

SPRED

2013 Annual Report



Where faith and friendship meet

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT



by Fr Neil Donnachie,
Chairperson

Having been Chair of the Glasgow SPRED Board of Management since its birth in 1999, my computer tells me this is my 14th introduction to the SPRED Annual Report.

The first thing I want to do is celebrate faithfulness over the years: faithfulness to the SPRED Method of Catechesis, to the values of SPRED, to good well-planned and prayerfully-celebrated Family Masses, to training and enrichment of catechists, to the presence and commitment of so many catechists and drivers and above all the faithfulness of our friends: so many of them are faithful year after year, some of them from the very first SPRED Group; and, of course, I celebrate the faithfulness of the many people who financially support SPRED and make our ministry possible. I rejoice that faithfulness, a fruit of the Holy Spirit, is so much in evidence: we are a healthy part of the vineyard of the Lord.

Then I want to celebrate growth: in the number of SPRED Groups and parishes which have welcomed SPRED; in the SPRED Staff with an Assistant Director and Parish Outreach Worker in place to serve the growing need of supporting existing groups and bringing new groups to birth; in the number of friends, families, catechists, drivers being blessed through their participation in SPRED; in moving out of Scotland and going as far afield as Malta in establishing SPRED there; in giving regular input into the Archdiocesan Catechist' Course. I celebrate that such growth means SPRED can grow even more in the future.

I want to give thanks to the good God for all that faithfulness and growth; it is God who has given grace and strength to all of us in SPRED to continue working powerfully and creatively to ensure that our parishes are truly places where all are welcome.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT



by Sr Agnes Nelson SND,
Director

Dear Friends of SPRED,

We were delighted this year to be welcomed at the Cathedral by our new Archbishop, Philip Tartaglia for our annual Commissioning/Re-Commissioning service in August. 170 catechists were there to hear the Archbishop thank them for "their initiative of inclusion – bringing people in and holding them close to the heart of the Church, who is Christ Himself." He continued, "It is consoling to know that SPRED catechesis enables our friends with special needs to experience God in a way that is helpful and fruitful." During the service catechists were invited to share how SPRED had made a difference to their parish. (Read more about this inside) This became a litany of blessings. A number of parish priests from parishes where SPRED is established were also present.

This year has also seen a new children's group established in Castlemilk plus 11 new friends and 19 new volunteer catechists placed in existing groups.

Throughout the year we have tried to keep SPRED's vision alive by continuing our careful formation of volunteers and by raising awareness in parishes that people with learning disabilities belong in our communities and can grow in faith if we use the right method. This is a Gospel vision and we thank you for your support in helping us to realise it.

SPRED PARISH BLESSINGS

For People With Disabilities

- Raises awareness that all people have spiritual needs
- Provides opportunity for spiritual nourishment
- Enables full, active participation in liturgy
- Many have been able to receive the Sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation
- Creates opportunities for deep friendships
- Creates opportunities to witness the joy of belonging
- Creates awareness of possibilities of being involved in other ministries e.g. servers, choir.
- Being accepted and belonging to a group develops self-confidence

For Parish SPRED Catechists

- Receive wonderful, enriching training
- Gathers people together who have become close friends who greatly enrich each other's lives
- Wonderful opportunities to share faith
- Develops an infectious delight in a sense of belonging and contributing to the life of the parish.
- Deepens own faith
- Deepens a sense of belonging to parish
- On-going training affirms us in our role as SPRED catechists
- Gives us a deeper awareness of what it means to be "church".
- Feel a valued member of the parish community

For Non-SPRED Parishioners

- Raises awareness that people with learning disabilities belong in the parish
- Raises awareness that people with special needs have spiritual needs
- Involves parishioners as drivers thus creating another parish ministry
- Involves parishioners as "welcomers" preparing refreshments in the hall after Mass.
- Enables parishioners to give support to family members of those with disabilities
- Celebrations of SPRED Family Mass and other Sacraments raises awareness of the mission of the parish to reach out to all its members.
- For families of people with disabilities gives them the contentment of knowing their children/siblings are accepted and belong in the parish
- Provides opportunities for families to get to know other parishioners



NEW GROWTH



Maryhill SPRED Centre



There has been a SPRED group in Immaculate Conception parish for 23 years meeting in the old sacristy which is attached to the parish house. Fr Jim applied for a grant and had the rooms made more suitable for SPRED and for other parish groups to use. He had a little kitchen installed and a prayer room complete with carpet and curtains to create a really sacred space.

Castlemilk Children's SPRED Group



A very warm welcome from Fr Michael of St Margaret Mary's Castlemilk really helped the formation of the new catechists and the creation of a sacred place to meet.

*At the Sunday Mass
Fr Jim invited the parishioners
to come along for the blessing
of the premises.
The words rang out:*

**May the Word
of God echo from
these walls.**

*The group have
now welcomed 6 children
and made contact with all
their families.*

**We wish you many happy
years in SPRED.**

CHICAGO SPRED STAFF AWARDED THE LAETARE MEDAL



Sr Sue



Fr Jim



Sr Mary Therese

*(Some of the other recipients of this medal are John F. Kennedy,
Dorothy Day, Cardinal Joseph Bernadine)*

This prestigious medal is awarded by Notre Dame University, USA to a Catholic "whose genius has ennobled the arts and sciences, illustrated the ideals of the church and enriched the heritage of humanity."

The President says: "Sr. Sue, Sr. Mary Therese and Fr Jim have summoned the church to a crucial and too often overlooked ministry, insisting that a developmental disability neither tempers Christ's invitation nor restricts one's right to respond. They have ushered countless people to their rightful place at the Eucharistic Table."

According to its mission statement, SPRED's work is premised on the belief that;

"The Church, the Sacraments and the love of God are here for all of us. Every man, woman and child has a right to come into the Church and live its liturgy, experience its rich history and traditions, and feel the presence of God in their lives. It is our obligation as Christians to help as much as we can to make that right a reality for those people with physical, mental, emotional and intellectual challenges."

We rejoice with the Chicago staff and feel proud of their achievement and we are delighted that we too belong to the family of SPRED.

GLASGOW SPRED ACCOUNTS 2013

Income

For the year ending December 2013
£53,329

SOURCES OF INCOME 2013	
TRUSTS including archdiocese	38%
Archdiocese	9%
Donation	19%
FRIENDS OF SPRED & EVENTS	34%

Expenditure

For the year ending 2013
£69,971

EXPENDITURE 2013	
Salaries	71%
Building	6%
Office	13%
Other	10%

A full copy of the Finance Statement is available from the SPRED Office.



20 Robroyston Road,
Glasgow G33 1EQ
Tel: 0141 770 5055
email: glasgow.SPRED@virgin.net
spred.org.uk

Once again we express our gratitude for your participation in the SPRED ministry as a Friend of SPRED donor, a member of the 200 Club, a fundraiser or a participant of the Christmas Fayre, a buyer or seller of raffle or ceilidh tickets. Your gift ensures the continued growth and development of SPRED as we strive to make our parishes in the archdiocese places where all are truly welcomed.

Sr Agnes Nelson SND

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT 2013

Fr Neil Donnachie (Chairperson)
Sr Agnes Nelson (SPRED Director)
Fr Tom Kilbride (Archbishop rep)
Sr Helen Darragh
Mr John O'Reilly
Mrs Marie Gallagher
Mrs Roseann Binnie
Mr Paolo Pacitti
Mrs Jean McConnell
Miss Ellen McBride
Miss Agnes Malone
Miss Lisbeth Raeside

Where faith and friendship meet