



# Annual Report

Year Ending 31st December  
**2007**



**“For I was a  
Stranger and  
You made  
Me  
Welcome”**

Matt 25

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## **REPORT ON COIS TINE'S WORK DURING 2007 AND PLANS FOR 2008**

This report covers the period from January to December 2007. Due to unforeseen circumstances at the beginning of the year scheduled planning meetings had to be cancelled. Further to this Cois Tine was without a staff member for more than two months due to an accident. Despite these setbacks and in terms of the plans stated in our last annual report, it was a very good year.

During 2007 the number of new asylum seekers dropped below four thousand for the first time in ten years. However the number of former asylum seekers either living in the community or who are 'stuck' in the system and living in accommodation centres has grown - a fact reflected in the reopening of Accommodation Centres in Cobh and in Clonakilty. Whether in the community or in accommodation centres our experience continues to show that those who are having the most difficulty in getting on with their lives are Africans. It is this group who constituted the majority of Cois Tine's clientele in 2007. Before looking at how aims stated in the last report were addressed we give a short general overall comment on the year.

### **OVERVIEW OF 2007**

Work with the local Church and with the wider Irish community grew in 2007. The first was achieved through a number of means;

- The setting up of the Cois Tine Web Site giving us a much wider outreach ability and potential than before
- The production of themed resource materials available both in print and on the internet.
- Participation in Conferences, meetings and in various umbrella groups allowed Cois Tine to influence and provide input on strategic, church and community levels.
- Events during October the month of Mission were also a major and largely worthwhile input that involved lots of preparatory work and linking with Church, Community and Immigrant groups. The variety of these events brought Cois Tine and its message into contact with a wider audience than before.
- During 2007 Cois Tine either organised or participated in thirty eight public and multicultural events. In addition there were numerous articles in the local Media that were either about Cois Tine events or were written as a result of information provided by Cois Tine that highlighted immigrant issues or profiled African immigrants in a positive light.

Outreach visitation to asylum seekers also increased greatly during 2007 especially due to regular visitation of Cork Prison, Kinsale Road and Puc Fada (Cobh) Accommodation Centres by the Cois Tine Chaplain. The level of contact and input to Catholic immigrants also increased as a result of meetings and training sessions for the members of the Multicultural Mass congregation.

Another area where Cois Tine's has grown in the past year is in the support it provides to other organisations, groups and individuals. We have facilitated the activities of African and other minority ethnic groups thus helping the operation of these groups. We have also facilitated the personal development of a small number of mainly African individuals through advocacy, making links with relevant organisations. Without this help these individuals would not have either obtained or been able to make use of the educational/training opportunities presented to them. In addition to all the above Cois Tine's daily support for immigrants continued as before with the provision of one-to-one support, information, emotional support, counselling, training and social activities.

**In the next section we will compare the aims stated in our last annual report with what actually happened in 2007.**

| Aim in previous report  | How the Aim was addressed   | Achievements/Constraints   |
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| <b>RESEARCH</b>   |   |  |
| Provide researched information  | <p>This process is well underway;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Early in the year a research proposal was drawn up.</li> <li>- A series of meetings were held with Cois Tine and UCC staff.</li> <li>- Two phase approach agreed and planned.</li> <li>- Researcher engaged.</li> <li>- Assistance from Diocese – letter to priests.</li> <li>- Phase one data collection from priests has been completed</li> </ul>   | Phase one is now complete.   |
| <b>EDUCATION</b>  |   |  |
| <p>Develop resources and materials for groups involved in seeking out and welcoming the stranger and for liturgical/pastoral multicultural ministry and mission.</p> <p>....and provide resources that will help develop the Parish's capacity to welcome the stranger and for multicultural ministry.</p> <p>Begin building up Pope's Quay as a resource for pastoral education on African issues.</p> | <p>This aim was achieved through;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Two themed Newsletters</li> <li>- Resource Pack - containing parish and liturgical resources for welcoming the stranger.</li> <li>- Poster for use in both church and secular situations.</li> <li>- Web Site – the setting up of the website was an important development not only from the viewpoint of the material that it already contains but also it's potential yet to be developed.</li> <li>- Facilitation of pre meetings for Festival of Peoples and Migrant Sunday that involved nineteen Parishes.</li> <li>- Setting up of a resource development group.</li> <li>- Training for Church leaders</li> <li>- Materials developed for Mission Alive and other presentations.</li> <li>- Some initial work has been done on this aim – it will be an ongoing process</li> <li>- Two School groups visited Cois Tine and from this a template for a half-day programme has been drawn up.</li> <li>- Materials, e.g. photographs, power point presentations</li> </ul> | <p>In this area Cois Tine has done more in the last year than ever before and also reached a wider audience than ever before.</p> <p>Nevertheless all the aims in this section could be achieved to a much higher degree. A lack of time and personnel to develop further material, cost implications and the need to address other areas within our remit are the reasons why more has not been achieved.</p> |

| <i>Education continued</i>  | <i>How the aim was addressed – continued</i>   | <i>Achievements/constraints continued.</i>   |
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| <p>Develop ways to educate Irish Church and society about Africa.</p> <p>Increase usage of the Internet.</p> <p>Encourage interfaith cooperation, to gather and make available information about other Christian Groups, especially those attended by Africans.</p> | <p>written resource materials, African artifacts etc have been gathered.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Equipment needed for displays and presentations has been obtained/purchased.</li> <li>- The on-going research project is an initial step in implementing this aim.</li> <li>- Individual contact with Diocesan Priests regarding pastoral issues.</li> <li>- Input provided to the Diocese and Bishops Conference.</li> <li>- Resource Material produced by Cois Tine.</li> <li>- Achieved by the setting up of <a href="http://www.coistine.ie">www.coistine.ie</a></li> <li>- Not yet addressed in any formal way</li> </ul>   |  |
| <p>Provide input to groups/Meetings</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- This aim was achieved in many ways and on many levels;</li> <li>- Students: to school groups at Cois Tine, in Schools, and during events such as Common Ground.</li> <li>- Adults: In parish and school situations i.e. to parents and Teachers and students.</li> <li>- Garda – Consultative meeting with Cork’s senior Garda Team and with student Garda.</li> <li>- HSE – Cois Tine attended a number of meetings with HSE staff during the year especially around the topic of Trafficking.</li> <li>- Participation in CNC,<sup>i</sup> CAN<sup>ii</sup> and attending other public meetings, seminars and conferences run by NASC, Irish</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lack of resources and personnel prevented much more involvement with school groups and also participation in meetings.</li> </ul> |

|   | Conference of Bishops, and Department of Justice etc.   |   |
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| <p><i>Education continued</i></p> <p>To hold a Conference on the Pastoral Care of Immigrants.</p>   | <p><i>How the aim was addressed – continued</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Yet to be addressed, but based on experience of October 2007 during which there were a plethora of Conferences and having attended some we doubt their value. To hold a worthwhile conference we would need to be very sure of the content. We will reassess this idea in the light of the response to our research project.</li> </ul>  | <p><i>Achievements/constraints continued</i></p> <p>Not yet addressed.</p>          |
| <b>OUTREACH</b>   |   |   |
| <p>Develop a programme to visit Africans in their homes, accommodation centres, and social venues.</p> <p>Develop outreach programs aimed at welcoming Africans and encouraging them to keep their faith alive and contribute their gifts to the Irish Church and society.</p> <p>Using existing contacts we will set up a programme of 'Immigrant hosting' beginning with the hosting of Africans for a meal or weekend in the home of an Irish person.</p> <p>Encourage ecumenical contact and interaction between the Catholic Church and other Christian Churches, especially those attended by Africans.</p> | <p>This aim has been partially achieved with a significant increase in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Prison Visitation</li> <li>- Hospital Visitation</li> <li>- Accommodation Centre Visitation</li> <li>- Home visitation has taken place but not to any great degree. This needs to be developed.</li> </ul> <p>- Achieved to some extent through visitation of prison and Accommodation Centres</p> <p>- Also through Sunday Liturgies and through meetings and training provided to Congregation group.</p> <p>- Two visits to Church of Ireland community in Ballydehob were very successful and much enjoyed by participants.</p> <p>- We had one meeting with the Dean of St Finbars during the year but as yet there has been no follow up on this. The Trips to Church of Ireland Community in Ballydehob went a little way to meeting this aim – much still needs to be done.</p> | <p>There has been a very significant increase in Outreach during the last year.</p> |

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| <p>Remain grounded in the practical task of welcoming the stranger</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Through our normal one-to-one support of immigrants, training provision, social events, counselling etc. Cois Tine was open as usual and while the overall number of individuals coming through our doors did reduce in 2007 the number of groups, especially African, who used our premises increased.</li> <li>- At the end of the year we had contact with SPIRASI regarding the use of our premises to conduct medico-legal interviews in our premises.</li> <li>- At the end of the year Cois Tine drew up an agreement with the New Communities Partnership<sup>iii</sup> a Dublin based group representing minority ethnic groups. This agreement covers collaboration and the use of office and meeting space for these groups. The overall aim of this collaboration is twofold, to facilitate the process of integration and to enable these groups to build their organizational capacity. This agreement reflects the changing needs of our client group – these and meeting them in 2008/9 will be addressed in the next section.</li> </ul> | <p>This continued as planned. During the year the level of one-to-one support was comparable with previous years while the level of group activities in Cois Tine increased. By the end of the year many new areas of need began to emerge as did ways of addressing these needs</p>   |
| <p><b>PASTORAL CARE</b></p>  |  |  |
| <p>Much of this aim overlaps with the Outreach and Education sections above; however there are specific areas of involvement that should be included in this report.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sunday Mass at St Vincent’s</li> <li>- Linking parents with local Parishes to facilitate the Baptism of their children.</li> <li>- Training programme for Church leaders.</li> <li>- Spiritual Direction</li> <li>- Liaison with on Parishes regarding the marriages and Baptisms of immigrants.</li> <li>- Linking with and providing information to local priests regarding pastoral issues concerning immigrants.</li> <li>- Meetings with Diocesan personnel regarding multicultural church events and the promotion of inclusion in the Church.</li> </ul> <p>Cois Tine’s participation in Cork Networking Committee and its activities can also be seen as pastoral since our presence and contribution is know as that of a Church based group.</p>  | <p>Mass at St Vincent’s is an important occasion for the Congregation. In the last year we have been fortunate to have both African and SMA priests who, on occasion said these Masses. There is however a dilemma. Continuing a separate Mass prevents integration while stopping it all together prevents cultural expression.</p> |

**FUTURE PLANS**

One lesson that the last year has taught us very clearly is that needs will always be greater than our ability to respond to them. While Cois Tine could validly become involved in many areas of work and remain true to its remit our limited resources mean that we have to give priority to specific areas and sometimes say no to or else postpone involvement in others. In particular in the coming year we intend to focus on certain priority areas leaving other needs to a future date or to when the resources needed to address them can be secured.

The status of our client group has also changed. Now fewer are asylum seekers - most have residency rights. As a result needs have changed. For most of clientele the problems and issues they are facing concern integration and living in the community rather than the asylum process. Cois Tine needs to adapt to this change.

**Priority Areas for 2008**

|   | <b>Aim</b>  | <b>How this will be achieved</b>   |
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| <p><b>OUTREACH:</b> Especially to parents granted residency on the basis of Irish born children. Most of these are Africans and most are women who are single or who are not allowed reunification with husbands and other children. These have been identified as a particularly disadvantage group among the immigrant population who are vulnerable to exploitation.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To build and provide a supportive pastoral relationship.</li> <li>• Provide information, advocacy,</li> <li>• Provide training.</li> <li>• Link clients with the local community and local groups.</li> <li>• Ultimately to assist in the process on integration including integration into faith communities.</li> <li>• To provide for the spiritual needs of Catholic Africans</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Begin an outreach project to this target group.</li> <li>• Seek funding for staff, training - Application submitted</li> <li>• Work in partnership with statutory, voluntary and church groups to provide training and support services.</li> <li>• Use and maintain links with existing networks to achieve aims.</li> <li>• Continue providing pastoral and spiritual support through Sunday Mass, Church Leadership Training etc.</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>EDUCATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING:</b> Especially for New Community Groups.</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To help Groups develop the skills and structures they need in order to become part of the mainstream voluntary and community sector.</li> <li>• To assist groups and their members integrate into the local community.</li> <li>• To enable members of New Community groups to play a full part</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaborate with the New Communities Partnership. Agreement re shared space already in place.</li> <li>• Provide facilities/space for New Community groups.</li> <li>• Extend opening hours to weekends.</li> </ul>   |

| <p><i>Priority areas continued</i></p>  | <p><i>Aim continued</i><br/>in the life of the community and Church.</p>   | <p><i>How this will be achieved.. continued</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide or link in with existing group training opportunities.</li> <li>• Provide a small grants programme for African Groups.</li> <li>• Maximise use of our premises by actively seeking and welcoming groups or agencies that can provide services that are beneficial to our client group within Cois Tine's ethos.</li> <li>• Seek Funding to facilitate all of the above (Bridge Project)<sup>iv</sup></li> </ul> |
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| <p><b>PASTORAL CARE</b><br/>Caring for the pastoral needs of Catholic Immigrants will remain a priority in the coming year.</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To integrate the members of St. Vincent's congregation into their local parish congregation.</li> <li>• Develop basic Christian Communities.</li> <li>• On the Diocesan and national levels to develop pastoral proposals e.g. regarding the baptism and marriage of Africans.</li> <li>• Set up an Intercultural Choir that will promote an inclusive and integrated Church and also be available for Cois Tine and multicultural events.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduce members to their local parish and reduce frequency of multicultural Mass.</li> <li>• By providing a structure and support visits. Cois Tine will also provide catechetical input.</li> <li>• By using our Research as a basis for these proposals.</li> <li>• A Choir master and musician have already been identified. A small amount of funds have already been secured, we will work to secure more.</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>SUPPORT FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS and accommodation centre residents.</b><br/>Cois Tine will continue is support for this group although numbers will be fewer than before. In 2008 more of our clients will be those who are now living in the community.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To provide emotional, spiritual and practical support through the asylum process.</li> <li>• To provide for the needs of Catholic Asylum Seekers.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outreach visitation by Chaplain.</li> <li>• Social Activities</li> <li>• Training – especially for women</li> <li>• Office based support</li> <li>• Information and advocacy</li> </ul> <p>By providing training and social activities.</p>   |



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| <p><b>PROMOTING THE WELCOMING OF THE STRANGER.</b> – working for integration and inclusion in the Church and in the community.</p> <p>Integration is a two way process, demanding effort and change both in the immigrant and receiving communities. Here we concentrate on the changes that the receiving community needs to make.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide accurate information regarding immigrants</li> <li>• To promote a Christian response to migrants.</li> <li>• To support community and Church based groups in the work of welcoming the stranger.</li> <li>• to challenge myths and misinformation</li> <li>• to promote an inclusive church and society.</li> <li>• To raise awareness of issues affecting migrants and the reality of the suffering and struggle that they experience.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By developing and providing resource materials for liturgy, parish newsletters and for schools.</li> <li>• By being a point of contact and information on the topic of welcoming the stranger through our website, written materials and through direct contact.</li> <li>• Through participation in events such as the Diocesan Festival of Peoples, World Refugee Day etc.</li> <li>• By networking and participating in meetings, seminars.</li> <li>• By using opportunities to provide strategic input to organisations and groups, e.g. the Garda, Diocese etc.</li> <li>• By working with Church groups, especially Parish Assemblies to promote inclusion in the Church.</li> <li>• By developing our Web Site – in particular by forming a group who will produce or identify content material that will promote our aim.</li> <li>• By collaborating with the Irish Church and the local Diocese in promoting inclusion.</li> <li>• By using the media, internet and drama to promote awareness.</li> </ul> |
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