

Remarks by Liz Murphy RSM, Provincial Leader Sisters of Mercy Southern Province

The words of a well known hymn come to mind as I respond to Fr Pat's talk just now. "Will you let me be your servant?" So please allow me to be your voice of congratulation and good wishes to the MSCs on this 100th anniversary.

A few Sundays ago I was reading one of the Sunday papers and the letters **M S C** were written large on a page. When I tell you that it was the travel section of the *Sunday Independent* you will not be surprised when I say that the small print behind the big capital letters was an advertisement for **M**agical **S**ensational **C**ruise.

Now I am not going to talk to you about cruises but I am going to take the letters M, S and C.

M stands for **M**emory and today we celebrate 100 years of memory, 100 years of **M**ission, 100 years of **M**inistry in a great variety of ways and in many different locations.

These **M**issionary **M**en have given an immense gift to the Irish people over those 100 years. So with true **M**unster energy (even if Leinster beat Munster in rugby recently!) I say to you Missionaries of the Sacred Heart "you have been and still are **M**ighty, you have been and still are **M**arvellous.

S stands for **S**acred, for **S**pirit, for **S**pirituality, for **S**anctity. With all the **S**incerity we can muster today we thank you for the gifts you have shared with us in your houses, Retreat Centres and parishes. You are spiritual men, you have revealed the sacred to us, you have endowed our country with spirituality, with opportunities to unfold what is sacred for us. In particular we thank you for the gift of **S**cripture and for how you have unfolded the scriptures to us, especially since Vatican 11. For this we offer you our sincere thanks, our gratitude and our deep appreciation.

C is a very important letter. It spells the surnames of MSCs from **C**hevalier to **C**ourtney and all the names of the MSCs in between. Know today that all of us here truly appreciate your caring and compassionate presence among us. You were sent to be Christ-like and you have been and are truly centred in the heart of Christ.

As a Sister of Mercy I want to personally thank you for your involvement with us and the other four other congregations in the **CEIST** schools trust.

In conclusion MSCs: We applaud your commitment, your covenant with us Irish people. We are delighted to mark with you this **C**entury of giftedness, this **C**entury of history, this day of **C**elebration. We offer our **C**ongratulations and **C**heer you onward into the next **C**entury!