

St. Patrick's Missionary Society

Annual Report 2017



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-seven 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.



Fr Victor Dunne visits Fathers Emmanuel Obi, Peter Mwale and John Joe Garvey who work in Narus in South Sudan.

Since Pope Francis published *Laudato Si'*, an encyclical calling on all people to care for the Earth, the Society has become very proactive in environmental matters. In response to the Pope's invitation and a subsequent campaign organised by the Global Catholic Climate Movement, St. Patrick's Society has joined 39 other Catholic institutions worldwide who pledge to remove all their investments from fossil fuel companies. We have requested our Fund Managers to divest from all fossil fuel extraction companies and to reinvest where possible in renewable energy companies. Furthermore, the Society has assisted in a re-forestation programme in Kenya and is financing the installation of solar panels in many of our missions and Churches.

On another vein, the Society is concerned about the financial viability of our commercial farm in Kiltegan. In recent years we have not made much profit on it. It needs major capital investment to keep it maintained as a commercial entity, and so we are currently considering other options in relation to how we may utilise it better for the benefit of the mission of the Society.

This past year, as well as doing our long-established missionary work, our missionaries are facilitating peace among the young people in the troubled country of South Sudan, we are promoting human rights and justice in the cities of Mombasa and São Paulo, we are helping victims of the earthquake in Mexico, we are actively supporting hospice care for sick and elderly poor people in Lusaka, we are engaged in the conscientization of young adults on social issues in Nigeria and in Ghana through the SELL programme, and we are assisting the Counter Trafficking of persons in Kenya, Ireland and England. 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 Annual Report highlights a few examples of such projects.

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



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.



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

HUMAN 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.



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 extraction companies.



ENVIRONMENT

EDUCATION



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



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

SUPPORT FOR NEEDY CHILDREN



ACADEMIC & VOCATIONAL TRAINING



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



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.

SAFEGUARDING

Care of the Earth

LAUDATO SI' IN ACTION!

In response to Pope Frances' encouragement in *Laudato Si'* St Patrick's set up an Environmental Fund and offered members funding grants for small projects designed to care for the earth. The response has been enthusiastic.



Fr Vitalis Inyang wants to improve the local environment for his parishioners in Miya by planting trees and grass.



Fr Eddie McGettrick hopes to prevent scenes like this in his local community with a recycling project.

These are some of the projects that have been funded:



Fr. Vitalis Inyang in Miya, northern Nigeria, for planting trees and grass.



Fr. Eddie McGettrick in Santos Mártires, São Paulo, Brazil, for a recycling project.



Fr. Nicky Hennity in Mombasa, Kenya, for water harvesting with underground tanks.



Fr. Willie Walshe in Kitale, Kenya, for solar panels and solar water heating.



Fr. Michael Long in Cabragh, Co Tipperary, Ireland, towards the development of Cabragh Wetlands and visitor centre.



Fr. Martin Reilly in Mzuzu, Malawi, for solar panels for the church compound.

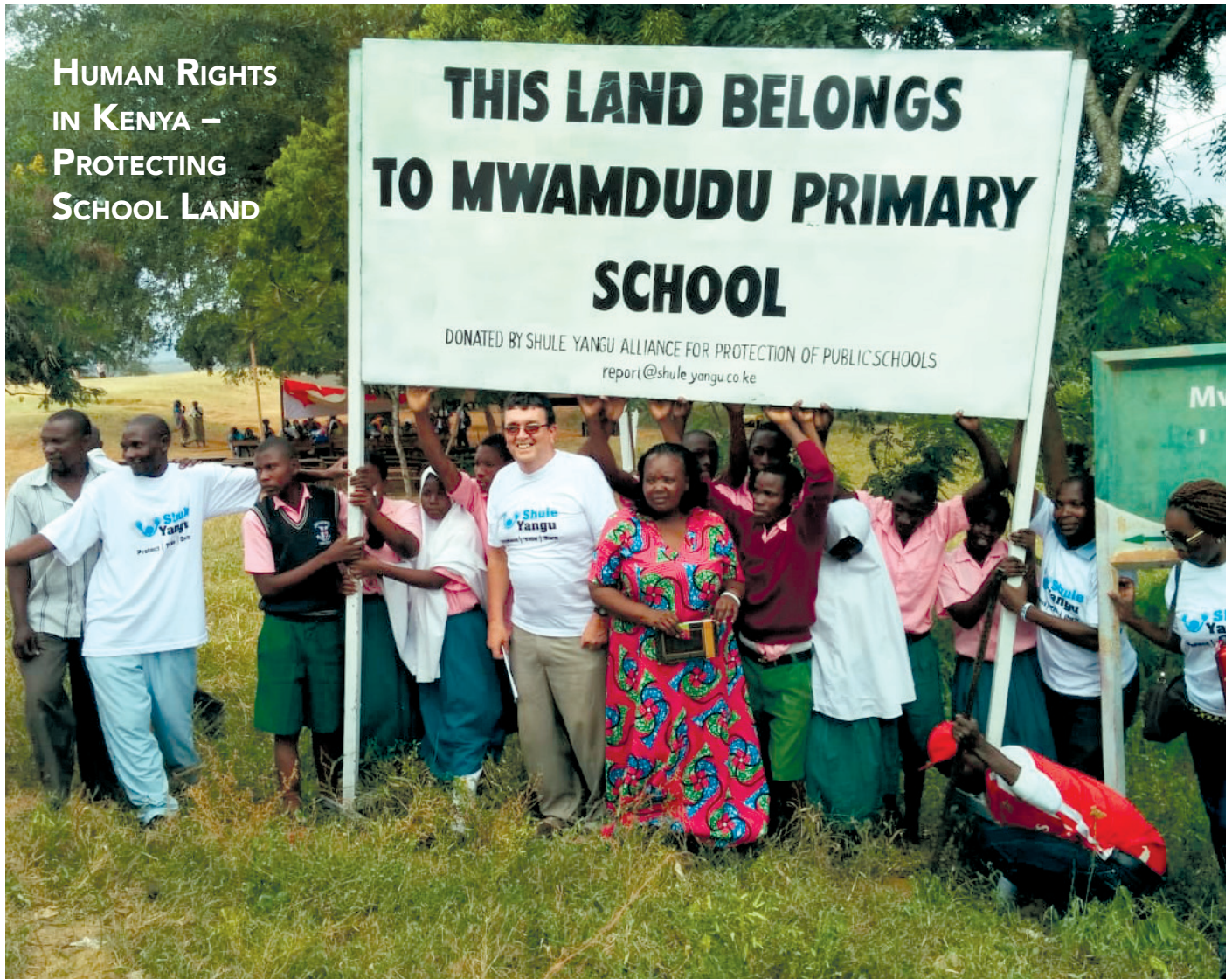
“ I urgently appeal, then, for a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet.

We need a conversation which includes everyone, since the environmental challenge we are undergoing, and its human roots, concern and affect us all. [...]

All of us can cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to his or her own culture, experience, involvements and talents. (14)

Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'* ”





There are 29,400 schools in Kenya and 40% of them don't have secure title deeds. Because they have no official documents they are in danger of having their land grabbed from them by unscrupulous property developers.

Mwamdudu Primary School in Mombasa with 1,200 pupils was in danger of losing its land. The headmaster and some concerned parents came for help to "Haki Yetu" (Our Rights), a local human rights organisation set up by Fr. Gabriel Dolan. The case was brought to the High Court which gave orders "restricting the company from interfering, relocating, demolishing or obstructing the school".

The threat will persist, but the people now know that help and support is available.



Republic of South Sudan

BUILDING PEACE IN NARUS



Many years of war in South Sudan have displaced thousands of people. Narus was one place where they sought refuge. People from many different tribes congregated there but they clung together in their own tribal groups. Narus was surrounded by many small tribal ghettos because of fear and mistrust.

Now the youth of Narus are making great efforts to reconcile the hurts of the past and are trying to build peace. In May a group of 70 young people

had a workshop on healing and reconciliation. In the evening the youth of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan took on the Catholic Youth in friendly games of football and volleyball. The whole community including local leaders from the various tribal groups joined in the fun.

At a deeper level the youth from the different isolated groups in Narus learned how to build peace, how to forgive and how to heal the wounds of civil war.



WORKING WITH YOUNG CHRISTIAN STUDENTS IN UNIVERSITY

The Young Christian Students (YCS) movement is a well-established international organisation uniting Catholic students with a vision of making the Kingdom of God present here and now on earth, recognising the human dignity of all people.



Fr. Martin Reilly (pictured above, fifth from the right) has recently been appointed to Malawi and has taken on the role of chaplain to the YCS in the University of Mzuzu. The group meets regularly to reflect on their faith, to learn about social justice and to plan how they might practically assist the community. They use the process of SEE, JUDGE, ACT! YCS provides students the structure and opportunity to learn through experience, to analyse social inequalities and to organise practical worthwhile change in the community.

Recently Fr. Martin travelled with the students as they set off to visit some poor families in a village about 10 kms from the university. They had collected some children's clothes, cooking oil, blankets and food items in preparation for the visit. The local chief assisted in identifying those who needed the help most, including a grandmother looking after seven orphan children. "It was wonderful", says Martin, "to see the exuberance of the students, full of life and wanting to make their faith real by helping others."



In imitation of our Master, we Christians are called to confront the poverty of our brothers and sisters, to touch it, to make it our own and to take practical steps to alleviate it.

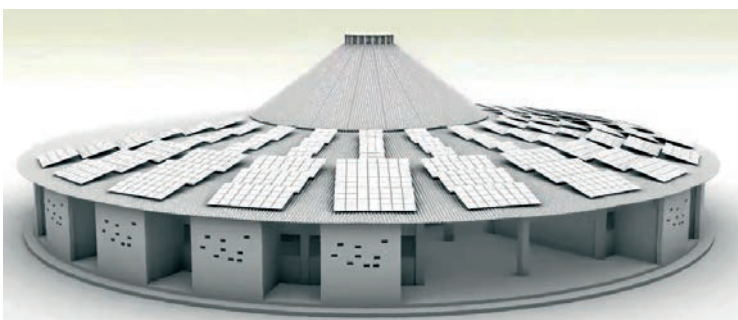
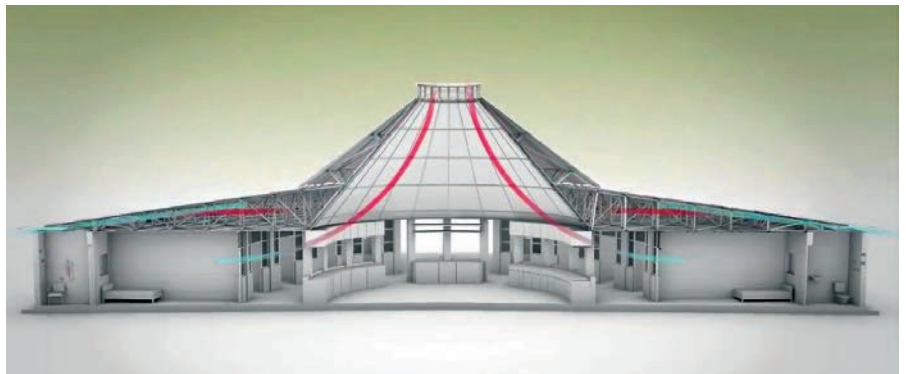
*Pope Francis,
Lenten Message on
Poverty, 2014*

SUSTAINABLE HOSPICE CARE



Mr. Martin Mulholland is involved in a unique project in Chipata, Zambia. He is managing the building of a specially designed sustainable hospice. The idea of hospice nursing and palliative care for people in their final days is new in Zambia. This building will cater for 24 patients and because of its special design it will require minimal staff. Each room has a specially designed family area where relatives can cook and wash for the patient.

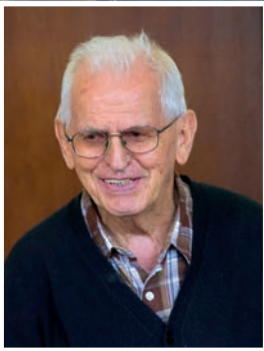
The nurse's station is in the middle of the circular building and it has a clear line of vision into all rooms. This will reduce the staffing needs and minimise the overall cost of nursing care. The building mimics the architecture of the ant hill in providing natural air conditioning through a chimney-like convection system that requires no electricity.



Other sustainable features include solar panels on the roof to harvest the powerful African sun and a collection and storage system to harvest rain water.

DEVASTATION
AND LOSS

On September 19th, 2017 Morelos in south central Mexico experienced an earthquake measuring 7.1 on the Richter scale. 420 people lost their lives, 10,000 homes were destroyed and another 25,000 damaged. Many valuable historical buildings were demolished.

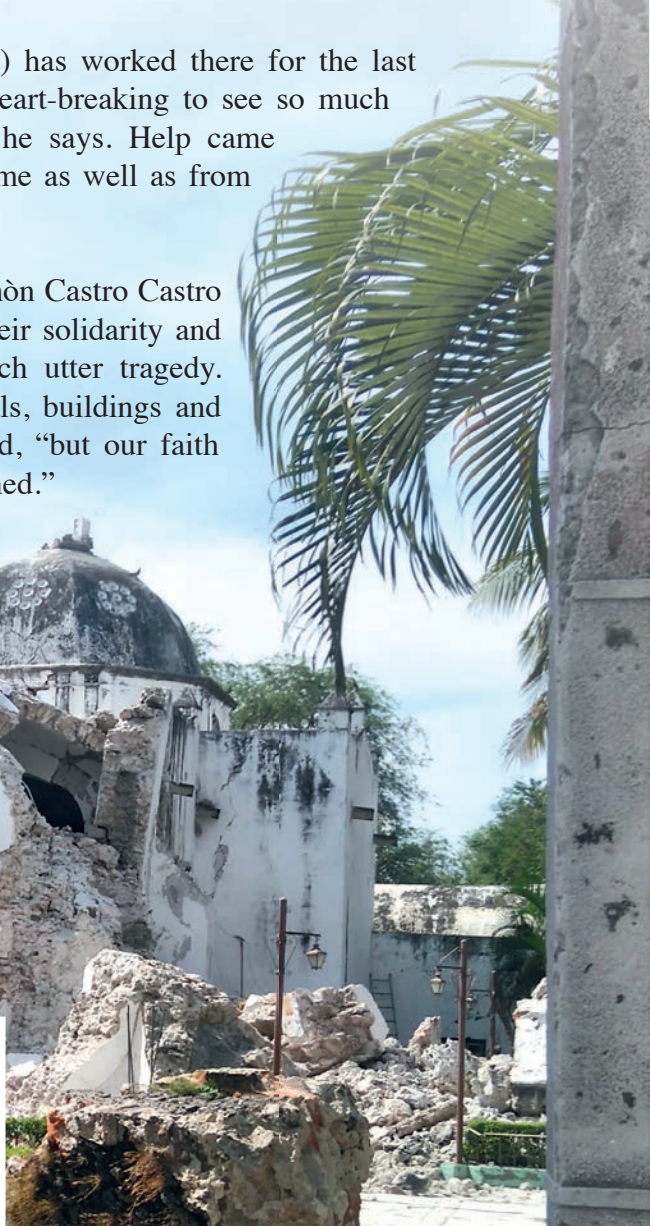


Mr. Tommy Browne (left) has worked there for the last nineteen years. “It is heart-breaking to see so much devastation and loss,” he says. Help came from the US, Ireland and Rome as well as from International Agencies.

The local bishop, Bishop Ramón Castro Castro commended his people for their solidarity and generosity in the face of such utter tragedy. “Our homes, schools, hospitals, buildings and churches have fallen,” he said, “but our faith and hope have been strengthened.”



Tepalcingo church in ruins. On the “Ruta de los Conventos de Morelos” the community gathered to help clear the rubble in Axochiapan Catholic Church. Background: Jojutla Catholic Church – the municipality of Jojutla was one of the worst hit in the earthquake – hundreds of homes and buildings collapsed.



HOPE IN SÃO PAULO

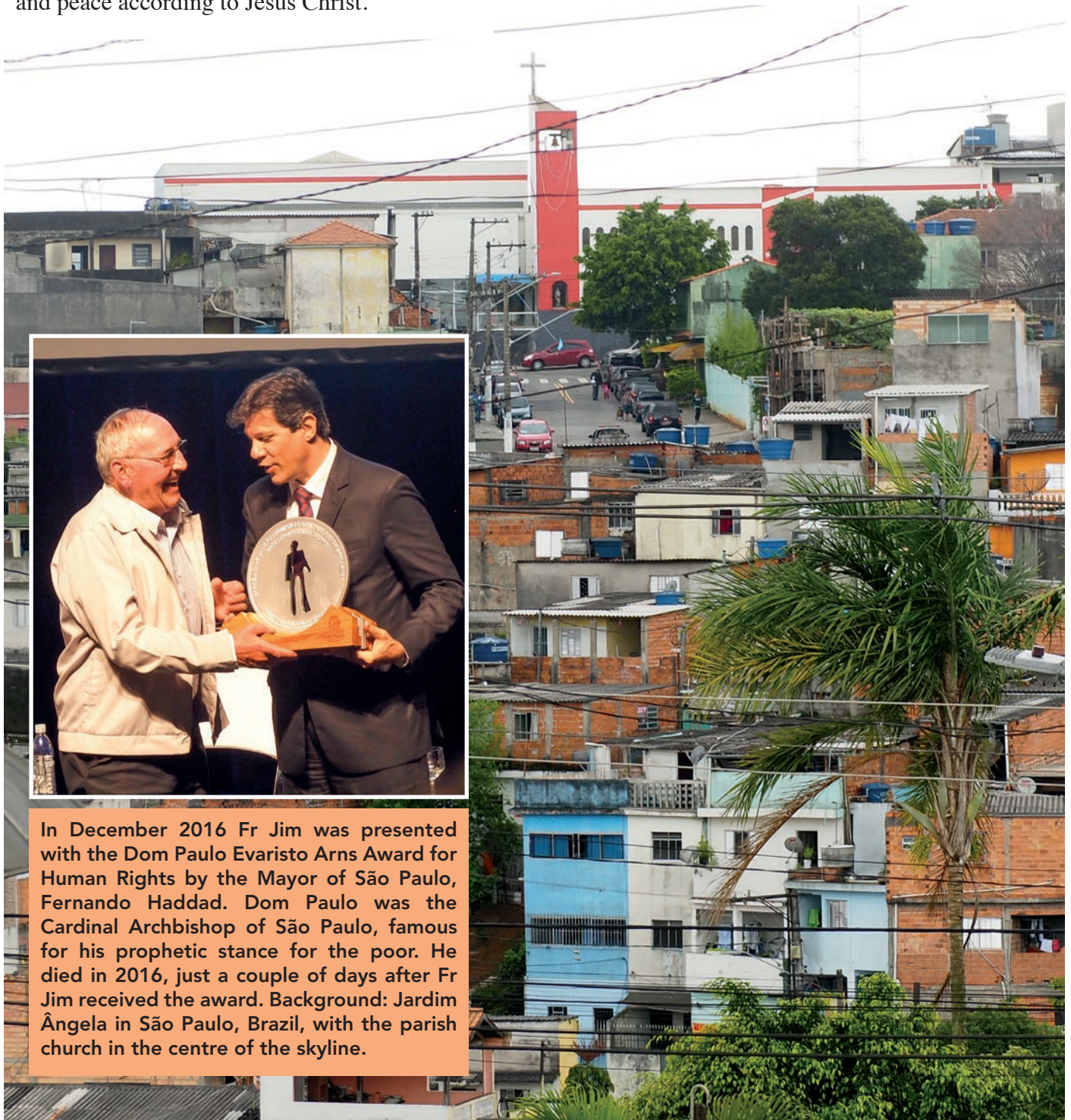
Almost 50 years ago Fr. Jim Crowe arrived in São Paulo, Brazil, as a young priest. He has lived and worked there every since.

Jim has always worked as a pastor in a busy city parish. But he does more. He is an activist – an activist for peace, an activist for reconciliation, an activist for good politics and for justice. Over the years he has led street protests, negotiated with trade unions, debated on public TV and preached the Gospel of justice and peace according to Jesus Christ.

In 2016 the city of São Paulo awarded him the Dom Paulo Evaristo Arns award for human rights. Dom Paulo was his hero, his Bishop and his friend and mentor. Jim recalls that one of Dom Paulo's favourite sayings was, "Hope never disappoints you!" It was fitting that the student should receive the master's award.



In December 2016 Fr Jim was presented with the Dom Paulo Evaristo Arns Award for Human Rights by the Mayor of São Paulo, Fernando Haddad. Dom Paulo was the Cardinal Archbishop of São Paulo, famous for his prophetic stance for the poor. He died in 2016, just a couple of days after Fr Jim received the award. Background: Jardim Ângela in São Paulo, Brazil, with the parish church in the centre of the skyline.



Ireland

IRISH SPIRITUAL HERITAGE

Ireland has a rich spiritual heritage reaching back through the millennia. The countryside is dotted with ancient monastic sites, former major centres of Irish cultural development and education. Glendalough in Co. Wicklow was one such spiritual and cultural seed bed founded by St. Kevin in the sixth century. Visitors from all around the world stream there throughout the year.

Fr. Michael Rodgers and Fr. Pat Murphy are reviving that rich spiritual heritage and making it available to today's spiritual seekers in Tearmann Spirituality Centre in Glendalough. They offer accommodation and accompaniment in the Centre for wayfarers and pilgrims who seek some quiet time apart, to rest, reflect and pray.

In the wonderfully beautiful verdant "valley of the two lakes" they find what Michael calls "an ancient Christian faith footprint". The valley pathways, the hills, rivers, lakes and the remains of the ancient monastic city are the backdrop that offers healing for the body and the spirit.

As Michael (pictured right) says, "this is one small seed sprouting in the eternal and universal field of God's dream for the fulfilment of all creation. As it grew over the past twenty five years it has spread some seeds of love, life and faith in different directions from the holy ground of Glendalough."



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 67 parish visits in 2017.) 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



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 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

450 Website hits (approx. per week) in January to December 2017

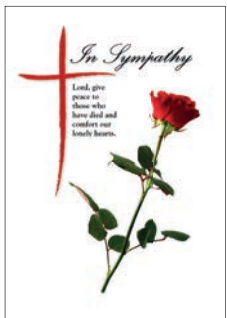


St. Patrick's Missionary Society	2,237
Africa Magazine	763
Vocations Office, East Africa	2,169
St. Patrick's, Scotland	278



OCCASION CARDS

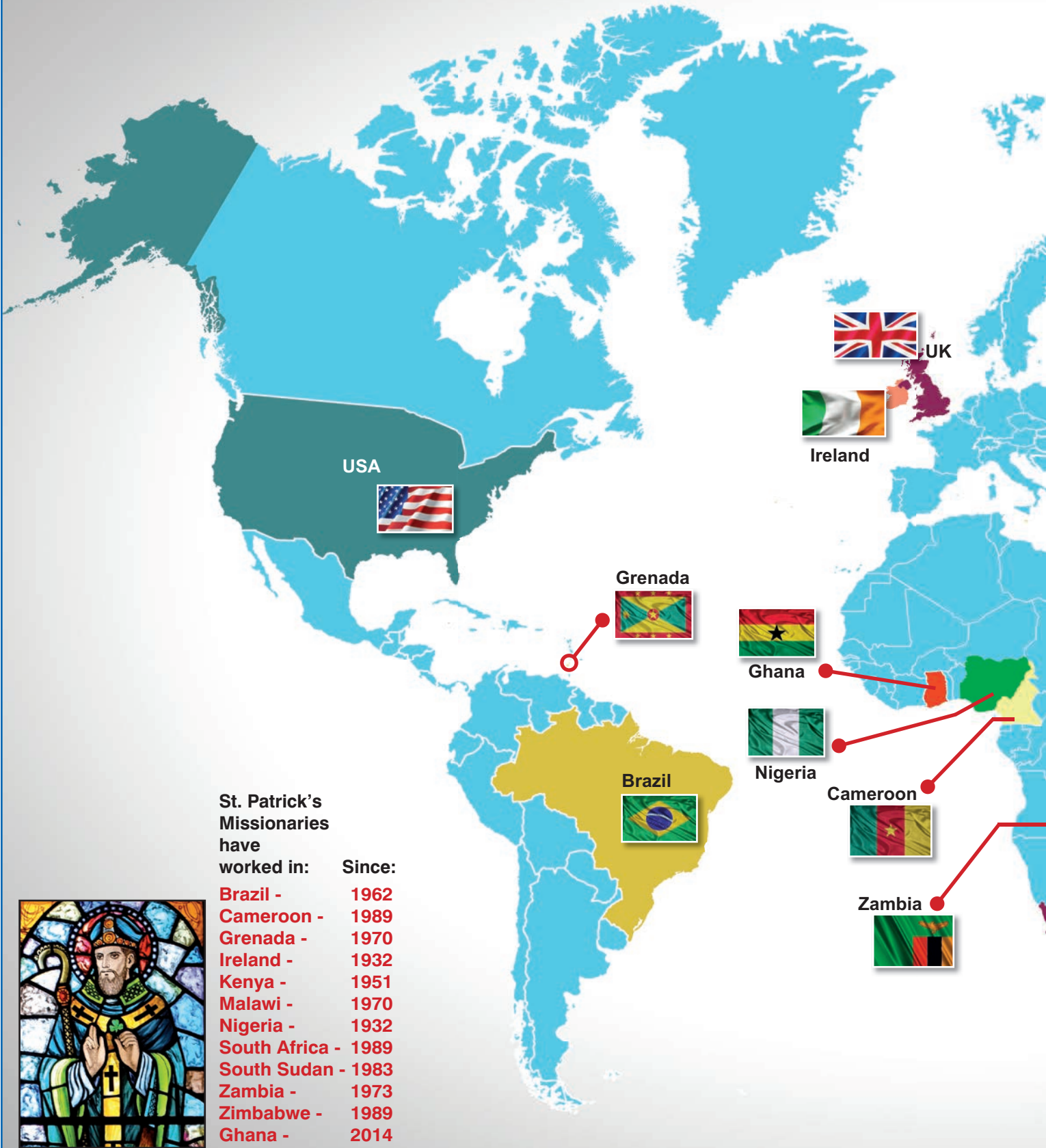
Another method of fundraising is through the use of our Occasion Cards (available in Ireland, England, Scotland and USA). These are a prayerful way of including family and friends in our daily Masses and prayers. We have specially designed cards to cover all occasions. The names enrolled are remembered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



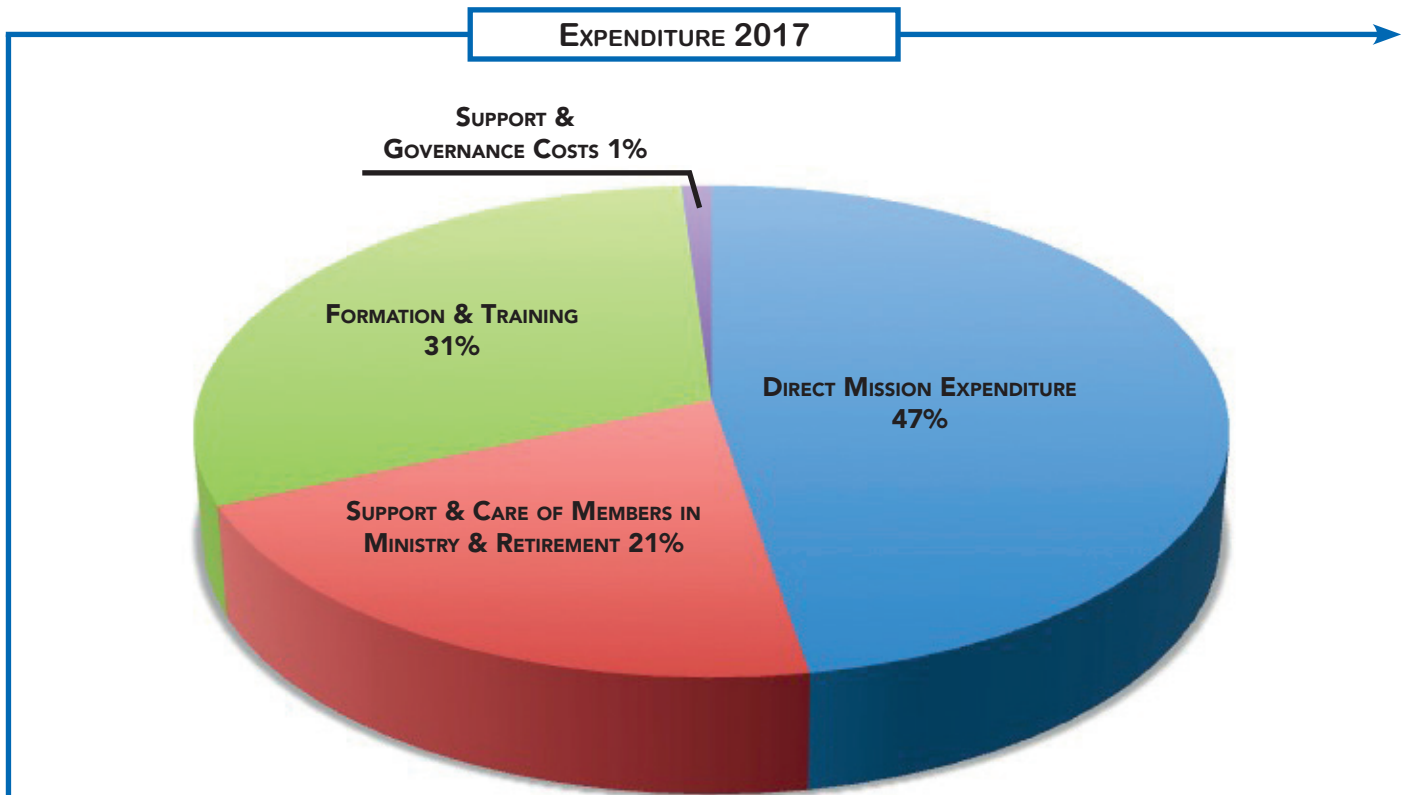
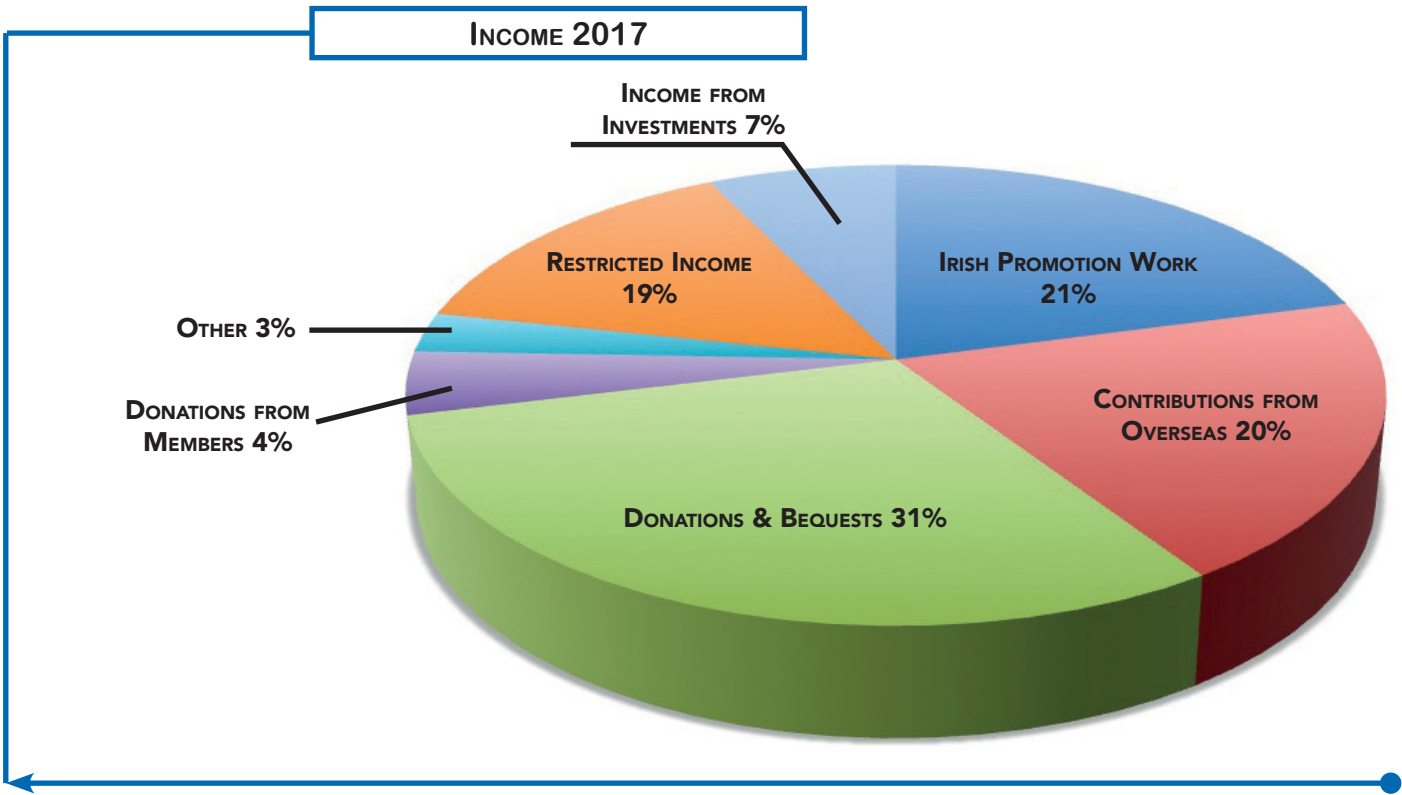
With promotion offices in
Ireland, UK and USA.



Financial Data

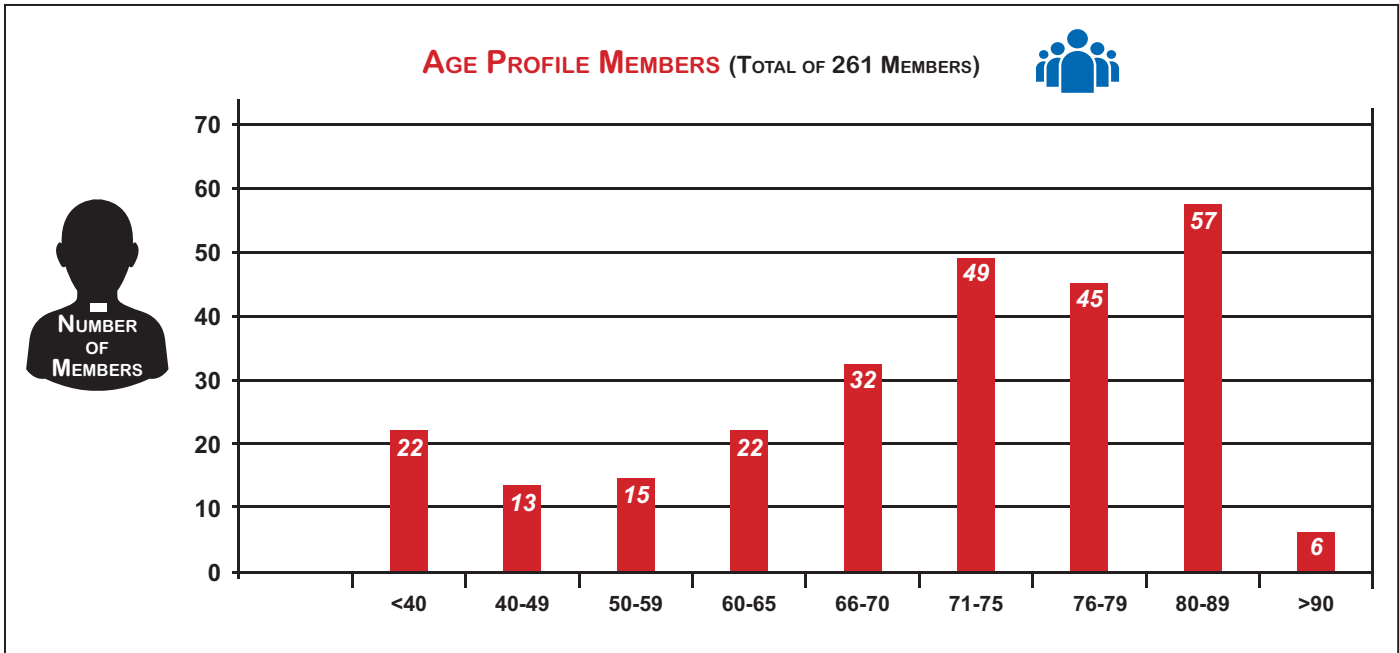
OUR FINANCES

Our benefactors continue to be generous and faithful to us. Their support enables us to continue all our mission commitments. Our 2017 audited financial statements show an income of **€11.2 million** (2016 – €10.7 million). They can be summarised as follows:




Our 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 2016 to 2017 by 4%. However there has 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 2016 to 2017 by 2%.
- 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 2017 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:



261

Society Members

226

From Europe and America

35

From Africa

138

Society Members working in overseas missions

36

Priests ordained for the Society since 2007

15

Expenditure spread across countries worldwide

€2.1m

Restricted income 2017

€2.3m

Total Irish Promotion Income 2017

81

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.



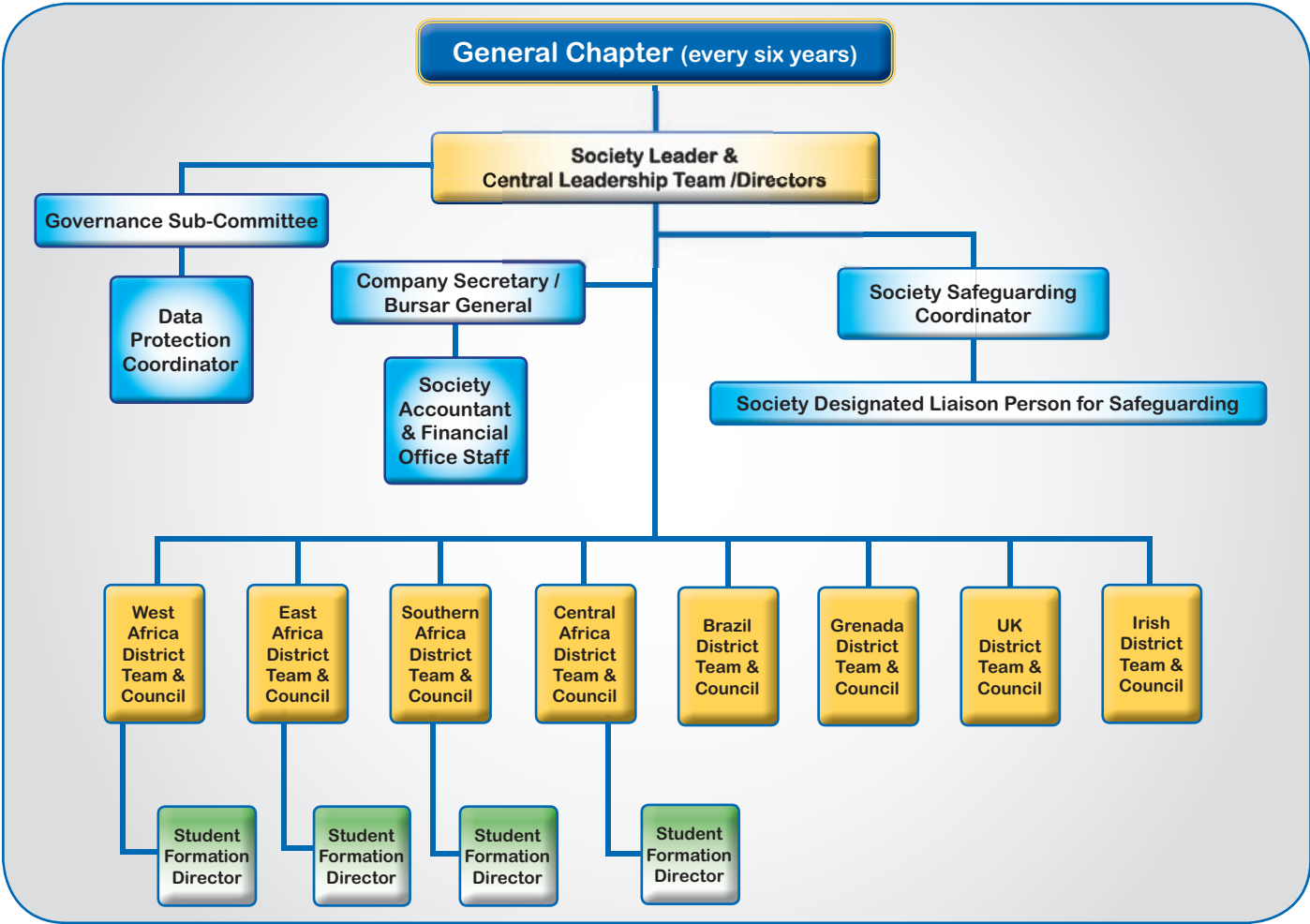
Cathal Moriarty (Irish) is a member of SPMS since 1996. He worked in education, formation and pastoral ministry. He was elected to the Central Leadership Team and appointed a Trustee in 2014.



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.



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 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 have adopted 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. For more details see our **Donor Charter** at www.spms.ie.

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. We have trained and appointed a Data Protection Coordinator (email: dataprotection@spms.ie). Our **Privacy Policy** is available at www.spms.org.





St Patrick's Missionary Society
Central Leadership Team
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Lavington 00603,
KENYA
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