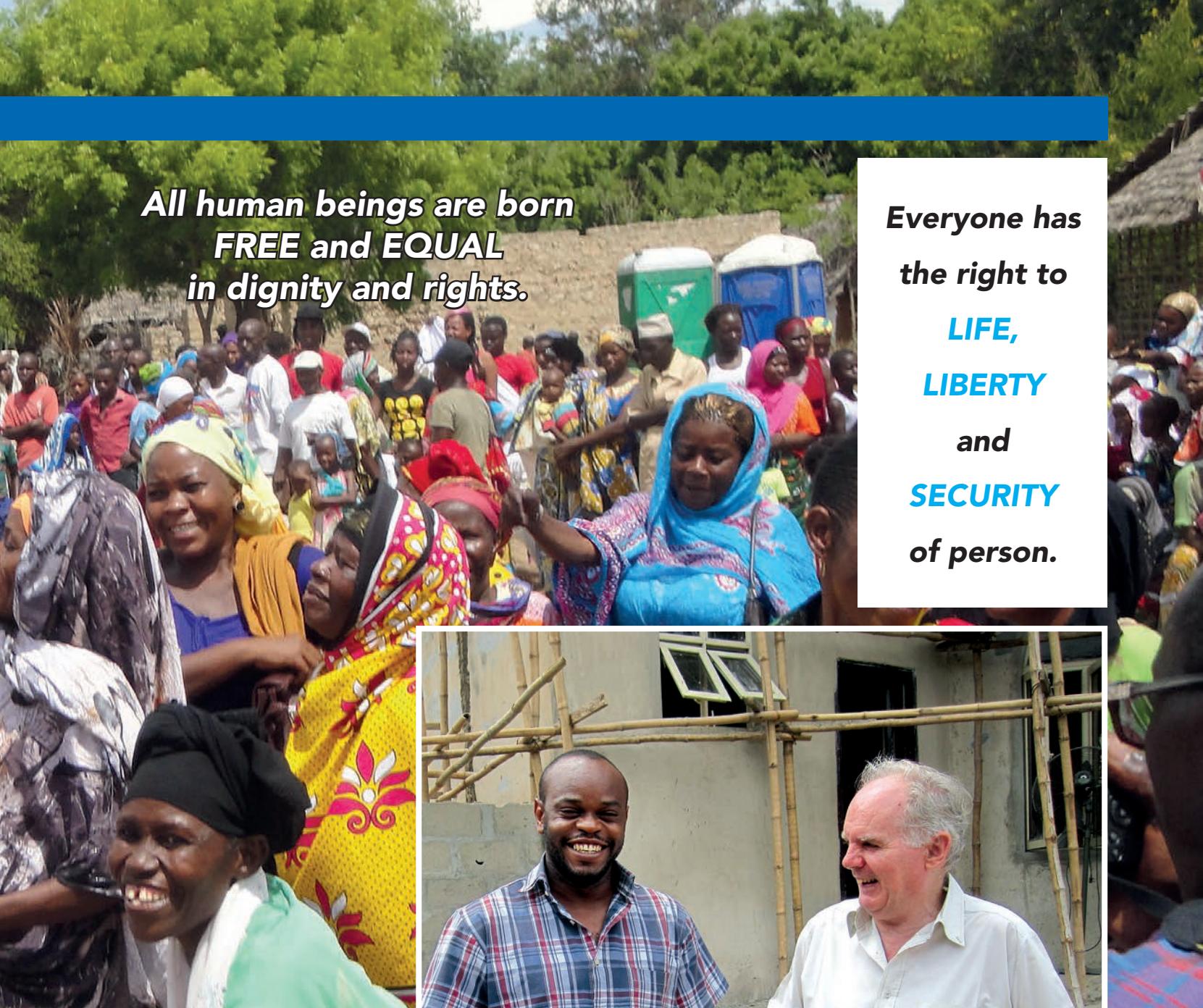
Fr Gabriel Dolan facilitates a human rights programme in Mombasa, Kenya. It involves civic education, advocacy, land rights, legal aid, the rights of women and children and the rights of indigenous people.

During the year he worked with the Makonde tribe who have been struggling since Kenyan independence in 1964 to be granted citizenship in Kenya. Their campaign culminated in October with a 550 km trek to the President's State House in Nairobi to plead their case. The police tried to stop them on the way but the media took up their cause. The government finally relented and granted them full citizenship on 24th October 2016. They became the 43rd ethnic community in Kenya.

Photo: The Makonde Chairman, Mr Thomas Nguli and Fr Gabriel Dolan (on the right). Background photo: Celebrating citizenship in Kenya.

**All human beings are born
FREE and EQUAL
in dignity and rights.**

**Everyone has
the right to
LIFE,
LIBERTY
and
SECURITY
of person.**



HUMAN RIGHTS IN NIGERIA

Fr Kevin O'Hara facilitates a human rights programme in Abakaliki, Nigeria. His staff advocate for prisoners' rights, land rights and the rights of local farmers and fishermen faced with environmental destruction by multinational oil companies.

During 2015 they were involved in bringing the Shell oil company to court in London to answer charges of destroying the livelihoods of thousands of fishermen and farmers in the Niger Delta in Nigeria. Shell avoided court by agreeing to pay £55 million to the people of the town of Bodo in the Niger Delta for environmental damage caused by decades of oil spills.

Photo: Fr Kevin O'Hara (on the right) on a visit to St Vincent's Parish in Olodi-Apapa, Lagos, Nigeria. There he met Fr Anthony Kanu, the parish priest. Fr Anthony and his parishioners were looking forward to the opening of their new parish church.

South Africa



TZANEEN - YOUTH WORK

Fr Michael Bennett writes from Tzaneen:

“The aspirations, hopes and dreams of young people in South Africa for education, jobs, life-giving relationships, and much more, are similar to those in so many parts of the world. However, the journey from childhood through adolescence into young adult is probably more perilous here than in most societies. Two out of three black children are reared in the absence of their fathers; at least one in three women will be raped at some stage of their lives.

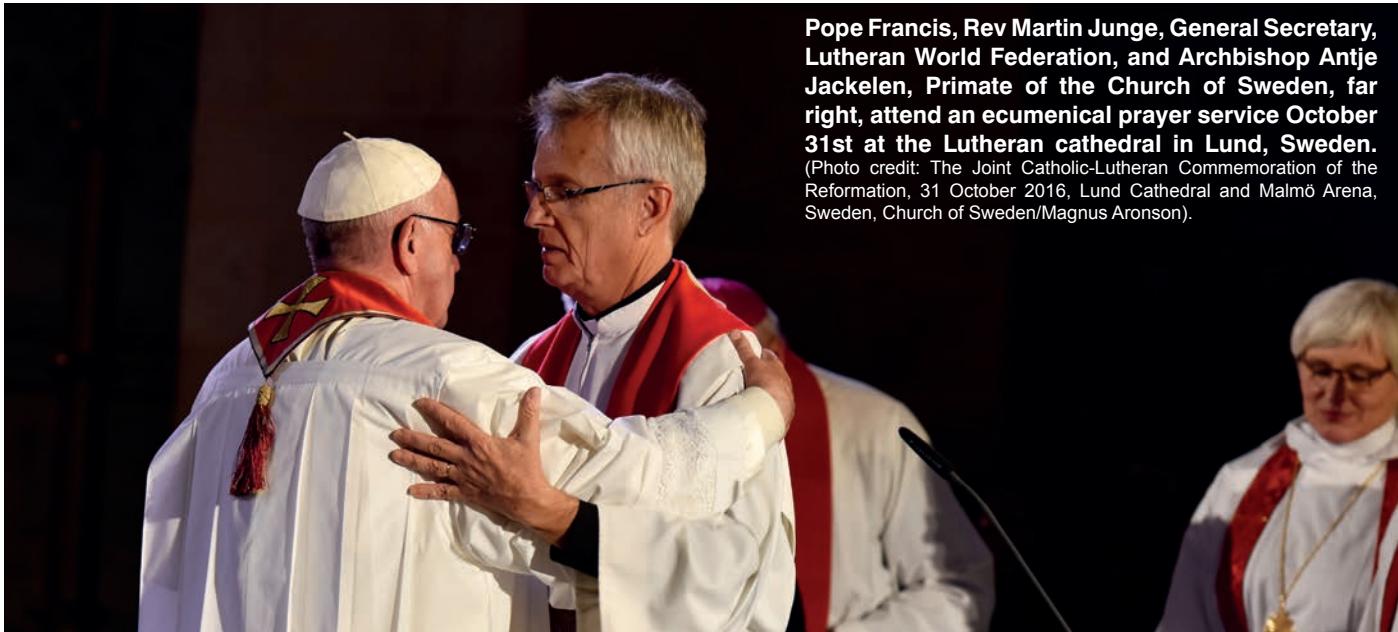
To deal with the dreams and the uncertainties, Youth Camps are held, usually four times a year. At a recent camp here in Tzaneen (Limpopo Province), 75 youth, aged 15 to 28, (males 33, females 42) participated in the three day experience. The agenda is flexible, always engaging with the issues raised by the young people themselves. Peer group learning in small and large groups is central. Drama, song and dance captures the energy and makes for a creative fun time.

Young adult leaders emerge from these experiences and their influence upon others is paramount. In all of this, there is an extraordinary openness to God, nourished by prayer, word and sacrament. The camp experience is edifying and a firm foundation for future life is being laid. Thanks to St Patrick’s Missionary Society for supporting these camps.

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Inter-Religious Dialogue



Pope Francis, Rev Martin Junge, General Secretary, Lutheran World Federation, and Archbishop Antje Jackelen, Primate of the Church of Sweden, far right, attend an ecumenical prayer service October 31st at the Lutheran cathedral in Lund, Sweden. (Photo credit: The Joint Catholic-Lutheran Commemoration of the Reformation, 31 October 2016, Lund Cathedral and Malmö Arena, Sweden, Church of Sweden/Magnus Aronson).

Pope Francis and the global Lutheran leader have jointly pledged to remove the obstacles to full unity between their Churches, leading eventually to shared Eucharist. They made the commitment in a joint statement signed before a congregation of Catholic and Lutheran leaders at the conclusion of a joint service in Lund, Sweden, to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the start of the Reformation.

In a powerful speech to an international conference for peace in Cairo on April 28th, Pope Francis pulled no punches as he called on Christian and Muslim religious leaders in Egypt and throughout the Middle East to join in building “a new civilization of peace” by declaring together “a firm and clear ‘no’ to every form of violence, vengeance and hatred carried out in the name of religion and in the name of God” and to “affirm the incompatibility of violence and faith, belief and hatred.”



Above: Fr Brendan Cooney with His Eminence Amirul Mumineen Sultan Muhammadu Sa'ad Abubakar who is the 20th Sultan of Sokoto, and is the spiritual leader of Nigeria's Muslims.

Fr Brendan Cooney worked in Nigeria for twenty-years, many of those as principal of a Muslim college. He pursued doctoral studies in Rome on Christian-Muslim dialogue in Nigeria. This dialogue has been largely peaceful with many Christian-Islamic study groups and national and state organisations. Two Catholic bishops, Nigerians both, were formerly Islamic teachers.

Every year, St Patrick's in Kiltegan, host an Ecumenical Service. We were happy to welcome members of surrounding parishes, both Catholic and Church of Ireland, to join the community in a celebration of the Word. This year the preacher was Reverend Lady Stella Durand, the rector of Kiltegan and a long-time friend of the community at Kiltegan. She spoke of our common bonds and of the valuable lessons she has learned, over a lifetime of service, from members of many other churches.



Left: At the Ecumenical Service in Kiltegan were Fr David Walsh, the House Leader in Kiltegan, Fr Joe Cantwell, Rev Philip Knowles, formerly the Dean of Cashel, in the Church of Ireland, and Reverend Lady Stella Durand.



CARE OF THE SICK AND THE ELDERLY

Our 24 bed nursing care unit saw an average of twenty-one occupancies during 2016. We have twenty-four hour nursing care and we strive to ensure that the part of our community that resides in the care unit is well integrated with the larger community that resides in the main house. We dine together, pray together and have common regular social and recreational gatherings. We describe our care of the sick and elderly brothers as "Home Care".

Fr Jim Sharkey (pictured left with Fr David Walsh) was ordained in 1959 and worked in Nigeria for fifty-four years. He had a keen interest in community development and facilitated community workshops all over Nigeria. He is famous in the Uyo/Calabar area of Nigeria for his rehabilitation programme for children requiring major surgery to correct serious orthopaedic and muscular disorders. He still keeps in contact with the doctors and nurses and assists when he can to provide surgery for children.

Fr Jim English (pictured right with Padraic Lawlor) worked in Nigeria for forty-eight years. His last assignment before retiring was in Lagos City near the maximum security prison in Kirikiri. He ministered to the prisoners and formed close friendships with them. Upon release many of them called to the parish house to say goodbye and invariably received a contribution towards the bus fare home.

Fr PJ Melican (pictured above with the 2016 Rose of Tralee Maggie McEldowney) was ordained in 1975 and was posted to Nigeria. He was known for his energy and strength especially on the football field. In 1992 he was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. He was reassigned to Zimbabwe in 1993 but two years later he was forced to retire to Kiltegan because of the progression of his illness. He has had enormous satisfaction in seeing his nieces and nephews achieve great success and publicity in their native Irish sports.



Promotion and Mission Awareness

The promotion of mission awareness is coordinated from our head office in Kiltegan, Co Wicklow which has a staff of nineteen. Our Society is allocated two dioceses in Ireland every year where our priests visit every parish to speak on our mission and to appeal for financial help. (There were 108 parish visits in 2016.) We depend on such voluntary donations from Ireland, UK and USA for our income. For over 80 years our generous and faithful benefactors have provided us with adequate resources to carry out our mission work and to provide support for the poor and underprivileged.



We promote mission awareness by publishing nine issues per year of our *Africa* magazine. It has a circulation of approximately 45,800 copies (per issue) and is distributed in Ireland, UK and USA. It features articles written by our priests on the missions as well as topical pieces of religious interest and regular columns on cooking, environment, books etc. As with all magazines, circulation is dropping steadily but we still value the magazine as an excellent means of publishing and education.



Monthly Readership

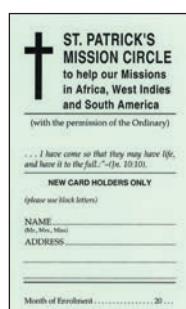


Ireland 17,800
England 15,500
Scotland 5,000
USA 7,500

45,800

MISSION CIRCLE

St. Patrick's Mission Circle began in the 1950s. Through prayer, as a member of our Mission Circle family, all family and friends, living and deceased, named on a Mission Circle card, are remembered in three daily Masses, monthly Novenas and our daily prayers. Deceased members are especially remembered in November. Members make a voluntary annual contribution. Some of our supporters have been Mission Circle members for over 60 years.



44,668

Mission Circle Members

Include their loved ones (living and deceased) in the hundreds of shared Masses, Novenas and prayers of our members during the year.

WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA



On our website www.spms.org you can discover our history, meet our members, read about our ministry and the countries where we work. Since October 2015, it covers all areas of promotion: Mission Circle, Occasion cards, Christmas cards, Prayer leaflets and *Africa* magazine.

www.spms.org

430 Website hits (approx. per week)
January to December 2016



St. Patrick's Missionary Society



2,123

Africa Magazine

624

Vocations Office, East Africa

1,830

OCCASION CARDS

Another method of fundraising is through the use of our **Occasion Cards** (available in Ireland, England, Scotland and USA). These are a prayerful way of including family and friends in our daily Masses and prayers. We have specially designed cards to cover all occasions. The names enrolled are remembered in the daily Masses and prayers of the Society for one year. Supporters give a donation towards the Society.



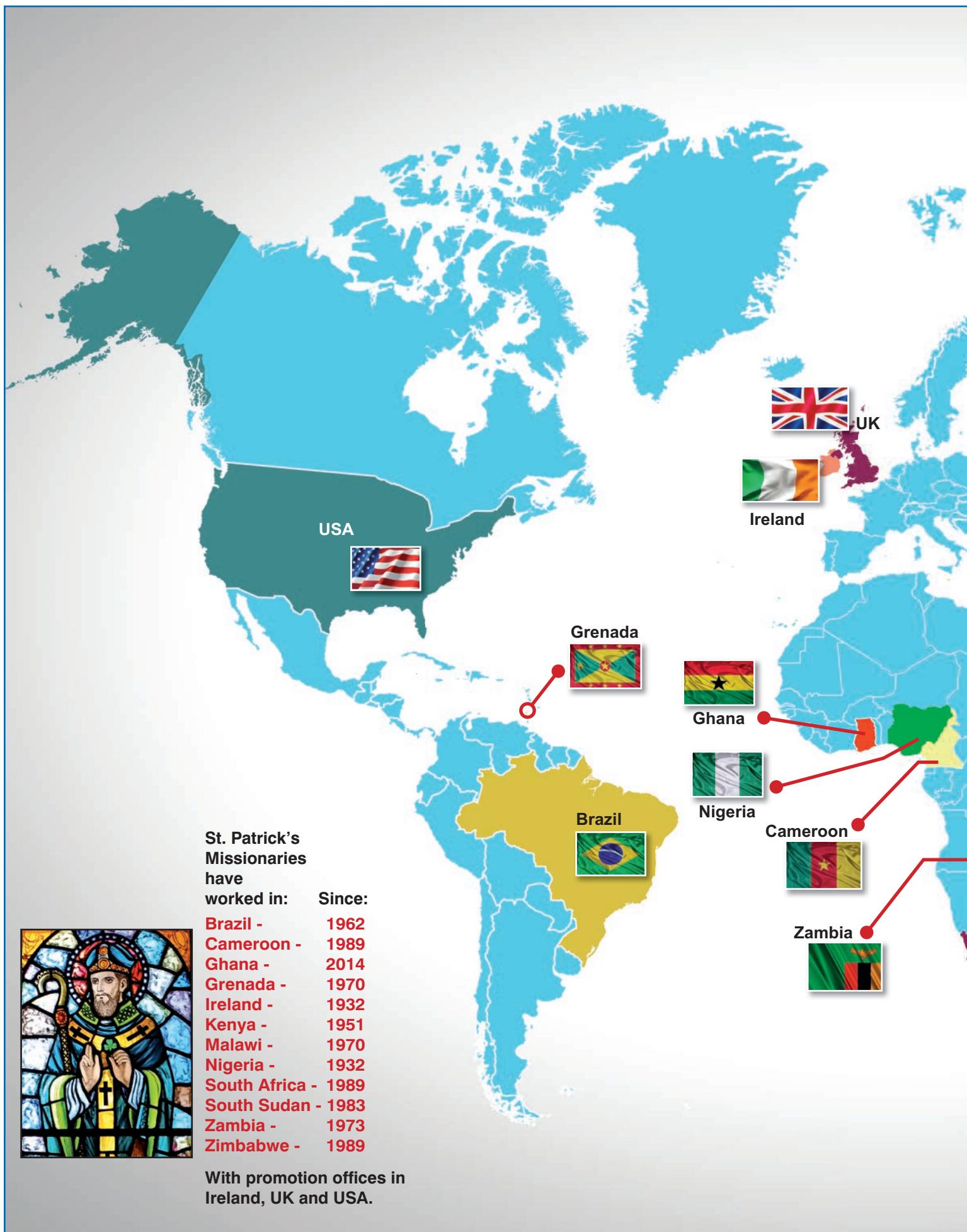
St Patrick's Cards Used per year in



240,000

Ireland
England
Scotland
USA

Mission Map - Where we work



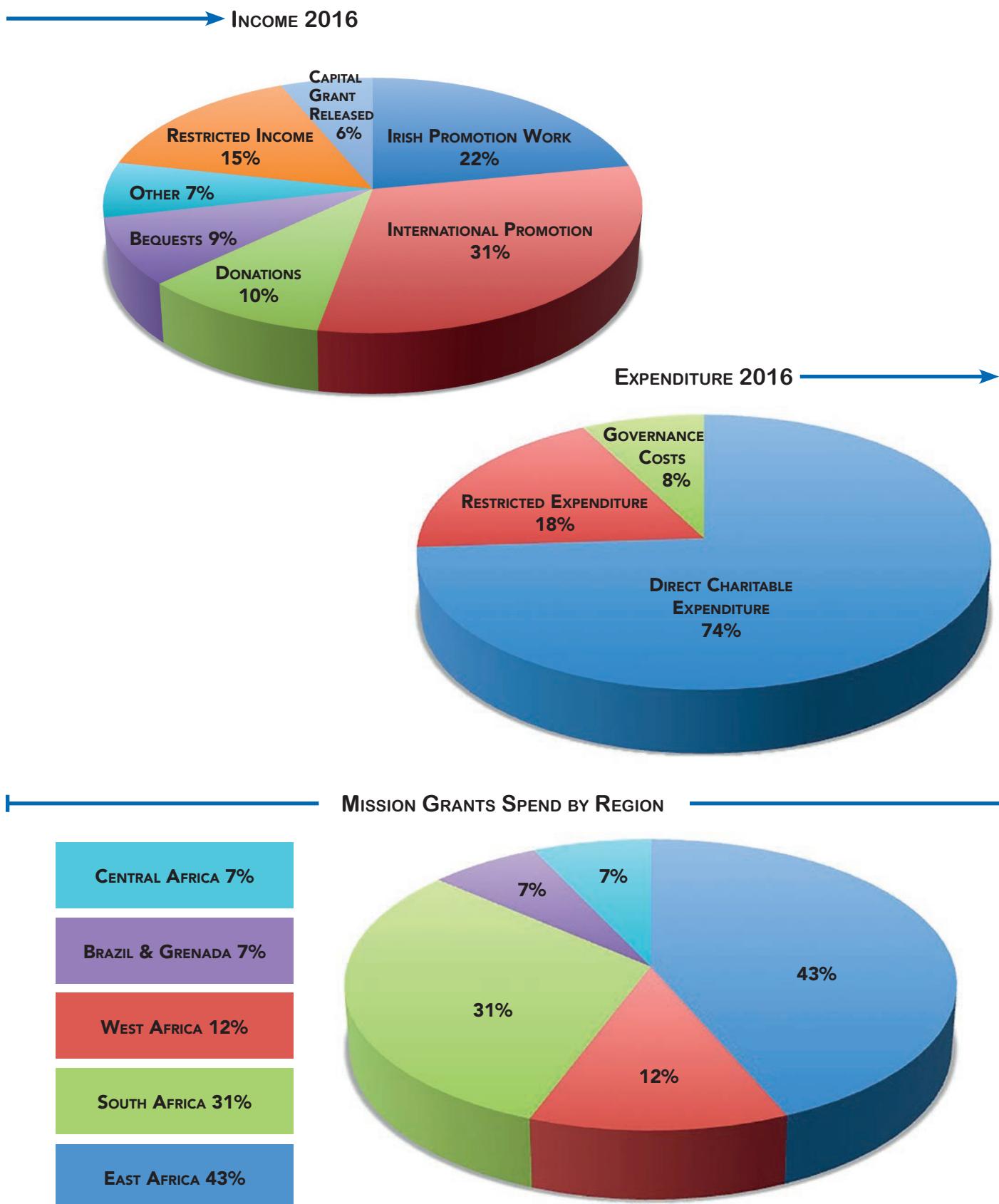


Financial Data

OUR FINANCES

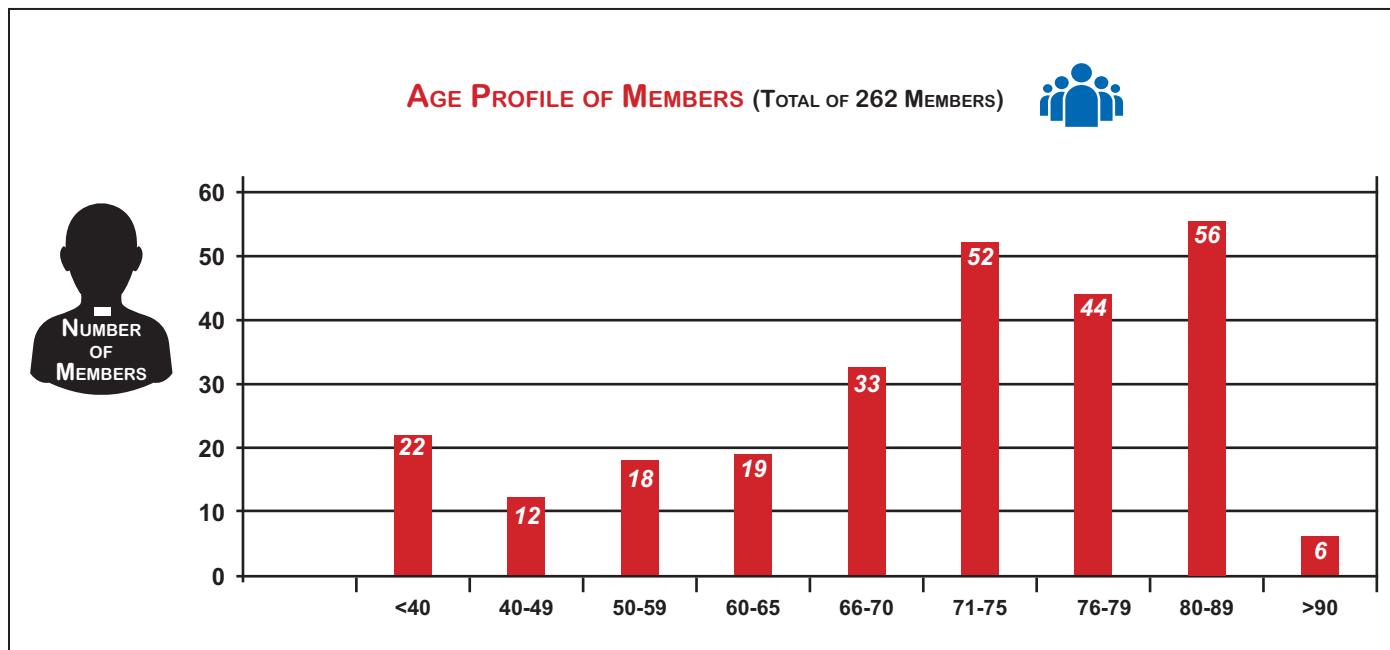
Despite the recession our benefactors have been generous and faithful to us over recent years and they have enabled us to continue all our mission commitments. Our 2016 audited financial statements show an income of **€10.7 million** (2015 – €11.4 million).

They can be summarised as follows:



Our full financial statements are available on the CRO website and on request from our office. If you look closely at our financial statements, a number of key observations can be noted:

- Income decreased from 2015 to 2016 by 6.6%. Bequests have fallen by 40% in 2016. There has also been a 26% decrease in the number of donors in the last 6 years.
- Due to the upturn in the stock market and movement in exchange rates, our investments' value and therefore our reserves have increased from 2015 to 2016 by 10%.
- It is the Society's policy to retain sufficient reserves to safeguard the continuity of its commitment to long term mission projects together with caring for the retired members of the community and at the same time committing the maximum possible resources to current programmes.
- As our members' age and return home from the missions, (see chart below), this financial burden will increase and we are preparing for this increase in costs by judiciously maintaining our reserves.
- At the end of 2016 reserve funds had been designated for specific purposes as follows:
 - Commitments to Ongoing Projects € 3m
 - Property Fund €9.5m
 - Overseas Support of Members €10m
 - Formation and Training €4.5m
 - Mission Development Office €10m



At a glance:

 **262** Society Members

15 Expenditure spread across countries worldwide

231 From Europe and America **31** From Africa

€1.6m Restricted income 2016 

 **133** Society Members working in overseas missions

€5.6m Total Promotion Income 2016 

 **34** Priests ordained for the Society since 2007

 **80** St. Patrick's students currently studying for the priesthood

Governance

St Patrick's Missionary Society
 (Incorporated) is a company registered in Dublin, Ireland, limited by guarantee and not having share capital.
 Registration No. 21156.

It has been granted tax exemption by the Revenue Commissioners in Ireland and has a charitable tax exemption number: CHY 3397.

Registered Office: St. Patrick's, Kiltegan, Co Wicklow, Ireland.

Directors:

Rev. Victor Dunne
 Rev. John Marren
 Rev. Cathal Moriarty
 Rev. Joseph Kamau Bosco
 Rev. Denis O'Rourke
 Rev. Seamus O'Neill (Secretary)



Victor Dunne (Irish) is a member of SPMS since 1979. He worked in education, formation and pastoral ministry. He was elected Society Leader and appointed Chairman of the Trustees in 2014.



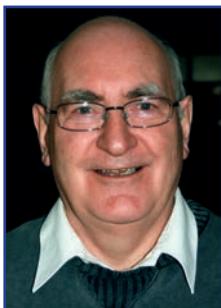
John Marren (Irish) is a member of SPMS since 1978. He worked in administration, leadership and pastoral ministry. He was elected Assistant Society Leader and appointed a Trustee in 2014. This is the third term John has served as a Trustee.



Bosco Kamau (Kenyan) is a member of SPMS since 2008. He worked in education, formation and pastoral ministry. He was elected to the Central Leadership Team and appointed a Trustee in 2014. He is the first non-Irish Trustee to be appointed.



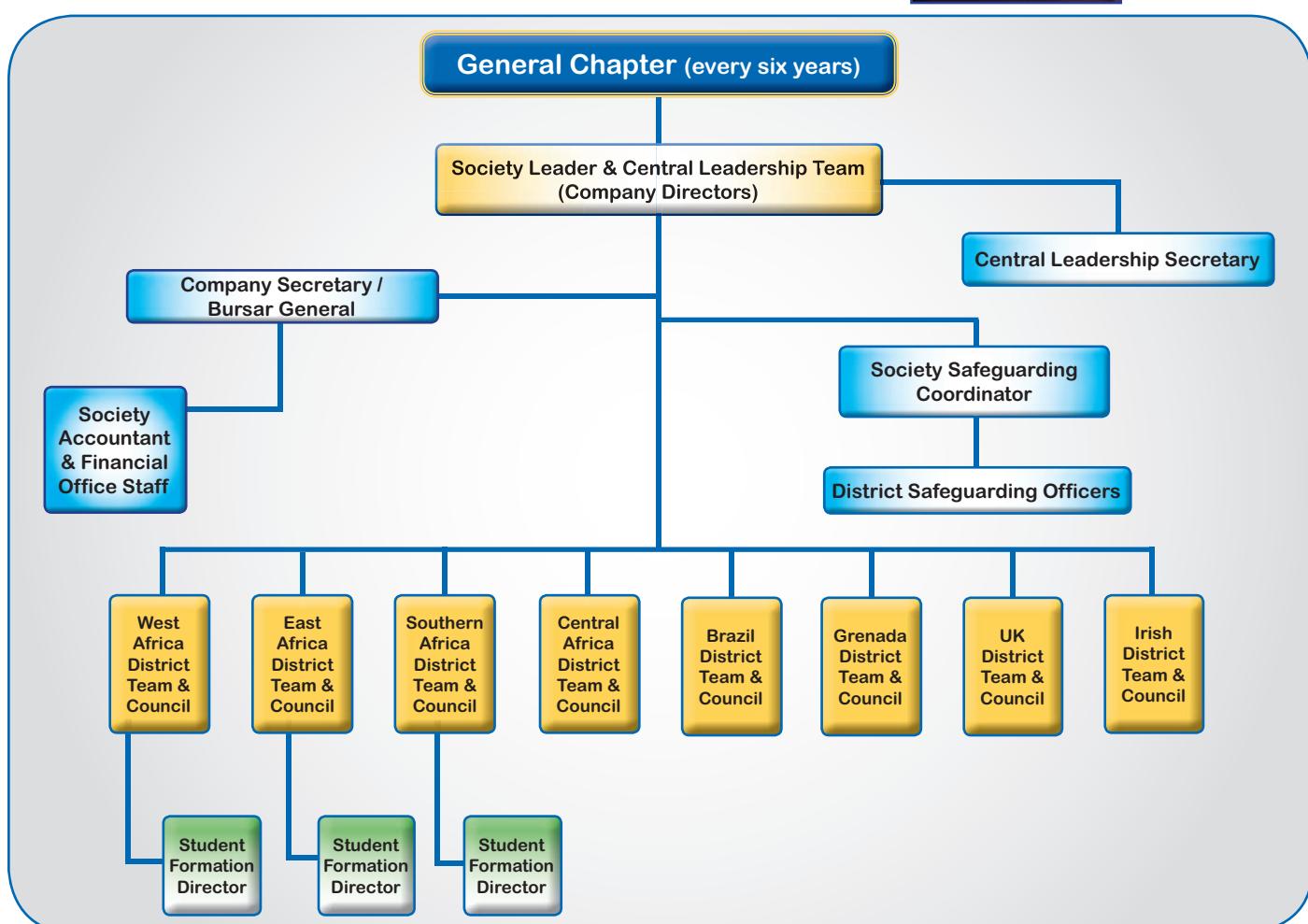
Cathal Moriarty (Irish) is a member of SPMS since 1996. He worked in education, formation and pastoral ministry. He was elected to the Central Leadership Team and appointed a Trustee in 2014.



Denis O'Rourke (Irish) is a member of SPMS since 1966. He worked in education, finance and pastoral ministry. He served as Secretary of the company from 2003 to 2014. In 2015 he was re-appointed as a Trustee.



Seamus O'Neill (Irish) is a member of SPMS since 1973. He worked in education, leadership and pastoral ministry. He was appointed as a Trustee and Secretary of the company in 2015.



Code of Good Governance



St Patrick's Missionary Society is a registered charity (Charity No. 20004231). We report to the Charities Regulatory Authority (CRA) and we submit our Annual Report and full audited Financial Statements and Directors' Report to the CRA annually.



We have signed up to and have begun the journey towards compliance with the **Code of Good Governance of Community, Voluntary and Charitable Organisations in Ireland**.

We have committed ourselves to adopting the five principles of the Code with all their practical, legal and regulatory implications.

Our aim in adopting the Code of Good Governance is to become more transparent and accountable to our stakeholders, donors, staff and the general public. In this way we wish to build trust, to become a more efficient and effective organisation and thus achieve our stated purpose, mission and objectives with integrity.

We hope to complete the journey towards compliance with the Code of Good Governance within the next twelve to eighteen months. Our Board are fully committed to this transition.



GUIDELINES FOR CHARITIES FUNDRAISING FROM THE PUBLIC

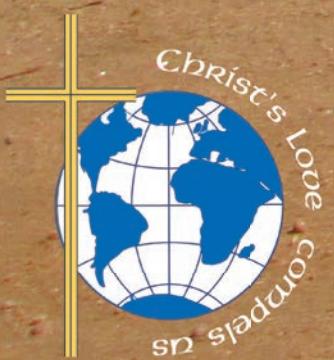
In order that our supporters and benefactors will continue to have trust and confidence in us and in how we govern our charity, we are in the process of adopting the good practice set out in the Guidelines issued by the Charities Regulator. This involves following the law and the recognised standards, protecting ourselves from undue risk and showing respect for our beneficiaries, donors and the public.

DATA PROTECTION

We have developed and adopted a comprehensive Data Protection Policy. The aim of the policy is to ensure that all personal data is collected in a fair and lawful manner, that it is handled and stored securely and that we comply fully with all the legal requirements of the Data Protection Acts.



For more information go to: www.spms.org



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