

# ACCORD

ANNUAL REPORT 2005



ACCORD  
COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE

CATHOLIC MARRIAGE CARE SERVICE



## MISSION STATEMENT

*Empowering people  
Fostering Relationships  
Caring for Couples facing  
the Challenges of Christian Marriage.  
This is the work of ACCORD  
in today's world*

## VISION STATEMENT

ACCORD is an agency of the Catholic Church providing a nation-wide service to couples preparing for or seeking a deeper commitment within the sacrament of marriage.

ACCORD is committed to providing a quality service. Personnel, coming from a wide variety of backgrounds, are appropriately trained.

ACCORD responds to the challenges facing Christian marriage today and affirms its value in an ever-changing world. It empowers couples to explore and reflect on:

- the essential elements of their marriage.
- the purpose and value of their choices within a committed relationship.

ACCORD serves the pastoral needs of couples at different stages in their relationship.

- **Preparation for marriage** in a Christian context focuses on the essential components which foster a good couple relationship:
  - lifelong commitment.
  - communication and conflict resolution skills.
  - responsible parenthood within a faith context.
  - time and resource management.
- **Ongoing support** throughout marriage facilitates:
  - the development of strategies for the emotional, spiritual and psychological wellbeing of couples.
  - reflection on the Christian experience of love, commitment and family life.
- **Relationship counselling** is provided for couples as well as individuals in a couple relationship in a caring and confidential manner. It is a twofold process enabling clients to identify and acknowledge difficulties in their relationship and to discover the inner resources to deal with them.

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# Message from Bishop Willie Walsh



**BISHOP WILLIE WALSH**  
President

I am happy to welcome this ACCORD Annual Report 2005. It has been a significant year of progress both at National and Centre level.

At national level we reached a very important goal in the pursuit of accreditation of counsellors with the result that all our marriage counsellors can now receive official accreditation. This achievement is a tribute both to the quality of our training programme and to those who negotiated the accreditation process.

The launch of our [www.gettingmarried.ie](http://www.gettingmarried.ie) website in November is another example of ACCORD's readiness to use the most up-to-date means of communication to enhance its work. Compliments again to all responsible. The frequency of use of the website is already showing its importance.

ACCORD Northern Ireland continues to show its creativity in the area of Education in Relationships and Sexuality with the publication of the Teachers' Handbook and DVD "Love Matters" in June.

At a personal level I compliment and thank all who worked so generously with our outgoing NEC group. 2005 saw the retirement of Fr. Joe Mullan as Director of Dublin ACCORD and member of NEC. His contribution to both was very significant. We wish him well in his new phase of priesthood.

Ultimately the most important work of ACCORD is that which happens at local level in the counselling room and at Marriage Preparation Courses. It is here that the heart and soul of ACCORD continues to serve couples preparing for or seeking a deeper commitment within the sacrament of marriage.

I greet all of you who work with ACCORD and I wish each of you a year of joy, of fulfilment and of love.

Sincerely in Christ

+ Willie Walsh

# National Director's Report 2005



**SHAY ELLIS**  
National Director

**How quickly another year passes and so much has been accomplished during that year. These are my first thoughts as I write this Report on our activities in ACCORD during 2005.**

**ACCORD's mission to affirm the value of Christian marriage and family in today's society by empowering couples to explore and reflect the essential elements of their marriages and relationships, is as valid and relevant today as it was when the mission was first defined. This mission was re-affirmed in the 10th Progress Report of the All Party Oireachtas Committee on the Constitution and the Family. In this Report, it was recognised that changes in demography and culture could be dealt through legislation, but also that the constitutional protection given to traditional marriage and family under Article 41.2:3:1 should be retained unaltered.**

It is also interesting to note that research by the Family Matters Institute in the UK, in looking at the cost of Family Breakdown in 1998, showed that the cost to the State was a staggering £15 billion per annum. When compared with Irish Family breakdown statistics in 2002, an equivalent cost to the Irish Government would be approx €40 million per annum.

A Report based on "A Study of Family in Today's Society", commissioned through a MORI-POLL, tells us that:

*The majority of adults appear to wish for a reversal of current social trends – 75% want to see an increase in the number of nuclear family households and a decrease in single person (54%) and single parent (75%) households.*

*Over two thirds see the traditional family model as the ideal - 69% feel being married with children is the most desirable lifestyle.*

All of this is clear evidence that in our pastoral role as missionaries for Marriage and Family, ACCORD can contribute in a very significant way to creating and maintaining a healthy, stable and just society today.

## ACCORD'S SERVICES

Because of the dedication and commitment of our ACCORD members in our Education and Counselling Services, we had our most successful year in terms of service delivery, providing in excess of 30,000 hours of Counselling to more than 7,500 clients and in excess of 21,000 hours of Education to more than 35,000 clients.

We are aware that a need exists to provide an even greater level of service in areas of disadvantage and to marginalised communities. The constraints in meeting this need are; our ability to recruit additional volunteers and the need for additional funding to deal with the



cost of providing an extended service. We are currently addressing these issues.

During 2005, we commissioned an independent client audit, through Lansdowne Market Research, which gave us very positive feedback with regard to the public's opinion as to the value and professionalism of our services.

In December, ACCORD, in partnership with Catholic Ireland, launched [www.gettingmarried.ie](http://www.gettingmarried.ie), a website to meet the needs of couples preparing for marriage. The response to this website has greatly exceeded even our highest expectations.

## FUNDING

Voluntary agencies, like ACCORD, are highly dependant on financial and other supports to maintain and expand their levels of service. We would, therefore, like to thank most sincerely our major stakeholders the Family Support Agency, the Episcopal Conference, the DHSS and various trusts in Northern Ireland, whose continued financial support and encouragement is very much appreciated.

## OUR MEMBERS

We are deeply indebted to all our members, be they Counsellors, Facilitators, Supervisors, Tutors or other Support Staff for their commitment to and on behalf of our clients. It is this special vocation with both spiritual and pastoral dimensions that ensures we deliver a high quality and confidential service in all of our 58 Centres. We also acknowledge and value the support they are given by their colleagues, spouses and families to whom we express our sincere gratitude.

To our President Bishop William Walsh, the National Executive Committee, our Regional Officers and all the staff in Central Office, we extend our sincere thanks and appreciation for your generosity and commitment. Your hard work, flexibility and commitment to the Mission, Vision and work of ACCORD is evident in all you do.

## NATIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT 2005 (continued)



### THE FUTURE

We will continue to promote, support and sustain traditional Marriage and Family in every possible way and to develop and expand our services as the need arises. Our society is rapidly changing and we need to embrace and value all the new cultures and opportunities that working in a multicultural environment offers to us. There will of course be many challenges but these are what make working in ACCORD so interesting and developmental.

As we continue to support all our clients in each service, we do so with a dedication to and firm belief in everything that is good about traditional Marriage and Family structures and values. Through our voluntary commitment we

give thanks to God for the graces and successes that we ourselves have experienced and by so doing

strive to create an exciting and better future for our clients, our children, our spouses, our extended families and ourselves.



*Shay Ellis*

National Director

# Chairperson's Report



**SEAN MCGILLAN**  
Chairperson NEC

**Little did I think that 25 years ago when I first joined CMAC, I would be commuting from Coleraine to Maynooth almost every month for three years to attend meetings of the NEC. Nor did I ever imagine that I would be elected to act as Chairperson. However, I have really enjoyed the experience, thanks to the efforts of dedicated NEC group members with whom I had the privilege to work.**

The NEC had a busy year, with 9 meetings in total and over 50 issues for discussion. Matters considered included the recruitment process, training, market research, publicity, supervision policy, diversity/equality, composition of the NEC and inconsistency in the delivery of Marriage Preparation Courses.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the NEC for their active participation in the lively debates that took place. During the year Fr. Joe Mullan resigned from the NEC after 5 years of sterling service and we are indeed indebted to him for his extra ordinary contribution. The best wishes of the NEC and all ACCORD members, go with him in his new life.

Our 35th Annual Conference came north to Ulster for the second time with the theme "Caring for Marriage in a Pluralist Society". The unfortunate late withdrawal through illness of Sister Barbara Markey as one of the two main speakers was a great disappointment to everyone. Dr George Worgul doubled up as best he could and shared his thoughts with us on Marital & Family Trends in the USA and how these would impact on society now and in the future.

The occasion coincided with three anniversaries namely 40 years since the establishment of CMAC/ACCORD; 30 years since the establishment of Central Office and 10 years since the change from CMAC to ACCORD. To mark these celebrations each delegate received a small gift.

On the publicity front, the NEC commissioned a survey through Lansdowne Market Research to see how ACCORD was perceived by the general public. Results were very positive in the South. In Northern Ireland where Relate is seen as the main provider of counselling, further action is required to lift the profile of ACCORD. A major media campaign was agreed which included local & national radio together with TV advertisements on Sky News/Sports and MTV.

In June 2005, Michael McGowan, ACCORD's (Northern Ireland) Education Officer, launched a DVD on Relationship and Sexuality Education for all post primary schools in the North. The event, the culmination of a 4 year project, was held in St. Mary's Training College, Belfast and was well attended with a large contingent from across the border. Michael's work with young people helping them to build up all the skills they need to develop and sustain safe, fulfilling

## CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT (continued)

and loving relationships is to be highly commended.

Our Annual Assembly took place in the Glenroyal Hotel, Maynooth in October and was attended by 30 Centres. 12 motions were on the agenda for discussion but only 5 were voted on. The other motions related to working hours and keeping Centres advised of progress on motions which were deferred to the next meeting of the Assembly. It was agreed that a module on self-awareness would be introduced into future training programmes for Marriage Education Facilitators. Details of the Strategic Review Group findings were presented and consultation with members planned for Spring 2006.

Bishop Willie Walsh, launched the new website [www.gettingmarried.ie](http://www.gettingmarried.ie), a joint venture between ACCORD and Catholic Ireland. This step-by-step guide for couples preparing for catholic marriage is an excellent resource providing in one place all the information a couple needs including the opportunity to create their own personalised wedding ceremony booklet.

The Dublin Diocesan Liturgical Resource Centre, in conjunction with ACCORD,

launched a new CD containing a selection of suitable music for the wedding ceremony. Details of both these initiatives are available on our website, [www.accord.ie](http://www.accord.ie).

I would like to thank Breda Landy Horgan, who provides welcome refreshments for us each month on our arrival at the Columba Centre and also acts as our minutes' secretary. Thanks also to our National Director for his leadership and to all the staff in Central Office, Regional Offices and Centres for their valuable contributions.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge the work of all our volunteers who by their enthusiasm, commitment and professionalism ensure the continued success of ACCORD in meeting the challenges facing Christian marriage in this opening decade of the 21st century.

*Sean McGillan*  
Chairperson NEC



## ACCORD Services

### ACCORD SERVICES

ACCORD Marriage Care currently has 826 counsellors and facilitators providing services in our **Marriage Counselling** and **Marriage Education** Services in 58 Centres nationwide.

The services offered in the Marriage Counselling Service are:

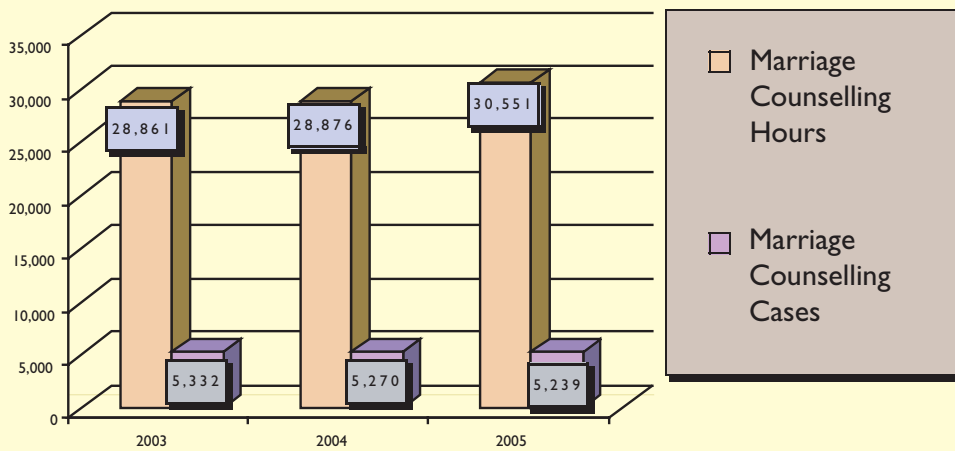
- ✦ Marriage and Relationship Counselling
- ✦ Fertility and Well-being
- ✦ Marital Sex Therapy

The Marriage Education Service offers:

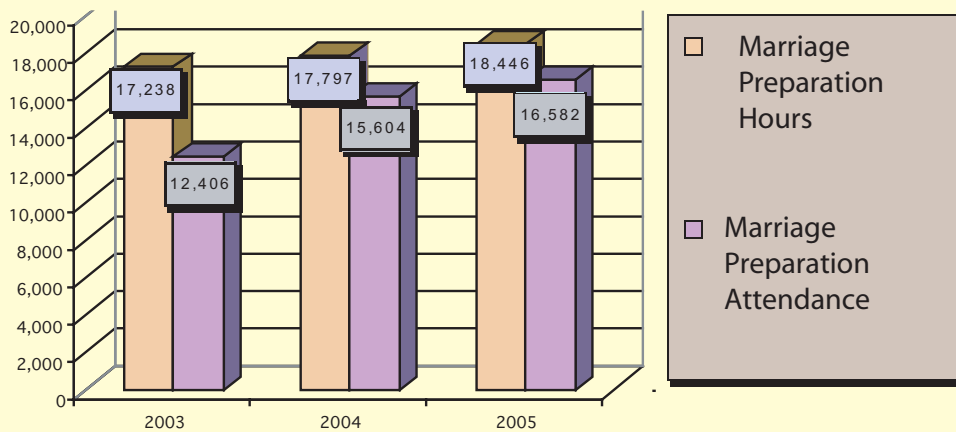
- ✦ Marriage Preparation Courses
- ✦ Marriage Enrichment Courses
- ✦ Personal Enrichment Courses
- ✦ Schools Programmes

Below are charts for 2003/2004/2005 for the Marriage Counselling Service and Marriage Education Service in ACCORD

**Marriage Counselling Hours & Cases for 2003/2004/2005 Nationally**



**Marriage Preparation Hours & Attendance 2003/2004/2005 Nationally**



# Marriage & Relationship Counselling Service Report



*“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful,  
committed people can change the world. Indeed it  
is the only thing that ever has”  
Margaret Mead (1901-1978)*

**JOHN FARRELLY**  
Director of Counselling



**The above quotation is apt to describe the work of ACCORD past, present and future. In a time when married couples are under pressure, the ACCORD Community continues to grow, spreading and upholding its mission to help couples prepare for, initiate and sustain their marriage. The value of our work was recognised at societal level in 2005 when ACCORD was asked to represent the Church at the Oireachtas all party committee on the constitution. ACCORD was also invited to participate in a national working group on the statutory registration of counsellors. These invitations only arose as a consequence of the hard work and dedication of our members.**

The ACCORD Counselling Service provides Marriage and Relationship Counselling, Marital Sexual Therapy and Fertility Services to clients across the whole island of Ireland. ACCORD members in all of the above services encountered 5,239 cases in 2005, offering 30,552 hours of clinical work to our clients. This is the first time in our history that we have provided over thirty thousand counselling sessions and is an indication of the demand in society for our quality service. It also presses upon us the need to keep improving our service and to ensure that we are flexible enough to continue to meet client demands. It is the hallmark of modern service delivery that not only do we deliver the service in the here and now, but also that we continue behind the scenes to put in place structures and processes which ensure success into the future.

## ACCREDITATION

Following lengthy and complex negotiations, the National Association of Pastoral Counsellors and Psychotherapists (NAPCP),

have validated ACCORD's Counsellor training. NAPCP is a nationally recognised counselling body affiliated to the European Association of Counselling (EAC). As one of the leading accrediting bodies in Ireland, whose values and ethos are closely aligned to those of ACCORD, it is most appropriate that we should develop this partnership.

## FERTILITY & WELL-BEING SERVICE

In 2005 the rebranding and reorientation of this service continued. We have moved away from the terminology NFP to this broader remit based on two core pillars of a general information service and a fertility counselling service. The emphasis of the new service is health, particularly women's health, in tandem with a natural and green approach. On our website, information and clinical materials were updated and rebranded as per operational plan. The final phase is to begin training new fertility counsellors followed by a launch and marketing campaign in 2006.

# MARRIAGE & RELATIONSHIP COUNSELLING SERVICE REPORT (continued)

## ACCORD INITIAL TRAINING PROGRAMME

Notwithstanding the success of DCU and the Associate Training programme there has been a continued call throughout the organisation to reintroduce our own initial training programme enabling Centres to reach out into their local communities and recruit members who we can train as counsellors. In 2005, ACCORD began negotiations with St Patrick's College Maynooth, with this aim in mind. An initial academic programme was designed and following ongoing discussion and change, agreement has been reached where the university will validate this ACCORD initial training programme at Diploma/Higher Diploma level. It is hoped to commence this programme in October 2006 following a recruitment campaign.

## INVESTING IN OUR PEOPLE

Our counsellors and practitioners, supported by our tutors and supervisors are the lifeblood of ACCORD. By investing in our most valuable resource we aim to provide a more effective and professional service to our clients. This investment occurred at two levels in 2005, both internally and externally.

## INTERNAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

During 2005, Central Office rolled out a number of invaluable training events around the country particularly in;

- ✦ Alcohol & associated problems.
- ✦ Multicultural Issues.
- ✦ Marital sexual therapy.
- ✦ Sexual Issues in counselling.

## ACCORD SUPERVISOR TRAINING

Building on our new supervision policy, ACCORD began training new supervisors in 2005. Trainees will begin taking on casework in 2006, thus increasing the organisations ability to provide quality supervision to our counsellors.

## EXTERNAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

*PCI/ University of Middlesex*

Over 60 ACCORD counsellors continued studying for their degree in Counselling & Psychotherapy in Harcourt Street, All Hallows, Clondalkin and Athlone with many of the participants due to graduate in 2006.



#### Dublin City University

This programme continues with a second cohort of students beginning in September 2005. The critical part of this programme is the integration of clinical and academic work. This involved a lot of work developing transparent induction procedures so that our new students integrate seamlessly into their respective Centres.

### ASSOCIATE COUNSELLORS

The strategy of recruiting and training associate counsellors continued in 2005. Selection conferences took place in a number of regional Centres, followed by training courses in Dublin, Maynooth, Limerick and Cookstown.

### THE YEAR AHEAD

2006 offers more opportunity for ACCORD to develop and build upon our current work and services. The major areas of focus will be:

- The ACCORD counsellor initial training programme.

- The development of an ACCORD needs' assessment process to build on and replace the reception interview.
- Roll out of policy and practice in the areas of MST.
- The DCU/ACCORD Postgraduate Diploma/Masters Course.
- Development of CPD system which takes account of training that our counsellors receive locally and regionally.

Finally and most importantly, I would like to pay tribute to the work of all our counsellors, tutors, supervisors and administration staff who have continued to invest their time energy and expertise into the work of ACCORD and service to our clients.

*John Farrelly*  
Director of Counselling

# Education Department Report



**STEPHEN CUMMINS**  
Director of Education

**More and more couples are getting married. This is the clear message coming from the Central Statistics Office throughout last year. We in ACCORD are equally aware of the increased number of weddings in so far as it puts a strain on our resources. We have enough evidence in the requests for Marriage Preparation Courses to show that this trend is continuing. The clear challenge for us all is to do everything in our power to meet the needs of these couples. We have to remember that while we refer to the numbers of weddings and the numbers of couples getting married for each couple they are the only couple getting married and theirs is the only wedding taking place in that year.**

Last year, we met 489 more couples through our Marriage Preparation Courses than in the previous twelve months. This is without doubt good news and shows that with good planning and initiative we have been able to increase the number of places for couples on our courses throughout the country. Some Centres have moved their Marriage Preparation Courses out of their Centres to alternative venues and as a result have been able to increase available places to couples attending these courses. Individual Facilitators have made themselves available for more courses and this again has helped deal with the increased demand. We need to be continually active in our attempts to attract new members to ACCORD to ensure that our Mission of support for Marriage and Family are continued into the future.

## MARRIAGE PREPARATION PROGRAMME

An updated version of the workbook for couples was completed and available to Centres from Spring of 2006. A set of generic

slides on Powerpoint to compliment the various Modules on the programme will be available to all Centres before the Summer of 2006. Each Centre can then “improve” these slides by adding their own particular animation or text as they wish. In addition, ACCORD in association with Kairos will produce a short DVD to be used in the “Conflict Management” Module of the Marriage Course. This work will be completed in April of 2006 and will be made available for piloting to a selection of Centres.

## SELECTIONS

Selection Conferences took place in Tralee, Omagh, Longford, Sligo and two in Maynooth during 2005. These were held in September and October and as a result 48 people were selected to start their Initial Training. There are four groups of trainees and the training venues are Limerick, Athlone, Dundalk and Sligo. Graduation for this group of trainees will take place in May 2007.



## SUPERVISION

Many Centres have had difficulty in securing the services of a supervisor for their Education Facilitators. The Education Department has invested significant time and effort to resolve this problem. As a result of a recruitment drive towards the end of last year we have 12 candidates who will take up Supervision training this year. This will help to meet the demand from Centres as their contracts with existing Supervisors expire.

## SCHOOLS WORK

The majority of the work of ACCORD in this area is offered in Dublin and Drogheda. There are other pockets of work being delivered in other parts of the country albeit to a lesser degree. There is no doubt whatever that there is a demand for such a service. To what extent ACCORD as an organisation can respond to this demand is a question that has been under consideration for some time. A group was formed to review all of the elements relating to the supply and demand of such a service and a report outlining the results of their deliberations will be presented to the NEC by May of 2006.

## MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT

ACCORD sees Marriage Enrichment as an opportunity for Married couples to take time

out from the day-to-day living of their Marriage and to reflect on what is good and not so good in their relationship. There have been many hours spent in advertising, planning and delivering Marriage Enrichment programmes. Unfortunately there is an imbalance between the number of planning and advertising hours and the number of “delivery” hours. This is no reflection whatsoever on the cohort of committed, dedicated people who see Marriage Enrichment as part of our Mission of Caring for Marriage and Building Relationships. The challenge is to look again at our strategy and to be inventive in our marketing.

## CONTINUOUS PROFESSIONAL/PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Marriage Education Department values the need to invest in our greatest asset viz. our Facilitators. In 2005, we delivered in-service workshops entitled ‘Revisiting your Family of Origin’ with Dr. Kevin Egan. These workshops proved to be very successful and we intend to offer similar type programmes throughout next year.

## THE YEAR AHEAD

The single biggest challenge facing the Education Department in 2006 is to attempt to meet the growing demand for our services.

## EDUCATION DEPARTMENT (continued)

With the assistance of each of the Regional Officers and each Centre, we need to look at utilising our resources better. This may involve moving out of the Centre to a new venue, in order to offer more places on our Marriage Preparation Courses. Offer more courses or embark on a sustained recruitment drive to encourage new members into ACCORD. We need to encourage the support of other groups and agencies in our Mission and discover how networking with them will benefit ACCORD and our clients.

It would be very easy to lose our sense of Mission due to the demands being made on all of us. A belief in Marriage is at the heart of what we do and stand for. This is what will challenge us into the future. We need to consider how best to use FOCCUS, the future of our Schools Programme and in what other ways we Care for Marriage and Build Relationships.

On behalf of the Education Department, I would like to acknowledge the marvellous

work done in 2005. The couples' assessment of our Marriage Preparation courses prove that we have a very worthwhile programme and that it is being delivered by well trained and dedicated people. A word of thanks is due therefore to all our Facilitators, their Tutors and Supervisors. A special word of thanks to the Regional Officers, Centre Executives, Admin. Secretaries and Priest Directors. It is only through the combined efforts of all the members that the work of ACCORD will continue to succeed.

*May God Bless the Work.*

*Stephen Cummins*

Director of Education



# Regional Reports

## REGIONAL REPORT

# Dublin



**PENNY WILSON**

Acting Director ACCORD Dublin

**2005 was a year of initiatives, achievements, greetings and farewells for the members of ACCORD Dublin. This Report shows how the counsellors, facilitators and administrative staff worked to meet the needs of the clients we serve in the Diocese of Dublin.**

In August 2005, Fr. Joe Mullan, left ACCORD having served five years as Diocesan Director. His leaving was marked by a gathering in July with many expressions of appreciation, affection and regret at his going and wholehearted good wishes for his future. He had worked with enormous commitment and enthusiasm to increase public awareness of our services, to support all our personnel and to strengthen links with Central Office. We hoped to have his successor in place by September, but the selection process proved longer and more difficult than we had foreseen.

As Acting Director of ACCORD (Dublin), I would like to thank all the ACCORD members for their unfailing good will and support and in particular all the Harcourt Street staff who welcomed me into the Centre and gave such support and encouragement.

In 2004, ACCORD embarked on a new course in its ongoing training of counsellors. In partnership with DCU it recruited and selected personnel to undergo a 2 year post graduate Diploma in Couple Counselling. Eight counsellors from Dublin started in DCU in 2004 and in February 2005 they began counselling in seven Dublin Centres. In September 2005, a second intake began and we expect thirteen new counsellors from the

DCU course to join our Centres in February 2006.

Alongside the DCU course we continued to train associate counsellors; these are experienced counsellors who have been trained elsewhere and who underwent our couple counselling course before starting to counsel in our Centres. Five counsellors joined us in May 2005 and a further sixteen started the course in September and hope to begin counselling with us in March 2006. Eighteen counsellors continued their training with the Personal Counselling Institute, between them they did 3,365 training hours. Total training hours in 2005 for our counsellors, facilitators and administrative staff amounted to 6,008 hours.

Our eleven Centres service the Dublin Diocese over three counties in a wish to be within fairly easy reach of as much of the Diocesan community as possible. In our three outreach Centres, Ballymun, Bray and Tallaght, we have employed counsellor managers to run the Centres and to utilize the space of two counselling rooms as effectively as possible. It is clear from this Report how successful they continue to be in this endeavour.

In 2005, our 109 counsellors delivered 13,165 hours of counselling to almost 3,500 clients,



4,001 of these hours were achieved in the three outreach Centres. Nearly half of our clients came as couples, the remainder were individuals; all sought help with difficulties in their relationships. The number of people seeking marital psychosexual therapy increased by about 50% in 2005.

All 41 of our marriage preparation facilitators are gathered together in one large Centre in Harcourt Street and this enables us to organise all our marriage preparation courses centrally with the facilitators' willing co-operation. Our facilitators work to serve the needs of engaged couples who are preparing for marriage; to that end they delivered 86 Marriage Preparation Courses at various venues throughout the Diocese to 1,423 couples during the year, which included our annual course for deaf couples, the interchurch courses and some courses to meet very specific needs. These needs centred on couples who, for cultural, religious or language reasons, could not avail of our standard Marriage Preparation Courses.

During 2005, four new facilitators joined ACCORD and we intend to try to recruit and train many more people in 2006. We held two Marriage Enrichment courses for nine couples who wanted to do something extra towards sustaining and enriching their marriages. The schools team of ten facilitators worked with great dedication throughout the year and delivered our relationship and sexuality module to 17,125 students in primary and secondary schools throughout the Diocese. The team members also spoke to over 2,500 parents at parent talks during the year, explaining to them how they work with children in fifth and sixth class and with students in transition year.

The heart of ACCORD is our commitment to our clients; we are proud of our confidential service and of our mission to care for the pastoral needs of couples in different stages of their relationships, from the exciting early stages of preparation through the reality of the ups and downs of marriage. Our counsellors and facilitators live that commitment daily as do our administrative staff. Our administrative secretaries in every Centre are the first people any client meets or speaks to on the telephone. They are the people who welcome and reassure the clients and who help them to have confidence in ACCORD and encourage them to take the huge step of coming to talk about their private world to counsellors. They are also the people who help engaged couples find marriage preparation courses that will fit their varying needs of geography, date and time. Some of our administrative staff have been with ACCORD for a long time, while others joined very recently; all are committed to giving the best service possible to every client.

So, in 2005, we welcomed several new counsellors, facilitators and administrative personnel and we bade farewell to others, some of whom had been with ACCORD Dublin for many years; to all of them we say a heartfelt "Thank you" for their generosity and commitment to the services we offer to our clients.

*Penny Wilson*  
Acting Director ACCORD Dublin

## REGIONAL REPORT

# Central



**GERRY GUINNANE**  
Regional Officer

**The best advice I ever got was from my mother, “Make the most of today and yesterday will be a memory of happiness and tomorrow will be a vision of hope”. This is what I believe we do best in ACCORD, we work hard on behalf of those who seek us out and leave them and ourselves with a vision of hope that tomorrow will be that bit better for the encounter.**

In beginning my Report for the Central Region, I would like to pay tribute to all ACCORD members at the coalface for your efforts over the past year. They have made an enormous difference to so many lives. There is little doubt that the work we do in ACCORD remains as vital as ever. You deal with the most fragile when you deal with troubled relationships. Couples who are married alongside couples preparing for marriage, call for a service that can be trusted, is caring, utterly discreet and reliable. This is what they find in ACCORD.

### MARIAN MAYE - R.I.P.

It was with deep sadness that we heard about Marian’s untimely death in July. Marian worked in the Charlestown Centre as Secretary and Facilitator and filled her roles there with care and enthusiasm. Solas na bhFlathas dí anam.

### RECRUITMENT

2005 was another good year for recruitment in the Central Region, eleven new Facilitators joined the education service. Across the region ten new counsellors joined their

respective Centres. This regular supply of new blood is vital if we are to continue to meet the needs of our customers. Once again I want to emphasise that recruitment should be an on-going initiative that rolls from one year to the next. I welcome the earlier times for selection to the Education service, i.e. May/June as opposed to September.

### SUPERVISION

Just before Christmas we had the release of the new policy on Supervision for the counselling service. I welcome this document and believe it will bring necessary controls and discipline to this important aspect of the Counselling service. I encourage all counsellors to read this document and be familiar with their part in making it work.

### STRATEGIC REVIEW

The roll out of the results of the Strategic Review is set to happen in the first half of 2006. I would encourage a representative from each Centre to attend these briefings and take the results back to your Centres.



### VIBRANCY AT CENTRE LEVEL

Vibrancy at Centre level is everyone's responsibility. I would encourage new members to get involved in the running of their Centre and ensure their voices are heard. A good question to ask oneself every now and again is "What is it like for me to be a member of my Centre"? My experience across the Region is that Centres are struggling to put together executives to manage and run the Centre.

Office, their commitment and support is invaluable at Centre level.

Also to our National Director Shay, I do not know how he does it but for one man he is exceptional. Finally, I want to thank the members of the Central region for enabling me to achieve my tasks as your Regional Officer. I look forward to working with and being of service to you over the coming year.

### NOTE OF THANKS AND APPRECIATION

I would like to pay a special tribute on behalf of the Region to our wonderful staff in Central

*Gerry Guinnane*  
Regional Officer

## REGIONAL REPORT

# Northern Region



**DEIRDRE O'RAWE**

Regional Director ACCORD Northern Ireland

**Once again I am delighted to present the Annual Report on behalf of the Northern Ireland Region. I would like to begin by thanking all our personnel; counsellors, facilitators, secretaries, priest directors, supervisors, tutors, chairpersons, treasurers and the many others who contribute to the success of our work. The region comprises the following Centres: Armagh, Ballymena, Belfast, Derry, Downpatrick, Enniskillen, Maghera, Newry and Omagh.**

Last year the UK National Statistics Office published information about Marriage and Divorce in Northern Ireland, which I think presents challenges for us in our work and reflects the current social and moral context in Northern Ireland *vis-à-vis* marriage, relationships and sexuality.

- ✦ There were 8,328 marriages registered in Northern Ireland in 2004, an increase of 7% on the previous year.
- ✦ 78% of marriages were the first marriage for both bride and groom
- ✦ The average age at marriage has increased markedly in the last 2 decades. Both brides and grooms are now on average 5 years older than their counterparts 20 years ago. The average age at marriage for all brides was 30.1 years and for grooms was 32.4 years.
- ✦ Of the 5,704 religious marriages in 2004, 52% were Catholic ceremonies, 21% Presbyterian, 16% Church of Ireland, 4% Methodist and 7% other denominations.
- ✦ The number of marriages dissolved in Northern Ireland in 2004 was 2,512. This is the largest number of divorces on record and an increase of 200 on the 2003 figure.

- ✦ The average duration of marriage ending in divorce was 16.2 years.
- ✦ The 2001 census shows that more than 90% of married couples are of the same community background. Cohabitation is most common amongst couples of differing community backgrounds. I think this point is interesting in terms of ACCORD's cross-community work in Northern Ireland, particularly in the area of Inter-Church courses.

### NIEC

We are indebted to Mr. George Branagan who took over as chair of the NIEC from Mr. Sean McGillan. The NIEC meetings afford an invaluable opportunity for representatives of the Northern Centres to raise issues and allow discussion about their own particular needs. The NIEC focussed on the marketing of ACCORD NI, strategic partnerships with like-minded organisations in Northern Ireland, recruitment, the RSE Schools Programme, accreditation and training.



## ACCORD NI COUNSELLING SERVICE

6 new counsellors joined the Northern Centres and 2 DCU students joined the Belfast and Armagh Centres. Our relationship with DCU was a new departure for ACCORD NI; however, the placements went very smoothly in no small part due to the calibre of the counsellors. With the extra counsellors available our counselling service saw an increase from 2203 hours in 2004 to 2280 hours in 2005. There are 8 ACCORD supervisors available for clinical supervision in the Northern region.

The Northern counsellors were delighted with the news that the National Association of Pastoral Counsellors and Psychotherapists (NAPCP) had recognised and validated ACCORD's counsellor training.

## ACCORD NI EDUCATION SERVICE

ACCORD NI Regional Office continued to try to meet the ever-increasing demand for Marriage Preparation Courses. We increased the number of regional courses from 9 to 12. In 2005, 5 new people were selected to train as facilitators. ACCORD NI facilitated 2320 people in 2005 compared to 1682 in 2004. There were 2 Inter-Church courses. Currently there are 2 ACCORD supervisors available to NI facilitators with 3 going forward for training.

## RELATIONSHIPS AND SEXUALITY EDUCATION (RSE)

The RSE "Love Matters" resource was presented to Catholic schools and the Northern Bishops in June 2005. Most schools have purchased a number of copies and our Education Officer, Mr. Michael McGowan has received positive feedback from the training of teachers in the use of the resource. A number of schools have requested further training in counselling skills and ACCORD has developed "An Introduction to Basic Counselling Skills" course for teachers. The training of student teachers has been another development and ACCORD is delivering a number of lectures in St. Mary's Teacher Training College in Belfast. Workshops for parents are continuing to be provided.

## NETWORKING

ACCORD NI is represented on the NI Counselling Agencies Forum, which was established to consider the issue of accreditation in Northern Ireland. This body is an important forum in terms of models of good practice and agency referral. The Home Nations met on a number of occasions in 2005. This is a group of representatives from counselling agencies throughout Britain and the Republic of Ireland and meetings involved discussion on matters of management and best practice.

## REGIONAL REPORT NORTHERN REGION (continued)

The Regional Director attended a number of Deanery and Vicariate meetings throughout the year to raise the profile of ACCORD and seek the co-operation of the clergy. There was a warm reception and an interest in our work from priests generally.

### FUTURE ISSUES

There are a number of key issues for ACCORD NI:

- ✦ to promote marriage as an important institution which contributes to the well-being of society,
- ✦ to collaborate with other like-minded organisations on projects of mutual benefit,
- ✦ to recruit and train new facilitators to meet the ever increasing demand,
- ✦ to raise the profile of ACCORD NI and in particular our counselling service,
- ✦ to endeavour to reduce the administrative burden experienced by some Centres.

### A WORD OF THANKS

Special thanks to Mr. George Branagan for his chairmanship of the NIEC and his limitless hospitality. George kindly let Mrs. Brenda Russell work in Regional Office during Sandra's absence and we are grateful to both George and Brenda for their support. We are all very pleased to have Sandra back safe and well. Thanks to our National Director, Mr. Shay Ellis and all our colleagues in Central Office. Finally, my thanks to my colleagues Mr. Edward Lavery and Mr. Michael McGowan for all their hard work throughout the year.

*Deirdre O'Rawe*

Regional Director ACCORD Northern Ireland

## REGIONAL REPORT

# South West



**JOHN McNALLY**  
Regional Officer

*To live content with small means; to seek elegance rather than luxury and refinement rather than fashion; to be worthy, not respectable and wealthy not rich; to study hard, think quietly, act gently, talk frankly; to listen to the stars and birds, to babes and sages, with open heart; to bear on cheerfully, do all bravely .....*

**William Ellery Channing ( 1780 – 1842 )**

**It gives me great pleasure to once again present the Regional Report for the South West Region, this time for the year 2005.**

**The region comprises the following Centres: Nenagh, Ennis, Limerick, Newcastle West, Cloyne, Tralee, Killarney and Bantry.**

Throughout the year a lot happened, many Centres experienced changes in personnel, particularly to the Centre executives and to the executive roles within Centres. To those who gave so unselfishly of their time to take up roles of Secretary, Treasurer and in particular the onerous task of Chairperson, I extend a heartfelt thanks.

A change of Chairpersons has taken place in the following Centres; Cloyne, Tralee, Limerick and Bantry. The outgoing chairpersons have shown vision, diplomacy and courage and their contribution to the Centres is immeasurable.

To the incoming Chairs and to those who remain in the role in other Centres, I wish every success in your roles and pledge my full support to you for the coming year.

To the Centre Executives, Secretaries, Treasurers, Priest Directors and in particular to the first friendly voice heard in each Centre - the Administrators / Secretaries - I say "well done" on another very productive, worthwhile and hard working year.

It is always refreshing for me to call to Centres and see the work that goes on in the provision of a very worthwhile service.

### MARRIAGE PREPARATION

Throughout the region we delivered a total of 4432 Marriage Preparation Hours to a total of 3902 attendees. This represents an increase in hours delivered of 4% on the corresponding figure for 2004. These courses were delivered by a dedicated team of 157 facilitators, all of whom are in supervision.

The demand for Marriage Preparation Courses continues to grow throughout the region. It reflects a need to increase the number of courses offered by Centres and in particular in Centres where the demand is increasing and where we have adequate facilitators to deliver such courses.

Our FOCCUS programme is now on offer in four of the Centres in the region. FOCCUS provides an insight to how relationships work

## REGIONAL REPORT SOUTH WEST (continued)

and highlights the needs of couples as they prepare for marriage.

To all of our new recruits in 2005, I welcome you to the organisation, thank you for your service commitment and I trust that together we will continue to strive for excellence in all we do.

To all current facilitators, thank you for the wonderful dedication and hard work of 2005 and thank you for all your support during the year.

Supervision training commences in April 2006 and will provide badly needed supervisors in the region. To those whose names have been submitted for this training, I wish you well with training and look forward to working with you as supervisors for the future.

### MARRIAGE COUNSELLING

Marriage and Relationship Counselling provides a service that is both essential and priceless throughout the country. In measuring its effectiveness, the only conclusion to be drawn is that were it not for ACCORD the number of marriages ending in divorce or separation would undoubtedly be far in excess of their present day figures.

In 2005, a total of 4184 counselling hours were delivered to a case count of 737 throughout the year. This represents an increase of over 20% in counselling hours delivered in the previous years figure and highlights the need for a continued professional service.

It also shows an increase of over 10% on the case count from 2004, reflecting the increased need for this service and its importance to society.

All of this work was supervised through the provision of 233 hours of individual supervision and 261 hours of group supervision, which is in line with best practice protocols.

I again pay tribute to the dedication, professionalism and loyalty of our 47 counsellors who contribute so much through their hard work and commitment.

Through the DCU (Dublin City University) programme combined with the PCI (Personal Counselling Institute in association with Middlesex University), we have been able to expand our resources in training counsellors over the past three years with ACCORD.

A further development is the facility now open to all ACCORD counsellors who have completed 450 postgraduate client contact hours to apply for full accreditation with NAPCP (National Association of Pastoral Counsellors and Psychotherapists).

Waiting lists in this region for counselling have reduced and the plan is for this trend to continue, offering a valuable service to clients within a maximum two week period. With this in mind, further initiatives are forthcoming to avail through latest technology of clustering of Centres in this region.

A continuous professional development programme in 2006 will ensure that all



counsellors are up to date with best practice skills.

## MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT

Throughout 2005 a number of Centres in this region embarked on a programme to offer Marriage Enrichment as part of our ongoing services suite.

Looking back on 2004, I note that it was my intention to have this service available in every Centre in the region on a twice yearly basis at a minimum. Unfortunately this did not happen and in no way was this due to the lack of commitment of the Centres who endeavoured to provide this service in the region. The uptake from potential clients was less than encouraging despite extensive advertising. A new initiative on this issue is needed.

## MARITAL SEXUAL THERAPY (MST) SERVICE

A launch of the revised MST service nationwide is imminent.

Through the support of the Health Boards this service is available in the region. A total of 70 hours Marital Sexual Therapy was delivered to a total of 26 cases in 2005.

This service continues to be a very important part of our overall suite of services and again a sincere thanks to our Counsellors who provide this service so loyally every year.

## ADMINISTRATION

The administration of the services of ACCORD was streamlined this year with the

provision of training for our Centre Secretaries. This proved very valuable in the collection of data, especially in compiling the end of year reports and records.

People often question the usefulness of collecting this data and in particular the amount of time involved in their compilation. I have no doubt whatsoever that in order for ACCORD to provide a world class service and to be able to analyse and forecast trends, accurate data management is paramount to its provision.

During 2006, the continued use of latest technology to provide Centres with seamless record keeping is foremost in my mind and will play a major part in providing worthwhile, accurate information for the years ahead.

I want in particular to thank the Centre Secretaries for their patience, co-operation and dedication to the task of providing clients and volunteers alike with a top class service in 2005. My mission for 2006 is to also provide this to clients where gaps are evident and to further the use of our intranet site to easily access information for all ACCORD personnel.

My sincere thanks to all administrative personnel for their endeavours in 2005.

## THE FUTURE

The future of ACCORD lies within its ethos and, in particular, all those who give so willingly of their time to provide for the well being of others.

A survey of current ACCORD personnel recently conducted showed 82% of personnel

## REGIONAL REPORT SOUTH WEST (continued)

wish to maintain the voluntary ethos - a massive vote of confidence for its value.

The provision of better, more dynamic Marriage Preparation Courses is a challenge to us all and use of latest research and methods of presentation are paramount to the continuous goodwill of the general public and in particular future generations of young married couples.

My goal is to be able to provide FOCCUS in every Centre in this region ....as time considerations and personnel allow.

To achieve this, all Centres must embark on recruitment programmes to increase ACCORD personnel by a minimum of 50% - only through this can we provide sufficient courses to meet demand.

A new and very welcome addition to recruitment for the coming season is the provision of a training programme in Maynooth for incoming ACCORD counsellors who can now join, following selection, without any prior counselling experience. This, I believe, will prove to be a very innovative and positive step for the organisation.

Eight new counselling supervisors have completed their training in the recent months and are now available to work in the region, this again is a very positive direction for the counselling programme and will serve to ensure that clustering of Centres will be more seamless.

I look forward to 2006 with great enthusiasm, confident in the knowledge that our clients are availing of a first class service in both counselling and pre marriage and clear in my vision of what has to happen in order for ACCORD to fulfil its undoubted potential.

*We have enough people who tell it like it is  
– now we could use a few who tell it like it  
can be.*

**Robert Orben**

*John McNally*  
Regional Officer

# REGIONAL REPORT

## West/North East



**YVONNE CRONIN**  
Regional Officer

I am delighted to present the Annual Report for 2005 on behalf of the West/North East Region. The region comprises the following Centres: Inishowen, Letterkenny, Donegal, Galway, Tuam, Castlebar, Dundalk, Drogheda, Navan, Monaghan and Cavan.

Service	No of Clients
Marriage Counselling	1095
Marital Sex Therapy	26
Fertility Counselling	24
Marriage Preparation	3902
Schools Programme	908
Personal Enrichment	64
Total	6019

### MARRIAGE COUNSELLING

There are currently 58 counsellors working in the region who presented 4,454 counselling hours to ACCORD Clients in 2005. Client access and promotion of our counselling service was a priority in the region last year. The above figures bear testament to the successful implementation of effective management of waiting lists and inter-Centre liaison to ensure quality delivery of service. The average hours per counsellor again rose this year to 76.7 hours. All counsellors in the region are committed to continued professional development and availed of regional and national training with their usual professional enthusiasm.

Robust recruitment drives in the region continue to be a priority to attract generous

people so as to expand our service delivery in the coming years.

### MARRIAGE EDUCATION

There are currently 104 facilitators working in the region who presented 4,432 hours of Education on behalf of ACCORD. 146 Marriage Preparation Courses were delivered to 3,902 clients, 562 of whom also availed of our programme "FOCCUS" as part of their preparation for Marriage. The Schools Programme in the region this year delivered 392 hours of input to 908 students in 2005. A total of 138 hours of Personal Enrichment Courses was also delivered in the region in 2005.

The critical issue of attracting generous people to work with us was again addressed in the

## REGIONAL REPORT WEST/NORTH EAST (continued)

region in 2005. Strong recruitment drives together with initiatives to highlight the work of ACCORD locally continued in 2005. The recognition of the need to double the amount of facilitators working with us in the region continues to be the major challenge presenting at this time.

### ADMINISTRATION

Our service to the client continues to be underpinned with secure managerial functions at Centre administration and executive level. Regional training workshops together with National Secretary's Day ensured networking between Centres continues to play a pivotal role in client service delivery. Call forwarding initiatives, together with staggered holiday rosters allowed continued easy access for the client to our service during vacation time. Centres continue to avail of the professional expertise offered at Central Office level and strong relationships were forged this year to progress further support for Centres in the future.

### THE WAY FORWARD

- ✦ The challenge to attract generous people to work in our service is on-going. The demand for Marriage Preparation Courses still outweighs supply. The provision of "Regional Teams" to support the local Centre with service delivery is an exciting option for the future.

- ✦ The need to provide service to outlining areas in our Region is on-going. The provision of ACCORD Marriage Preparation Courses in Clifden as an outreach service to Tuam Centre this year is an example of what we can achieve elsewhere in the future.
- ✦ Progressing net-working opportunities with other agencies to provide outreach services in Counselling will enable further client access in economic and geographic disadvantaged areas.
- ✦ Further development of the close links fostered between Centres. We know networking works!
- ✦ Continued acknowledgement of the work of our counsellors and facilitators and their commitment to voluntarism.

Finally, I would like to thank all Centre members in the Region for their support in 2005. Despite limits of time, the demands of family life, the reality that life moves at an ever-quickening pace, I am privileged to witness, on a daily basis, the commitment of ACCORD members and their families to bring to people a service that is rooted in the Christian desire to serve others in love.

To Shay Ellis and my colleagues in Central Office, my sincere gratitude for your continued guidance and support.

*Yvonne Cronin*  
Regional Officer

## REGIONAL REPORT

# South East



**LARRY KENNY**  
Regional Office

**It is Annual Report time again, a time to reflect on the year past and a time to look forward into the future. I am delighted to present the 2005 Report for the South East region.**

**At the outset I would like to thank all personnel, be they counsellors, facilitators, administrators or members of Centre executives. It is due to your team effort that I can report an increase in workload over the past twelve months resulting in a 20% increase in the overall number of clients availing of the services of ACCORD in the South East region.**

### COUNSELLING

46 counsellors provided a total of 3,939 counselling hours in the region during 2005. This figure is up by 11% on the previous year. This highlights the importance of counselling work and the level of commitment we expect from our counsellors. The average number of counselling hours was 85 hours per counsellor with some doing in excess of 150 hours. With the evolution of a more professional service, the demands of the accreditation process and the cost levels involved, each Centre will be required to look closely at their budget and outgoings over the coming year.

It is most important that counselling hours be distributed equitably within each Centre to insure maximum benefit for the financial and personnel resources of the Centre.

At present there are 4 new counsellors for the region studying through the DCU programme and they will be joining Centres in early 2006. This will bring a new dimension to counselling and I look forward to their induction in their chosen Centres in February. The need for counselling continues to grow, so I look forward to meeting with each Centre executive early in 2006 to look at how we might expand our service to those who need it most.

The planned introduction of the new Maynooth Diploma Course in September 2006 is an exciting development and in many ways is a back to the future approach of meeting the need for new counsellors.

### MARRIAGE PREPARATION

55 facilitators provided 76 full and 16 mini Marriage Preparation Courses catering for 2098 people. This shows an increase of 35% on 2004. With approximately 2500 marriages celebrated within the region each year this service will need to be developed if we are fully to meet the demand for courses. A number of our Centres moved their Marriage Preparation Courses to larger venues to facilitate 15 to 20 couples on their courses. In one Centre this allowed for an increase of 50% in the numbers attending. This was a very significant and welcome increase considering the same number of facilitators were involved in presenting the courses. There is still a continuing need for extra facilitators in the region and dialogue with the Centres on a diocesan if not regional level would be most useful in deciding how we can meet the increase in demand for our courses.

The standardisation of courses in both content and delivery hours in the region has improved

## REGIONAL REPORT SOUTH EAST (continued)

over the last two years and I look forward to all Centres presenting a standard course in the very near future.

### MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT

Two Marriage Enrichment Courses, one in Carlow and one in Newbridge, took place during the year with 8 people attending in Carlow and 10 in Newbridge. Despite much effort and investment of resources by a number of Centres in the region, this very valuable service to supporting marriage has not taken off as we all would have wished. However, over the coming year I hope that together we can come up with some new initiative to encourage couples to avail of the service.

### SCHOOL WORK

School work was delivered in two Centres in Carlow and Thurles. Despite the lack of personnel involved, 89 hours were delivered attended by 310 pupils. Carlow Centre in the person of Mary Kavanagh, delivered 27 hours to a total of 140 second level students, while the Thurles Centre delivered their courses to primary pupils with their parents in attendance.

This is a very valuable service and I look forward to the formation of a national programme, something similar to that produced by ACCORD in Northern Ireland, in the not too distant future.

### THE FUTURE

In reading the signs of the times I will not endeavour to forecast the future. Looking at the rate of change in ACCORD over the past five or six years it would be foolhardy to predict where we will be in the year 2012.

The reality of life, however, dictates that we must at least plan for the coming years. Our marriage

preparation work will have to be expanded both in personnel and initiatives if we are to make significant inroads to meet the demand for our service. We may need to look at diocesan or regional structures together with Centre structures in an effort to meet the demand.

The introduction of the Counselling Diploma Course in Maynooth will see ACCORD back in control of its own counselling training, this should give the organisation greater control in meeting the demands of the counselling service. The present administrative structure is very much Centre based, while this has met the needs of most Centres up to now. With the roll out of the strategic review there is a need to look at how we can improve access for our clients in the future. In an ideal world we would hope to have a friendly voice at the end of the phone at least Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm, if not weekends as well. With modern technology and a little ingenuity I feel it would be possible to arrange this service at diocesan level.

The arrival in Ireland of so many non-nationals from Eastern Europe and beyond brings a new challenge to both our counselling and marriage preparation services. In areas of high population we will need to look at recruitment from these communities.

Exciting times are ahead for ACCORD. I feel privileged to be part of this in my role as Regional Officer and I look forward with confidence that together we can further establish the ACCORD brand as being the premier organisation providing support to marriage and family in the country.

Once again I would like to take this opportunity to thank all for your support during 2005 and I look forward to continued success in 2006.

*Larry Kenny*  
Regional Officer



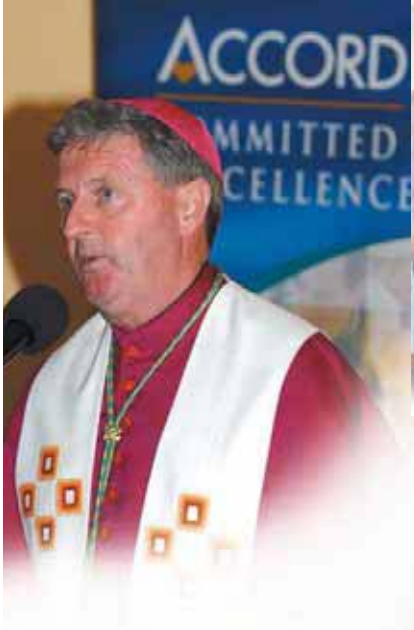
# Counsellor Training Provided 2005

Course Title	Courses Delivered	Total Attendance
Counsellor Training	Maynooth All Hallows College Limerick Cookstown	35 completed training
Sexual Issues in Counselling Context	Maynooth	13
Alcohol Problems & Relationship Counselling	All Hallows College Limerick Maynooth Sligo	62
Mediation Training	All Hallows College Limerick	42
Multicultural Issues	All Hallows College	11
Supervision Training	Maynooth	11



## Education Training Provided 2005

Course Title	Courses Delivered	Total Attendance
ACCORD Programme Training Group A05	6	13
ACCORD Programme Training Group B05	6	11
ACCORD Programme Training Group C05	6	7
ACCORD Programme Training Group D05	6	10
ACCORD Programme Training Group E05	6	14
Spirituality of Marriage Groups A,B,C,D, (2004)	1	45
Progress Review Groups A,B,C,D, (2004)	1	45
Tutors Training	4	7
NUI Cert for Tutors	4	13
Sexuality Module A Way of Presenting	2	44
Induction Day 2 Groups A,B,C,D,E, (2005)	1	54
Revisiting Your Family of Origin	3	84
Induction Day (2006 Trainees)	1	49
ACCORD Initial Training Group A 06	1	13
ACCORD Initial Training Group B06	1	11
ACCORD Initial Training Group C06	1	7
ACCORD Initial Training Group D06	1	10



# Financial Reports

# Financial Report for 2005



**MAUREEN WARREN**  
Financial Director

**It gives me great pleasure to report that 2005 has been another successful yet challenging year for ACCORD from a financial perspective.**

Centres and Central Office continued to be the recipients of substantial State funding to provide essential supports for marriages and relationships throughout Ireland. ACCORD, through its national presence, is in a unique position to provide these services on a value-for-money basis for its funders and clients continue to source our services on a low or no-fee basis, where they need to do so.

The primary aim of the organisation is to support Marriage, Family and Relationship. As we know, traditional Marriage and Family are the bedrock of our society, providing fundamental stability for family members and the wider population. At the time of writing, this fact was further underlined when the All-Party Oireachtas Committee on the Constitution of Ireland announced that it would not change those sections of the Constitution (Article 41) supporting Marriage and Family.

Some years back, the State wished to demonstratively support marriage in a climate of divorce referenda - and the ultimate introduction of divorce - and the level of funding increased to help ACCORD provide the much needed services of Marriage & Relationship Counselling and Marriage Preparation Programmes.

The number of marriages continues to increase year on year and this is reflected in the numbers attending Marriage Preparation

Programmes with ACCORD. Client feedback from our courses extol the benefits of attending and the subjects covered in our programme aim to increase couples' skills in such topics as Communication, Conflict Management, Commitment, Family of Origin/Self Awareness etc. In 2005, ACCORD provided 18,446 Marriage Preparation hours delivered to 16,582 persons.

The demand for counselling also rises each year and in 2005 ACCORD, for the first time, delivered in excess of 30,000 client hours.

## WEB PROJECT

Following the acquisition of funding to do so, we have developed our website [www.accord.ie](http://www.accord.ie) as a resource for couples. This web project would not have been possible without the support of the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

Our latest innovation as part of that project is a partnership site with Catholic Ireland – [www.gettingmarried.ie](http://www.gettingmarried.ie). This site provides comprehensive information for couples planning a church wedding and includes a very useful facility for developing a personalised wedding ceremony booklet.

The last section of the current project will be the introduction of an e-commerce facility allowing couples to book and pay for Marriage Preparation Courses on-line.



## FUNDING NEEDED

2006 will provide major challenges in regard to funding. Some areas requiring considerable investment include:

**Advertising** – We need additional funding to ensure that consciousness of and access to a nationwide service is high in the public's awareness. We are extremely aware already that demand rises considerably whenever our present advertising runs. However, funding constraints do not allow us to have a continuous programme in place.

**Research** – ACCORD, as a market leader, is in a prime position to conduct vital research in the areas of marriage, changing families and many of the relationship cutting edge issues affecting society today. The availability of a research partner would allow us to conduct relevant research to inform the future.

**Schools Programmes** – ACCORD has just completed a very successful programme for schools in partnership with the Northern Irish Bishops and CCEA (The Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment). The obvious success of this programme demands the roll-out of a similar programme in the Republic. Currently ACCORD Dublin is providing a programme to schools at primary level and has also recently introduced another for transition year students. ACCORD Drogheda also engage in this work at the moment.

Again, a funding partner is needed to bring relationship awareness and education to young people in their formative years, so that they may have skills and awareness to develop solid relationships at the appropriate time. ACCORD believes that relationship awareness

and skills are a whole of life development, virtually from the cradle to the grave.

**FOCCUS** – This inventory, which is available to couples preparing for marriage, is an additional diagnostic tool, invaluable in providing them with a snapshot of where their relationship stands at that time. It provides valuable pointers to potential differences of opinion and gives couples the opportunity to discuss and resolve these issues before embarking on their marriage journey.

Currently, this programme is available in some ACCORD centres on a pilot basis but its roll-out nationally is anticipated. To provide this programme on a national scale, committed ring-fenced funding and considerably more personnel are required.

Sincere thanks and much appreciation is due to our funders and stakeholders, listed below, without whose support ACCORD simply could not operate:

- ✦ Family Support Agency (under the auspices of the Department of Social & Family Affairs).
- ✦ Northern Area Health Board.
- ✦ Department of Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs.
- ✦ Irish Episcopal Conference.
- ✦ DHSS and various Trusts in Northern Ireland.

My gratitude and thanks also to my colleagues in Centres around the country and in Central Office.

*Maureen Warren*  
Financial Director

# AUDITORS REPORT TO THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

We have audited the Financial Statements on Pages 4 to 10 which have been prepared following the accounting policies set out on page 7.

This report is made solely to the National Executive Committee, as a body, in accordance with ACCORD's constitution. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the National Executive Committee those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the National Executive Committee, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinion we have formed.

## **Respective Responsibilities of the National Executive Committee and Auditors.**

The constitution of ACCORD requires the National Executive Committee to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of ACCORD and of its financial activities for the period. In preparing those financial statements the National Executive Committee are required to:

- (a) select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- (b) make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- (c) state whether the policies adopted are in accordance with the Regulations and with applicable accounting standards, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- (d) prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the charity will continue in business.

The National Executive Committee are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of ACCORD and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the requirements of the constitution of ACCORD. They also are responsible for safeguarding the assets of ACCORD and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud or other irregularities.

It is our responsibility to form an independent opinion, based on our audit, on those statements and to report our opinion to you.

## **Basis of Opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with Auditing Standards issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the National Executive Committee in the preparation of the financial statements and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to ACCORD's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

## **Opinion**

In our opinion the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of the ACCORDS' affairs as at 31st December, 2005 and of its financial activities for the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the requirements of the constitution of ACCORD.

HENRY MURRAY & CO.,  
Registered Auditors  
Chartered Accountants  
6 Edward Street,  
LURGAN.

# INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 2005.



<b>INCOME</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2004</b>
	€	€
Grant from N.A.H.B.	46,000.00	46,000.00
Grant - Department of Social and Family Affairs	1,070,000.00	1,067,000.00
Grant – Dept. of Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs	47,000.00	47,000.00
Interest Received	6,720.68	2,889.51
Donations	230.00	800.00
Charge on Accord (N.I.) General Services	22,855.28	22,855.28
Contribution from Diocesan Centres	162,001.22	138,707.08
Counsellor Selection & Training	217,465.88	223,559.00
Contribution from Irish Episcopal Conference	38,092.00	38,092.00
Publicity Campaign Contribution from Centres	75,247.06	71,021.00
Professional Indemnity & National Insurance Policy	20,789.54	12,406.50
Printing & Promotional	70,037.27	69,241.17
Sundry Income	1,107.40	3,123.86
	<u>1,777,546.33</u>	<u>1,742,695.40</u>
 <b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Tutors' & Supervisors' Exps & Training	27,281.47	22,353.72
Counsellor Selection & Training	97,094.55	76,826.75
Travelling, Subsistence & Allied Expenses	65,252.13	61,562.27
Remuneration	876,242.05	832,351.86
Hosting Expenses	2,922.80	2,822.41
Stationery, Printing & Office Supplies	112,972.50	108,535.65
Conferences & Meetings	153,898.15	148,658.77
Advertising, Books, Tapes & Pamphlets	23,205.37	48,686.64
Publicity Campaign	104,817.06	93,430.67
Web Project	48,431.80	59,878.63
Postage & Telephone	39,608.55	28,706.24
Computer Training	348.96	2,906.51
Maintenance of Equipment	921.22	3,951.78
Repairs & Renewals	-	65.34
Building Rent & Associated Services	56,215.62	56,650.16
Building Support Services - IT	30,251.18	20,483.92
Bank Interest & Charges	834.59	787.54
Insurance	25,283.27	16,101.72
Subscriptions	789.10	1,829.70
Contribution to Costs of Accord (N.I.)	37,573.97	36,757.25
Depreciation	11,162.19	12,643.12
Profit on Disposal of Assets	(500.00)	(300.00)
Exchange Gain/(Loss)	(526.34)	(381.74)
Audit, Accountancy and Consolidation Review	19,719.87	9,500.00
1st Seven years of Marriage Study	67,760.00	-
Accreditation to Professional requirement of EU Standards	62,274.99	80,814.20
	<u>1,863,835.05</u>	<u>1,725,623.11</u>
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) BEFORE APPROPRIATIONS	(86,288.72)	17,072.29
APPROPRIATIONS (RELEASES)		
Strategic Review Appropriation	-	(15,000.00)
Accreditation to Professional requirement of EU Appropriation	(11,200.00)	22,000.00
The 1st Seven Years of Marriage Study Appropriation	(43,000.00)	-
Web Project Appropriation	(10,000.00)	10,000.00
	<u>(64,200.00)</u>	<u>17,000.00</u>
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR YEAR	<u>(22,088.72)</u>	<u>72.29</u>

*Shay Ellis*

Mr. Shay Ellis NATIONAL DIRECTOR.

*Maureen Warren*

Ms. Maureen Warren FINANCIAL DIRECTOR.

## EXTRACTS FROM THE INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 2005.

### INCOME & EXPENDITURE IN RESPECT OF FUNDING RECEIVED UNDER THE FEDERATIONS, NETWORKS AND UMBRELLA BODIES SCHEME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2005.

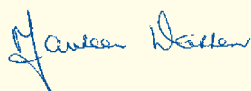
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2004</b>
	€	€
Grant - Department of Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs	47,000.00	47,000.00
See below for reconciliation from cash receipts basis to Accruals basis		
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Remuneration	24,807.17	21,993.94
Travel & Subsistence	1,067.85	310.40
Consultancy	17,181.63	31,131.12
Subscriptions	2,400.00	1,187.65
Training	465.00	
Books, Aids & Printing	631.40	2,317.14
Computer Software / Maintainance	1,350.00	602.58
Depreciation	-	2,153.50
Audit Fees	528.75	-
Sundry	-	182.30
	<u>48,431.80</u>	<u>59,878.63</u>
DEFICIT FOR YEAR	<u>(1,431.80)</u>	<u>(12,878.63)</u>

### RECONCILIATION OF GRANTS RECEIVED FROM CASH RECEIPTS BASIS TO ACCRUALS BASIS

Grants Deferred from Previous year	23,500.00	23,500.00
Plus		
Grants received during the year	<u>47,000.00</u>	<u>47,000.00</u>
	70,500.00	70,500.00
<u>Less</u>		
Grants Deferred to following year	<u>23,500.00</u>	<u>23,500.00</u>
Grant shown as Income in Accounts	<u>47,000.00</u>	<u>47,000.00</u>



Mr. Shay Ellis NATIONAL DIRECTOR.



Ms. Maureen Warren FINANCIAL DIRECTOR.

### AUDITORS CERTIFICATE.

We certify that we have examined the Groups accounts on a test basis and that this grant was spent for the purposes set out in the work plan appended to Agreement for funding under the Scheme of Support for Federations, Networks and Umbrella Groups in the Community and Voluntary Sector.

Henry Murray & CO.  
Registered Auditors

# BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER, 2005.



	NOTE	2005	2004
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>	2	1,379.02	3,147.83
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Stock	5	37,925.79	56,720.06
Debtors & Prepayments	3	245,179.65	101,594.74
Deposit Account		111,990.61	257,043.76
Bank & Cash		196,975.27	262,595.13
		<u>592,071.32</u>	<u>677,953.69</u>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Creditors & Accruals & Deferred Income	6	349,415.15	350,777.62
Bank Overdraft		-	-
		<u>349,415.15</u>	<u>350,777.62</u>
<b>Net Current Assets</b>		<u>242,656.17</u>	<u>327,176.07</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<u>244,035.18</u>	<u>330,323.90</u>
<b>REPRESENTED BY:</b>			
Accumulated Reserves	7	37,922.69	60,011.41
Appropriations	8	206,112.49	270,312.49
		<u>244,035.18</u>	<u>330,323.90</u>

*Shay Ellis*  
*Maureen Warren*

Mr. Shay Ellis NATIONAL DIRECTOR.

Ms. Maureen Warren FINANCIAL DIRECTOR.

# NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS.

## NOTE 1 – ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(A) **BASIS OF PREPARATION**

The accounts are prepared under the Historical Cost convention. The Accounts are prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards.

(B) **DEPRECIATION**

Depreciation is calculated to write off the original cost less the estimated residual value of fixed assets over their estimated useful lives at the following rates.

Fixtures and Equipment 25% Straight Line

Computer Equipment 100% Straight Line

Due to the high degree of technical obsolescence inherent in computer equipment, it has been decided to change the method of depreciating computer equipment so as to write off the original cost in the year of acquisition.

## NOTE 2 - FIXED ASSETS

	<b>FURNITURE &amp; EQUIPMENT</b>
	€
<b>COST</b>	
<b>BALANCE AT 1/1/05.</b>	126,478.22
Additions	9,393.38
Disposals	<u>(1,350.00)</u>
<b>BALANCE AT 31/12/05.</b>	<u>134,521.60</u>
<b>ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION</b>	
BALANCE AT 1/1/05	123,330.39
CHARGE FOR YEAR	11,162.19
DEPRECIATION ON DISPOSALS	<u>(1,350.00)</u>
<b>BALANCE AT 31/12/05.</b>	<u>133,142.58</u>
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>	
AT 31/12/05	<u>1,379.02</u>
AT 31/12/04	<u>3,147.83</u>

## NOTE 3 – DEBTORS

	<b>2005</b>	<b>2004</b>
Accrued Income	12,476.92	-
Debtors	220,182.38	92,905.91
Prepayments	<u>12,520.35</u>	<u>8,688.83</u>
	245,179.65	101,594.74

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued).



### NOTE 4 – TAX STATUS

ACCORD is a registered charity within the meaning section 333 of the Income Tax Act 1967. Charity No. CHY 6983

### NOTE 5 – STOCK

	<b>2005</b>	<b>2004</b>
Stock of Candles	6,552.00	24,042.94
Stock of Information Brochures	4,010.13	10,955.22
Stock of Posters	1,210.70	1,377.44
Stock of Pens	759.74	760.70
Stock of Folders	3,107.72	4,684.25
Stock of Plaques	776.74	364.80
Stock of Bookmarks	12.58	46.27
Stock of Headed Stationery & extras	15,174.40	7,344.46
Stock of Stationery	6,321.78	7,143.98
	<u>37,925.79</u>	<u>56,720.06</u>

### NOTE 6 – CREDITORS, ACCRUALS AND DEFERRED INCOME

	<b>2005</b>	<b>2004</b>
Creditors	167,860.84	107,590.26
Accruals	117,554.31	219,687.36
Deferred Income		
Dept. of Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs	23,500.00	23,500.00
Centres contribution to Counsellors Training	40,500.00	-
	<u>349,415.15</u>	<u>350,777.62</u>

### NOTE 7 – ACCUMULATED RESERVES

	<b>2005</b>	<b>2004</b>
BALANCE AS AT START OF YEAR	60,011.41	59,939.12
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	<u>(22,088.72)</u>	<u>72.29</u>
BALANCE AT END OF YEAR	<u>37,922.69</u>	<u>60,011.41</u>

### NOTE 8 – APPROPRIATIONS

	<b>2004</b>	<b>INCREASE</b>	<b>DECREASE</b>	<b>2005</b>
Strategic Review	-	-	-	-
Accreditation to Professional Requirement of EU	82,000.00	-	(11,200.00)	70,800.00
The 1st 7 Years of Marriage Study	43,000.00	-	(43,000.00)	-
Regional Structure Commitments	135,312.49	-	-	135,312.49
Web Project	10,000.00	-	(10,000.00)	-
	<u>270,312.49</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(64,200.00)</u>	<u>206,112.49</u>



# Accord Centres In Ireland

	<b>Central Office: Columba Centre, Maynooth, Co. Kildare</b>	<b>01-5053112</b>
Athlone:	'Alverna', Northgate Street, Athlone, Co. Westmeath	090-6475491
Ballina:	Pastoral Centre, Cathedral Grounds, Ballina, Co. Mayo	096-21478
Ballinasloe:	Family Centre, Brackernagh, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway	090-9643573
Bantry:	5 Main Street, Bantry, Co. Cork	027-50272
Carlow:	St. Catherine's Community Centre, Station Road, Carlow, Co. Carlow	059-9138700
Castlebar:	Accord Centre, Castle Street, Castlebar, Co. Mayo	094-9022214
Cavan:	Kilmore Diocesan Pastoral Centre, Cullies, Co. Cavan	049-4375004
Charlestown:	Pastoral Centre, Charlestown, Co. Mayo	094-9254944
Clonmel:	St. Mary's Pastoral Centre, Irishtown, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary	052-24144
Cloyne:	St. Colman's Hill, Fermoy, Co. Cork	025-31899
Donegal	Accord Counselling Service, The Diamond, Donegal, Co. Donegal	074-9723944
Drogheda:	"Verona", Cross Lane, Drogheda, Co. Louth	041-9843860
Dublin:	39 Harcourt Street, Dublin 2. (Marriage Preparation Courses Ph: 4784400)	01-4780866
	Unit 23, Ballymun Shopping Centre, Ballymun, Dublin 11	01-8621508
	ACCORD House, Church Avenue, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15	01-8201044
	The Old Presbytery, Herbert Rd, Bray, Co. Wicklow	01-2867712
	'St Kevin's', Monastery Road, Clondalkin, Dublin 22	01-4593467
	The Boylan Centre, Sussex Street, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin	01-2801682
	71 Griffith Avenue, Marino, Dublin 3	01-8338631
	15 Dalymount, Phibsborough, Dublin 7	01-8680028
	Seatown Road, Swords, Co. Dublin	01-8404550
	Level 3, The Square, Tallaght, Dublin 24	01-4590337
	265 Templeogue Road, Templeogue, Dublin 6W	01-4908739
Dundalk:	St. Patrick's Grounds, Roden Place, Dundalk, Co. Louth	042-9331731
Ennis:	Clarecare, Harmony Row, Ennis, Co. Clare	065-6824297
Galway:	Pastoral Centre, Arus de Brun, Newtownsmith, Galway, Co. Galway	091-562331
Inishowen:	Pastoral Centre, Barrack Hill, Carndonagh, Co. Donegal	074-9374103
Kilkenny:	St Mary's Centre, James' Street, Kilkenny, Co. Kilkenny	056-7722674
Killarney:	Pastoral Centre, Rock Road, Killarney, Co. Kerry	064-32644



Letterkenny:	Diocesan Pastoral Centre, Monastery Ave, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal.	074-9122218
Limerick:	66 O'Connell Street, Limerick, Co. Limerick	061-313287
Limerick West:	The Parish Centre, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick	069-61000
Longford:	"Teallach Iosa", St Mel's Road, Longford, Co. Longford	043-47222
Monaghan:	St. Macartan's College, Monaghan, Co. Monaghan	047-83359
Mullingar:	Social Services Centre, Bishopsgate Street, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath	044-9348707
Navan:	St. Annes Community Resource Centre, Railway St. Navan, Co. Meath	046-90 23146
Nenagh:	Loreto House, Kenyon Street, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary	065-6824297
Newbridge	Parish Centre, Station Road, Newbridge, Co. Kildare	045-431695
Portlaoise:	Parish Centre, St. Peter's & Paul's Church, Portlaoise, Co. Laois	057-8661581
Roscommon:	St. Comans Club, Abbey Street, Roscommon Town, Co. Roscommon	090-6626619
Sligo:	1st Floor, Social Services Centre, Charles Street, Sligo, Co. Sligo	071-9145641
Thurles:	ACCORD House, Cathedral Street, Thurles, Co. Tipperary	0504-22279
Tipperary:	Community Services Centre, St Michael's Street, Tipperary Town, Co. Tipperary	062-33330
Tralee:	St. John's Parish Centre, Castle Street, Tralee, Co. Kerry	066-7120194
Tuam:	Parish Centre, Dublin Road, Tuam, Co. Galway	093-24900
Tullamore:	St. Brigid's Place, Tullamore, Co. Offaly	0506-41831
Waterford:	St. John's Pastoral Centre, Johns Hill, Waterford Town, Waterford	051-878333
Wexford:	St. Brigid's Centre, 12 Roches Road, Wexford Town, Wexford	053-23086

**CENTRES IN NORTHERN IRELAND:**

<b>N.I. Regional Office: 'Cana House', 56 Lisburn Road, Belfast BT9 6AF.</b>	<b>028-90-233002</b>	
Armagh:	1 Tavanagh Avenue, Portadown, Co. Armagh. BT62 3AJ	028-38-334781
Ballymena:	32 Portrush Road, Coleraine BT52 IRE	028-25-644072
Belfast:	Curran House, Twin Spires Centre, 155 Northumberland Street BT13 2JF	028-90-339944
Derry:	Diocesan Pastoral Centre, 164 Bishop Street, Derry BT48 6UJ.	028-71-362475
Downpatrick:	32 English Street, Downpatrick, BT30 6AB	028-44-613435
Enniskillen:	Ros Erne House, 8 Darling Street, Enniskillen Co. Fermanagh BT74 7EJ.	028-66-325696
Maghera:	159A Glen Road, Maghera, Co. Derry BT46 5JN	028-79-642983
Newry:	Cana Suite, Linenhall Hse, WIN Business Park, Canal Quay, Newry, BT35 6PH.	028-30-263577
Omagh:	Mount Saint Columba Pastoral Centre, 48 Brook St. Omagh BT78 5HD	028-82-242439



## ACCORD Personnel as at 31st December 2005

### President

Bishop William Walsh DD, Bishop of Killaloe

### National Executive Committee

Bishop William Walsh (President)

Bishop Raymond Field (Vice-President)

Shay Ellis (National Director)

Mary Carroll (East)

Mary Timmins (Central)

Yvonne Cronin (Regional Officer)

Anne Maguire (West)

Sean McGillan (North)

Christine Conway (South West)

Penny Wilson (Regional Officer)

Deirdre O'Rawe (Regional Officer)

### Regional Officers

Penny Wilson - Dublin

Gerry Guinnane - Central

Deirdre O'Rawe - Northern Ireland

John McNally - South West

Yvonne Cronin - West

Larry Kenny - South East

### Central Office Staff

Shay Ellis, National Director

Breda Landy Horgan, P.A. to National Director

Maureen Warren, Finance Director

Marie Carroll, Secretary to Finance Director (Part-time)

Ann O'Mahony, Accounts Administrator (Part-time)

Keith Bradford, Web Administrator

John Farrelly, Director of Counselling

Eithne Kellegher, Specialist Marriage Counselling

Doreen Mulvaney, Secretary to Counselling Department

Stephen Cummins, Director of Marriage Education

Anne Coleman, Training and Development Officer

Aisling Madden, Secretary to Marriage Education Department

Angela Brady, Support Services Manager

Carla Brennan, Secretary to Support Services Manager (Part-time)

### NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE STAFF

#### Regional Director

Deirdre O'Rawe, Belfast

#### Assistant Regional Director

Edward Lavery

#### Secretary

Sandra Hamilton

#### Auditor

Henry Murray & Company  
Lurgan

#### Bankers

Bank of Ireland

43 Lower Drumcondra Road

Dublin 9

#### Charitable Status

Revenue Commissioners

Charitable Status Number CHY 6983



**ACCORD Central Office**  
Columba Centre, Maynooth, Co. Kildare  
Tel: 01- 505 3112  
Fax: 01- 601 6410  
E-mail: [admin@accord.ie](mailto:admin@accord.ie)  
Web: [www.accord.ie](http://www.accord.ie)