

MCS says goodbye to well loved colleagues

Moate Community Honours Sr. Ann O'Flanagan.

At a Retirement function in the Sheraton Hotel recently the teaching career of Sr. Ann O'Flanagan in Moate Community School was recalled and celebrated. Sr. Ann was a Music teacher at the school for over forty years, and was the last of the Sisters of Mercy to teach at the school.

A native of Galway Sr. Ann received her early education in the Convent of Mercy, Moate before joining the Mercy Sisters. She received her University Education in UCD. She also studied in the Royal Irish Academy of Music where she received a Performance Fellowship. Later she studied in Notre Dame in Indiana USA where she received a Masters in Music and Liturgical Studies.



As a teacher Sr. Ann made a huge contribution to the development of the school from the Convent of Mercy, to Mercy College and the Community School. She will probably be best remembered for her involvement in school musicals, which now forms such a significant part of the schools extra curricular programme. Musicals such as The Gondoliers, Student Prince, Half a Sixpence, Waltzer of Vienna, Little Ms. Hook of Holland, Golden Years, Merry Widow, Fiddler on the Roof,

Aladdin, Good Two Shoes, Viva Mexico, Showboat, Oklahoma, South Pacific and most recently Hairspray were performed under her expert stewardship.

Sr. Ann also had a huge involvement outside the classroom in a host of other musical activities. She was involved in numerous Ballad Groups including Scór and Feis Ceoil, in School Choirs, School Orchestra, Carol Services, Comhaltas, Tops of the Town, Pantomimes, Midland Choral, National Children's Choir. Sr. Ann is still involved today as Musical Director in the Friary, Athlone.



Professionally Sr. Ann has worked as a Junior Certificate and Leaving Certificate Examiner and also as a Supervisory Examiner for the Department of Education.

She also has worked for the Royal Irish academy and as an adjudicator at Feiseana. She is also a distinguished Composer.

In making a presentation to Sr. Ann, School Principal Kevin Duffy was lavish in his praise for what he described as 'a wonderful teacher'. He said that she was directly responsible for the founding of one of the school strongest traditions and that she had made a quite enormous contribution to the development and progress of the school. He said that the impact she had made on the lives of so many young people in terms of their confidence, self esteem, and love of music was enormous.

Mr. Duffy said that the value we put on anything is only revealed by what we are willing to sacrifice to possess it. Sr. Ann had made a great many sacrifices in her life,

and is therefore a woman of great principle and idealism. This was characterised by her service to God and to the Church, to her own family, her religious community, to education, to her students, to the needy and to her community. She willingly shared her wonderful talents with so many. Her magnificent legacy would not be forgotten.

Mr. Duffy said that Sr. Ann was the last of the Sisters of Mercy to serve in the school, sisters who had laid down fine foundation stones for our school, ideals that we daily strive to uphold. He assured her that the school was committed to building on what had been achieved. He thanked her on behalf of the school and her colleagues, wishing her good health, joy and happiness in her retirement.

A group of Sr. Ann's past pupils formed a mini orchestra for the evening and entertained the gathering with some of her favourite classical music. A DVD presentation of events from school Musicals was also presented.

Lorna Duignan, colleague in the Music Department thanked Sr. Ann on behalf of the Music Department in the school and said that she was an inspiration to all, and that she would sadly be missed.

Sr. Ann said that she was overcome by the wonderful occasion. She said that the Mass celebrated at the school prior to the function was very moving and that she was humbled by the homily by Fr. Pat Kiernan. She thanked all her colleagues for the wonderful celebration and for their attendance.

Sr. Ann stated that she enjoyed her career in Moate, which had changed and evolved over the years. She thanked the school, which she said was a wonderful place to work and Mr. Duffy for his inspirational leadership and friendship over the years. She said that she will miss it but looked forward to continuing to have a role.

Other staff members who retired or left the school during the past year were also remembered. Mary Galvin PE teacher was thanked for her contribution to the school and to sport. She was wished well in her retirement. Mary had a passion for all sports but was particularly interested in Athletics and Cross Country. Over the year she trained countless students for competitions in track & field events both at Connacht and National level. Mr. Duffy lauded her contribution to the school and for her commitment and dedication. He particularly mentioned her work with Prefects, Games Committees and School Development Planning. He acknowledged her distinguished service to the school. Mr. Duffy wished her good health and happiness in her retirement.



Jim Evans former Chaplain and Counsellor for seven years as well as a religion teacher was also remembered. Mr. Duffy said he had been a central figure in the school and will be missed by many. He had a particular interest in student welfare and was at the heart of the resolution of many a tantrum. Mr. Duffy thanked him for his dedication and commitment and wished him well as he



returns to his teaching position in Dublin.

Aileen Waters a native of Corr na Móna taught in Moate for four years. She had a huge commitment to extra curricular activity being particularly involved in school Musicals, Carol Services and School Masses. Mr. Duffy thanked her for her work, her commitment and dedication. He said she has a strong work ethic and brought a sense of joy to the staff room. He

hoped that the school had contributed in some way to her development as a professional. He said her love of Moate was overtaken by a new love and he wished her well in her new journey.

Janet Carey Mr. Duffy said joined the Moate Business College late in her career but brought a wealth of expertise and knowledge. He said she had made an invaluable contribution to the development of the College. He wished her well in her retirement. Elma Henshaw was also sincerely thanked for her contribution to Moate Business College. She too was wished well in the future.