



Le Chéile Update

February 2010

Le Chéile AGM and Conference Edition

Volume 3 Issue 2

Special points of interest:

- First Le Chéile AGM—4th February 2010
- Schools and Patrons are now members of Le Cheile
- New Board of Directors appointed
- The President of Ireland, Mary McAleese pays tribute to the Le Chéile founders and schools
- Inspirational address by Fr. Michael Drumm
- Very positive feedback from conference workshops
- The Student voice adds a special dimension to the Conference

Le Cheile in Spirit and in Action

The founding of the Le Chéile Trust represents a significant innovative development in the provision of Catholic education in Ireland.

In her address to the inaugural Le Chéile Schools Trust Conference, the President of Ireland paid tribute to the many priests, brothers and nuns who brought high quality education to every corner of the country.

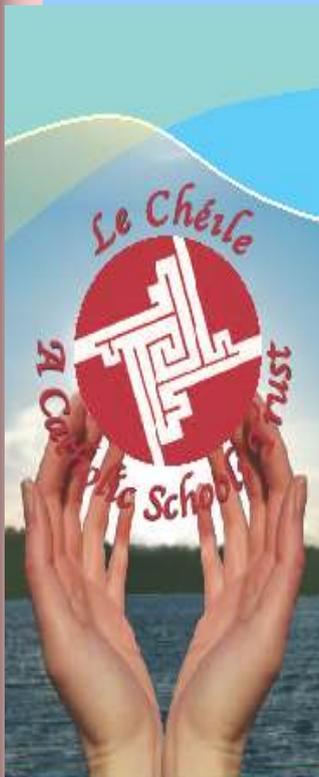
“The founding congregations have come together in a very positive and proactive way creating new clusters of collaborative endeavour which will ensure that the schools can not only continue into the future, but can do so dynamically and energetically fired by the charisms and rich cultures which each congregation represents but also driven by the synergies that Le Cheile offers. This new partnership allows each partner to draw on the strengths, skills and talents of the other, enhancing rather than diluting the unique identity of each.

This is not a moment for looking backwards and seeing closed doors. It is a time for focussing on opening the doors in the present that will let the future in. So the Trust is about today and tomorrow, about a healthy and sure future but one which readily acknowledges its indebtedness to all those whose past work built the platform from which Le Chéile is launched.”

“You have been crucial drivers of quality education and enhanced quality of life for countless Irish men and women. Through Le Chéile you are ensuring that into the future, your school communities will offer the very best education to the pupils from all backgrounds and of all abilities whose parents place their trust in you”.



“The choir is but one of many ways in which this new trust brings together diverse talents, experience and history to bring a strong, sustainable platform for the future”



LE CHÉILE TRUST

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“I wish you every success with the precious mission of engraving well on our children's lives.” (President Mary McAleese)



A Blessing

When you travel,
A new silence
Goes with you,
And if you listen,
You will hear
What your heart would
love to say.

A journey can become a
sacred thing.

Make sure, before you go,
To take the time
To bless your going forth,
To free your heart of bal-
last
So that the compass of
your soul
Might direct you towards
The territories of spirit
Where you will discover
More of your hidden life;
And the urgencies
That deserve to claim you.

May you travel in an awak-
ened way,
Gathered wisely into your
inner ground;
That you may not waste
the invitations
Which wait along the way
to transform you.

(Extract from *For the Traveller*, In Benedictus by John O'Donoghue)

Summary of Address by Fr. Michael Drumm

Full text available on www.lecheiletrust.ie

The good news, the gospel, is that Jesus Christ is the saviour of the world. He is not just another person who lived a good and kindly life, he is the saviour. Jesus' ministry revolved around bringing healing and hope into a broken world.

The Christian message is based on the belief that God is somehow present in the midst of life's difficulties. We cannot solve all of life's problems. We must try our best but we are not messiahs. You and I cannot save the world. This, strangely, is the good news. This is a liberating message. Because once we acknowledge that we cannot do everything then we are freed to begin to do something. Like Jesus, we are called to bear witness to the reign of God in our midst.

In your schools every day you are encountering difficult issues in the lives of staff, students and parents. The question is how to respond; what to do?

The call of Christian discipleship demands that we always seek to lift the burden. Whether this means helping people to stand up and walk on their own, or exorcising their fear of the unknown, or exploding their minds through education, or feeding them when they are too weak to feed themselves, or opening their eyes to the reality of life, or challenging them to let go of hurts and prejudice, or liberating those who are unjustly oppressed, or introducing them to ever greater horizons of transcendence and beauty, or unsealing their ears to hear the divine echo in their hearts, or unleashing their hope for the future, or sowing the seeds of eternal life, the healing ministry of Jesus is continued as 'the blind see again, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised to life, the good news is proclaimed to the poor' (Luke 7:22). To teach as Christ taught means inviting people to live without the crutch or the grudge or the closed mind. Catholic education invites people to become Christ-like in their lives so that the reign of God might continue to dawn in our world, that is in our personal lives, in our families, in our communities, in our society, and, yes, in our schools. The task of Christian leadership is not to bemoan all that is wrong with us and our lives but to have the eyes to see that even in the midst of a sad and difficult world the seed of God's Word is bearing fruit in ways that we could never have imagined. I hope that when you return to your schools to continue your work in leadership that you will have eyes to see in an ever new and deeper way. And then you might have something of the energy and the words to truly incarnate God's reign in our midst.

Members of Le Chéile Schools Trust Ltd.

A Register of Members has now been formed, comprising two people nominated by each school's Board of Management along with two members of each congregation. Company members use their best endeavours to promote the object and interests of the Company

The objects of the Company are:-

- ◆ to develop Catholic education and oversee its implementation in the Schools
- ◆ to provide through the Schools a holistic education, that caters for the spiritual, emotional, physical, social, aesthetic and intellectual development of the students
- ◆ to ensure that education in the Schools is imparted in an environment where students are inspired and enabled to direct their lives in accordance with Gospel values and to contribute to the overall good of society.



Le Chéile Board of Directors



**"Together we will join as one family in Christ,
As we journey on this path united
We'll hold fast, A new beginning,
A new day"**

(from *New Beginnings*, composed by Ian Callanan for the Le Chéile schools)

The choir was conducted by Tricia Feighery, Music teacher, St. Dominic's College, Cabra.



The students' forum was planned and facilitated by teachers Claire Flatley, St. Pauls. Greenhills, Kate McCarthy, St. Dominic's Cabra, Michelle Byrne, St. Mary's Holy Faith, Glasnevin, Gary Abrahamian, Manor House and Jennifer Boland, Our Lady's Templeogue.



Students report back from their Forum: "Building Community—it starts with me!"



Presenting feedback—what actions will we take in our schools to make it an even better place for all students? Students from Muckross, FCJ Laurel Hill Coláiste, FCJ, Laurel Hill, Cross and Passion, Scoil Pól and Our Lady's Templeogue, with the co-ordinator, Ms. Claire Flatley.

The Working Group

Members of the congregations, facilitated by David Tuohy SJ, met on a monthly basis over the past seven years planning and preparing for the Le Chéile Schools Trust.



(Back row) Gerarda Lawler, Bríd Roe, Cormac Commins, Antoinette Keelan, Eilis NíMhongáin, Carmel Murtagh, Mary Lalor, Rosemary Magner, Cara Nagle, Maeve Guinan and Pat Collier.

(Front row) Maire NíSuilleabhain, Marie Conningham, Una Collins, Kathleen Neenan, David Tuohy, President Mary McAleese, Anne Murray, Catherine Sheehan, Mary O'Connor, Maria Dunne and Anna Houlihan

Workshops

Adults were invited to participate in one of four workshops

Special Thanks to David Tuohy

The Le Chéile community thanks David Tuohy for his facilitation and project management.

Parents and the Le Chéile Vision

**Clare Ryan, Principal,
St. Leo's Secondary School, Carlow**

The role of parents in Le Chéile schools: this workshop explored communication strategies and parents' involvement in school structures and policy development.

WSE – Management, Leadership and Learning (MLL) – the experience!

**Gerard Wrigley, Principal,
Maryfield Secondary School, Glandohar Road, Dublin 9**

In this workshop Gerry shared his school's experience of the pilot WSE -MLL and led discussion on school self evaluation, ethos and the inclusion of parents and students in the evaluation process.

Nurturing the Personality of the Teacher and Working with Different Gifts

**Michael Ryan, Senior lecturer
Tipperary Institute.**

Using the framework of the Myers Briggs Type Personality (MBTI), this workshop offered participants an invaluable resource with which to understand different gifts presented to us by different personality types. It provided participants with a tool and a language to improve their own effectiveness and an improved capacity to work with the different gifts of their colleagues.

Adventuring with God: Spiritual intelligence for the harassed teacher/principal

Dr. David Tuohy and Seán Goan

This workshop explored three elements of personal spirituality and how they are linked to work in schools. Participants had the opportunity to reflect on their images of God, their sense of call and journey and to understand the importance of these elements in the life of others and of the school.



Check out www.lecheiletrust.ie for podcast of the Choir, the President's address, Fr Michael's Drumm's address, photos and other Conference information

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