

**Golden Jubilee Celebration of St. Paul's Secondary School,
Greenhills
30 January 2015**

Dia 's Muire Dhaoibh go léir.

While this is truly a day for rejoicing, reminiscing and gratitude, it is also a day of mixed emotions particularly for the Sisters of St. Paul as we inevitably remember those Sisters inextricably linked with the history and development of St. Paul's Secondary School especially those who have already reaped their reward and those not able to be with us in person today but are certainly with us in spirit.



This beautiful Church in which we are gathered is on a site of the 50 acres of Taylors farm bought by the Sisters of St. Paul in 1962. Now for the benefit of city girls 50 acres was a tidy holding with good potential. Little did the Taylors know however what truly great potential

that farm had, the good seed was sown on rich soil and what a crop it produced – St. Paul's Junior and Senior Girls' Primary Schools, St. Peter's Boys' Primary School, St. Paul's Secondary School, this beautiful Church of the Holy Spirit and of course St. Paul's Convent ! There was a time when about 3000 pupils and staff converged on this site every school day!



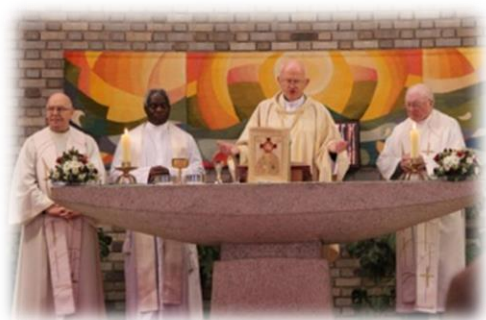
I have to admit straight away to a very personal affection for and attachment to Greenhills because it was here in the early 1970s that I began a very happy teaching career – in fact my first job was as a substitute teacher in St. Paul's Girls Primary school during summer

holidays from College. Then of course I began my full time career in St. Paul's Secondary School and what a truly happy and fulfilling experience that was – if there is anybody here whose mother or maybe grandmother was in rang Una or Fiona in the 1970s I will probably have taught her – they were my very first classes and a wonderful introduction to the teaching profession - I shall never forget them.



In addition to learning so much from my teaching colleagues about teaching and education, I learned a very valuable lesson about school life in St. Paul's which was to celebrate every occasion and even when there wasn't an occasion one was created and the term "A Frazer Occasion" was born. The late and much loved teacher Mrs Frazer was known to pop down to a marvellous Confectioner in Terenure and arrive back with a very large White Baker's Box just in time for break. With cut backs, recession not to mention the promotion of healthy eating habits perhaps this tradition has fallen on hard times too!

The School continued to grow and develop over the years with many new additions and alterations. I notice too that like today Bishop Eamonn was on hand at every significant occasion. The Trustees, Management and staff always responded to ever changing and increasing demands for newer and better facilities and a curriculum and teaching methods that never stand still.



But there was always one constant that sustained everybody through highs and lows – that community and family spirit that is integral to the ethos of a St. Paul’s School now a Le Chéile School. It may be that this comes from the Spirit above us and the solid ground beneath our feet but it is a treasured part of our inheritance that generations of committed teachers led by dedicated Principals and wise Boards of Management have passed on to pupils of St. Paul’s Secondary School and the privilege and responsibility to continue the tradition now falls on this generation. Mrs Deasy, teachers and girls the future is in your hands!



Congratulations on reaching this very important milestone in the history of St. Pauls and on behalf of the



Sisters of Charity of St. Paul I say a sincere thank you to everybody for embracing the mission of Jesus to “go and teach all nations” and for taking on the motto of our and your patron St. Paul to be “all things to all people”. Our Foundress, Genevieve Dupuis, had a very simple philosophy of education – “Do your best for the children” - you have done your best for the entire school community of St. Pauls through the past 50 years.

Long may it continue and flourish.

Thank you to all involved in this beautiful and meaningful celebration today – those in front and those behind the scenes.

