

Franciscan Missionaries of the  
Divine Motherhood



*St. Mary of the Angels*

St. John of God



Hospitaller Services

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## PRESS STATEMENT

### **St. Mary of the Angels transfer of services and ownership**

**Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2004:** The Franciscan Missionaries of the Divine Motherhood ("FMDM") have today announced their decision to transfer the ownership and management of services and facilities at St. Mary of the Angels in Beaufort, Caherciveen, Listowel and Dingle, Co. Kerry, to the Hospitaller Order of St. John of God.

Since 1980 Franciscan Sisters have worked closely with the St. John of God Brothers in the development of services for people with intellectual disabilities throughout Kerry.

The transfer of ownership will take place on 1 January 2005. There are now fewer Sisters available to continue the responsibility for ownership and management of St. Mary of the Angels. Therefore, this decision has been taken to guarantee the future of St. Mary of the Angels and its associated services.

The St. John of God Brothers have given assurances that, as a result of this transfer, staff employment is secure with no changes in employment conditions.

Commenting on today's announcement, Sister Ita Sutherland, Chairperson of the Board of St. Mary of the Angels, said: "We are deeply grateful to the Brothers of St. John of God for their vision and generosity in agreeing to take ownership and administration of the service. This will guarantee the continuation of the quality of care for those we have loved and cared for over the years."

"To parents, our excellent staff and the people of Kerry who have tirelessly supported St. Mary of the Angels, we extend our deepest gratitude. We are confident that this support will continue and grow in the future. We would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the encouragement we have received from the Southern Health Board in this process and to express our sincere appreciation for their ongoing professional and financial assistance."

Also commenting today, Kevin Ryan, Director of St. John of God Services in Kerry, said: "The St. John of God Brothers are privileged by the invitation of the Franciscan Sisters to carry forward their mission of service and care to the people at St. Mary of the Angels. We are committed to continuing the excellent work of the Sisters and staff in Kerry and to the delivery of the highest quality services to all the clients and their families. We recognise the immense contribution made by the staff at St. Mary of the Angels over the years and we offer them our complete assurance of continuation of employment and present conditions. We place great value on their commitment to the service."

Issued on behalf of St. Mary of the Angels and St. John of God Hospitaller Services by  
Gibney Communications – tel: 01 661 0402  
Contact: Mr. Jamie Kennedy – mob: 087 418 5085  
Ms. Ruth Burnside