

***Congregation of the
Sisters of Mercy
South Central Province***



***Annual Trustee Report
and Financial Statements
2021***

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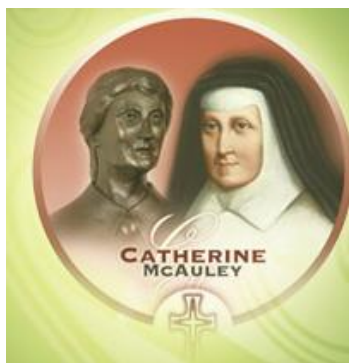
Note - Any reference in this report to “Province” refers to the **Charity** of the Sisters of Mercy, South Central Province.

Any reference in this report to “Sister” or “Sisters” refers to the **Members** of the Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy South Central Province.

INTRODUCTION

Beginnings

The Sisters of Mercy were founded by Catherine McAuley who was born into an 18th century Dublin where there was a great divide between a privileged minority and the vast majority who lived in dire poverty. Motivated by her trust in the God of Mercy, Catherine



used all her unexpected inheritance to alleviate poverty and disadvantage in her native city. She invested all her money in setting up a house on Baggot Street as a centre of education and shelter for poor girls and young women. Soon other wealthy young women in the city, fired by the same ideal of love of God and care for the disadvantaged, joined her. In the years that followed their founding in 1831, the Sisters of Mercy focussed on providing education and healthcare and consequently established and ran schools and hospitals. The

numbers in [pastoral care and social work](#) roles increased over the years as the numbers in mainstream education and healthcare decreased. In modern times there has been a consistent effort by the Sisters of Mercy to continue their outreach to people on the margins, through working for [justice](#) and advocacy for the voiceless. In today's world, Sisters are consciously committed to ecojustice. Now, because of their age, many Sisters focus on pastoral care and praying for others. Administratively, in present times, the need to allocate resources for care of older and frail members has become acute.

How we organise ourselves today

From 1831 until the 1970s the Sisters of Mercy in Ireland, with a few exceptions, lived in independent houses/convents under the direct authority of the local diocesan Bishop. Each group of Sisters in a local area, some with smaller convents (in outlying areas) attached, was a self-contained small congregation with limited contact with convents in neighbouring towns. Each local unit had responsibility for its financial viability and for attracting new members. During the 1970s and 80s most of these groups amalgamated into larger diocesan congregations. By 1994 there were 26 separate Mercy Congregations in Ireland corresponding to the 26 dioceses in the country.

In 1994, the Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy (Ireland) was formed by the union of these twenty-six independent diocesan Mercy Congregations in Ireland and the Mercy Congregation in South Africa. The hope for this union was to ensure greater effectiveness for the mission of Mercy.

For administrative purposes (canonical and civil) the amalgamated Congregation structurally comprises six Provinces - four in Ireland, one in Kenya and one in South Africa. There is a smaller group (called a region) of the Congregation in the United States. These structures are the subject of further review following the 2018 Congregational Chapter.

2021 A Year On The Edge - Covid 19

During 2021, Sisters of Mercy South Central Province continued to follow the HSE guidelines to protect staff and members from the ongoing impact of Covid 19. The continued presence of viral infection was a cause of apprehension and concern especially in the early part of the year. With the advent of the roll-out of vaccines, a collective sigh of relief was drawn. While we were not out of the wood with the first vaccination, it brought with it a sense of light at the end of the tunnel.

Prior to lockdown on 13 March 2020, a comprehensive set of guidelines was drawn up for Mercy SCP to deal with all the health and safety aspects of Covid. This was done by our Human Resources and Health & Safety personnel and advisors. These guidelines continued to be observed through 2021.

Throughout 2021, the community services usually engaged in by the Members of the Province, i.e., pastoral care, visiting elderly and house-bound parishioners, volunteer teaching in schools, visiting centres for refugees and migrants seeking asylum, chaplaincy in prisons and the many other ways the members assist the life and well-being of their immediate locality in town and city life were continued where possible, digitally.

When the majority of staff and members received two doses of vaccine and the possibility of a booster, the gradual return of some services was enabled with face-to-face meetings.

Visits to elderly etc. were still on hold and restrictions of visits to nursing homes still prevailed. Praise and gratitude are due to all staff and members who steadfastly and faithfully followed requirements and restrictions, thereby limiting the impact of the pandemic. Increased medical costs due to Covid continued as a fact of life during 2021.

MERCY MISSION

“The mission of the Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy bears witness to the compassionate and merciful love of God. Our administration of temporal goods expresses the Gospel call to justice, charity and almsgiving. We use material goods for our common life, for the various apostolates of mercy and for the needs of the Church especially the poor and deprived.”

Constitutions 104 (1985)



OBJECTS OF THE CHARITY

The main objects of the Charity are the advancement of religion, the alleviation of poverty, through the promotion of charitable activities.

The Charity aims to support the religious and other charitable works carried out in the name of the Province and to care for the members of the Province throughout their lives.



PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Trustees consider that the aims and activities of the Charity illustrate that the Charity is of public benefit.

Public benefit is delivered through religious activities, overseas aid, ecological awareness and a variety of services provided to families, older people and children, especially to people experiencing poverty.

The beneficiaries are the people of the Republic of Ireland and of other parts of the world through our response to needs in developing countries. We reach out to those in need worldwide without making distinction on grounds of age, gender, sexual orientation, disability, nationality, ethnic identity, political or religious opinion.

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of the Charities Act ROI 2009.

ACTIVITY PROFILE







In 2021 given the age profile of the members, most are officially retired from paid employment and dependent on pensions¹. At the same time almost every Sister who can, makes some contribution, however small, among others to promoting religion by prayer, to **alleviating poverty** through pastoral work in parishes, justice work, social work and the support of missions outside of Ireland. Internally those who are more active share responsibility for the care of older members as local leaders, nurses and activities animators. Towards the end of 2021 a very tentative gradual re-opening of inter-community interaction and involvement with marginalised groups in their local areas was encouraged. The interaction was minimal.

Eight Sisters are involved full time in internal **administration in the Province**: five as Trustees exercising leadership responsibility for the whole Province, one as Provincial Treasurer; one as HR and Employment Co-ordinator and one as Stewardship Co-ordinator. Two other members work in administration at Congregational level while a further two sisters are members of the Congregational Leadership Team.

¹ The members of the Province voluntarily donate their earnings (mostly pensions with a very small number of salaries and stipends) to the Charity and therefore have no independent means of support. Many give their services voluntarily in their various ministries and continue to do so well beyond the normal retirement age. Where the Charity has identified a critical need for a service for which no funding is available, it has released a member who would otherwise be in paid employment to work in a **voluntary** capacity or for a small stipend.

Role of Trustees

With regard to Sisters' lives over the year 2021 the Trustees aimed to:

-  Enable all members of the Province to further the mission of the Congregation.
-  Support and resource those who engaged in “active” ministry.
-  Value the prayer ministry of all especially older, infirm and housebound members.
-  Ensure adequate supports and care for ageing and frail members.
-  Support Mercy partners and those trust bodies and companies who carry forward work initiated by members in the past.
-  Collaboration with other groups having a similar vision.

OBJECTIVE A – ADVANCEMENT OF RELIGION

Introduction

The advancement of religion, the nurturing of faith and the spiritual dimension of life is of prime importance to the Sisters in the Province. All aspects of the Charity's work are rooted in the Christian faith commitment of the members. Apart from their own prayer life, most Sisters actively contribute to the promotion of spirituality in various ways. The work in this area is mainly carried out with the local faith community.

Congregational Living

Covid 19 in 2021

During the past year due to Covid restrictions, connections to prayer groups, parishes and community centres were mainly carried on through phone contact, WhatsApp or Zoom, by listening to, having conversations with and alerting people contacted to useful articles, on line retreats, scripture courses, webinars and other spiritual resources on websites as well as praying with people. We look forward in hope to a renewal of our face-to-face service in this area which began in late 2021.

Nurturing Spirituality

Sisters of Mercy are committed to daily personal prayer and each local Mercy community determines the pattern of communal prayer that suits its situation. Participation in prayer ministry (such as retreat work, meditation, prayer and reflection groups in parish and community contexts) contributes to the wellbeing of people spiritually and mentally and to the up-building of community.

Our growing awareness of the profound mystery at the heart of the whole of Creation and the sacredness of all that exists has enriched our spirituality and changed our lives in many ways.

Mercy Centre of Spirituality and Human Development, Coolock, Dublin

The Mercy Centre of Spirituality in Coolock provided digitally based prayer services for significant celebrations during 2021 through reflective 'animotos' during the year. These were offered to the members of the province, Mercy Associates and local parishes.



Animoto sample inspiration from online

OBJECTIVE B – HEALTHCARE AND COMPASSIONATE CARE OF THE SICK

Introduction

2021 - Involvement in Health Care

We were never more aware of the wonderful contribution our healthcare workers make to our lives as we were throughout 2020 and 2021 and indeed continue to do so. Their expertise and support were invaluable as they helped the Trustees to manage the demands imposed by the Covid pandemic. Although the average age of the members of the Province is 80, thankfully, no member died from Covid. This was due in no small way to the excellent care, selfless generosity and unstinting care rendered by our nurses and care givers.

Voluntary work in health and pastoral care carried out by our members to people in their local areas was put on hold due to the restrictions imposed by the Covid pandemic.

Related Health Care facilities

The **National Rehabilitation Hospital, Dun Laoghaire (NRH)** has been in the trusteeship of the Congregation since its foundation in 1961. In the early years of the new millennium the Sisters of Mercy decided to seek a voluntary trust to take on its trustee responsibilities in the NRH. In 2009, the Sisters of Mercy (as part of its voluntary contribution to the State for Redress) offered the State (HSE) the hospital site, subject to a long lease back to NewCo, a not-for-profit company, which agreed to carry the trusteeship of the National Rehabilitation Hospital into the future. The hospital site offered to the State, valued at the time at €10 million, was recognised as an area suitable for the functioning of a modern rehabilitation facility. Phase 1 of a new ‘state of the arts’ hospital was opened at the NRH in June 2019.



In 2021, Mercy SCP still continues to carry the burden of substantial

legal costs as it endeavours to see the completion of an agreed long leaseback between the HSE (for the State) and NewCo CLG. The negotiations, started more than ten years ago, are still ongoing. At the time of writing this report we still await the final signing off of the lease between NewCo and the HSE. In 2021 there were legal costs to the Charity of €69,699 as these protracted discussions continue.

Nursing Home Care

The Charity owns and operates two Nursing Homes, Catherine McAuley House, Beaumont, Dublin, and Catherine McAuley House, Limerick. During 2021, these homes were the focus of much attention by the Trustees because of the ongoing adjustments required to continue the battle with Covid 19. The Nursing Homes were also a source of increased expenditure for the Charity because of medical requirements at this time. Once again, the work of the frontline staff in these homes went far and above the call of duty. The fact that no resident in either home died from Covid in 2021 is due to the excellent care afforded by the administrative staff and the carers in these nursing homes.



Care of Older Members

At the end of 2021 we note that 92% of our members are over 70. In some larger communities and in our nursing care units, lay people are being increasingly employed to cater for the Sisters' needs. Facilities Management Companies in four areas -North Dublin, South Dublin, Limerick, North Tipperary / Birr and Ennis, oversee care, catering and maintenance in community houses in view of our own diminishing capacity. These communities are seen as assisted living communities.



Oversight of Facilities Management Companies

Weekly and monthly meetings are held with the management companies by HR and stewardship personnel together with local leaders and members of the Trustees. The purpose of these meetings is to evaluate the services provided and to control spending. The Trustees meet company management twice yearly for general oversight of the services.

As well as the Facilities Management Companies many of the Sisters who are active, help in co-ordinating supportive and pastoral roles in assisted living houses.

OBJECTIVE C – ALLEVIATION OF POVERTY AND ECONOMIC HARDSHIP THROUGH PROMOTION OF EDUCATION, JUSTICE AND OTHER CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

*‘The Sisters of Mercy were born into the Church
as the ‘walking nuns’
who sought to alleviate and eradicate
pain, want and misery.’*

Constitutions 42 (1985)

Introduction

The Sisters of Mercy aim to honour their mission in changing circumstances through responsiveness to changing needs, an enlarged consciousness of global poverty and its causes and by using our international network.

We make our contribution to the alleviation of poverty through:

- ✚ enabling members to carry out meaningful **social and pastoral work** based on the needs of the local community and on their own expertise, skills and energies;
- ✚ supporting morally and financially charitable work carried out by **other agencies** for the benefit of those who are disadvantaged;
- ✚ supporting the empowerment of people of all ages who experience poverty and marginalisation;
- ✚ continuing to raise **awareness of social and ecological injustice**;
- ✚ encouraging a **collaborative** and **networking** approach to addressing poverty and disadvantage.

It is the objective of the Charity to support through its human, financial and other resources the charitable works carried out in the name of the Province. This objective, rooted in the priority outreach of the Province to those who have been disadvantaged and marginalised by society, is enabled through co-operation and sponsorship.

*‘In the spirit of Catherine McAuley
standing with people who are needy and marginalised
will always be a priority for us’.*

Constitutions 43 (1985)

Activities in this area are grouped under the following headings:

Promotion of Education

Justice, Peace and Reconciliation

Overseas Development and Support

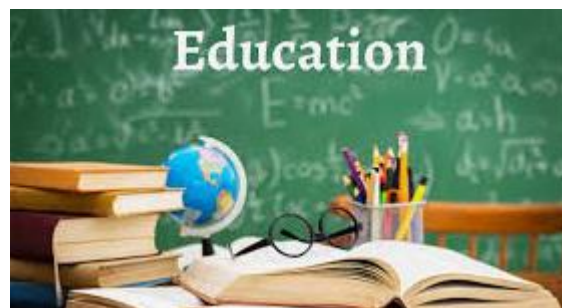
Supporting Other Charities and Groups

Pastoral and Social Care and Development

Involvement in Critical Global and Local Issues

Promotion of Education

Providing access to education has been central to the work of the Sisters of Mercy since the foundation of the Congregation. The provision of formal education was a major ministry of the Charity for over 180 years. Special care and attention were given to children from families that were economically and environmentally stressed or deprived. Mercy schools adapted to meet emerging needs of the society and aimed to be centres of creativity, innovation and academic excellence.



All but one of our teaching Sisters have now retired from full time classroom teaching and from positions of leadership in schools. In 2021 Sisters who are serving on management boards at primary, secondary and tertiary level did so via zoom.

TRUSTEESHIP OF PRIMARY EDUCATION

In 2021 the Sisters continued to exercise trusteeship of the enterprise of education in the schools linked to St. Paul's Special School, Beaumont and Hospital School, Temple Street Children's University Hospital, Dublin.

The trusteeship of the enterprise of education in Catherine McAuley School and Scoil Chaitríona, Baggot Street, where Catherine McAuley opened a school in 1827, is transferred to the Archdiocese of Dublin. The Charity retains the ownership of the property because of its heritage significance to the Congregation and its close proximity to the founding house.

The Charity retains the trusteeship of Doon Primary School, Co Limerick (because of impending amalgamation). Negotiations are under way to transfer the trusteeship of Killaloe Girls Primary School to the Killaloe Diocese. The enterprise of education in these as in all other primary schools once under the trusteeship of Mercy SCP has been transferred to the relevant diocese.

TRUSTEESHIP OF SECONDARY EDUCATION

CEIST



CEIST exercises the Trustee Responsibilities formerly held by five Religious Congregations (of which the Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy is one) and supports the good governance of the 107 secondary schools in the Trust. All meetings of CEIST

trustees went on line for 2020 and continued into 2021.

EDUCENA

The EDUCENA Foundation works with the CEIST Trust to enable the resourcing of trusteeship of Catholic post primary education in Ireland, managing and optimising the financial resources that will be needed into the future to fund the work of CEIST. It has now secured the transfer to its balance sheet of fifteen schools in the SCP and in conjunction with Mercy SCP will continue to oversee the legal work involved in transferring the remainder of the schools.

The task of transferring the schools involves considerable work on the part of the Charity's trustees and their legal and property advisers. It is also very costly.

Both CEIST and EDUCENA have revised their Constitutions so that they are completely in line with the requirements of the Companies Act of 2014.

COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

In 2021 South Central Province continued its role as Joint Trustee of four Community schools/colleges along with the ETB (Education Training Board) in Kilrush Co Clare, Kilkee Co Clare, Rathkeale Co Limerick and together with the ETB and the Archdiocese of Dublin in Tallaght, Dublin. CEIST acts as agent of the Province in exercising active trusteeship of these schools and the Province covers the costs involved.

TRUSTEESHIP OF THIRD LEVEL EDUCATION

The Mercy SCP link with Mary Immaculate Training College is maintained with the Provincial Leader having the discretion to nominate three Trustees and three members of the Governing Body.

The Provincial Leader is also a Member of the Bonaventure Trust whose objective is the funding of theology and theological research development in Mary Immaculate Training College.

These links continued through zoom meetings in 2021.

ARCHIVES

Introduction

The purpose of the archives service in Mercy South Central Province, located in Booterstown, Co. Dublin, is to ensure that a record of the lives of the Sisters in the Province, their mission, ministries and works is preserved. The Mercy story links into the Irish social history of the last two hundred years, particularly the areas of education, nursing, religious education, prison chaplaincy, and social work with particular focus on the disadvantaged in society.

2021

Several Sisters throughout the Province assisted the archival work, most of which was carried out remotely during this year because of Covid 19 restrictions. This included updating the official register, researching records queries, collecting annals written in each community, gathering-in personal papers of Sisters, dealing with archival material when a convent closed, writing and preserving obituaries for sisters who died, processing and arranging all material which comes to the archives and keeping financial accounts of expenditure.

FUNDING FOR MINISTRY SUPPORT

A fund for ministry support is set aside from the overall donations budget of the Charity and is administered by a committee who meet quarterly to consider requests. Its work is overseen by the Trustees. In 2021 an allocation of €30,000 was made available to this Fund. These monies in general were allocated to assist students in further education, apprenticeships with college fees and educational resources, and others in situations where economic hardship was being experienced.

Justice, Peace and Reconciliation

Awareness Raising on Social Justice and Ecology

Introduction

'Let ours be a time remembered for the awakening of a new reverence for life, the firm resolve to achieve sustainability, the quickening of the struggle for justice and peace, the joyful celebration of life' (Earth Charter, the Hague 2000)

Since our Congregational Chapter in 2000 we have undertaken to extend our Mercy call today to embrace a growing awareness of the interconnectedness of the whole community of life and we have been motivated towards ecological justice and practical action in favour of the sustainability of the Earth. The most recent Chapter (2018) of the Congregation re-iterated the commitment to standing with people who are needy and marginalised and particularly affected by climate change. Much of our current work is with groups who are particularly disadvantaged by this modern threat to life. We have undertaken to promote right relationships with all people and all of life.



We work together with other groups in addressing ecological and social justice issues. All meetings around ecology continued to be held via zoom in 2021.

Justice Advisory Group



In the Mercy South Central Province a justice advisory group meets a number of times every year to discern and plan how to raise awareness of injustices and to suggest possible responses. The members communicate regularly with local communities and organise workshops on particular justice issues. These workshops are cost free and open to all. In

2021 most meetings were on line. The weekly internal-to-the-Province Noticeboard newsletter is frequently used to encourage good practice and give practical tips in the area of ecological responsibility. Each year, on World Food Day, the group draws attention to inequality in the world. Communities are regularly encouraged to fast and contribute financially to projects in developing countries.

Overseas Development and Support

*'Belonging to the Universal Church,
missionary in her very nature,
we seek to incarnate the mercy of God,
according to the limits of our resources, in missionary countries.'*
Constitutions 45 (1985).

Brazil Mission

The Mercy Sisters have had a presence in Paraiba, North East Brazil since 1982.

A member of the province shared the difficulties wrought by the Covid 19 pandemic alongside the people among whom she lives in Campina Grande. She is the only Sister of Mercy and the only Irish person in this city. Her adult literacy classes and the Hope Foundation providing back to education opportunities have ground to a halt. There is no government funding for the adult literacy project and this work depends exclusively on donations. Work at the recycling centre and the manufacturing of soap and small enterprises continues at the time of the writing of this report. Numbers of people are coming to the sister's place of residence regularly looking for food. Adult education recommenced in February 2022, the beginning of the school year in Brazil.



The Trustees of the Sisters of Mercy SCP donated €4,000 to this project over and above the Sister's support and maintenance.

The Province owns two houses in Campina Grande. One is for residential use and the other is a ministry site.

Pretoria and Soweto

A Sister from the South Central Province returned from mission in South Africa in June 2021.

While in South Africa she was based initially in Pretoria and was involved in providing counselling services to residents in Mercy House, a refuge for women survivors of domestic abuse and trafficking as well as to students of St John Vianney Seminary. During this time, she also worked in



Oasis, a support centre for those attending the HIV/AIDS clinic at the local Tshwane District Hospital.

In 2021 the Covid 19 pandemic continued in South Africa and the country was placed under strict lockdown at intervals bringing severe hardship to those already marginalised. In response to this immediate need, an informal feeding scheme was set up, with the help of donations from the Sisters of Mercy South Central Province. This scheme provided food daily to fifty local homeless people for six months until restrictions were eased. As both Oasis and the Seminary had to close under lockdown, our Sister spent a number of months on the psycho-social team at Gilead Mental Health Unit and Hospice run by Tshwane Leadership Foundation (TLF) an NGO which caters for the city's most vulnerable population through its ten projects. TLF's activities include women's' refuges, outreach work, drop-in centres, transitional housing, social skills training, palliative and geriatric care and social housing.

Having relocated to Soweto the Sister became involved in Kliptown Youth Program (KYP) which provides educational, psycho-social, nutritional and practical supports to over 700 children within Soweto's oldest and most neglected informal settlement. Kliptown is home to over 44,000 people, it lacks basic utilities, has over 75% unemployment, high rates of teen pregnancy, HIV/AIDs, addiction and food insecurity. 'From Poverty to Opportunity' is the KYP motto and their aim is to enable young people to have dreams and hope for the future despite their living conditions.

Supporting Other Charities and Groups



In 2021, the Sisters of Mercy South Central Province donated €8,000 to Adapt Domestic Abuse Services in Limerick.

This donation was used to provide ongoing emergency supplies for families that were accommodated in the service refuge. During 2021 the service accommodated eighty-seven families in the refuge, many of whom remained there for the year. Most of these families come into the refuge without social welfare payments, so for the first couple of weeks in refuge the service provides them with emergency food, clothing, bedding, toiletries, nappies etc. This donation assisted the service by enabling it to support these families and to ensure that their basic needs were being met.

Bedford Row Family Project - Limerick

In 2021, the Sisters of Mercy SCP donated €40,000 to the Bedford Row Family project.

Bedford Row Family Project supports families affected by imprisonment. Children are the priority in their work with families.

The donation from the Sisters of Mercy South Central Province had a significant positive impact on families in Limerick, in particular the children. The focus of the Bedford Row Project in 2021 was:

- A Kids Club outreach which delivered baking goods, chalk etc. to children's doors. Projects were organised engaging children in art, games, dinner, chats and fun. Trips were organised like kayaking on the River Shannon, followed by a picnic and horse riding.
- A 6-week course was organised within the Prison for mothers serving a sentence. This helped the women to recognise how their own childhoods impacted on their parenting. It helped to heal fractured relationships and put a sense of fun into video calls to family.



The Friday Art club continued with community education and completed a wall mural on the premises taking many months to complete. A former inmate of Limerick Prison who is now in the 3rd year of a Social Care Course co-ordinated the group and is an inspiration to many in recovery.



Community Law and Mediation – Limerick

In 2021, the Sisters of Mercy South Central Province donated €15,000 to Community Law and Mediation, Limerick.

Community Law and Mediation Limerick is an independent law and mediation centre which provides free legal information,

advice, advocacy and representation in areas of law for Housing Issues, Social Welfare, Wills (advice only), Debt, Consumer Issues, Homelessness, Employment, Access to Education, Family Law (advice only) and Equality. The service is free and available to people living in the regeneration areas & to residents of other disadvantaged areas within Limerick City.



**Community
Law & Mediation**
LIMERICK

The work of the Community Law and Mediation Service has a profound impact on the lives of those unable to access justice and housing. In 2021, the service has grown their free legal advice service from solicitors by 30%. In the provision of access to justice, their free advocacy service grew by 34% in 2021. In total 973 people availed of the service in 2021. Parts of Limerick are blighted by 60% unemployment and in these areas of regeneration, the service assists the communities in accessing justice and their legal rights and entitlements which otherwise would be denied to them as there is no legal aid to cover the areas of law that the service works in, e.g., housing and homelessness, access to education, social welfare and equality.

Doras Luimní – Limerick

In 2021 the Sisters of Mercy South Central Province donated €20,000 to Doras Luimní.

The funding was used to keep direct support service for asylum seekers, refugees and migrants operational throughout 2021. It was used to pay staff and to cover other associated costs for their Advice and Information Centre. The services are available free of charge to everyone, regardless of their status or situation



The service consisted primarily of phone and online support for a lot of the year, due to Covid-19 restrictions. The service's work revolves around helping people access their rights and entitlements. This is done by providing information, advocating on their behalf, and making referrals to service providers and other organisations. Their services in 2021 included immigration advice; English, IT skills, and wellbeing classes; providing access to health care, including mental health supports and services; education and employment assistance; assisting victims of racism; family reunification related services; and specialised support to victims of human trafficking.

The Family Resource Centre, Inchicore

Sisters of Mercy South Central Province donated €13,000 (€10,000 in June and €3,000 in October) in funding to The Family Resource Centre in Inchicore in 2021. This money supported very valuable work carried out by the team there, with the extremely vulnerable and marginalized families in the Inchicore area. The Family Support Worker identifies the needs and works with An Garda Síochána and other voluntary and statutory agencies, to alleviate poverty, addictions, violence, hunger and abuse.



The funds also supported an initiative called 'Collective Raising the Spirit Events' which addresses the very real challenges created by Covid-19. The Family Resource Centre is very much on the front line, fighting injustices and believe that the Sisters donation is an essential contribution. It is also an act of solidarity with those experiencing oppression, because they live on the edge of society.

Mercy Law Resource Centre – Cork Street Dublin 8

In 2021, the Sisters of Mercy donated €80,000 to Mercy Law Resource Centre, Dublin (MLRC).

This financial support offered the centre the opportunity to provide services as 2021 continued to be a challenging year for those grappling with the burden of homelessness, on whose shoulders the weight of the pandemic continues to rest heavily. The work of the Mercy Law Resource Centre, in offering free legal aid and representation to such vulnerable people to help them access safe and secure housing is more vital than ever during these difficult times. This funding has enabled the MLRC to maintain its essential services throughout the disruptions of this year.



St. Stephen's Green Trust

In 2021 the Sisters of Mercy donated €10,000 to St. Stephen's Green Trust.

St. Stephens' Green Trust is a charitable foundation which respects human dignity and is committed to helping create a society where the dignity of all can be realised through social justice and inclusive, nurturing communities. The donation from the Sisters of Mercy South Central Province is used for the Connecting Communities Programme. This programme supports families and children living in direct provision centres to participate in their communities. The work of the Stand Up Speak Out programme which amplifies the voice of asylum seekers and refugees themselves, particularly in the decisions which affect them is also part funded by the Sisters of Mercy South Central Province.



Candle Community Trust – Ballyfermot Dublin 10

In 2021 the Sisters of Mercy South Central Province donated €15,000 to this Charity.

Candle Community Trust provides a range of educational, developmental, and therapeutic services to young people in Ballyfermot, Dublin 10. Candle has been collaborating with the Sisters of Mercy, South Central Province, over recent years. The Sisters have been truly remarkable in their



approach to Candle and its work. In meetings with the Board, staff, and young people the Sisters of Mercy brought a listening, attentive and supportive presence and came to see Candle as an embodiment of the mission to which they too are dedicated, namely the care of those who are marginalized. They recognize in Candle an organisation that resonates with their own heartbeat and expression.

The Board, management and staff at Candle are indebted to the Sisters for their generosity of heart. However, it is the young people who receive services who are particularly grateful, as many young hearts are transformed and restored through the provision of services that would not be possible without this collaboration with the Sisters of Mercy.

CHILDREN'S GRIEF CENTRE

The Children's Grief Centre, is located at the Convent of Mercy Westbourne, Ashbourne Avenue, Limerick. The brain child of a Sister of Mercy in Limerick, the Centre was founded in 2009 to meet the needs of children and young people affected by loss through death, separation and divorce. Since the time it was founded the Children's Grief Centre has supported over 1,400 children.

The core values of this Centre include a compassionate heart, a safe space and a listening ear. The Centre also strives to be an advocate for grieving children, teens and families by increasing awareness within a wide variety of community settings. The staff of the Centre provide education to many schools, community groups and other local organisations.

During 2021, because of the restrictions imposed due to the Covid 19 pandemic, the services of the Centre have moved online. Through its website, the service has provided plenty of reading materials to help parents, teens and children to cope with the restrictions caused by the pandemic.

At present, the Centre is based in a wing of the Convent of Mercy Westbourne and the charity supports the outreach of



the Centre with a space within which to work, and the provision of the necessary utilities.

The Children's Grief Centre is in the process of becoming a Company Limited by Guarantee. The service is located in a property called The Ladies Residence which belongs to Mercy SCP. It is hoped to transfer this property to The Children's Grief Centre in the future. The Children's Grief Centre Board is in the process of renovating the property to render it suitable for the continuance of its work.

Pastoral and Social Care and Development

Introduction

The Charity has always been concerned with promoting pastoral and social development initiatives and responding to the particular needs of the time and place in line with Gospel values. Many of our Sisters actively support voluntary groups and befriend individuals who tend to be marginalised. Today, these include homeless people, prisoners and their families, travellers, refugees, asylum seekers and migrants. There has been a strong tradition of providing hospitality to people in need who call to the convent door. While the need has lessened in many areas or is met by other agencies, there are a number of convents which continue to provide this type of support.

In 2021, as in 2020 all of this work has been put on hold except for what could be done remotely or on line.

Outreach to the elderly and housebound

In many of the areas where Sisters of Mercy have lived there is a strong tradition of keeping in contact with elderly people, especially those who are housebound, living



alone or incapacitated. This sometimes involves providing a service such as grocery shopping or accompanying people to medical appointments. Some Sisters engage with active retired groups. Others regularly visit day care centres and community hospitals. All this work was on hold in 2021 due to Covid 19.

Pastoral Care of Prisoners and their Families:

From the earliest days of the Congregation, Sisters have been involved in prison work. Sisters who play some role in the pastoral care of prisoners include:

- ✚ a number who visit those in prison;
- ✚ others who keep in contact with a particular prisoner by letter or personal visits;
- ✚ some who befriend those who have served sentences or support family members of those who are in prison;
- ✚ Some members continue to work in prison chaplaincy;
- ✚ One Sister works with the Irish Commission for Prisoners Overseas.



During 2021 anything that could be done in this area was done on line.

Support of Past Residents of Industrial Schools

The Sisters of Mercy were engaged in the care of vulnerable young people since the opening of Baggot Street in 1827. This involvement continued through the years in more formal settings such as orphanages, industrial schools and group homes. Many young people maintained contact and friendship with Sisters who had been their carers in childhood and members in turn provided informal after care services and supports. In light of revelations of the harshness of regimes in industrial schools in the past, the Congregation established a Helpline and Counselling Service in 1996. This was taken over



and expanded by CORI the following year and operated as 'Faoiseamh' until 2011. Then it was replaced by the service called Towards Healing, a One Church service financed jointly by AMRI and the Irish Bishops Conference for former residents and their families. In total to date the Charity has given €2.6 million to the

funding of this counselling service. In 2021, €40,000 was given to enable a healing response through Towards Healing. Individual former residents have been helped to access other preferred counselling services and engage in ongoing education courses on request during 2021. Also, many former residents who experience economic hardship are helped financially through difficult periods of their lives.

The services of the Congregational and Provincial Archivists and their staff as well as the services of Provincial administration staff are constantly available to past residents of our institutions who seek their records. The numbers seeking these records increased exponentially in 2021. All requests were handled through the Congregational Archives and the Provincial Administration offices.

Collaborating with St. Vincent de Paul Society



The charity supports the St. Vincent de Paul Society through regular donations at national and local level. In 2021 the Province donated €3,000 to the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Local communities and individual Sisters make further contributions in their local areas. A number of our Sisters also serve as volunteers or contact persons with the St. Vincent de Paul Society in towns and cities around the Province.

Involvement in Critical Global and Local Issues

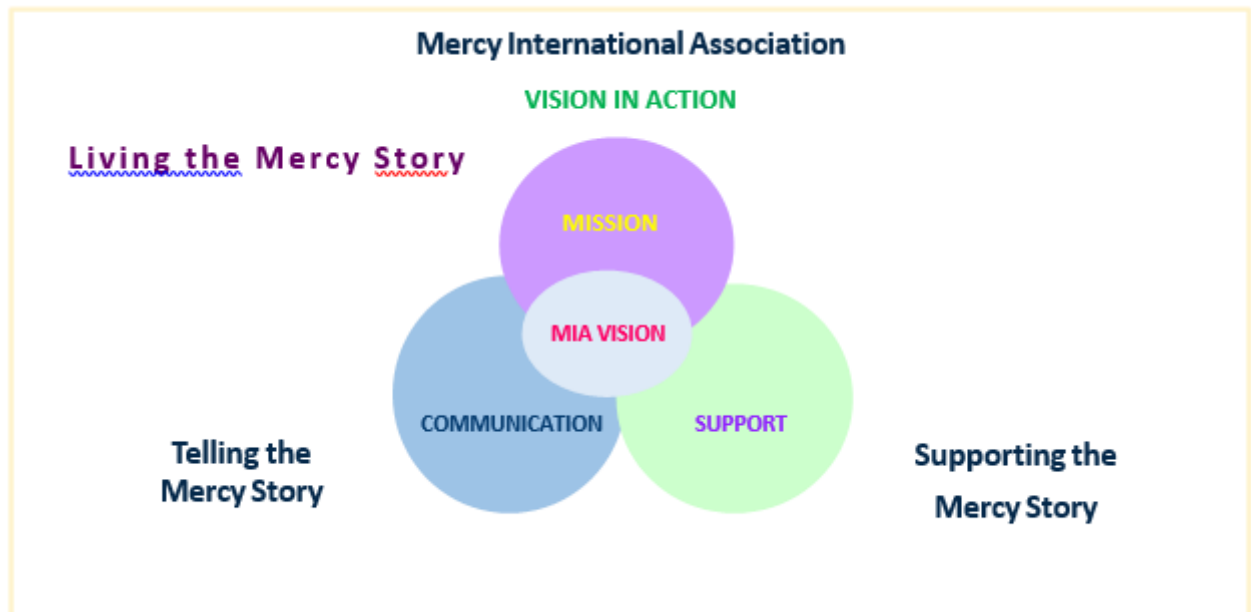
Introduction

The global aspect of Mercy collaboration gives life and hope to all involved – it underlines the power of each individual when we remember that one person, Catherine McAuley, had the initial dream.

Mercy International Association

The leaders of Mercy Congregations around the world work together to share some aspects of the common work of the Sisters of Mercy. The diagram below shows its purpose.

Mercy SCP for its part contributes financially and with personnel to the overall Global effort to communicate the vision of Catherine McAuley and to put it into action.



The emphasis in 2021 was on **Mercy Global Presence** which had as its focus a global world where there will be a Mercy global presence and in a world of displacement **Mercy Global Presence** will **champion inclusion**.

In addition to placing Mercy Global Presence at the heart of the Vision, there is an emphasis on the place of **all members of the Mercy Family— Sisters, Associates, Colleagues and partners in Mercy** in creating this reality and during 2021 we embraced this vision.



In 2021 engagement with the process, **Mercy Global Presence**, was very significant and the availability of on-line technology enabled gatherings of hundreds of people across the Mercy World.

The Resources for this process are the work of the Sisters of Mercy and Lay Colleagues. They comprise Visuals, Reflections, and Art Work. These Resources are timely, accessible and in 2021 continued to be shared digitally with schools and parishes and among the Sisters themselves. They present a global overview, a shared concern and education for our time.

Mercy Global Action (MGA) operates from an **Office in the UN headquarters in New York**. Key to the work of MGA is **networking, co-ordination and animation** which require that we as Mercy women work in partnership with, in particular Mercy Congregations, as well as other networks including **faith-based justice organisations and civil society organisations** at all levels.

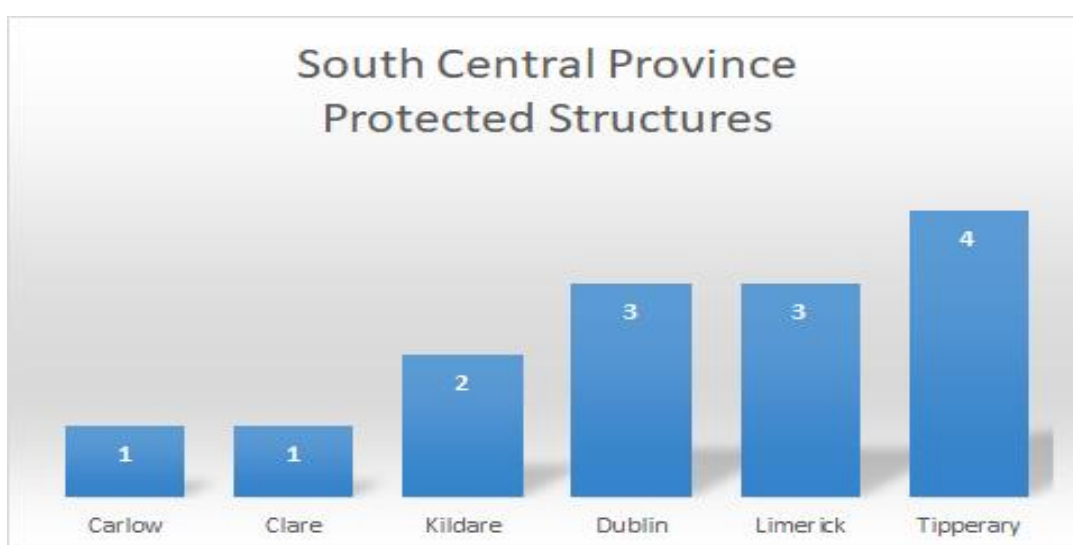
One Sister from the South Central Province works full time in the Heritage and Spirituality Department of Mercy International Centre.



OBJECTIVE D: HERITAGE AND UPKEEP OF LISTED BUILDINGS

Introduction

Some of our older convents are listed buildings which the Charity is obliged to maintain. It was determined that, while there are a number of historical and listed buildings included in the assets of the charity, none of these are held and maintained principally for their contribution to knowledge and culture, and therefore, in the view of the Trustees, no assets satisfied the definition of heritage assets under Charity SORP (FRS 102).



There are fourteen protected structures in South Central Province. The Charity has an obligation to ensure that no aspect of the listed structure is endangered. When refurbishment needs to be carried out on any of these buildings more stringent planning laws are applied by the local planning authority. Certain repair works that are normally routine on a building may require planning permission on a protected structure. Sourcing expertise and materials for renovation can be costly. During 2021 no major upkeep projects were undertaken.



St. Mary's Convent, Nenagh

Cemeteries are also a focus of care. Mercy South Central Province has an overall plan to see that all cemeteries under its jurisdiction are kept in good condition and are prepared as low maintenance sites.

FINANCIAL REVIEW 2021

A summary of the year's results can be found on page 44 of the accounts. During the year, total income amounted to €15.9m (2020: €14.5m). This was made up mainly of the salaries, pensions, gratuities and tax related income earned by the Sisters and donations. The other major items include nursing home income of €3m (2020: €2.9m), gains on disposal of tangible assets of €2.6m (2020: €979k), and investment income of €333k (2020: €282k).

The cost of raising funds of €461k (2020: €415k) has increased on the prior year due mainly to the increase in the value of the investment portfolio.

Expenditure on charitable activities of €15m is very slightly up from €14.9m in 2020.

Congregational living costs fell by €194k, some of which related to COVID19 restrictions. Healthcare costs increased by €492k, mainly due to the extended use of facilities management companies and increased nursing home costs. Relief of poverty, promotion of education, justice and other charitable activities decreased from €719k to €634k, mainly due to the decrease of €48K in support of other charities/groups.

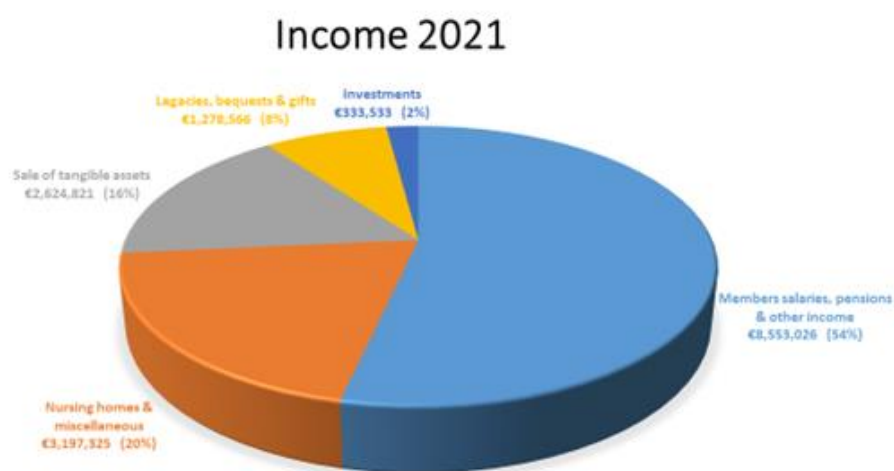
Included under support of other charities/groups in 2020, was the write off of a loan of €100k made to Ballyhoura Rural Services Company Limited by Guarantee. During 2021, property in Doon was transferred to this Company, to be used for charitable purposes. In the event of the property being disposed of within a period of ten years from the date of transfer, the loan would have to be repaid. No consideration was received for the transfer of this property.

Upkeep of listed assets costs for the year were €435k (2020: €429k).

Resources expended totalled €15.4m (2020: €15.4m). Investment management fees were €421k (2020: €366k) and governance costs were €185k (2020: €363k).

There were net gains on investments of €12.9m (2020: €3.3m). This reflects the incredibly strong performance of the investment markets during the year. However, international investment markets started to fall significantly during 2022. By the end of September 2022 these falls had resulted in a reduction in the value of the investment portfolio of €11.9m (12.7%). This is an unrealised loss and reflects the value of the investments at a specific point in time. The portfolio is held and managed for the long term and it is likely that over time this loss will be reversed.

There were net resources of €508k (2020: expended €916k). This was before the net gains on investment assets, which when taken into account results in a net increase in funds in the year of €13.4m (2020: €2.4m).



Investments

At 31 December 2021, the Charity had fixed and current investments of €94.4m (including cash deposits of €3.9m) managed by professional investment management firms. The purpose of the investments is to assist in funding the promotion of the charitable objectives of the Charity, by generating income and other gains, while limiting risk to capital depletion. The objective is to generate, over time and taking market conditions into account, a return which exceeds the rate of inflation.

The majority of the investment funds are under the management of J & E Davy and State Street Global Advisors Europe Limited and are managed under discretionary mandates within risk parameters agreed between each Investment Manager and the Charity. Investment Managers have been instructed to avoid investing in companies which fall foul of certain ethical criteria and, where possible, to favour stocks of companies that provide a positive benefit to society.

The Charity invests in a socially responsible manner and views its investments through the prism of ESG or Environmental, Social and Governance. The Charity seeks to deploy its capital to companies that are addressing climate change, that have strong corporate governance practices and that have a lower carbon footprint. In recent years, the Charity has invested in companies that are focused on long term global sustainability as well as in green and social bonds issued by Ireland and other European governments.

The Trustees, with their investment advisors, review the investments on a regular basis.

Policy on Reserves

At the end of the financial year, the total funds of the charity amounted to €133.4m. A sum of €26.2m is represented by properties and other fixed assets essential for the running of the charity. The Trustees have designated another €83.5m to provide for mission and ministry works and the care and welfare of the members. The general fund of €23.7m represents unrestricted funds available at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the charitable objectives of the Charity. Details are given in note 22 of these Financial Statements. The funds will be reviewed annually and transfers made where necessary.

Unrestricted reserves reconciliation	At 1/1/21	Utilised/ realised	Transfers	At 31/12/21
Tangible fixed assets and intangible assets	28,447,928	-2,213,279	0	26,234,649
Congregational Living	27,821,102	7,905,795	-11,686,896	24,040,000
Healthcare	16,777,500	930,887	6,291,613	24,000,000
Other Ministries	31,016,606	4,847,523	-388,130	35,476,000
General fund	15,921,152	1,947,102	5,783,414	23,651,668
	119,984,288	13,418,029	0	133,402,317

An actuarial review has been performed as of 31 December 2021 with a view to assessing the future reserve requirements of the Charity in relation to Congregational Living and Healthcare. A previous review of this nature took place in 2014 and assessed the future reserve requirements across all the designated reserves. There have been a number of changes in assumptions in the intervening period, including the impact of changes in inflation and other variables, and on foot of the latest review a number of transfers between designated reserves have been made by the Trustees to reflect the latest estimate of funds required to meet future obligations.

Purposes of designated funds:

Tangible fixed assets and intangible assets fund

The tangible fixed assets and intangible assets fund represents the net book value of the Charity's tangible and intangible fixed assets. The reserve recognises the fact that the assets are required for the day-to day work of the Charity and that the fund value would not be easily realisable if needed to meet operation costs or future contingencies.

Congregational Living

The congregational living fund consists of funds that the Trustees have designated to provide for the costs related to Congregational Living - the advancement of Religion into the future. An actuarial review has recently, October 2022, been undertaken to consider these costs and it was estimated that €24.04m would be required to be set aside in order to provide a modest sum per Sister for this purpose.

Healthcare

The healthcare fund consists of funds that the Trustees have designated to provide for the costs of healthcare and the compassionate care of the sick and those in need into the future. An actuarial review has recently, October 2022, been undertaken to consider these costs and it was estimated that €24m would be required to finance these costs.

Other Ministries

The direct ministry fund consists of funds that the Trustees have designated to provide for the support of direct ministry into the future. These ministries include relief of poverty, promotion of education, justice, upkeep of listed assets, and other charitable activities. The allocation of the required funding to Other Ministries, after Tangible fixed assets and intangible assets, Congregational Living and Healthcare, should be 60% of the remaining funds. This was approved in the 2014 review. Following the latest review €35.5m has been allocated to the fund, on this basis.

General Fund

The general fund of €23.6m represents unrestricted funds available at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the charitable objectives of the Charity.

FUTURE PLANS

The Provincial Leader and Team will continue to give attention to their governance responsibilities as Trustees of the Charity.

They will review needs and spending plans and make every effort to manage the existing assets as efficiently as possible in order to generate the income necessary to achieve the Charity's aims.

The Charity plans to continue to give support to various works of the Charity, to their members who work in them, as well as to their colleagues and collaborators with whom they work.

There will be continuing commitment to the on-going care of the members of the Charity. Concern for frail older members will require the ongoing review of community houses and the assessment of their suitability for ageing communities. Where necessary Nursing Home Care will be accessed for Members requiring full-time care.

Charity-wide objectives 2022:

- Ongoing engagement with review of life and the mission in the context of the 2018 General and 2019 Provincial Chapters. Supporting and resourcing those who are actively engaged in ministry and caring for elderly and frail members.
- Collaboration with the Mercy International Association and Mercy Global Presence to examine the themes of eco justice and social justice and to plan for action in furtherance of the Mercy mission.
- Providing opportunities for our communities, associates, colleagues and others to grow in continued awareness of eco-justice issues.
- Supporting organisations / projects that respond to the housing crisis in Ireland, the situation with refugees/migrants, prisoners and justice issues. Collaborating with AMRI on these and relevant issues
- Reviewing Health and Safety measures in the Communities and Buildings with professional assistance.
- Reviewing our accommodation strategy: We will continue to respond to falling numbers and increasing age profile, making the necessary adjustments in the provision of accommodation and care.
- Ensuring compliance with the policies and procedures of the National Safeguarding Office of the Catholic Church and our statutory obligations in the areas of child safeguarding and vulnerable adults. Ensuring compliance with all statutory requirements for good governance.
- Collaborating with the Congregational Leadership Team and other Provinces in developing and implementing policies that ensure compliance with all relevant State law and our own Constitutions.

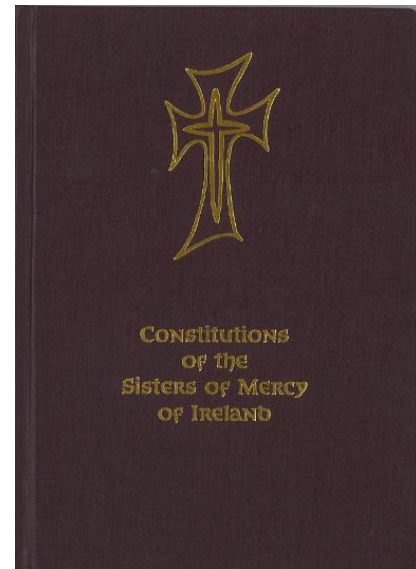
STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Introduction

Nature of Governing Document

The governing instrument of the Province is the Constitutions of the Sisters of Mercy which was adopted by the General Chapter of the Congregation in August 1994 and approved by the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life (Rome) in April 1995. The Province, as noted above, is one of four Provinces in Ireland and is an unincorporated association.

The governmental structure of the Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy involves a number of inter-connected units: Local, Regional, Provincial and Congregational. The nature of the authority in each unit is described in the Constitutions. The Province is a major unit of the Congregation having the personnel and other resources to support its own life, mission and membership.



Method Adopted for Appointing Trustees (Provincial Leadership Team)

The Charity is governed by the Provincial Leader and the Provincial Leadership Team who are elected by members of the Province (at a Provincial Chapter) and approved by the Congregational Leader and her Team. Their term of office is six years. The Provincial Leadership Team, who are the Trustees of the Charity, are based in the Provincial Office, Oldtown, Sallins Road, Naas, Co Kildare. Members of the Provincial Leadership Team are chosen for their expertise and skills as well as their experience and knowledge of the Congregation, its nature and mission.

All Trustees are members of the Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy and as such their living and personal costs are borne by the Charity. They receive no remuneration for their services as Trustees.

Organisational Structure and Decision Making

The Provincial Leader and members of her Team are the Trustees of the Charity. With regard to decision-making, the Trustees take responsibility for the overall running of the Charity, in accordance with the Constitutions. The Trustees meet on a regular basis to review developments with regard to the Charity and its activities. Every six years an extended meeting, called a Chapter, is held. It is representative of all the members. It is a period of reflection, evaluation and planning, during which the participants assess the current reality, develop policies, set directions and elect leadership.

During 2021 the Trustees attended formal training courses organised by the Charities Regulator, PwC, ABRI, AMRI, L & P, and Mason Hayes & Curran on the duties of Trustees. They seek guidance and advice as necessary from their legal, investment, property and other advisors on the issues which arise in carrying out their duties. In addition, the Trustees have established a number of advisory groups. The function of these groups, whose membership includes men and women with a range of relevant expertise, is to advise the Trustees on different aspects of stewardship and the general management of the assets of the Province.

There are systems of accountability operational throughout the Province. At the six yearly Chapter meeting the Trustees make a general and financial report to the members. The Provincial Treasurer is appointed by the Provincial Leader with the consent of her Team. The Provincial Treasurer administers the affairs of the Charity/Province under the direction of the Provincial Leader and her Team. The majority of the income of the Charity/Province comes from members' pensions and to a lesser extent from salaries and stipends, sale of property and income from investments. The salary, stipend and pension income are voluntarily donated by the members to a common fund, administered through the Provincial Stewardship office.

Collaboration and Partnership

It is the policy of the Charity to work in partnership and collaboration with their ministry colleagues, with statutory and voluntary bodies, and with other religious congregations, parish and diocesan groups in serving the local and wider community. In some instances, members are employed by these organisations, whilst in other cases they work as volunteers.

Risk Management

The Trustees are committed to ongoing risk assessment and monitoring. This process is supported by our financial advisory committee, who work closely with the Trustees in this area. The Risk Policy for the Province forms part of the Governance Code.

In 2021, the finance advisory committee looked at the risks the Charity faces and reviewed the measures already in place, or needing to be put in place, to deal with them.

The Trustees have identified four areas where risks may occur:

- Governance and Management
- Operational
- Financial
- Laws and regulation



Governance and management consider the efficiency of the Trustee body. Risks considered include a lack of planning, a Trustee body which lacked sufficient skills or appropriate decision-making procedures. Such risks could include a lack of training / induction or poor stewardship of resources – human, financial and property. The Trustees have addressed these risks by operating both annual and longer-term plans, holding regular Trustee meetings which include the monitoring of actual performance against these plans, having meaningful induction / handover for incoming Trustees, attending Trustee training days, seeking third party advice as required.

In 2021, a comprehensive course in Leadership Training led by the Kinharvie Institute in Glasgow, Scotland was undertaken by the Trustees themselves and twenty two leaders in the Province.

Operational looks at the risks inherent in the Province’s activities including the operation of its Nursing Homes and assisted living houses – and the risk of any members being engaged in inappropriate activities, possible unsuitability of buildings, poor maintenance, shortcomings in the services provided, difficulties with staffing, poor health and safety standards, lack of a disaster recovery policy.

The Trustees are assisted in the above by financial and legal advisors, the finance advisory committee, HR and Health and Safety personnel. There are also others who assist the Trustees in the management of appropriate risks. These include: property advisors, investment advisors, the Stewardship Co-ordinator, the Safeguarding Committee and the Health Care Resource Group.

The Province has a full time Human Resource Manager who during 2021 continued to monitor compliance with employment law and conducted workshops on good practice across the Province. She oversaw the management of issues arising from Covid 19 restrictions and health and safety issues. She also provided training in health and safety

at regular intervals. Her involvement was greatly increased during periods of lock-down during the pandemic.

Financial considers the financial capacity of the Charity and ensuring it has the available financial resources to continue to carry out its activities both now and in the years ahead. This incorporates the management of the operating (day-to-day) position, capital or building requirements and the returns earned on the Charity's investment portfolios. These risks are mitigated in a variety of ways, including budgeting, the setting of an investment strategy / investment objectives that consider diversity, prudence and liquidity criteria, regular financial and investment reporting against budget, cash flow planning and the appointment of a Financial Controller. The Finance Advisory Committee met regularly via zoom in 2021.

Laws and Regulations looks at the effects of government policies, the consequences of non-compliance with laws and regulations, and poor risk assessment.

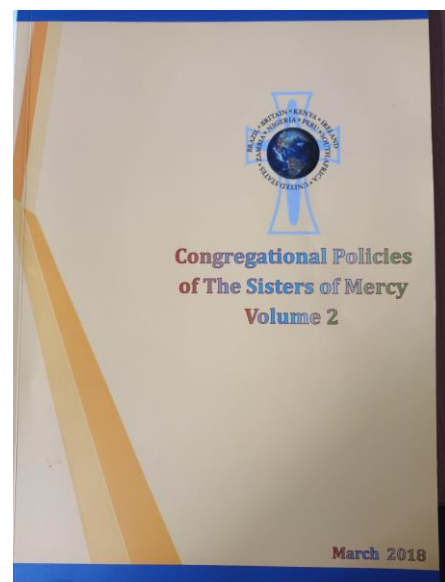
Having assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed the Trustees believe that they have established effective methods to mitigate the risks:

- obtaining appropriate professional advice and engaging the services of a financial controller;
- monitoring and, where appropriate, ensuring the operational and business risks faced by the charity; and
- developing policies, procedures, systems and controls.

The situation arising from the invasion of Ukraine by Russia post year end, and the consequent sanctions imposed on the latter, are generating impacts on the global economy. In this new context, the world economy is affected by increases in the prices of raw materials and energy costs, as well as by growing tensions in the supply chain. In the period post year end, we have seen the volatility in investment markets, which has been largely caused by this situation impact on our overall investment valuations. Aside from this the situation in Ukraine has not had any significant impact on our organisation's cost base, however the trustees will continue to monitor this situation as it evolves.

Congregational Policies

The Trustees, in collaboration with the Congregational Leadership Team, ensure that policies and good practice guidelines are developed, circulated and implemented and that these are regularly evaluated and updated. The Trustees have taken steps to ensure that the Province is fully compliant with all legislative requirements. Policies are updated on a regular basis. An updated handbook of policies was published in 2018.



Safeguarding

Since the mid 1990's the Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy has had a Safeguarding Policy in place and it has been reviewed regularly. The policy aims to encourage adequate awareness and best practice among all members of the Congregation, and those working with them, to ensure that all children and vulnerable adults are safeguarded from abuse of any kind. The Charity is committed to a culture of safeguarding and to ensuring compliance with best practice in this area. The Trustees are proactive in complying with civil and ecclesiastical requirements for safeguarding. The Trustees review annually the implementation of its Safeguarding Policy and Procedures and this process is subject to monitoring by the Central Leadership Team and the NBSCCCI (National Body for Safeguarding of Children in the Catholic Church, Ireland). A part-time safeguarding manager is employed by the Charity.



Property

Introduction

“For the sake of our Mercy mission, the Congregation and each Province has the right to acquire and possess, to administer and alienate property, temporal goods and revenues according to the norms of universal law and these constitutions, with due respect for civil law.” Constitutions 119 (1995)

“We value the resources of the earth as gifts of God and use them in a spirit of stewardship ... In the spirit of religious poverty we seek to balance concern for our future with support and compassion for poor and needy people.” Constitutions 118 (1995)

All our possessions are held in trust for the mission of the Congregation. As property trustees we aim to promote the mission, addressing the needs of our members and other needs in the wider community.

The relevant professional advice is taken into account in the areas of leases and agreements, protected structures, planning, health and safety legislation, acquisition, refurbishment and disposal of property and all legally binding issues and transactions. The Province has Property Advisors to give advice and make recommendations on issues relating to property when requested by the Provincial Leadership Team.

Most properties are currently held in one of the following property holding companies:

- Sisters of Mercy SCP Company Limited by Guarantee
- The McAuley Trust SCP Company Limited by Guarantee
- Mercy Trust SCP Company Limited by Guarantee
- Misericord SCP Company Limited by Guarantee

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Name of Charity:	Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, South Central Province
Charity Number: CRA Number:	CHY 1566 20002305
Address of Principal Office:	Provincial Office, Oldtown, Sallins Road, Naas, Co. Kildare W91A5 RK
Provincial Leadership Team:	Sr. Brenda Dolphin, Provincial Leader Sr. Patricia O’Meara, Assistant Provincial Leader Sr. Margaret Prendergast Sr. Nóirín Long Sr. Ailish O’Brien (appointed October 4, 2021)
Provincial Treasurer:	Sr. Mary Monica Smalle
Independent Auditors:	PricewaterhouseCoopers Chartered Accountants and Statutory Audit Firm 1 Spencer Dock North Wall Quay Dublin 1
Principal Bankers:	Allied Irish Bank Bank Centre Ballsbridge Dublin 4 Bank of Ireland Main Street Blackrock Co. Dublin
Principal Investment Managers / Financial Advisors	J & E Davy Davy House 49 Dawson Street Dublin 2 State Street Global Advisors Europe Limited 2 Park Place Upper Hatch Street Dublin 2

Solicitors:

Mason Hayes & Curran Solicitors
South Bank House
Barrow Street
Dublin 4

Patrick J. Farrell & Co. Solicitors
Newbridge
Co. Kildare

Martin, Tynan, O'Donovan Solicitors
78 O'Connell Street
Limerick
V94 8X68

Kerin, Hickman & O'Donnell Solicitors
2 Bindon Street
Ennis
Co Clare

Nash, McDermott & Co. Solicitors
Templemore
Co. Tipperary

AJP McDonald Solicitors
30 Upper Pembroke St.,
Dublin 2

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the financial statements of the Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy South Central Province.

The Trustees are required to prepare financial statements for each financial year that give a true and fair view of the Charity's assets, liabilities and financial position as at the end of the financial year and of the surplus or deficit of the Charity for the financial year. The Trustees have prepared the financial statements in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland (accounting standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council of the UK, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland*) and the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to Charities preparing the financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), (Charities' SORP (FRS 102)).

The Trustees shall not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the Charity's assets, liabilities and financial position as at the end of the financial year and the surplus or deficit of the Charity for the financial year.

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards and identify the standards in question, subject to any material departures from those standards being disclosed and explained in the notes to the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to:

- correctly record and explain the transactions of the Charity;
- enable, at any time, the assets, liabilities, financial position and surplus or deficit of the Charity to be determined with reasonable accuracy; and
- enable those financial statements to be audited.

The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

On behalf of the board



Sr. Brenda Dolphin



Sr. Patricia O' Meara

21 October 2022