



# St. Patrick's Missionary Society

Annual  
Report  
2015





Children benefit from Fr Martin McGowan's water project in Zambia.  
Cover photos:  
Pope Francis in Kenya (©David Mutua CAFOD, November 2015);  
Fr Stephen Kimani with young parishioners in Lusaka, Zambia.



## Mission Statement

**W**e 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-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,

*Victor Dunne*

Rev Victor Dunne,  
Society Leader







## EVANGELISATION & RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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



## EDUCATION

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



## HUMAN RIGHTS

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



## SUPPORT FOR NEEDY CHILDREN

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



## 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.



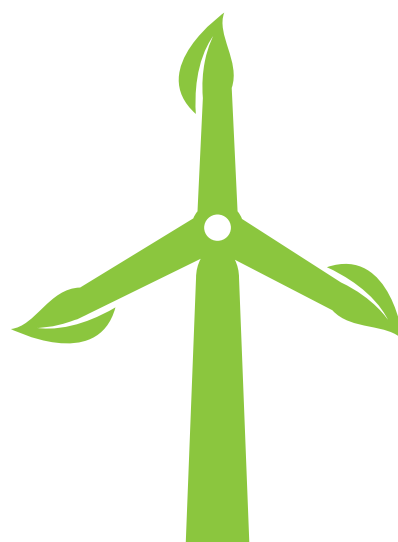
## ACADEMIC & VOCATIONAL TRAINING

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



## 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.



## 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.



YOUTH DEVELOPMENT IN NORTHERN NIGERIA



**SHARING EDUCATION  
& LEARNING FOR LIFE**  
A Peacebuilding Programme for Young Adults



From the top: SELL Workshop in Bauchi, Nigeria with Fr Patrick Esekun (front, third from left); Fr Leo Traynor (on the right) with members of the SELL Team in Bauchi; SELL workshop in Yola given by community facilitators.



Fr Patrick Esekun (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*

“Education is the most  
powerful weapon  
which you can use to  
change the world.”  
*Nelson Mandela*

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

“An 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*



# East Africa

## EDUCATION IN SOUTH SUDAN

The campaign against Early Girl Child Marriage in Narus, South Sudan



Fr 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.

## KIAMAINA WATER PROJECT, KENYA

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. ”





WATER  
PROJECTS

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.*



RECRUITMENT IN ZAMBIA AND MALAWI



Fr Stephen Kimani, second from the left, with students.

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.*



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

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



“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.



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.



# South Africa

## NEW CHURCH IN BRAKPAN

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.



Top: Fathers Martin Reilly and Kieran Birmingham pictured during the construction of the church. Above: Fr Kieran celebrates the first Mass in the finished church.



# 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.



From the top: A very happy member of the Nest of Hope. Fr Jim Crowe, two members of the Nest, Sr Phyllis Heaney and Fr Eddie McGettrick. Preparing for the Christmas play. Outside view of The Nest of Hope from the garden.



# Ireland

## ENVIRONMENT



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 unit 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.



From the top: The wind turbine at St Patrick's, Kiltegan; Fathers Michael Long and Martin Smith take time to plant an oak tree; the wood pellet burner which powers the central heating.



# 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

	Ireland	17,800	45,800
	England	15,500	
	Scotland	5,000	
	USA	7,500	

## 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.



50,000

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](http://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](http://www.spms.org)

400 Website hits (approx. per week)  
October to December 2015



St. Patrick's Missionary Society 1,629

Africa Magazine 447

Vocations Office, East Africa 1,460



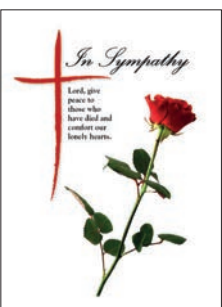
53% 46%

60% 39%

55% 44%

## 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





St. Patrick's Missionaries have worked in:

	Since:
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

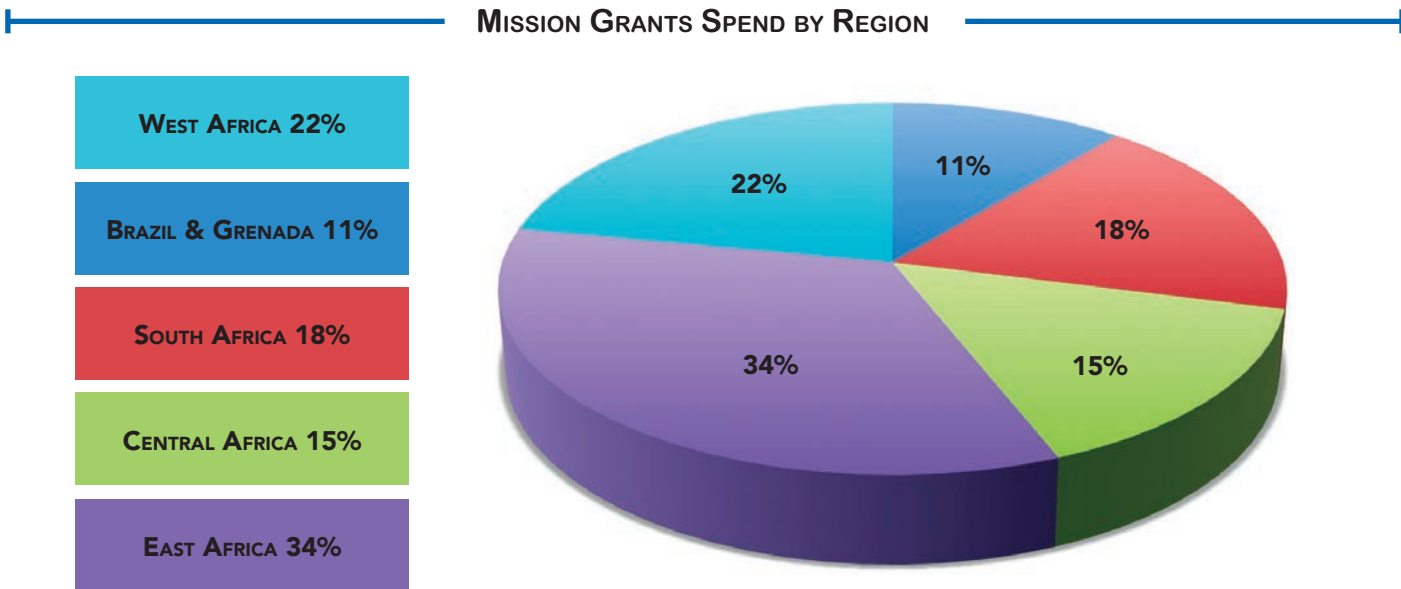
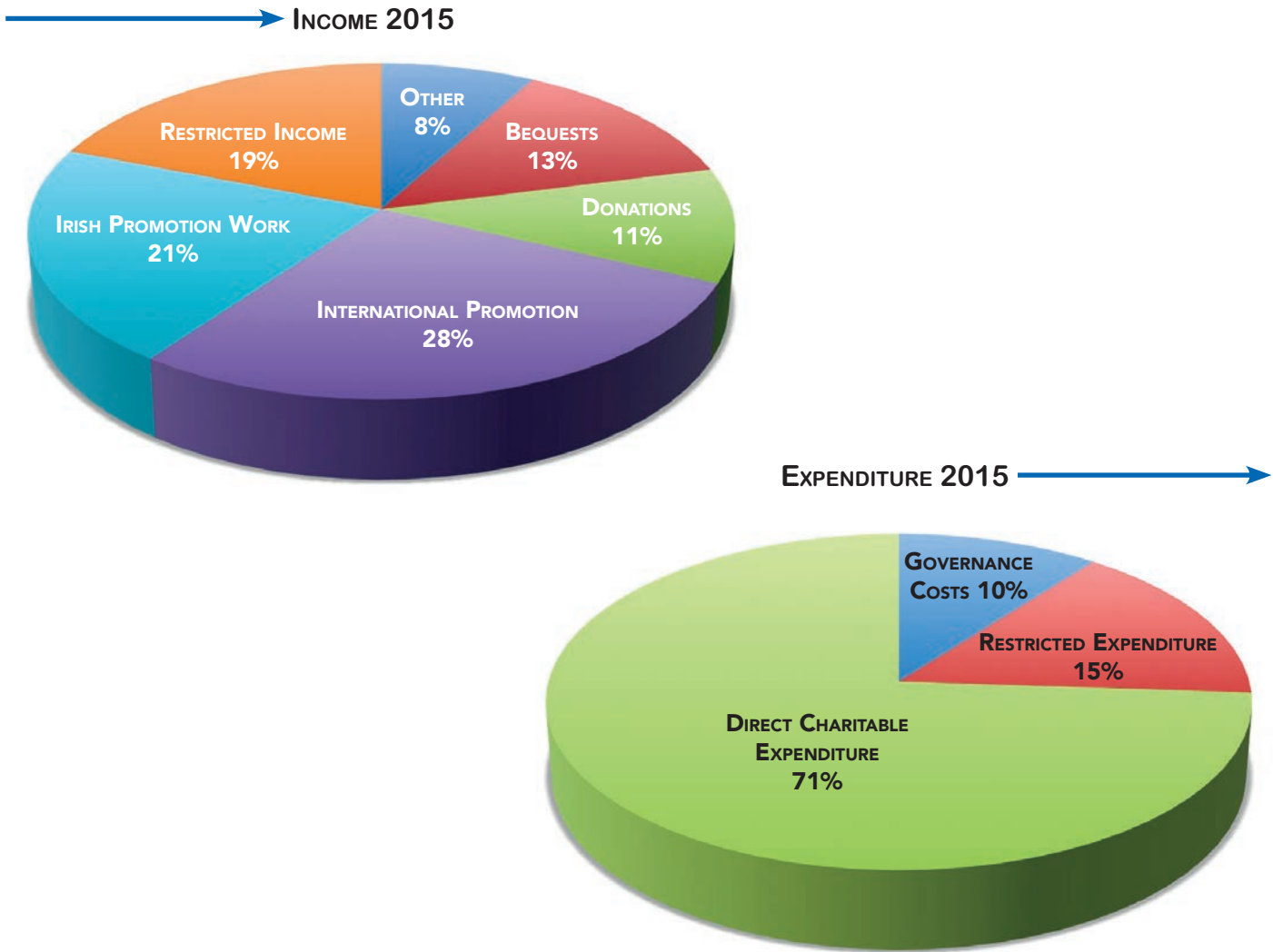
With promotion offices in Ireland, UK and USA.





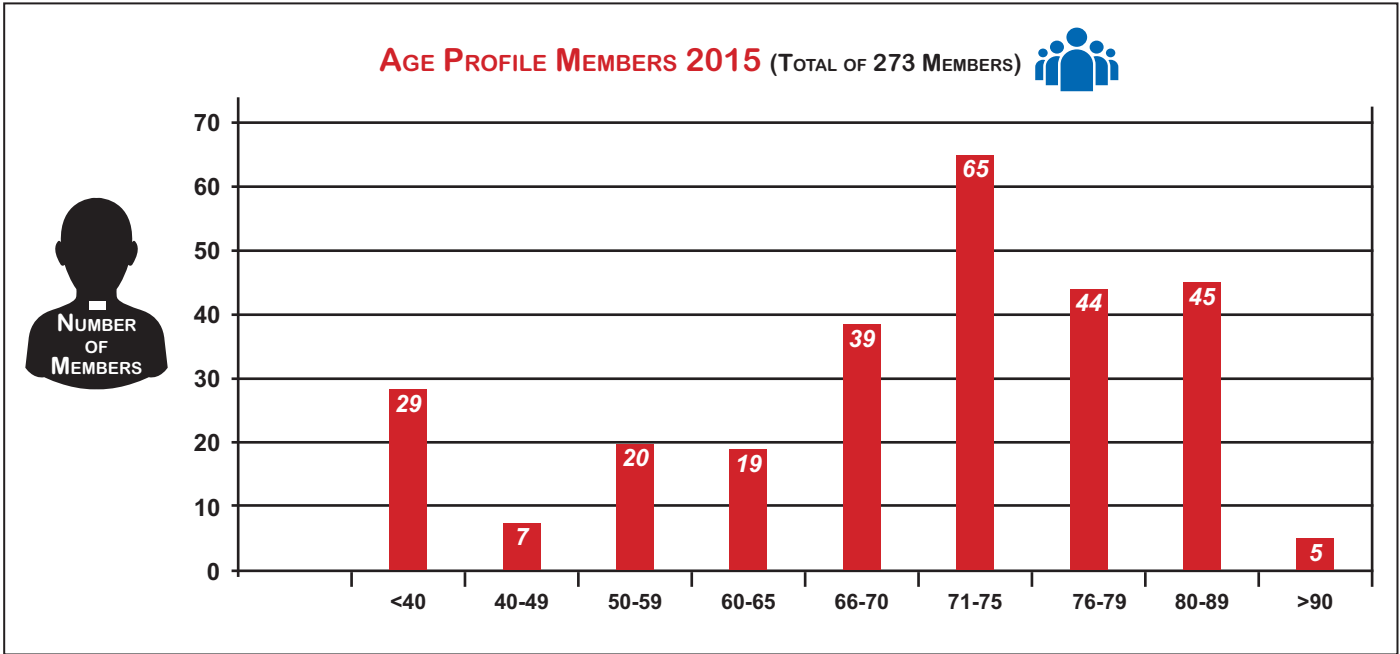
OUR FINANCES

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 2015 audited financial statements show an income of **€11.4 million** (2014 – €10.9 million). They can be summarised as follows:



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:

- 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



At a glance:

**273** Society Members

**240** From Europe and America **33** From Africa

**143** Society Members working in overseas missions

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

**15** Expenditure spread across countries worldwide

**€2.1m** Restricted income 2015

**€5.6m** Total Promotion Income 2015

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



# Leadership

**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.



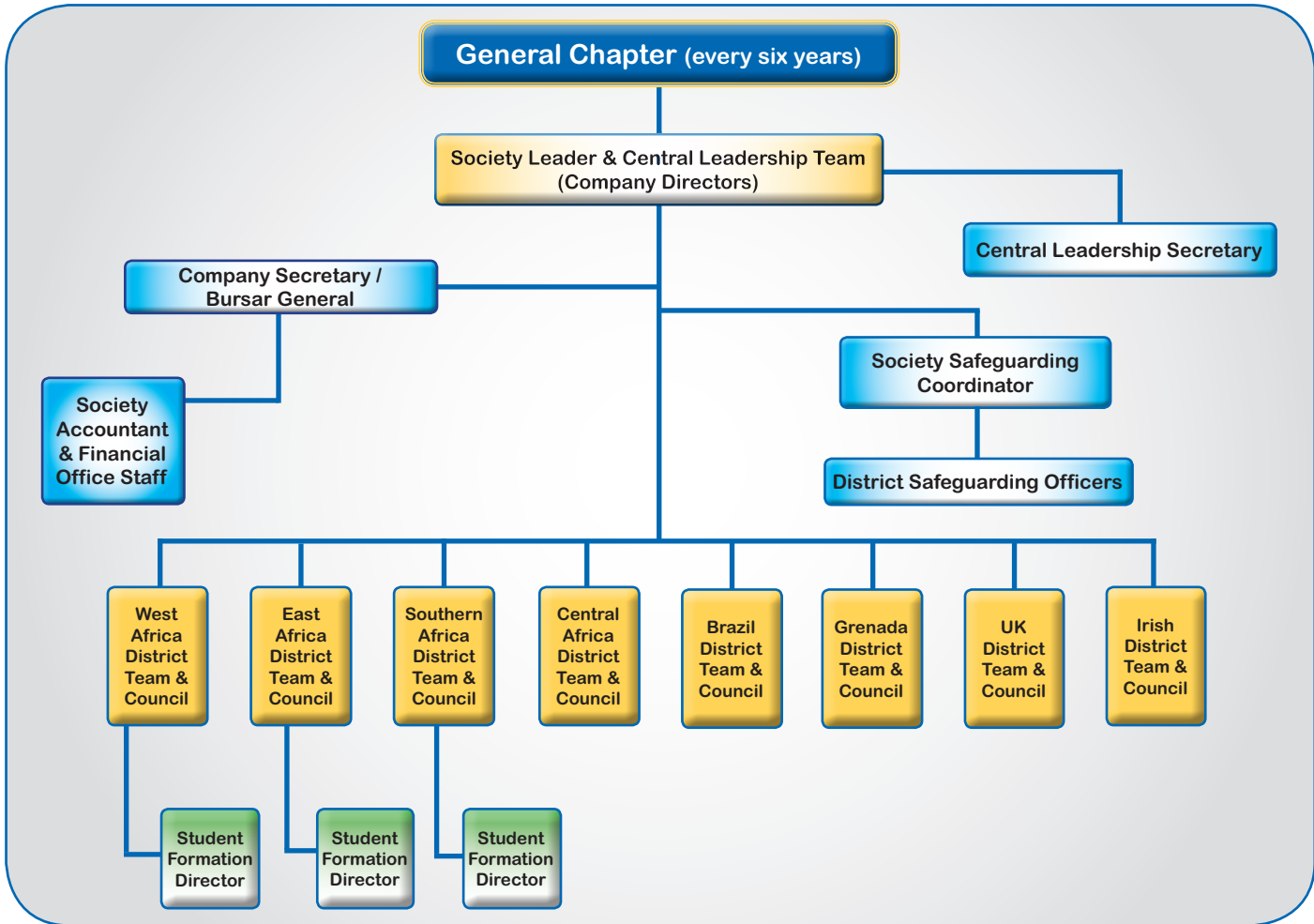
Cathal Moriarty (Irish) is a member of SPMS since 1996. He worked in education, formation and pastoral ministry. He was elected to the Central Leadership Team and appointed a Trustee in 2014.



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.



# Gratitude to our Benefactors

**Family and Friends**  
 Friends and family of the late Fr Paudie Moloughney organised a special walk called The Circle of Life Walk to remember Paudie. The walkers followed an 8km route around the roads of Paudie’s home at Laharden, Co Tipperary and the proceeds went to the Society’s mission in South Sudan. On Family Day in Kiltegan, Peggy Costello, Melissa Costello and Stella Quinn travelled to Kiltegan to present a cheque for €3,000 to Fr Victor Dunne. The committee hopes this walk will become an annual event and they will donate the proceeds to a mission nominated by the Society Leadership.

Left to right: Fr Victor Dunne, Society Leader, Melissa Costello, Fr Tom O’Connor, District Leader, Peggy Costello, Stella Quinn and Joanne Fortune, Office Manager, Kiltegan.



**Friends of St Patrick**  
 Fr Livinus Onogwu is pictured with the Friends of St Patrick’s in Warri diocese at their mission day celebration at St Mary’s Parish, Warri, Nigeria. They are a small but strong group and solid in their support for the Society.

**St Patrick’s, Makunga, Kenya**  
 For many years St Patrick’s Secondary School in Makunga in the diocese of Kitale in Kenya has had a happy relationship with a group of supporters based in Ireland. They have raised funds in a variety of ways to pay for several buildings and to provide books, computers, sports equipment and other necessities. Above: Fr Willie Walshe pictured with mission supporters Frank and Paula Cullen and right, Julius Ndirangu, school principal, with Fr Willie.







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