



ANNUAL REPORT 2023

And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image.

2 Cor 3:15-18



Board members

Bishop Alphonsus Cullinan
Anne Corcoran
Derry Connolly
James Mikulasik
James Sheehan
Martin Moran
Michael Sheehan

Letter from the director

If you are reading this, it is most likely that you are associated with the mission of bringing faith in Jesus to young people in Ireland, which we call NET Ministries. This is our 19th year of mission in this beautiful country. Roughly 200,00 young people have heard about Jesus, the Carpenter, who also happens to be God, who chose freely to die for us, since the first missionaries arrived here in 2004.

Every year we build on what has gone the year before. Despite all the setbacks associated with culture and covid, NET Missionaries continued to reach the young people with the Gospel of Jesus. The reality is that most meetings were not a chance encounter but a prolonged discipleship experience.

It most likely was the first time that a young Irish person met another young person who believed in Jesus enough to want to offer a year of their lives to Him. Young people need Jesus more than ever and as Saint Paul says in Romans:

They will not believe in Him unless they have heard of Him. The footsteps of those who bring good news are a welcome sound

He further quotes the psalmist when he says:

Their voice has gone out through all the earth, and their message to the ends of the world.

We are staying faithful to the call of the Lord in Matthew 28. He is showing us His approval by the fruit that we can see. Young people who we minister to come to faith in Jesus and turn their lives around. Young people in Ireland who come from a faithful home have a place away from their family where they can finally explore their belief in God, among believers!

And then there's the vocation to marriage. Young missionaries who may or may not be from Ireland are marrying, many staying here and are a light to their peers and to this nation. The number of young men and women who were once missionaries with NET and have chosen to follow the Lord in the Priesthood or Religious life and choose to stay in Ireland, is truly astounding. Many are with Orders, some are with the Diocesan Seminary. We thank God for NET and for all the fruit that He is giving us through this mission.

Dia Duit,
Tony Foy

The fruit of your giving



Road

There was a girl at a retreat who said she was an atheist. Despite the fact she did not believe in God, at the end of the retreat, she asked if she could lead the closing prayer. This young girl also said 'Even though I don't believe in God, I know He will always love me.'



Delvin

"It's been amazing to help create an environment of community for the young people in Delvin. You can tell that this community is helping them become more comfortable in being themselves."

Cabra

"The young people here are eager and so excited to have us in the schools. Young people want to encounter Jesus- they just don't know where to start."



Knockbridge

"There's been a lot of good things happening in our small groups in our Confirmation classes. There was one young boy who was so interested in how we prayed. After saying a prayer together, this student had the realisation that God actually hears us when we pray. It's been wonderful to continue to journey with him as he continues to understand more and more who God is."

Return of the Road team

We are so pleased that we have our Road team back in full operation for the first time since the beginning of Covid. Our Road team this year consists of nine spectacular young men and women from all over the world who are excited to tell the young people of Ireland about the hope of Jesus.

Throughout the year, our dedicated Road team has been quite busy. They have successfully organised retreats in secondary schools, facilitating our Surf,

Sand, Son retreats, and even extended their outreach to England, delivering retreats there.

The energy and enthusiasm of our team members, coupled with their diverse backgrounds, contribute to a dynamic and engaging approach in spreading the transformative message of hope and faith. We look forward to the continued success of our Road team in making a positive impact on the lives of young people both in Ireland and beyond.



Our retreat bookings are still open.
To learn more, please visit our website at
NETMINISTRIES.IE/BOOK-A-RETREAT

JPCatholic Mission



An opportunity we are most excited about, is our partnership with John Paul the Great Catholic University. This university is located in California, USA. We are thrilled to collaborate with JPCatholic because among all others, JPCatholic's mission is to form disciples and equip their students for mission. NET Ministries Ireland was delighted to work with JPCatholic to allow students to study abroad in Ireland for a semester while also providing opportunity for the students to go on mission in a real and

tangible way. This year, we welcomed six students from California who were ready and willing to bring Jesus to young people across Ireland. During their time here, the team was busy with all types of ministry including retreats, Diocesan events, and street ministry. The team had numerous stories of ministry worth mentioning, but one that stood out to me was of a sixth class student who was so inspired by the group of missionaries. At the end of the retreat he told the team:



I learned so much about the love of Jesus, thanks to all of you. I'm committed to opening my heart to Jesus and drawing closer to God. Let's continue spreading the word of Christ, as you've truly changed lives, especially mine.



We celebrated the JPCatholic team's three months of mission in November with a Mass of Thanksgiving. The student missionaries finished their semester with us and headed back to university to complete their studies. Please join us in giving thanks to Jesus for the gift of these missionaries and all of their great work. We hope to welcome another vibrant group of students next year to participate in this same programme.

Breaking Bread – catholic podcast

Another incredible initiative that has bloomed this year is our Breaking Bread podcast. Our Executive Director Tony and his beautiful wife, Sheena, were inspired by the many guests they have hosted in their homes over the years. They would often comment to one another how uplifted and encouraged they were from the conversations that took place around their dinner table. Tony and Sheena wished for years that

more people could share in these conversations – even if they were just a fly on the wall. After some time, they discerned that this personal desire for others to be inspired was actually a calling from God. Tony and Sheena feel so strongly that many of these conversations are for more than just themselves. After many months of prayer and planning, the Breaking Bread Podcast was born.

We hope that you will join us as we continue to learn so much from our guests about the Heart of the Father, the teachings of the Church, and how to live our daily call to be missionary disciples.

BREAKING+BREAD

It has been a pleasure to sit down with all of our guests including Archbishop Eamon Martin, Bishop Alan McGuckian, Terry Quinn, Fr. Isaac Spinharney, CFR, and John Pridmore. We hope that you will join us as we continue to learn so much from our guests about the Heart of the Father, the teachings of the Church, and how to live our daily call to be missionary disciples



Find us on your favourite platform!



Rebranding



Our NET staff have been working tirelessly on several projects to assist the team in all they are doing in the schools and parishes. A major project that we have taken on is the rebranding and design of our website. We have hired professionals to guide us in the process to make it the best as possible. We hope to launch our new website soon.

Vocations

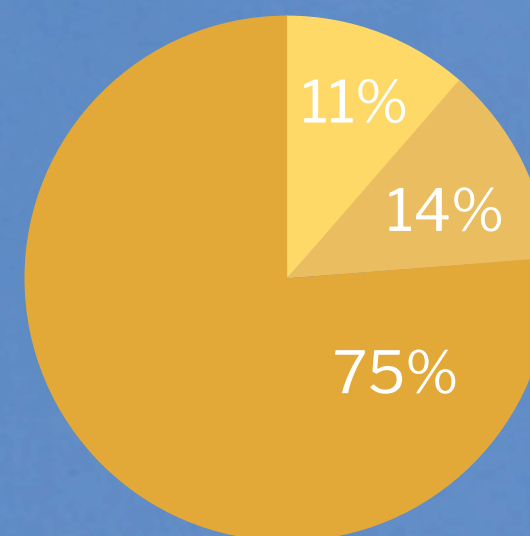
When we, as a ministry, take a step back to thank God for all He has done in us and through us, we are blown away. Among all the great work throughout Ireland, perhaps the greatest fruit comes from our own missionaries. Today we have 20 former NET Ireland missionaries who are priests, religious sisters, or pursuing a religious vocation. It is wonderful to reflect on all God is doing in the hearts of our missionaries and how we, too, can benefit from our mission.



Steadfast

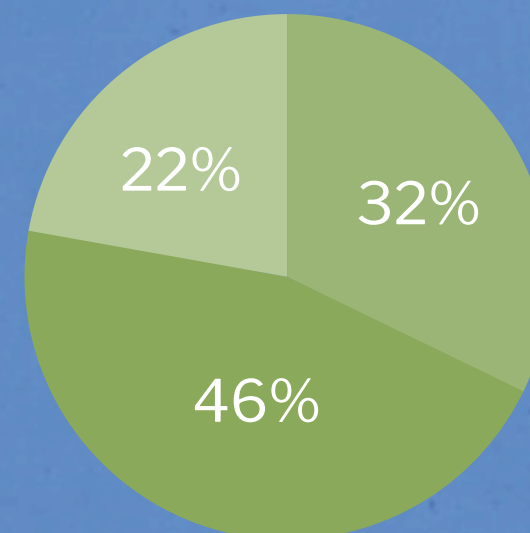
Another project that we have taken on is our annual Discernment retreat called, "Steadfast." Steadfast is a weekend retreat designed to assist young people during their discernment of where Jesus is calling them. As a Church, we are blessed with countless evangelisation programs, religious orders, and missionary opportunities. We have found that having so many good and beautiful options can be overwhelming to the average young adult trying their best to hear God's voice. We are partnering with several groups to facilitate the Steadfast Discernment retreat. Some of these groups include the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, the Home of the Mother, Youth2000, and Holy Family Mission. We recognise the need for silence in today's culture to really be able to step away for prayer, guidance, and discernment.

Financial summary



Income

- Fees Charged
- Missionary Partnership
- Donations, Non Gov Grants, Trusts, Other



Expenditure

- Missionary Subsistence
- Wages & Employer Costs
- Training, Compliance and Promotion



Ireland is at an all time low in regards to faith. Statistics show that there was a 10% drop within the last 6 years in people who identify as Catholic. Once the land of Saints and Scholars, is rapidly turning into the greatest missionary territory. With social issues on the rise such as mental health, broken families, and hopelessness, we need your help. By your giving, we can provide

parishes and schools with the resource of young and passionate missionaries who desire nothing more than for every young person to find hope in Jesus. We have seen the impact of NET Ministries in various schools and parishes throughout the country. We only want more young people to come to the Heart of Jesus. With your generosity, we can accomplish this goal together.

*To give, please visit our website
or send a cheque below*

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Join the mission

Title: ☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Mr. & Mrs. ☐ Miss ☐ Other

Name

Address

Town

County/State

Country

Phone

I want to join

Name of a missionary

and Net Ministries in
their mission by making a:

☐ One time ☐ Monthly

Gift of €

- ☐ Cheque (to: NET Ministries Ireland)
☐ Standing order (download from netministries.ie)
☐ Online with credit or debit at netministries.ie