**Britain and Ireland Group of Zonal Trustees and Provincial Presidents Meeting, 21st & 22nd May 2024**

**Key Messages for sharing**

* As part of the remit to deliver MU national **programmes**, staff leadership for AFIA and Prisons work in B&I and the corresponding Communities of Interest (COIs), has transferred from the Development Team to the Membership Team and sits with **Emily Brailsford**, new National Programmes Manager, overseen by Steph Nunn, Director of Membership. Dioceses are reminded that they should provide representatives for COIs and that these representatives should feedback to dioceses on the work of the COI to ensure that dioceses and their members are well informed and understand the work that is happening on key initiatives for MU.
* The B&I Group encourages dioceses to update **MU Live** with success stories and engagement data. MU Live is the main communications tool for tracking engagement, project work and highlighting good news stories for MU.
* Based on feedback, the Membership Team is working on **resources** and core-**information packs** to support dioceses and members, including the **Clergy Pack** launching at the end of June.
* The B&I Group supports a proposed **MU Annual Gathering in 2025**, to bridge the gap to the 150th Anniversary in 2026. This is currently being investigated. More information to follow.
* Further to consultation with the B&I Group, DPs and the Membership COI, Iris Suitor, Zonal Trustee for All-Ireland, Steph Nunn and Adam Sach, Director of Fundraising, Communications and Retail, are meeting in June to go through feedback and suggestions to finalise and **outline key initiatives and dates for the 150th Year celebrations in 2026.** More information to follow.
* The Development Team will, after a lull in communications, contact the **Flourishing Families** COI with an update on the pilot.
* **Safeguarding** training has been going well; however, some training was delayed due to illness in the delivery team. This is getting back on track and specific programme-based training e.g. AFIA is being scheduled. This information will be communicated as soon as it is available. The learning from trainings to date is being incorporated in future plans
* A new **Southwest consolidation of dioceses**, designed to improve efficiency by reducing legal and administrative burdens, is being developed in collaboration between the dioceses and MSH. A positive and pragmatic approach to sustainability, the intention is to safeguard the future operation of MU in this area, and retain the outward facing identity of each diocese.
* There is a large amount of work happening in the data and digital space. This includes **a light touch brand refresh, a new CRM (database) in January 2025, and a new website in June 2025**. The Database COI and the Communications COI are involved in these important infrastructure projects that are a big investment for the future of MU.
* **Membership numbers for 2023 are showing a continued annual decline of over 6%.** The situation remains serious. MSH through database and website projects, new membership, and fundraising teams, and working together with the B&I Group, DPs, and revived COIs are focused on delivering the member-informed priorities from the reimagining process. These priorities include exploring new membership models, engaging new audiences, supporting our clergy better and nurturing traditional MU working with tools and resources. This work aims to complement and support the hard work going on in dioceses to attract new and lapsed members to the movement.
* The B&I Group and MSH are looking at the best way to roll out **training for new MU leaders** following the elections this year. More information to follow.
* A new **triennial theme for MU** will be decided by the Worldwide Board in July and communicated to members.

If you or your Diocese have any questions about these or other matters, please do not hesitate to contact your Provincial President, who is a member of the Group