



Le Chéile Update

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POINTS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

- **Dual company structure clarified.**
- **Transition Education Office to be set up next year**
- **Charter to be adopted at May 21st Meeting**
- **Congregations celebrate founders**

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From the Working Group

Beannachtaí na Féile! Seo chugaibh an dara imitir faoi obair Le Chéile. Gheobhaidh sibh anseo eolas faoi imeachtaí riaracháin na h-iontaobhaithe. Chomh maith le sin, tá nuacht againn ó chuid do na scoileanna.

The Working Group continues to focus on the development of the structures of Le Chéile. At present, our focus is on the Charter and the legal issues around the two companies. We are also looking at issues of finance and insurance, and we hope to have a new insurance deal for the schools early next year,

Over the past few months, we have focused on the consultation process. We have had cluster meetings on the launch of the Charter. Many of the group have attended school meetings and Board of Management meetings as part of the follow-up to that consultation. We are

currently planning for the plenary session on May 21st in the Bloomfield House Hotel in Mullingar.

The Working Group has also been active in preparing for meetings with the Shadow Council, which further advanced the legal and practical issues. One particular outcome of that day was the decision to set up a Transition Education Office next year with a view to taking on some of the practical and administrative work in helping congregations and schools prepare for the formal setting up of the new Trust.

In March, we also held a full-day consultation with the Leadership Teams of all the congregations. They heard reports from David Tuohy on the progress made over the past year. They were happy

to see how much has been done and how the dream is now much closer to reality. It was also an opportunity for them to share perspectives on practical issues.

The leaders were also happy to see the Newsletter in place, and encouraged the new identity that will arise from shared knowledge. They encouraged us to find ways of sharing information on what is happening in the different schools and congregations.

The Easter season brings celebration of resurrection and new life. This is a fitting theme for our work as we now seek to put a structure on our vision for the future of the schools and, like the disciples in the gospels, work with renewed energy in telling the Good News.

Rath Dé ar an obair.

LE CHÉILE CONGREGATIONS

Christian Education	FCJ	Patrician
Cross and Passion	Holy Child	Poor Servants
De La Salle	Holy Faith	St. Louis
Dominicans	Jesus and Mary	St. Paul

TO ADOPT A CHARTER



**MAY 21st, 2008
BLOOMFIELD HOUSE
HOTEL
MULLINGAR**

consultation with the Board of Management, the staff and parent groups. They are to report to the Trustees by May 1st. On May 21st, there will be a meeting of the Trustees and the schools in which we hope to formally adopt the Charter. Each Board of Management is asked to appoint two representatives to that meeting.

The Charter

The draft version of the Charter was launched at a series of well attended cluster meetings in early February. The initial reading gave rise to some lively debate, especially on the practical implications of some of the values.

At the cluster meetings, the schools agreed to appoint individuals to coordinate the

Legal Developments

The working group is currently examining ways to ensure that schools are represented at Director level in the Le Chéile company.

A Transition Education Office will be set up next year to help Congregations and schools prepare for the formal setting up of the Trust

The Shadow Council affirmed the direction of the new Trust as having a dual company structure. The two companies will be called Síol and Le Chéile. Síol will be responsible for property and finance, and Le Chéile will work directly with the schools. Each company will be limited by guarantee.

COMPANY STRUCTURES

A company limited by guarantee is a non-profit making company. The Members guarantee a set sum of money (usually the nominal amount of €1) to the Company. This sum is fixed so there is no possibility of profit by the Members by means of selling their stake. The maximum liability of the Members is the amount of their guarantee.

In company law, each company has members and directors. The members own the company and are ultimately responsible for it. They need meet only once a year at an Annual General Meeting, although they can meet more often at an EGM (Extraordinary General Meeting) if the need arises. At their meetings, they appoint directors (who do not have to be members) to run the company and they take key decisions about company policy.

The work of the company is guided by its Memorandum of Association and Articles of Association. These are lodged in the Companies Registration Office. When the objects (aims) of the company are for charitable purposes, and the promotion of religion and of education are recognised for this purpose, the company can apply to the Revenue Commissioners for charitable status.



In practical terms, charitable status means that the company is exempt from income tax, some aspects of capital gains tax, corporation tax, deposit interest retention tax, capital acquisition tax and stamp duty on a transfer or lease of land.

The relationship between the two companies is defined in a separate agreement between them.

FUNDING COMPANY (SÍOL)

Each Congregation will appoint two members to this company. They in turn will appoint a Board of Directors. This Board will include

some of the members, and possibly some other people with specific expertise to help the company.

ENTERPRISE COMPANY (LE CHÉILE)

The main work of the Trust with the schools will be carried out by Le Chéile, through a dedicated Education Office. The membership will be made up of those appointed by the Congregations (24) and those appointed by the schools (approximately 100). Each Board of Management will appoint two members. Each of the members will have the same rights and responsibilities. The members will appoint a Board of Directors. We are currently looking at a structure for the Board of Directors to ensure representation of the schools at director level.

LINKING AGREEMENT

The two companies will enter into a legally binding agreement with regard to the level of funding to be provided by Síol to Le Chéile, and how the two companies will work together to support one another, while at the same time, promoting the Charter. This may include appointing a director and setting up a Joint Committee to deal with areas of mutual interest.



TRANSITION EDUCATION OFFICE



The Shadow Council has agreed to set up a Transition Education Office next year to help the Congregations and the schools get ready for the new Trust. The main work of the new office will focus on property issues—ensuring that maps and boundaries are clear.

The office will also focus on insurance issues, especially completing the valuations of the different properties with a view to working out a better insurance deal for the schools..

Next year will see further consultation with the schools to develop protocols associated with budget reporting and the Working Groups hopes that the communication strategy with the schools can be expanded.

Shadow Council Meeting

The Shadow Council held its second meeting in the Regency Hotel in February. The delegates were pleased to hear that the consultation on the Charter was under way. They affirmed the basic structure of the draft document, and made some comments on its format and content. They were confident that the feedback from the schools would be helpful.

The Shadow Council also worked on the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the two companies. They approved the Memoranda of both, and made some suggestions about the final membership, structure and mode of decision-making in the Articles of Association. These amendments are now with the solicitors for consideration.

As Charitable status will only be given when the companies are incorporated, the Council proposed that congregations set aside their contributions to the Trust Fund as ring-fenced amounts which will be handed over to the Trust when it is incorporated. This was agreed. Therefore, from April 1st, the Trust Fund has at least a nominal existence.

The Council also approved a proposal to separate the school properties from the congregations' insurance policies and consolidate them in the one insurance package. They agreed to having all the properties valued under the same system to ensure that there is no under-insurance. The new insurance arrangement will be negotiated with Allianz and the existing brokers and hopefully will be in place next year.

The Council also recognized that the amount of practical work involved in the setting up of the Trust now requires that there should be a dedicated office to assist the congregations and the schools in new developments. It was agreed that the Working Group should seek such an office for next year and that it would employ people in that office as it saw fit.



Congregational Leadership Teams at work

FCJ Sisters Celebrate 150th Anniversary of Foundress



This year, 2008, the Congregation of the Sisters Faithful Companions of Jesus, (FCJ) an international order of religious women, celebrate the 150th anniversary of the death of their foundress.



**Venerable Marie Madeleine D'houet
1781-1858**

After several years of discernment, prayer, spiritual direction and mystical experiences, Marie Madeleine felt called by God to form a society of apostolic women who would take their inspiration from Mary and the Holy Women, especially from those who remained faithful to Jesus at the foot of the cross. The society was founded in Amiens, France, in 1820.

At present, Faithful Companions of Jesus live in fifteen countries of the world and are involved in a range of apostolic works. In all of these countries and activities they try to be a 'companion' to those to whom they are missioned – to walk with people as Jesus did. For many years the FCJ sisters in Ireland worked mainly in education.

There are FCJ sisters in Bunclody, Co Wexford, Bruff and Limerick, Cork and Dublin. Today, in response to the needs of the times and the call of the Gospel, the sisters work in education at primary, secondary and university level; hospital chaplaincy; personal and family counselling; ministry in parishes, with the travelling community, women's groups, migrants and refugees, spiritual direction and retreats.

Events to mark the anniversary include:

A gathering of students from our FCJ schools in Europe at Notre Dame in Paris for a Mass of Thanksgiving on 5 April; Language Scholarships; Public Celebrations in different areas; Poetry/ Essay competitions in our schools.

More details about the work of the FCJ congregation, and their celebrations, can be found on their website.

www.fcjsisters.org

Special Needs Unit In Holy Child Community School



Some of the students from the Special Needs Unit



In September 2004 Holy Child Community School opened its doors on a completely new venture—a unit for children with a Moderate General Learning disability. That first year started with six students and two Special Needs Assistants. A programme was devised that helped the students improve their literacy and numeracy skills and hone their practical skills in the areas of home economics, woodwork, physical education, dance, drama and music. One morning a week was spent ‘Out and About’ in the local community experiencing using public transport, shopping and trying out the local cafés! This venture was so successful that the Department of Education and Science asked that a second class be opened.

Last year the unit was officially opened by the Minister for Education and Science, Mary Hanafin. She was very flattering during her speech and congratulated the school on being at the forefront of educational initiative. At present there are 2 classes, 12 students, 2 base teachers and 6 Special Needs Assistants. Along with their academic subjects the students have access for one hour a week to a physiotherapist, an occupational therapist and a speech and language therapist.

All in all, the whole venture has been a wonderful success and has benefited the pupils in the mainstream part of the school and the staff as well as those students attending the unit. It is hoped that the success experienced to date continues long into the future.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

3rd & 4th July 2008

Patrician Brothers Seminar

St. Patrick's College, Maynooth



Celebrations in Our Lady's School, Terenure. Above, a musical presentation by students and staff. Below, students show their gratitude to sisters as Anam Cara

Religious of Christian Education

Each year in Our Lady's School, Terenure, the Fifth Years are given the task of preparing the religious ceremonies under the guidance of the RE staff. The Nun's Feast Day, Nov 21st, is always a special day on the calendar. This year it was extra special as it was the 190th anniversary of the order. Full of enthusiasm, the students set about their task of brainstorming around the theme: **The Ordinary in the Extraordinary.** This ceremony included reflection and prayer, as well as a celebration in music, song and dance performed by students and staff members.

As the sisters are not directly involved in the life of the school on a day to day basis, the Fifth Years came up with the idea of inviting each sister to become an “Anam Cara” to a year group. Their task was to visit the group and pray especially for them. The students wrote a card to their Anam Cara and told a little about themselves. The students enjoyed the experience and as part of the celebrations, presented a gift to their Anam Cara.

The sisters were delighted to accept their new mission.

