



# *Of Service to Others*

*Sustaining the Spiritan Mission for the Next Century*



**An Tobar**  
Spiritian Spirituality Retreat Centre



# THE SPIRITANS IN IRELAND



Greetings,

This year, on the Feast Day of our founder, Claude Poullart des Places (2<sup>nd</sup> October), we will launch our new website. We are excited about this as it will be a platform to demonstrate our impact in society at home and overseas, and complement our campaign '*Of Service to Others*'.

We hope that this brochure gives a taste of the positive effect of our work. Since we were established in 1859 our missionaries have been serving communities in areas of entrenched poverty and deprivation. We have a proven track record in implementing effective relief and development projects.

For our website launch, we will have guest speakers from our missions, schools and Spirasi. There will be more information about the planned ways to sustain our legacy and preserve our ethos into the future. Please welcome the invitation when it arrives and join us on the day via Zoom.

Best Wishes,

*Martin Kelly*

Fr Martin Kelly, C.S.Sp.  
Provincial



# MISSION IN IRELAND AND ABROAD



***We are part of a Global Spiritan Mission which is represented in 56 countries. Here in Ireland our mission in education is governed by the Spiritan Education Trust (SET). Spirasi is our social justice project and has over 20 years' experience supporting migrants in Ireland who are victims of torture.***

## ***Our Schools, a source of resilience, community and hope...***

The first educational community of our founder Claude Poullart des Places was rooted in prayer, high standards of education and social outreach. Today Spiritan schools in Ireland are striving to follow this example. We are committed to providing our schools with opportunities to immerse themselves in the Spiritan ethos, at home and overseas. Each day we educate over 5,000 young men and women in the Spiritan way of life. We are honoured and proud to be part of their journey as they will carry our legacy into the future.



Blackrock  
College



Holy  
Family  
Community  
School



Rockwell  
College



St.  
Mary's  
College  
Junior  
School



St.  
Mary's  
Senior  
College



St.  
Michael's  
Senior  
College



St.  
Michael's  
College  
Junior  
School



Templeogue  
College



Willow  
Park  
Junior  
School



Willow  
Park First  
Year

## ***Spirasi, our 'mission' at home...***

Spirasi serves migrants who fled torture and severe trauma. In the past 18 months alone, the organisation has seen a 25% increase in the number of people utilising its services across the country. Given that almost 50% of all those seeking asylum in Ireland have previously experienced torture, this number is not surprising. Spirasi is recognised by the HSE as the main provider of treatment for those who have these painful experiences. Service users are increasingly spread out across the country. We must spread too, to provide wider access to effective rehabilitation.



## ***Our missionaries overseas, needed more than ever...***

Our missionaries serve communities in areas of entrenched poverty and deprivation. We introduce impactful projects in areas in need of relief and development, and support the locals in sustaining them. Men like Fr. Pat Clarke (pictured right receiving Presidential Distinguished Service Award in 2019), continue to make an impact on the daily lives of the vulnerable.



During the COVID-19 pandemic, Father Pat and colleagues supplied food and medical provisions to those most in need in the shanty towns and 'favelas' in São Paulo, Brazil. This response has been in place since 24<sup>th</sup> March. Essential supplies have been given to over 12,500 families (50,000 people) in 35 deprived districts.



Brazil has been the worst affected country in South America during the pandemic, and it is also our largest mission.

# OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE



*As a congregation we are always looking ahead, especially in our mission of addressing the needs of those vulnerable and poverty-stricken at home and abroad. We need your support in raising awareness of the work that we do.*

To ensure that we provide leadership to future generations and serve those most in need, we are focused on two expressions of mission, which we believe reflect our ethos and values: **Spirasi** and **Overseas Mission**. Spirasi needs to meet the demand on its service regionally and our missionaries overseas are consistently challenged in the ability to financially sustain their mission. **As we are at a critical point in supporting these projects we have launched a campaign called 'Of Service to Others'.**

We remain committed to our schools as part of developing Spiritan mission, especially as they engage with the next generation of young adults. The work done in immersing students in our values enhances not only their lives but also the lives of those most in need. They will carry the legacy of our congregation into the future.

## *Leading by example at this extraordinary time...*



Join us on **2<sup>nd</sup> October** for the launch of our new website via Zoom. You will receive an official invitation by the end of September. Please share it on social media.



Offer your support through donations or regular commitments on our current website. [www.Spiritan.ie](http://www.Spiritan.ie) or click [here](#)



Get involved in meaningful ways. We are always looking for support and volunteers in Spirasi. Please click [here](#) to find out more.



Pray for the success of our efforts.