St. Patrick’s Missionary Society

Annual Report 2015
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.”

Message from the Society Leader

St Patrick’s Missionary Society has been proclaiming the Gospel message for the past eighty-four 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, expanding boldly over the decades. At this time, our Society is being infused with new life through the ordination of thirty-one African members over the last ten years, a clear manifestation of the working of the Holy Spirit in our midst.

Our 2014 Chapter called for some radical changes in our Society. We recommitted ourselves to work for the least, the last and the lost peoples of our world. We made changes to our leadership structures, down-sizing them and localising them to ensure that all members would be supported in this commitment. To affirm the international status of the Society and to facilitate the role of leadership in animating the activities of our Society, the Chapter also mandated that the Central Leadership Team move to Africa. These decisions have now been carried out. Our District Leadership Teams are in place and actively engaged in their work. The Central Leadership Team has moved to Nairobi in Kenya. The implementation of these decisions have helped us as a Society towards a greater corporate responsibility for our mission and have facilitated more robust governance in the Society.

As I wrote last year in the 2014 Annual Report, 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.

This past year, as well as doing our long-established missionary work, we have also become actively engaged in Caring for the Earth. Inspired by the words of Pope Francis in his 2015 encyclical Laudato Si’ on Care for the Earth, and stimulated by world-wide anxieties regarding climate change and with the generous assistance of our benefactors, St Patrick’s Missionary Society, is now supporting and engaging in projects that are promoting ecological sensitivity and consideration for ‘our common home.’ Our missionaries are involved in undertakings like the recycling of waste in Ghana, water conservation in Kenya, drip irrigation in South Sudan, the harnessing of solar power in Zambia, environmental conservation in the Cabragh Wetlands in Ireland, the planting of trees in Brazil, and the preservation of forests in Malawi. These and our other projects including the Ecological Resource Centre in Kiltegan aim to realise our commitment to caring for the earth and to promoting environmental values among all people.

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 our beautiful Earth a better place to live in for all people.

With much gratitude,

Rev Victor Dunne,
Society Leader
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.

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

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

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

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

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.

Educaiton

Safeguarding

Some of our Projects and Programmes

Evangelisation & Religious Education

Human Rights

Health Care and Social Welfare

Environment

Academic & Vocational Training

Support for Needy Children

Education

Safeguarding

Support for Needy Children

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

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

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.

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

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

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.

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

Education

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.
Fr Patrick Esekon (above, front, third from left) from Turkana, Kenya, works with a dedicated team in the SELL programme (Sharing Education & Learning for Life) in Bauchi, Northern Nigeria. Bauchi has suffered as a consequence of the terrible violence of the Boko Haram militants. Their acts of terror aim to divide Muslims and Christians in Northern Nigeria. SELL aims to bring the two communities together, to build peace and understanding among young people. SELL trains trainers who bring the message and skills back to their own local communities. Boko Haram hates education – SELL promotes the true social, psychological, spiritual and environmental values of education.

“Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love.”
Francis of Assisi

“Peace is not merely a distant goal that we seek, but a means by which we arrive at that goal.”
Martin Luther King

“Ay eye for any eye only ends up making the whole world blind.”
Mahatma Gandhi

“Saving our planet, lifting people out of poverty, advancing economic growth… These are one and the same fight. We must connect the dots between climate change, water scarcity, energy shortages, global health, food security and women’s empowerment. Solutions to one problem must be solutions for all.”
Ban Ki-moon

“We all have the same rights. When we do not see this, society is unjust. It does not follow the rule of justice, and where there is no justice, there cannot be peace.”
Pope Francis
The campaign against Early Girl Child Marriage in Narus, South Sudan

For Emmanuel Obi (right) strives to change the traditional practice of forced child marriage in Narus, South Sudan. He started a campaign to educate parents and public representatives and to support the parents of girls who are interested in going to school.

The campaign has been very successful in raising awareness of the rights of girls to equal educational opportunities.

Leaders, teachers and other churches have joined the campaign and they now hope to lobby the local government to make laws that will protect girls from oppressive cultural practices.

The parish of Kiamaina in Nakuru, Kenya came up with a novel way to help some poor people in the community. With the help of Fr Conor Molony (pictured with parishioners) they donated water tanks to families to help them harvest rain water from the roofs of their houses. One tank can store 2,200 litres of water for domestic use and to irrigate vegetable gardens during the dry season.

Some of the mothers were overjoyed:

“...We don’t have to walk miles to collect water from the river where the animals drink. Now we have safe water and more time to cultivate our gardens and care for our children.”
Fr Martin McGowan shared with some friends his plan to drill a well to provide clean drinking water for a local school near where he worked in Zambia. His friends got together and raised some funds and the plan was completed. That led on to another plan and more support from friends. Before long Martin had a very successful water project. He was able to help more schools and more communities to have their own safe and secure source of clean drinking water.

Martin believes that every child, every human being, has a right to safe clean water, a daily necessity – essential for health, essential for growth and essential for life.

The future of our work depends on people like Fr Stephen Kimani from Kenya who travels the length and breadth of Zambia and Malawi sharing our vision with students and young people and inviting them to join us in our work. Stephen keeps in contact with those who show interest. It involves many miles of driving over rough roads, many punctures, breakdowns, and sometimes during the wet season it involves digging out the car with a pick or shovel.

Recruitment is a key part of our mission. It provides the new ENERGY, the new VISION and the new ideas for the FUTURE.
Each creature has its own PURPOSE. None is superfluous.
The entire material universe speaks of God’s LOVE, his boundless affection for us.
SOIL, WATER, MOUNTAINS: everything is, as it were, a caress of God.

Access to safe drinkable water is a basic and universal human right, since it is essential to human survival.

What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are now growing up?

The climate is a common good, belonging to all and meant for all.

A true ecological approach always becomes a social approach, so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.
South Africa

NEW CHURCH IN BRACPAN

When Fr Kieran Birmingham first moved to St John the Baptist Parish in Brakpan, South Africa, he found that the parishioners had a plan to build a new church. Over the years the plan has become a reality.

The church is a marvellous example of how a local community, with a little help and encouragement from outside, can achieve a project beyond their wildest dreams. Fr Kieran admits that he was a little doubtful in the beginning but the parish leaders inspired him to believe. They gave him the incentive to search for the additional resources required to surmount the bigger challenges. The building is now a symbol of the spirit and courage of the parishioners and a focal point in building an even stronger community.

Brazil

NEST OF HOPE

The “Nest of Hope” in Sao Paulo, Brazil is a place of smiles. People with special needs are cared for there by their friends. Friends like Fr Eddie McGettrick who set up the nest many years ago. The nest is a safe place for the young and vulnerable, a place where they can be secure and supported until they learn how to fly.

Many community programmes have developed out of the nest – mental health programmes, support for families, assessments for autism, skills training and basic education. The nest is still growing with help from its many supporters. They are giving wings to special people who never dreamed they could fly.
In response to Pope Francis’s inspiring publication *Laudato Si’* we have begun a number of environmental projects that employ alternative sources of energy. Our wind turbine supplies clean electricity to our retirement home and nursing unity in Kiltegan, Co Wicklow. Our central heating unit is powered by a wood pellet burner and one building is fitted with a solar water heater. Our tree planting programme ensures that new trees are planted on our property every year.

**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 110 parish visits in 2015.) 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.

**Africa Magazine**

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**

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<th>Ireland</th>
<th>England</th>
<th>Scotland</th>
<th>USA</th>
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<td>Mission Circle</td>
<td>17,800</td>
<td>15,500</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>7,500</td>
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<td>Total</td>
<td>45,800</td>
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**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.

**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.

**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.

**St Patrick’s Cards Used per year in**

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<td></td>
<td>240,000</td>
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Mission Map - Where we work

St. Patrick’s Missionaries have worked in:
- Brazil - 1962
- Cameroon - 1989
- Grenada - 1970
- Ireland - 1932
- Kenya - 1951
- Malawi - 1970
- Nigeria - 1932
- South Africa - 1989
- South Sudan - 1983
- Zambia - 1973
- Zimbabwe - 1989
- Ghana - 2014

With promotion offices in Ireland, UK and USA.
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 2015 audited financial statements show an income of €11.4 million (2014 – €10.9 million). They can be summarised as follows:

**Financial Data**

**OUR FINANCES**

Income 2015:
- **Restricted Income:** €1.9 million
- **IRISH Promotion Work:** €2.1 million
- **International Promotion:** €2.8 million
- **Donations:** €1.1 million
- **Bequests:** €1.3 million
- **Other:** €0.1 million

Expended Income 2015:
- **Restricted Expenditure:** €1.5 million
- **Direct Charitable Expenditure:** 71%
- **Governance Costs:** 10%

Mission Grants Spend by Region:
- **West Africa:** 34%
- **Brazil & Grenada:** 11%
- **South Africa:** 18%
- **Central Africa:** 15%
- **East Africa:** 34%

**At a glance:**
- **273** Society Members
- **15** countries worldwide
- **240** from Europe and America
- **33** from Africa
- **143** Society Members working in overseas missions
- **34** Priests ordained for the Society since 2007
- **80** St. Patrick’s students currently studying for the priesthood

Financial Data:

- Income increased from 2014 to 2015 by 4.5%. However, our expenditure increased by almost 7% leaving an operating deficit of €91,680.
- Due to the upturn in the stock market and movement in exchange rates, our investments’ value and therefore our reserves have increased from 2014 to 2015 by 6%.
- 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 2015 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

Our full financial statements are available on request from our office. If you look closely at our financial statements, a number of key observations can be noted:
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**AGE PROFILE MEMBERS 2015 (TOTAL OF 273 MEMBERS)**

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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 Kamaus Bosco
- Rev. Denis O’Rourke
- Rev. Seamus O’Neill (Secretary)

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