



Message



MSC Mission Support Centre Western Road Cork

Winter 2010

Fr O'Connell visits Russia



Fr Michael meets the Congregation before Mass

I visited our missionaries in Russia in August, to see at first hand the great work they are doing, often under very difficult circumstances. The MSC mission is located in the Caucasus region, between the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea in the southern rim of Russia.

Both Fr Steve and I visited Fr Con who lives in the village of Cadovey. Here he has two rooms knocked into one for a chapel which caters for 20 + people, a small sacristy and a very small office which doubles as his bedroom. A door with metal gates keeps this area private when he is out, as the house is open to people to come and pray. A small kitchen has a gas burner for heating in the middle and he cooks on an electric double ring.



New Chapel - Prayer Room Project in Russia

Three MSC's Fr.Con Doherty, Fr. Steven Rogers and Fr Tomek Poterala, are centred around the towns of Pyatigorsk and Kislovodsk. This beautiful area at the foot of Europe's highest mountain, Mount Elbruz, is a complex challenge with its ethnic mix and long history of persecution and neglect.

Later we travelled to Lenninsky, where we saw new foundations which have been laid around an old cottage and the plan is to build a Prayer Room/Chapel measuring 10 x 7 metres and to then knock the old cottage. There are several out houses which can be converted into rooms for meetings and special projects to cater for the youth.



Russian Summer Camp Youth Group

Initial MSC work consisted in finding local Catholics, making provision for liturgy, catechesis and social support, where many were refugees of the Chechen war. Through this work a number of parishes have been organised and lay people trained in different ministries.

We met with families for masses in Otradny and Paputnaya and in the community of Staropavlovsky, I met with a family who had moved from Kazakhstan because it was getting harder to practice being a catholic. This family have very little but are rich in faith and have turned one of the rooms in their small very simple house, into a permanent chapel and shrine.

During my visit we went into the hills to visit a summer camp run by the parish, for the young people of the MSC parishes. The camp is in the tourist area of Honey Falls, which boasts a beautiful waterfall but the accommodation here is very basic. A theme for the camp is adopted each year and the days are divided into sessions of group work, discussion, feedback and drama.

They have a vegetable garden and filled the booth of our car with potatoes, tomatoes, plums, vegetables and 2 litres of non-pasteurised milk. They have 3 cows, one of which came from a diocesan charity scheme. Fr Steve says he never leaves that house empty handed and they were very emotional when we left, hugging and kissing us and thanking God for sending the missionaries.

One of the days I met with seven ladies in Georgievsk for Mass in a house owned by the parish of the Sacred Heart. Some of these ladies had to flee Chechnya when they started killing Russians working there. They left with nothing and one lady saw her husband shot by a sniper on their door step as he left to go to work. He lay there for 3 days before she had the courage to go out and pull him in.

Our MSC has only been in Russia since 1995, and my experience there showed a story of great commitment and hope. The seeds sown with your help in these early years, especially with the young people who are very enthusiastic, promises a rich harvest in God's own time.

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From the Director



In this winter newsletter, as I complete my 10th year as Director of the MSC Mission Support Centre, I want to thank you for your tremendous support of our Missions over the past decade. Small charitable groups like us are now facing the big challenge of trying to reach out to everybody all at once.

I am aware that you receive many appeals for help from other groups, similar to our Missions, asking for support. The needs of the poor in the underdeveloped parts of the world seem to be getting more critical, especially during these difficult economic times.

I too get those kinds of letters – mostly from the MSC Missionaries who serve in our Province’s mission’s overseas, working on your behalf, in South Africa, South America, Venezuela and Russia, where they live with people who are desperately poor.

The people of these countries can easily be forgotten. Ordinarily, they are not in the world’s limelight. They are seldom mentioned in the news or seen on television, unless, unfortunately, there is a tragedy! Each day is a struggle, the bag of mealie and cooking oil must last for a month at least.

We are blessed to have well managed projects and to have many willing and trained volunteers. I am most grateful that our Mission Support Centre can respond positively to such appeals for help because of the generosity of wonderful friends like you. Thank you so much for your kindness to the missions of our MSC priests. Your help is so deeply appreciated.

May God continue to bless you for your goodness and please keep our Missionaries in your prayers.

THANK YOU

Michael O'Bonnell MSC

Director of the MSC Mission Support Centre

Guidelines on Mass Cards Regulation

As the regulation of charities moves towards implementation new codes of practice in fundraising will be introduced. These codes will include a detailed document – which we published in our last edition – on Mass cards and how these are impacted by the Charities Act. The document contains advice for shop owners being offered pre-signed cards for sale by commercial enterprises. It also has very clear advice for the public to help them to understand the new law.

The document will be launched officially very soon and we will put it on our website www.mscireland.com under Mission Support Centre. It will also be on www.ictr.com and many other websites and is likely to be publicised in the media.

The position of the Church on pre-signed Mass cards sold in shops remains clear ... the practice is disapproved of strongly and any claims to the contrary are untrue.

MSC and other religious congregations provide a wide range of Mass cards that are in full compliance with Church rules and the Charities Act. By using these cards you can be assured that Masses promised will be offered, and that your donation will be used to support the work of Irish missionaries in poor countries.

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Blue Book



A copy of the Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Blue Book on display at the altar during the Novena in the Sacred Heart Church, Western Road, Cork.

Those enrolled are prayed for during Masses, especially during the Novena. Enrolments can be made for the living and the deceased, and are a nice spiritual gift.

2011 MSC Pilgrimage to Lourdes

Our annual pilgrimage to Lourdes will take place in September 2011. Full details will be available at the end of January.

Happy 10th Birthday Sithand'izingane!

Having received property with a derelict house on it from one of the local banks, Sithand'izingane project, Tsakane, South Africa started off with volunteers looking after 35 little ones and 40 school-going children coming in the afternoons.

Money was collected mainly from overseas in order to build classrooms, a big kitchen and dining room and an administration block. It took about 5 years to collect the money and complete the buildings.

Today the project boasts several beautiful buildings, a big vegetable garden, a small soccer field, 2 buses used to pick up the children after school and a small van which is used to do the shopping and take the huge pots of food for the feeding schemes.

Sithand'izingane is very grateful for all the help received during the past 10 years.

They would never have been able to offer these services without your assistance.

The celebration was a wonderful occasion. They erected a huge tent and everyone was invited to come. They catered for about 500 children and 300 adults however 750 children arrived. In the end, everyone got something to eat.

We thank God for the many blessings and for all the help received during the past 10 years.



Board Members cutting the cake!



Volunteers giving food to needy children at one of the feeding schemes



Children getting ready to perform for the visitors

Learn More Visit our Website

Learn about the many challenges the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart encounter each day by visiting our website
www.msclareland.com

Find out how you can help make a difference in someone's life.
We need your support!

Please forward the MSC website to one of your friends who might also be interested in knowing more about the MSC and our projects.
We can't do it on our own!

Help Us Send a Link
www.msclareland.com

MSCs in Fiji thank Irish Donors

Some time ago we asked for support for projects being undertaken by MSCs in the Fiji Islands. Thanks to your great generosity we were able to donate €104,000 to the Chevalier Farm Training Centre and the Chevalier Hostel.

Both projects deal with underprivileged youths, many of whom are in trouble with the law or are caught up in the cycle of poverty.



Carpentry Workshop

Fr. Simon Mani, MSC Superior in the Pacific Union in a letter to our Provincial Fr. Pat Courtney said that "the funds received will help us support the projects for two to three years. It will also assist us in replenishing the workshops with new tools and machinery and also the renovation to the buildings".

Fr Mani continued: "I would like to convey our sincere gratitude to Irish

MSCs for taking this initiative to raise funds to support us. Through you we would like to convey our gratitude to your Mission Support Centre and all the benefactors who supported this initiative.

Our financial resources are very limited and each year we have to look for benefactors to raise the funds for these apostolates. By your funds you have given us a new hope to remain focused in our mission to be God's heart to others and especially to the poor and the disadvantaged".

This is just an example of the good that your donations can do for the underprivileged and how Catholic laity and priests can benefit society.



Small Engine Workshop

RECENT MSC DEATHS



Fr Eamonn McSweeney MSC died on Thursday June 10th 2010 in the Skibbereen Residential Care Centre.

Fr Eamonn was a very gentle man and a deeply loved member of the community at Myross Wood where he lived since his return from the South Sea mission in Papua New Guinea.

Born on 8th December, 1920, in Toremore, Kilcummin, Killarney, Co. Kerry to Edmond and Margaret and he was the sixth child in a family of four boys and three girls and received his primary education at Kilcummin National School and his secondary education at Sacred Heart College, Cork.

Following in the footsteps of his older brother, Patrick, he entered the novitiate of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart on 20th September, 1939, in Bree, Belgium, and made his first profession of vows on 21st September, 1940, in Myrtleville, Crosshaven, Co. Cork. He was ordained to the priesthood on 9th June, 1946, at Moyne Park, Ballyglunin, Co. Galway.

Following his ordination, he volunteered for the MSC mission in Papua New Guinea and served in the Rabaul mission for forty four years. He returned to Ireland in 1991 to the Myross Wood Community in West Cork and he served as Chaplain to the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart.

Fr Eamonn's funeral took place in the MSC Church on the Western Road in Cork City on Saturday 12th June 2010.



Fr Jeremiah (Jerry) Murphy MSC died at Haven Bay Nursing Home, Kinsale Co. Cork on Tuesday 3rd August 2010. He was 90 years of age.

His funeral mass took place at the Sacred Heart Church on the Western Road, Cork on Thursday 5th August and was laid to rest in Kilnamartyra Cemetery.

He was born on 19th February 1920 in Kilnamartyra, Co. Cork, son of Jeremiah and Hannah Murphy. He had three brothers, Michael, Fr. Bertie, MSC and Br. Pat, OMI, and two sisters, Eilis and Anne, all of whom predeceased him.

He entered the novitiate of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart on 13th August 1940 in Crosshaven, Co. Cork and he was ordained to the Priesthood on 21st September 1946 at Moyne Park, Co. Galway. When a Novitiate was established at Vunapope near Rabaul, Papua New Guinea, Fr. Jerry generously volunteered his services, where he spent four fruitful years.

In January 1969 Fr. Jerry went to San Antonio, Texas and during the next thirty years, he fulfilled numerous stewardships of different parishes and pastoral areas.

Fr. Jerry retired to the Community at Carraig na bhFear in 2002 where he enjoyed ministering to local Nursing Homes.

He is survived by nieces and a nephew as family members.

May they Rest in Peace



Fr Allen Browne MSC died peacefully in his sleep in Cork University Hospital on the morning of Saturday 10th July 2010. He was 91 years of age.

His Requiem Mass took place in the Sacred Heart Church on the Western Road, Cork on Monday 12th July after which Fr Allen was buried at St Oliver's cemetery.

Born in the parish of Kilnamatyra, Co Cork, on February 19th 1919, Fr Allen was the third child born to his parents Allen and Ellen Brown in a family of three boys and eight girls.

He was ordained priest in Moyne Park, Galway on September 21st 1946. He was appointed Novice Master for the newly emerging MSC Province of Papua New Guinea, a position he held for seven years. In 1972 he returned to parish work in Takabur, Rabaul where he travelled far and wide visiting the various mission outstations.

In 1990 he returned to Ireland due to ill health and bade farewell to the country and people he had deeply loved. He retired to the Sacred Heart Community House, Western Road and was appointed chaplain to St Joseph's Retirement Convent of the Congregation of the Infant Jesus Sisters where he is fondly remembered.

He is survived by his three sisters, nieces and nephews.

Sacred Heart Misson Box in your Home or Office



Please support us
by collecting loose coins in
your home or office

This is an invaluable
source of funding
for us annually

If you wish to help and
want to receive a Mission Box
simply contact us at

Tel: 021 454 5704

Email: info@mscmismissioncentre.ie

New MSC Novitiate begins in Cork

After several years without a novitiate in Ireland we are delighted to welcome four novices from the European Provinces to spend their special spiritual year of formation in Cork City. We are particularly delighted that one of the four Novices is from our MSC Parish in Stockbridge Village, Liverpool and will be the newest member of the Irish Province.



At the end of the Novitiate they will make their First Profession of temporary vows as Missionaries of the Sacred Heart. Markus Mehner (South German/Austrian Province), Andrea Ruiu (Italian Province), Michael O'Rourke (Irish Province) and Matteo Zinna (Italian Province) pictured were formally

received into the novitiate in an initiation ceremony and Eucharist celebrated by the Irish Provincial, Fr Pat Courtney MSC and co-celebrated by the novice master Fr Tom Mulcahy MSC. The Ceremony took place in the community chapel of the MSC residence on the Western Road in Cork, which will also be the novitiate house for the coming year.

During the initiation rite each novice was presented with a copy of the Constitutions and Statutes of the MSCs by the Provincial.

For those able to attend the ceremony, it was a moving event, proof that God is still calling young men to MSC life.

Missionaries Celebrate 400 Years of Priesthood

Nine priests from Missionaries of the Sacred Heart celebrated their Diamond, Golden, Ruby, and Silver Jubilees of their ordinations and between them they have devoted four hundred years to their vocations – many of them serving in the foreign missions in Africa and South America.

Celebrations took place on the 2nd July, with family and friends with a concelebrated Mass at the MSC community at Western Road, Cork and the Jubilarians are:

(Diamond)

Fr Patrick Whooley MSC, Skibbereen, Co. Cork.
Fr Jerry O'Mahony MSC, Cork City,
Fr Jerry McCarthy MSC, Coachford, Co. Cork

(Golden)

Fr. Martin Rabitte MSC, Athenry, Co. Galway

(Ruby)

Fr Ciaran MacCarthaigh MSC, Beara, Co. Cork.
Fr Michael O'Brien MSC, Rathvilly, Co. Carlow.
Fr Tom Plower MSC, Loughrea, Co. Galway.

(Silver)

Fr John Fitzgerald MSC, Chicago/Castleisland, Co. Kerry.
Fr Jim McCormack MSC, Naas, Co. Kildare.



Back L to R: Fr. John Fitzgerald MSC, Fr. Tom Plower MSC, Fr. Ciaran MacCarthaigh MSC, Fr. Patrick Whooley MSC, Fr. Michael O'Brien MSC.
Front L to R: Fr. Jerry McCarthy MSC, Fr. Pat Courtney MSC Provincial, Fr. Jim McCormack MSC, Fr. Jerry O'Mahony MSC.

First profession of New Irish Members

The Irish MSC Province is delighted to announce that during the month of August 2010 three young men have made their First Profession of Temporary Vows as Missionaries of the Sacred Heart in the Irish Province. Peter Ng'ang'a pictured left below (from Kenya) was professed for the Southern African Region and Edwin Escudero (from Caracas, Venezuela) and Deiby Fuenmayor (from Maracaibo, Venezuela) pictured right below were professed for the Venezuelan Region of the Irish Province.



Vocations - God's Calling

Perhaps you are searching for a way of life with a difference!
Would you consider life as a Missionary of the Sacred Heart?

Why not visit our website at www.mscvocations.com to find out more?

Alternatively, contact Fr John Fitzgerald MSC (IRE) (Tel. 086 862 6007)

or

Fr Dave Nixon MSC (UK) (Tel. 079 1863 8013)



www.mscvocations.com

The Catholic Church is a force for good in Society

In the midst of the scandal and the shame of child abuse perpetrated by a minority of priests who have let their Church down badly, and the current anti-Catholic media storm that paints the Church as a malign force, it is worth remembering all the good work that the Irish Church has done and is doing at home and overseas.

This humanitarian work can be seen in every parish through the work of the St. Vincent de Paul Society – an organisation that the Catholic Church has inspired and supported. In the early 1940s the Catholic Social Services Conference was set up to tackle the dreadful poverty in Dublin during the war years, and today Crosscare runs 11 separate programmes tackling various forms of deprivation in that archdiocese.

In international development Trocaire – sponsored by the Irish Church – is one of the leading humanitarian development organisations working in several countries. Much of its funds are generated by lay faithful, especially through its Lenten boxes distributed in churches.

Viatores Christi has sent over 2,000 lay missionaries to help the poor overseas in accordance with gospel values. Ireland’s largest international charity – Concern – was founded by a Holy Ghost priest, the late Fr Aengus Finucane who headed that organisation for many years, and his colleagues Fr Kevin Doheny and Fr Norman Fitzgerald founded Refugee Trust International – now called Vita - whose development aim is sustainable livelihoods in the Horn of Africa.

Another example of the contribution of the Church to international development is the work of Irish missionaries in poor countries throughout the world. Writing in the Irish Catholic on 19th March last year Tom Arnold, Chief Executive of Concern noted: “The Irish missionary tradition has made a signal contribution, maintained over many years, in delivering education, improving health and promoting human development for hundreds of millions of poor

people”. Today there are over 1,800 Irish missionaries abroad – more than the number of aid and development workers. They are at the forefront of poverty relief and every natural disaster. Many of them have been killed in the service of God.

The first volunteers on the ground after the earthquake in Haiti last year were religious missionaries. In the aftermath of the recent earthquake in Pakistan Catholic churches are being used as refugee centres, and many religious groups are sharing resources in the relief effort.

The work of Irish missionaries overseas is supported through Irish Aid funding schemes administered by Mísean Cara – a company set up for that purpose by the Irish Missionary Union. However, the bulk of their funding comes from the lay faithful through their donations. Catholic clergy and Catholic laity have a proud record in contributing to the relief of poverty and advocating justice for all.

Making Donations Secure

The most secure way to make a donation is by cheque, bank draft or postal order.

Banks and building societies issue bank drafts free of commission when payable to a registered charity such as MSC.

Credit Unions will provide a cheque free of commission for members donating to a charity.

Donations for our cards and enrolments can be made by credit or laser card.

Fr. O’Connell acknowledges every donation.



A generous way to support the work of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart is to remember our work in your Will

A bequest in a Will is given out of compassion is like a rose growing in difficult circumstances

A Will is a way whereby you can:

- Provide food and accommodation for children; Supply pumps, tanks etc.
- for clean water for a family or a village;
- Build a classroom or a health clinic;
- Support a student for the priesthood;
- Support HIV/Aids sufferers

Please remember the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart when you write your Will

MSC Mission Support Centre P.O. Box 23 Western Road Cork
Tel: 021 454 5704 www.msclareland.com

Mission Cards become very popular

Sacred Heart Mission Cards – a series of prayer cards launched as an alternative to the dubious pre-signed Mass cards on sale in shops are proving very popular with the public. We supply them to local shops who wish to stock genuine religious cards.

They are not Mass cards and they are outside of the Charities Act and have been approved by the Episcopal Commission for Missions, and are supported by the Irish Missionary Union. They’re recommended to their members by the Convenience Stores and Retailers Association and by the Irish Postmasters’ Union and they are the only cards so recommended.

As we can now supply approved Mission Cards to shops, if you know shop owners who would be willing to stock our Mission Cards, please advise them to contact us.

BOOK ON FR MICHAEL TIERNEY MSC

Fr Michael Tierney who brought Missionaries of the Sacred Heart to Ireland in 1909 is remembered in a book launched by the former president of the European Parliament, Pat Cox. The book – Fr. Michael Tierney MSC: a priest with a mission – was written by author and historian, Denis Hickey.

In his address at the launch, Pat Cox said: “It takes people to animate projects. It needs institutions to sustain them. Fr Michael Tierney is a powerful example of personal action allied to institutional sustainability. His life and times are wonderfully captured in this short biography by Denis Hickey, who like his subject hails from Churchtown in north Cork”.



L to R Fr Pat Courtney MSC Provincial Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, Mr Denis Hickey (author), Mr Pat Cox (speaker) and Mgr. Kevin O'Callaghan, Cork representing Bishop John Buckley.

Recalling Fr Tierney’s life from his departure from Cork in 1877 until his arrival back in 1909, Mr. Cox continued: “His life is a history from the bottom up, not from the top down – a reminder that all can make a contribution to the development of the world around them to a greater or lesser extent.

“His history is of a rural upbringing in a large family imbued with a strong sense of religious formation and conviction, of boundless energy, of missionary passion and of singular determination to establish the Ireland and the Cork of his time as a source of MSC missionary zeal. He achieved his goal and wherever he worked he left a powerful and positive legacy behind.

Concluding he said: “Michael Tierney through his focus and conviction made his dream possible. The MSC priests

and brothers, their families, their donors and supporters since then have kept that dream alive, recalling to mind the words of Jean Monnet (founding father of the European Union) that ‘nothing is possible without people .. nothing is lasting without institutions’”.

MSC Provincial, Fr. Pat Courtney said the author takes the reader on a journey that offers a unique insight into a man whose life had such a profound influence on and significance for the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart in Ireland and elsewhere. “It is truly a labour of love by one native of Churchtown for another. This book will serve as an important historical and public record in libraries and archives” he said.

A local launch of the book took place in Churchtown in the presence of relatives of Fr. Tierney. The speaker there was Gerry Murphy of the Tierney Memorial Committee. Fr. Michael O’Connell, Director of the MSC Mission Support Centre presented a copy of the book to Tony Tierney – a relative of the founder who had travelled from Dublin for the occasion.

The book will serve as an important resource for scholars and historians researching the Irish missionary movement in future years and copies are now available in most libraries.

MSC are indebted to the author, Denis Hickey, who provided his services free of charge in researching and writing the text. Copies are available from the MSC Mission Support Centre at €10 each including packaging and postage.



L to R Fr. Michael O’Connell MSC Director of the MSC Mission Support Centre, Mr Denis Hickey (author) and Tony Tierney.

PLEASE CUT HERE

Burses help to train our student missionaries

Donations received for Burses are invested for the education and training of students for the priesthood. We have several bursees from which people can choose—list available on request. The most popular ones in recent years have been the Sacred Heart, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart and St. Padre Pio.

Enclosed is my donation of towards Burse.

MR / MRS / MISS (Please use block capitals)

Please subscribe to the Burse of your choice for the training of missionaries.

Name:

SEND TO:-

Fr. Michael O'Connell
MSC Mission Support Centre
P.O. Box 23 Western Road Cork

Address:

..... Tel No:

Does it really Get There?

Over the years, some questions that charities are asked the most is this:

Do the donations actually get there?

Do people really get the humanitarian aid that we send to their countries?

The story below highlights and shows how your donations really help.

It ain't heavy its our water tank



The majority of people think of water as a gift from God and so they should but someone has to pay for it. Although water comes from the clouds and springs from the earth, it can also be collected on roof tops.

Water collected from the roof is expensive for those least able to afford it. The MSC Mission Support Centre does its best through the generosity of our benefactors to support projects for those in dire need of water.

A wonderful gift for a school, family or groups to be able to provide such a gift.

MSC Cards and Enrolments

The MSC Mission Support Centre offers our benefactors the opportunity to have their loved ones, living and deceased enrolled in the Golden Book, the Blue Book of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, as well as in special prayers of intercession to the Holy Family.



Enrolled persons are specially remembered in the Masses and prayers of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart. The enrolment cards are a source of comfort for bereaved families and for the sick. They also provide a means of conveying good wishes for a wide variety of personal and family occasions.



Christmas Opening Times

The MSC Mission Support Centre will close at 4.30pm Thur 23rd December and re-open at 9.00am Tues 4th January.

Normal Opening Hours 9.00am - 5.00pm Open during Lunch

Please note our telephone is only answered during these hours.

Cards & Enrolments from 9.00am – 4.50pm

The Catholic Pocket Diary Mass & Prayer Book

2011

Available Now while stocks last



Mission Support Centre Western Road, Cork Tel: 021 454 5704

Donation incl postage is €4 or £3 each.

Christmas Mass Cards

Thank you to the many donors who have requested MSC Christmas Mass Bouquet Cards. We greatly appreciate early requests because they help our distribution and also avoid delays in the post which cause the run-up to Christmas.



Our cards meet all church regulations provision Act 2009 sale of cards in enterprises.

and also the Charities dealing with the pre-signed Mass shops by commercial

All MSC cards comply with and State regulations. MSC cards you know are supporting our and their work.



are in full Church By using that you missionaries

The Irish Bishops and the Irish Missionary Union – representing 85 congregations, have asked people not to buy pre-signed Mass cards in shops because they “have no spiritual value” and there is no guarantee that Mass will be offered.

Thank you again for supporting our cards.