



The Sheaf

ST. JOSEPH'S YOUNG PRIESTS SOCIETY



SAINT JOSEPH'S YOUNG PRIESTS SOCIETY, 23 MERRION SQUARE, DUBLIN 2. TELEPHONE: DUBLIN 676 2593

SPRING 2009

'PRAY THE LORD OF THE HARVEST'

In a Pastoral Letter on the *Year of Vocation for All*, Most Rev John McAreevey, Bishop of Dromore, writes not only on what all of us can do about vocation in the broader sense, being called to holiness and to play our part in the Church by the way we live our lives; but also what we can do about vocation to priesthood and religious life.

On the vocation of the ordained priest, Bishop McAreevey says:

"The origins of a call to the priesthood are complex and unique to each person. For a young man the first hint of a call to follow Jesus as a priest in the line of the apostles can begin as a niggling question, an attraction to prayer, a love for the Mass or a desire to serve the sick. Regardless of how it begins, the final criterion of a vocation is the one we find in chapter 21 of St John's Gospel. Here Jesus asks Simon Peter, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' and in response to Simon's 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you', he says, 'Feed my lambs'. The vocation to the priesthood is a vocation to pastoral charity.

God's call comes to a wide range of people. Currently in St Patrick's College, Maynooth there are seminarians who formerly worked in farming, medicine, information technology, retail management, teaching, aeronautical engineering, horticulture, joinery and construction, law and the military.

What sort of person?

The Irish phrase for a candidate for the priesthood is *ábhar sagairt* (literally, the makings of a priest). In practice, a candidate for the priesthood needs a strong faith, average ability and the qualities that would make him a good husband and father.

Who, - me?

The reaction of a man to the thought that God may be calling him to the priesthood might be doubt and uncertainty, even fear. He may well recognise in himself the hesitation of Peter, who responded to Jesus with the words, 'Leave me for I am a sinful man'; however he should also take comfort from the reply of Jesus: 'Do not be afraid. From now on it is people you will be catching' (Lk 5:8). St Paul's statement that 'we hold this treasure in pots of earthenware, so that the immensity of the power is God's and not our own' (2 Cor 4:7) is a reassurance that God can work in and through us all, despite our weaknesses.

Beginning in the home

At confirmation this year I met a grandmother who told me that she had stood for all her grandchildren. 'I might get a vocation yet' she said! People like her, who love the Church, the Eucharist and the sacraments, are willing to encourage children and young men, particularly in their own family, to consider the priesthood. This brings home Pope John Paul II's statement that 'every vocation passes through the heart of the family'. Archbishop Michael Neary made this point on Reek Sunday this year: 'When God calls a man to the altar he won't intervene as dramatically as he did to Paul on the Road to Damascus, but will whisper through the family and people who nurtured him from the day of his baptism when the whole Christian adventure began.'

Encouragement and information

A man who is trying to decide on the way of life to which God is calling him needs information, guidance and encouragement. He will need to know what the way ahead will demand of him and how to go about learning more about the priesthood. This support can be obtained from a careers teacher, a local priest or Vocation Director, as well as from relevant notices and websites.

To take the first step of saying, 'I am interested in the priesthood' takes courage and young people need support. In a recent survey among newly ordained American priests, 78 per cent said they were initially invited by a priest to consider the priesthood. Priests have an important role to play in encouraging and fostering vocations. They do this mainly by the joy with which they live their own priesthood. They can also put the question, 'Have you ever considered the priesthood?' After the experiences of recent years, priests have become hesitant about doing this but I hope that they will find again the conviction that one of the roles of a pastor is to help his people find their personal vocation.

Teachers, youth leaders, parents or friends can also help a young man to consider the priesthood as a vocation. Teachers in our Catholic schools have an important role to play in ensuring that no pupil is deprived of the opportunity to be informed about the priesthood, religious life and the other vocations and to reflect on the vocation that God has given them. The Church at every level has a duty to nurture a sense of

vocation in its young people.

Of course, when all is said and done, a vocation to the priesthood is a call from God and, notwithstanding the importance of support from others; a person's response to this call must be freely made ".

The full text of Bishop McAreevey's pastoral, which deals with all vocation, 'Pray the Lord of the Harvest' is available from Veritas.

A YEAR FOR PRIESTS ANNOUNCED

The Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI in receiving members of the Congregation for the Clergy, at the Vatican on 16 March, explained that he had decided to call a special 'Year for Priests' that will run from 19 June 2009 to 19 June 2010. The year will mark "the 150th anniversary of the death of the saintly 'Curé d'Arès', Jean Marie Vianney, a true example of a pastor at the service of Christ's flock ".

Benedict XVI stressed to the Congregation for the Clergy the need to "have care for the formation of candidates to the priesthood", a formation that must maintain "communion with unbroken ecclesial Tradition, without pausing or being tempted by discontinuity. In this context, it is important to encourage priests, especially the young generations, to a correct reading of the texts of Vatican Council II interpreted in the light of all the Church's doctrinal inheritance" he said.

Priests must be "present, identifiable and recognisable - for their judgement of faith, personal virtues and attire - in the fields of culture and of charity which have always been at the heart of the mission of the Church ".

"The centrality of Christ leads to a correct valuation of priestly ministry, without which there would be no Eucharist, no mission, not even the Church. It is necessary then, to ensure that 'new structures' or pastoral organisations are not planned for a time in which it will be possible to 'do without' ordained ministry, on the basis of an erroneous interpretation of the promotion of the laity, because this would lay the foundations for a further dilution in priestly ministry, and any supposed 'solutions' would, in fact, dramatically coincide with the real causes of the problems currently affecting the ministry ".

LIFE IS ABOUT CHOICES

Life is like a road. There are long and short roads; smooth and rocky roads; crooked and straight paths. In our life many roads come our way as we journey through life. There are roads that lead to a life of single blessedness, to marriage, or maybe to a religious vocation. There are also roads that lead to fame and fortune on one hand, or isolation and poverty on the other. There are roads to happiness as there are roads to sadness, roads towards victory and jubilation, and roads leading to defeat and disappointment. Every school teacher knows this – and most of their students know it too!

Which is one reason why the Teachers Branch of Saint Joseph's Young Priests Society (shown below at its 74th agm on April 27) provides free bookmarks for students, carrying a Prayer for Guidance asking the Holy Spirit for the 'wisdom to discern the path of life you wish me to follow'. The bookmarks come in packets of fifty. If you are a school teacher, careers advisor or school chaplain, just lift the telephone and ask for them. Tel Dublin 676 2593 or Email your request with your name and address to: info@sjyps.ie



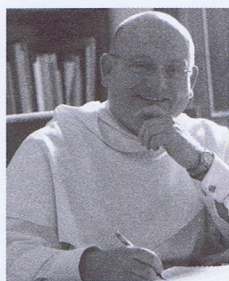
Teachers Branch



Pictured at the cathedral of Sts Patrick and Phelim Cavan on the occasion of the Armagh Provincial Congress. Most Rev Leo O'Reilly Bishop of Kilmore with Marie Hogan president of the Society and (L to R) Fr Noel Boylan, Msgr Liam McEntegart, Frs Tom Mannion and Andrew Tully, Canon P J Corrigan, Br Seán Kelly OFM Cap, Fr Johnny Cusack and Pat Denning vice-president of the Society.

Fr John Harris OP was the main speaker at the Dublin Provincial Congress at St Patrick's College Drumcondra on 7 March.

Fr Harris is Regent of Studies for Irish Dominican Friars at St Saviour's Priory, Dominick Street, Dublin, a community home for Dominican students.



Linkardstown,
Tinryland, Carlow.

17 April 2009

Dear Editor,

I did the Trocaire Fast on the day of our Congress in Dublin and raised €692.

Of this, people in the Society sponsored me to the tune of €428.70, and as I have no other way of thanking them for their generosity, could you please put a little 'Thank you' note in the Sheaf for me.

God bless, Josie Kelly.

Séamus McConville, Cashel provincial president, with the president of the Society Marie Hogan and George Dee, vice-president of the Society, at the Cashel Congress at the Fels Point Hotel Tralee on 21 March.



Most Rev Michael Neary Archbishop of Tuam with Frs Todd Nolan and Austin Fergus who were the concelebrants of the Holy Eucharist at the Tuam Provincial Congress of the Society at Knock on Saturday 18 April.

Rt Rev JOSEPH AIND, SDB. DD.
(Bishop of Dibrugarh)
BISHOP'S HOUSE
P. B. No. 50 DIBRUGARH-786 001- ASSAM - INDIA

March 17, 2009

Bridget Kelly
General Secretary
St Joseph's Young Priests Society
23 Merrion Square, Dublin 2
Ireland

Dear Bridget Kelly,

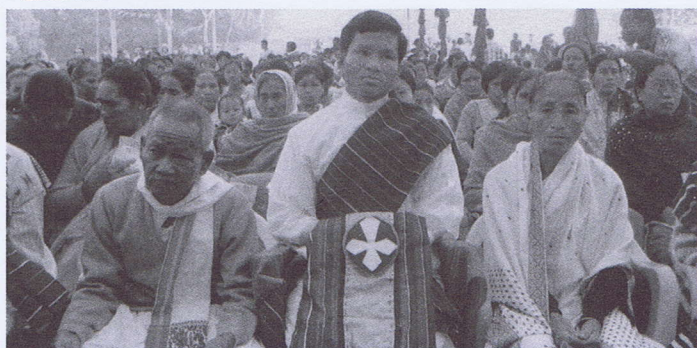
Cordial greetings to you from Bishop's House, Dibrugarh!

I am happy to thank you on behalf of Fr Hemanto Pegu who was ordained by me on January 24, 2009. Thanks for accompanying him with your support and prayers.

I also enclose a page from The New Leader Magazine, which will give you information about what happened during the ordination of Fr Hemanto Pegu by me on January 24, 2009.

Let me take this chance to wish you a very happy feast of St Joseph.

Yours affectionately in Christ,
+ Joseph Aind sdb Bishop of Dibrugarh



Fr Hemanto Pegu with his parents on the day of his ordination 24 January 2009.



Father Sean Mawn, Vocations Promoter for the Diocese of Kilmore, spoke at the Armagh Provincial Congress on 14 March. The following is an extract from his address to the theme of-

‘HERE I AM LORD’

GLENFARNE, my home parish in Co Leitrim, had a notable tradition of having many native priests and religious. From 1960-1969 we had six ordinations in the community. The first time I can remember something about the notion of priesthood making an impact on me was in 1961. I was then seven years of age. I had made my first Communion. That year we had two men from the parish ordained priests. In those days ordinations usually took place in the seminaries. The main liturgical celebration in the parish was the newly ordained priest's First Mass that was celebrated in his home church.

I remember attending my cousin's First Mass, and receiving his blessing. I was in awe watching the people go forward to the altar rails and kneel for the new priest's blessing. I think the idea of my becoming a priest was sown then. My motives were not of the purest kind. I think what appealed to me most was the great fuss that was made of the two new priests, and how everybody in the community was so proud of them. Later on of course there were other factors of inspiration and influence, like our local priest, other priests that I got to know, and people like yourselves who often inspired me, and on occasions someone would say I think you might become a priest someday.

While I resisted the notion of becoming a priest during my teen years, realistically it was always there at the back of my mind. During my leaving cert year, I was greatly impressed by Fr Seán Casey, the then Vocation Director for the Holy Ghost Fathers. Fr Seán was giving the students in St Patrick's College Cavan a retreat. His talks were most inspiring and with his guidance and encouragement I felt I should 'try out' my vocation. I went to Maynooth in September 1972. There were many occasions during my time in the seminary, when I pondered and reflected if priesthood was my calling in life. This would happen especially when someone I knew or someone I looked up to decided to leave. I remember often sitting in one of the churches or indeed at Eucharistic Adoration praying for clarity and looking for answers. While I may not have used the exact words of Samuel "Here I am lord, I come to do Your will", or the words of the priest Eli "Speak Lord your servant is listening", the desire and disposition was similar.

WHY AM I A PRIEST?

While I was ordained four months before we heard of Pope John Paul II, I think it is very worthwhile to reflect on his decision to become a priest. He says: "At a certain point in my life, I became convinced that Christ was saying to me, 'Come follow me', what I heard in my heart was no human voice, Christ was calling me to serve him as a priest". I think John Paul's words are echoed in the lives of all who are called to the priesthood.

At a certain point in my own life I felt that Christ was calling me to the priesthood. On the 11 June 1978, I was ordained a priest with three others for the diocese of Kilmore, in the Cathedral of Sts Patrick and Felim in Cavan.

Now it is almost 31 years later. I continue to find my vocation challenging yet rewarding. While I have experienced loneliness, disappointment, frustration and pain of varying kinds, for the most part I do feel I live a happy and fulfilled life.

No one could have envisaged in 1978, the enormous changes that have taken place in Ireland and the Church since then, not least in the area of vocations to priesthood and religious life. Yet I think it is important to keep in mind that in the 1970s,

Bishops, Religious Superiors, Priests and People were concerned at the apparent fall off in numbers for priesthood and religious life. Let me quote from Reality Magazine of June/July 1972: 'To say that there is no more exciting and rewarding life than that of a priest seems to fly in the face of facts. Few enough young men choose that life today. Indeed priests have hit the headlines by giving up their priesthood to fulfil themselves elsewhere. Modern society offers a wide choice of useful jobs, in politics, science, industry, education, social services; so much so that some priests feel the need to prove themselves useful citizens by concentrating completely on practical social work'. The article continues: 'yet the priest offers to humanity a special service out on its own which cannot be done without. What he offers is what the redeemer of the human race offers: it is the priests calling to make available in 1972 the healing and saving activity of Christ who alone is the true priest of mankind'.

The same applies in 2009, perhaps even more so. Sixty (approx) first years entered Maynooth in 1972; this was considered a small class. Today Maynooth has in total approximately sixty students. So what about the future? Will we continue to have Priests and Religious Life? ...

DUBLIN CONFERENCE

Last year, Bishop Leo O'Reilly and Msgr Stephen Rossetti addressed a conference in Dublin on a number of issues related to priesthood. What is of particular interest to this gathering today is that both spoke on the challenge for priests of the new evangelisation, presenting it as a challenge for people as well as priests. What this means is, as well as promoting vocations to the priesthood and religious life more effectively, we should promote the baptismal vocation of all people. To quote Bishop Leo: "it is only in the context of a more vibrant living out of the baptismal vocation of all church members that we can hope to nourish vocations to priesthood and religious life". ...

The Year of Vocation has given us an opportunity to look at all vocations. In particular, I feel it has helped to create a new urgency to pray for vocations. This is essential. Dioceses and Religious Communities that have experienced a revival in vocations emphasise the importance of prayer in this regard.

To quote Pope John Paul: "The church should daily take up the persuasive and demanding invitation of Jesus to 'pray the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest'. I know that praying for vocations is a central part of your mission. We are grateful for that. All of us priests recognise that if we didn't have the support of our families, communities, and the inspiration and example of so many people like yourselves our vocation to the priesthood would not be realised. Like the priest Eli, who was instrumental in guiding and advising Samuel how to respond to God's call, I am sure many of you likewise have acted like Eli, in guiding, praying, advising and supporting many priests on their journey to ordination.

May God confirm all of you in your vocations, may the Holy Spirit inspire and guide you in your work and may all our prayers be united with those of Mary our mother, as we ask the Lord of the harvest to raise up once again in the people of God, worthy ministers for our altar, ardent but gently proclaimers of the Gospel.

- Listen to 'Here I am Lord' on You Tube at www.vocationsireland.com
(Ed)

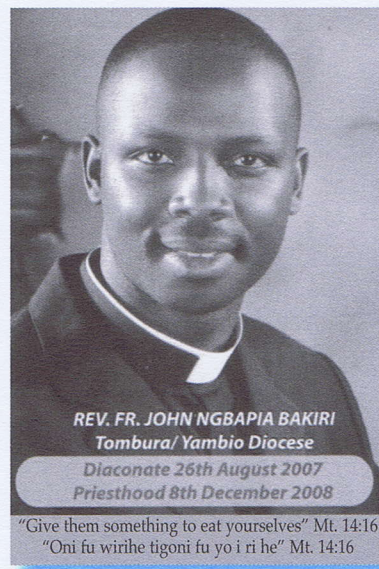
'I solemnly tell you: those who have left everything and followed me will be repaid a hundredfold and will gain eternal life.'

(See Matt: 27-29) – Communion Rite, Common of holy men and women.



Most Rev Edward Hiiboro Kussala, Bishop of Tombure, Sudan photographed with some of the congregation who attended the celebration of his first Holy Mass following his episcopal ordination at Yambio, Sudan, by His Eminence Gabriel Cardinal Zubier Wako, President of the Sudan Catholic Bishops Conference.

Fr. John Ngabapia Bakiri, newly ordained for the Diocese of Tombura/Yambio in Uganda. He writes "Dear Friends, I am writing this brief informal letter to thank you most sincerely from my heart for the assistance in the form of money that you gave me through my diocese to aid my seminary formation. I enclose a souvenir of my ordination on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, so that you will remember me in your prayers."



REV. FR. JOHN NGBAPIA BAKIRI
Tombura/Yambio Diocese
Diaconate 26th August 2007
Priesthood 8th December 2008

"Give them something to eat yourselves" Mt. 14:16
"Oni fu wirihe tigonu fu yo i ri he" Mt. 14:16

Recently Deceased

VOCATIONAL BRANCHES

Civil Service Sadie Corcoran, Treasa Dunne
Insurance Branch Grace O'Doherty, Mary McCormack
Licensed Trade Mrs Fitzgerald, Séamus Rogers, John Nealon, Carmel O'Shea, William Meagher, Michael Walsh, Fr John Dunne SJ
Local Authorities, Dublin Kitty Murphy, Anne Hanrahan
Motor Trade Desmond Keegan, Paddy King

LOCAL BRANCHES

Abbeyfeale Ily Harnett, Bee Sheehan
Ardee Rose Baylon
Ardfield / Rathbarry Cornelius Daly, Richard O'Sullivan
Ardlea May Fanning
Armagh Peggy McElroy, Rose Corr
Blarney Eileen Reilly, Elizabeth O'Sullivan, Garda P J McCann
Ballinascreen Séamus Donnelly (Branch Treasurer), Annie Woods, Margaret Bradley, Peter Flanagan, Johnny McGrade, Joe O'Kane, Dominic Kelly, Mary O'Kane, Dan McAuley, Vera McKenna, Mary Quinn, Brigid McGlade, Patrick Boyle, Alice Mallaghan, Nellie McNamee, Patrick McKenna, Josie Brunton
Ballinlough Kathleen O'Flynn, Paddy McCauliffe
Ballybricken Evelyn O'Reilly
Ballymena Mary Madden, Margaret McAleer
Ballymun Our Lady of Victories Gerry Moran
Ballyphehane Thomas Mulhare, M Bennett
Ballyroan Louis Sheehy
Bantry Hannah Duggan, Sheila Spillane, Mary Cremin, Eileen Cremin
Bayside Maura Quinn, Nora Grennan
Blackrock, Cork Sheila O'Leary, Carrie Kelly, Matt Twomey, Julia McSweeney, Mr O'Halloran, Kathleen Moynihan, Mgt. McKenna, Mr. Kelly Ger Lees
Borrisoleigh Josie Kent

Buncrana Kitsy McLaughlin, Annie McGrorty, Denis McLaughlin
Caheragh Mary Lynch, Eileen Cotter, Mary O'Donovan, Seán Collins, John Murphy, Anthony Coakley
Carrigaline Jo Sullivan, Billy Cotter, Margaret Footh
Castlebar Canon Paddy Curran P P, Noreen O'Donoghue, John Bourke
Castlepollard Brigid Daly, Patrick Masterson, Christon Keupart, Nancy Brady, Philip O'Reilly, Peter Reilly, John O'Neill
Castletown-Kilpatrick Bridget Quinn
Christ the King, Turner's Cross Phyl Barry, Kathleen O'Mahony, Maurice Noonan, Mgt Long, Martin Norberg, Maureen Murphy, Sr Teresa Keane, Kathleen Noonan, Mai Twomey, Eileen Sexton, Anne O'Leary, Michael Glennon, Sheila Fless, Jack Leahy
Claregalway Seán Walsh
Cleenish James Martin, Sr Teresa McGovern, Molly McGinness, Anthony Ferguson, Joe Keaney, John McGuinness, Patrick McMahon, Tessie McGrath, Thomas McGurn, Fr Patrick Stewart, Seán Gallagher, Mary Ann Kelly, Maggie Jane McBrien, Kathleen Maguire, Denis Stewart, Mary McMurray, Terry Ferguson, Mary Howe, Eileen McGourty, Eileen McBrien
Churchtown Mary Crowley
Clontead Ann Kiely, Hannah Dempsey
Cooley Sheila McKeown
Curraheen Road Noreen Hayes, K McDonald
Drogheda Bryda O'Donoghue
Dunboyne Eileen Connell
Dundalk Sheila Scully, Ethel Campbell
Edenderry Margaret O'Neill
Enniskeane Billy O'Brien
Errigal Carmel O'Kane
Fahan Evelyn Craig
Glendermott Kathleen McCafferty
Goleen Siobhán O'Driscoll, Freda Allen, Mary Desmond, Donal Goggins, Fr Nolan, Liam O'Driscoll, Kathleen O'Neill, Michael Coughlan,

Margaret Neville, Con Lucey, John O'Leary, Donal O'Sullivan, Daniel Goggin, Patricia McCarthy, Sadie O'Donovan, Nell Coughlan
Graignamanagh Harry O'Shea
Greystones Ellen Coughlan
Kilkenny St Canice's William Brennan
Kilkishen Fr Conor McNamara, Christina Dillon, Chrissie O'Sullivan
Killester Bill O'Leary
Knockninny Mary McGovern, Peter Maguire, Kathleen Curry, Peter Marlow, Tom Kelly, Catherine Martin, Paul Martin, Brigid McGovern, Jim McCusker, Séamus Curry, Mary Fraine, Dickie Maguire, Seán Reilly, Elizabeth McManus, Thomas McManus, Anna Feeney, Patrick McKenna
Leighlin Mai Dunne
Mahera Frances Kieft, Eddie McGuckin, Emmett King, Joey Chambers, Annie Crilly, Eddie Convery, Elizabeth Mulholland, Mary McGuckin, Breige McKelvey
Mallow Mary Healy, Sheila O'Sullivan, Paddy O'Malley
Marino Róisín Lambert, Margaret Filgate, Carmel Keenan, Tom Shiels, Majorie Hayes, Phil Dole, Phyllis Lowry
Melmount Rosemary McGuigan
Mountnugent & Ballinacree Betty Flynn, Connie McEnroe, Bridget Fox, Noel Coyle, Peggy McEntegart (née Lynch), Barry Murphy, Kiernan Sheridan, Chris Gargan, John Nulty, Miriam Lacey, Joe Gaffney, Masie Kellett, Tommy Hennessy, Pat Lord
Mount Merrion Vincent Gallagher
KCSG, KCHS
Our Lady Crowned, Mayfield Mary McCarthy, Tim Shannon, Frances O'Connor
Our Lady of the Rosary, Limerick Séamus Flanagan
Portadown Joe Rafferty
Portmarnock Liam O'Neill, Mrs Pat O'Brien
Rathkeele Christy Jones

Rathmines Marie Lewes, Vivian Murray, Mary McCambridge
Rochfordbridge Fr Michael O'Brien, Cíarán Nolan, Michael Hickey, Maria Swords, Kevin Grennan
Skibbereen Moyna O'Driscoll, Kitty O'Driscoll, Mary Griffin
Steelstown, Our Lady of Lourdes Ethna Deeny, Eddie Gorman
St Anthony's Branch, Clontarf Michael Hallinan, P J McGeough, John Boyle
St John the Baptist, Clontarf Nuala Langley, Letitia Kearney
St Joseph's, Dundalk Vera Browne
St Kevin's, Harrington Street Fr Jack McArdle, Katherine Harrington, Paddy McLoughlin, Carol Errity, Patrick O'Brien, Mary Curran, Eithne Molloy
St Luke's, Twinbrook Peggy Agnew, Tommy Walsh
St Mary's, Limerick Derek Smith
St Patrick's, Kilkenny Peadar Flanagan, Noeleen Flood
Sts Peter & Paul, Athlone Michael Hanley, Conor McCarrick
Swanlinbar James Prior, Mary Fraine, Ben McGovern, Michael McMorrow, Thomas McGovern
Templemore Nellie Kelly, Denis O'Doherty, Joe O'Toole
Thomastown Julia Stapleton, Kitty Delahunty
Tournafulla Nora Collins, John O'Keefe, Jackie Long
Trillick Margaret McCann, John Maguire, Kathleen McCann, Kathleen McMulkin, Annie Keenan, Sr Angela Donnelly, Gretta McCusker, Julie Gallagher, John Tummon, Patricia McCorney, Paul Maguire, Sarah McNabb
Tinryland Susan Nolan, Chrissie O'Brien, Breda O'Brien

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Anonymous Donations:
€50, €50, €47