



Sor Teresa McKeon : una vida al servicio de la educación en Sierra Leona

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Nosotras, la familia San José de Cluny, nos alegramos de anunciar que Sor Teresa McKeon ha recibido el « Presidential Distinguished Service Award » prestigioso Premio del Presidente por servicios distinguidos, otorgado a los irlandeses que trabajan en el extranjero.



Sr Teresa McKeon



In 2024 Sister Teresa McKeon celebrated her 70th year of continuous service to the people of Sierra Leone, mainly in the field of education. A member of the St. Joseph of Cluny congregation, Sr. Teresa arrived by ocean liner in Sierra Leone in 1954, having just obtained her teaching degree in UCD.

Sr. Teresa's long and distinguished career led to her receiving the Order of the Rokoi from the President of Sierra Leone in 2017. The citation highlighted her dedicated and meritorious service to the state in the fields of education and the development of women.

Sr. Teresa's first role in Sierra Leone was as teacher, and then principal, of St. Joseph's Secondary School in Freetown, where she worked for 20 years. Following a period as Province Leader in West Africa, she moved to Bo District in the south east of the country. During the Sierra Leonean Civil War Sr. Teresa was forced to move to Guinea to carry on her work, providing continued service to Sierra Leonean refugees living in camps along the border between the two countries.

During her five years in exile, Sr. Teresa focused on supporting women and children, including through the provision of enterprise and literacy skills. On returning to Sierra Leone after the war, she was based in the Kono district. In addition to continued work in provision of primary, junior and secondary education over 20 years, she established and delivered adult education courses in the areas of business, financial management, nutrition, catering and tailoring to thousands of women and men, providing them with access to jobs and economic opportunities in a challenging economic context.

El 30 de enero de 2025 se celebró en Irlanda la ceremonia de entrega del Premio del Presidente por servicios distinguidos. Sor Teresa, es de edad avanzada y no pudo viajar a Irlanda para asistir a la ceremonia de entrega de premios en Áras an Uachtaráin (la residencia oficial del presidente irlandés). Sor Angela Bangura, provincial de West Africa, recibió el premio en su nombre. Sor Maeve Guinan, provincial de Irlanda/Gran Bretaña, también fue invitada a la importante ceremonia y a la cena en el castillo de Dublín.



La comunidad irlandesa y la embajada de Irlanda en Sierra Leona celebraron el evento de la ceremonia de entrega de premios el 5 de febrero de 2025 en Charlotte Street, Freetown, Sierra Leona. Sor Teresa McKeon estuvo presente para recibir el « Presidential Distinguished Service Award » por su importante contribución a la educación y la mejora de las condiciones de vida de las mujeres en Sierra Leona.



Este premio es un reconocimiento de su gran impacto en la sociedad y del legado duradero que deja a las generaciones futuras.