



MISSIONARY OBLATES of
MARY IMMACULATE

Copied to Margaret for Ministry

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30th October 2009

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

Minister Batt O'Keeffe T.D.
Department of Education
& Science
Marlborough Street
Dublin 1.

Dear Minister O'Keeffe,

In response to the Taoiseach's call, we wish to inform you that the Oblates of Mary Immaculate have decided to make a contribution of €20m by the realisation of financial assets over the coming 12 month period. This is in reparation for the failings on our part as Oblates while managing St. Conleth's, Daingean on behalf of the State, in the years 1940 – 1973 for which we have already apologised. It is also motivated by a desire to assist in alleviating the present needs of former pupils of St. Conleth's who are in need of help.

As you are aware this contribution comes from charitable funds and this must have a bearing on the uses to which it is put. The Taoiseach speaks of two destinations for the money. It is our hope and expectation that this contribution will assist in meeting the needs of former residents, in particular those of St. Conleth's, and with special consideration for those living outside Ireland. Any departure from that expectation would require to be in accordance with charities law.

Since all are working in good faith to ensure that the benefits derived from our contribution and those of others are truly put at the service of those still suffering in Ireland or abroad, we trust that a collaborative effort will be initiated quickly and speedily to develop the parameters and structures of the Trust. The Oblates recognise the commitment referred to in the Taoiseach's letter of 29th May 2009 to establish a Trust. It is essential that such a Trust effectively and transparently utilises the resources for those in need.

We assume there will be future meetings of all the parties concerned with a view to reaching agreement on all these essential matters. We await clarification and look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Fr. Willie Fitzpatrick OMI
Provincial

MINISTERS OFFICE

02 NOV 2009

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
AND SCIENCE**