

LAUNCH OF



from our traditional values their future blossoms

A wonderful day was enjoyed at the launch of 'Faith in Families' on Thursday, 29 January 2009, at St Barnabas' Cathedral Hall, Nottingham. 'Faith in Families' (formerly the Catholic Children's Society, Nottingham) is an Independent Charity providing adoption and adoption support services to children and families and social work services to children and families across the East Midlands.

We were very fortunate to have Jo Healey, BBC TV Presenter, to act as MC on the day, and Jo said *"I am delighted to support 'Faith in Families' and wish it every success in continuing its work in adoption and adoption support, together with its new ventures on behalf of children and families, as I believe all children have the right to experience the love and care of secure family life."*

Supporters of the Agency were welcomed by John Bale, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, who expressed his gratitude to Bishop Malcolm McMahon, OP, for facilitating the smooth transition. John gave assurance that the ethos and values which underpinned the organisation would continue in 'Faith in Families' and that the Society would continue to have a specific responsibility to find Catholic adoptive families for Catholic children. With the support received over the last sixty years, the Society has placed over **2,000** children with nurturing families and had received an *"Outstanding"* result from its recent Ofsted Inspection.

Many warm messages of support and goodwill had been received from supporters who were unable to attend on the day, including the following from an adoptive parent:

"We wish you a happy and successful day. Our baby from you will be 42 in February and has been a joy to us all his life. We didn't come back to you because I proceeded to produce two brothers for him, without your help!!! We have just spent a lovely family Christmas together."

Sister Madeleine Campion, CSJP, Sisters of St Joseph of Peace, gave a thought-provoking reflection, ending with a quote from Ecclesiastes – *"To everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven. A time to be born and a time to die; a time to plant and a time to pluck up that which was planted"*.

This was followed by a slide show of the Society's very proud history and exciting future.

A heart-felt presentation was made by Dr Tim Adebisi, of God's Vineyard Church. Dr Tim said *"God's Vineyard Church and 'Faith in Families' are absolutely delighted to be working together and are totally committed to the task of bringing awareness of the joys and challenges of adoption and, ultimately, to finding loving families for some of these children and giving them the opportunity to experience the security of family life."*

Steve Hargrave, Chief Executive, reiterated this, acknowledging the very sad fact that black and dual heritage children are over-represented in the Care system and tend to wait longer for adoption. Steve said *"If, through the joint efforts of 'God's Vineyard Church' and 'Faith in Families', at least **one** child has the opportunity to experience the loving care of family life, then all will have been worth-while."*

Steve went on to say that, although the Society had undergone a period of change, nevertheless, many children and families continue to seek its help and support. The demand for its services is as great now as it has ever been, and this was illustrated by displays of the work of 'Faith in Families' including Adoption and Adoption Support, School Social Work, Concurrent Planning, Training and Consultancy, and 'Spiral', the Children's Bereavement Service of Family Care (supported by Macmillan Cancer Support and Faith in Families).

Children of Saints Peter and Paul Catholic School, Leicester, presented a short poem, written by a child adopted through the Agency, and Julia Cafferkey, RE Teacher, reminded us all that *"Children are our future"*.

Betty Falaki
PA to Chief Executive