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An Apostolate of the
Society of Jesus under the
Patronage of the Irish
Episcopal Conference

International Conference 2013 hosted by the Pioneer Association

'The Spirit That Sets Us Free– Overcoming Addiction'

At the start of the year, a committee was set up to oversee the running of the Pioneer International Conference that coincides with the year of the government's initiative, The Gathering. We are delighted to announce that an International Gathering Conference hosted by the Pioneer Association will take place on 28 and 29 September 2013 in All Hallows College, Dublin.

The event will begin on Saturday, 28 September from 9.00am where the event will be opened by our Central Spiritual Director, Fr Bernard J McGuckian, SJ. Throughout the day, there will be a series of talks, questions and answers sessions and group discussions as well as a celebratory service of healing and wholeness. The relics of Matt Talbot and John Sullivan's Cross will be present for those gathered. Participants will be invited to partake of a three-course dinner during the day and a light evening meal in the beautiful surrounds of All Hallows College, followed by musical entrainment. We will be launching the new ten-year emblem and certificate during the conference for Pioneers who have attained ten years unbroken full membership. We will only launch it once at this once-off event – so don't miss out!

We are delighted to have confirmed the attendance of the Archbishop of Dublin, Most Rev Diarmuid Martin, DD, who will celebrate the closing Mass on Sunday, 29th. The Conference will finish at 1.00pm with a four-course dinner and departure at 2.30pm.

While we have yet to hammer out the finer details of the Conference, we encourage everyone to attend this event. Regions and dioceses are asked to send at least one representative to take part in the event. Maybe there is something we can learn from each other, something we can share with each other in a spiritual and social atmosphere and come away refreshed and renewed in our faith and our commitment to help those struggling with the chains of addiction. If you have a particular petition or someone you would like to have prayed for, please send it to us at 27 Upper Sherrard Street, Dublin 1, marking your envelope '**PETITION**'. Better still, make the journey in faith on behalf of someone you love who is struggling or living with addiction, and participate in the Conference for them. The area surrounding All Hallows College in Drumcondra is awash with hotels, bed and breakfast and guesthouses for anyone making the journey from afar.

There is also limited accommodation on site at All Hallows. However, it is essential that accommodation is booked well in advance to guarantee your room for an overnight stay.

The event is open to the general public so non-Pioneers are most welcome to attend to come and see what we Pioneers are about. Minor, those under the age of eighteen years, must be accompanied by a parent/guardian to this event. Bookings are already being taken, so please reserve your place early to avoid disappointment. More information will be published as the details are confirmed. Keep up-to-date with our website www.pioneerassociation.ie where the information will be added as soon as it is established. Credit card bookings can be taken over the phone by contacting Margaret or any member of staff in the Pioneer Office on (00 353) 01 874 94 64. The Pioneer Association celebrates its 115th birthday in December this year. Don't miss the opportunity to celebrate it with us in All Hallows in September.

The Organising Committee