

In 1950 Mrs Martin McGuire were invited to Rome by Pope Pius XII
 He gave them a private audience and a state Banquet. *M.G.*

My late father's (Martin McGuire) concern was that the children's Constitutional Rights were not upheld by the Government, Judiciary and the Catholic Church as defined in the 1916 Proclamation, our Sovereignty. "Cherishing all the Children of the Nation Equally!" *M.G.*

through the birthday cake, even in 1950, the girl must have been 16 years old.

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Abuse at Glin

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The councillor who shouted 'stop'

*Martin McGuire visited the industrial schools run on the same lines as the Hanover Boys' Industrial School and was one of the people who brought the Boyan & Ireland to see at first hand the reality of industrial schools. *M.G.**

*Martin McGuire introduced the Kennedy's to the Peace, Reconciliation and Prosperity Process of Northern Ireland. *M.G.**

■ Martin McGuire demanded a public inquiry into the brutal treatment of a 14-year-old boy in Glin - but the Minister told him it was none of his business

Petula Marryn
 THE family of a Limerick councillor who demanded a public inquiry into all industrial schools in 1945 after seeing the injuries inflicted on a young boy by a Christian Brother were unaware of their father's heroic efforts to expose child abuse for decades after his death.

Clr. Martin McGuire informed Government ministers of the brutal flogging of a 14-year-old boy, Gerard Fogarty from Limerick city, in August 1946.

The determined effort of the city councillor is highlighted in a chapter on St Joseph's Industrial School in the Report of the Commission to Inquire into Child Abuse, and it reveals that abuse at the County Limerick institution was known to Clr. McGuire, thanks to Clr. McGuire, who was not identified in the report.

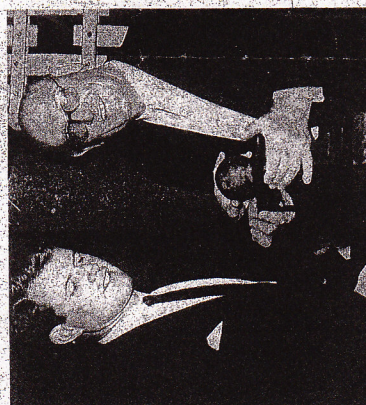
His daughter, Patricia Dempsey, told the Limerick Leader this week that her

late father was an honourable man who was not afraid to stand up for anything he believed in. She said she was proud to discover the role her father played in this dark period of Irish history. "I certainly was, we all were, informed her that a series

Limerickman Gerard Fogarty pictured in 1999. His brutal beating as a 14-year-old in Glin prompted Clr Martin McGuire to demand a public inquiry. Mr Fogarty died two years ago, aged 77

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Clr. Martin McGuire, with Ted Kennedy, in the 1960s

PICTURE: FRANK PHOTOGRAPHY



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- Patricia Dempsey on her late father, Clr Martin McGuire

head brother in his office. "As soon as I was totally naked, he took out this stick which had several leather thongs on it," he told Mary Raftery a decade ago. "He gripped me by the hand and started laying into me with the whip. He gave me at least 20 lashes. I was crying and trying to get down on the ground, trying to curl up and get away from him.

"That evening, they brought us down for a swim and I had to get into the salt water, even with the cuts on my back. The pain of that was terrible."

The youngster ran away for a public inquiry into industrial schools and Borstal institutions, send-

32 miles until he returned to his mother in Limerick city.

"By the time I got home, he had stopped and the blood had dried into my shirt. I must have been a terrible sight. My mother nearly tore the hair out of her head when she saw me."

The Fogarty's along with almost 100 of their neighbours arrived into Clr McGuire's offices at his mill and bakery business on Francis Street. The councillor was so shocked by the boy's injuries that he wrote a letter to the Minister for Education just two days later in which he stated that it was his "dutiful duty to draw your attention to what I consider is a matter of paramount public importance."

He demanded to know if such a form of punishment was "prescribed by law".

The councillor was relentless in his demands for a public inquiry into industrial schools and Borstal institutions, send-

ing a series of letters to the Minister for Education and the Minister for Justice on the issue from August 1945 to May 1946, but none of his pertinent questions were answered.

"When he was told it wasn't his business by the Minister, that he wouldn't reveal what they did and what they didn't do because it wasn't his business," his daughter said this week. "he wrote back and said it was his business because he was the representative of the people. I mean it really was shocking."

On October 12 1945, Gerard's mother received a letter from the head brother at Glin informing her that the Minister for Education had granted the discharge of her son.

On April 26, 1946, Clr McGuire was incensed when he received a letter from Minister for Education Thomas Derrig which dismissed his calls for an inquiry as unnecessary.

He wrote to the Department that "the purpose of

an inquiry would be to put the public in possession of the facts".

The correspondence was found in the archive of Fr Flanagan of Boys Town in the US, who publicly denounced industrial schools during a visit to Ireland in 1946. The Brother who flogged Gerard was transferred to another industrial school in Salthill, Co Galway at the end of 1946.

The commission's report suggests that the Christian Brother was transferred during the New Year, a time when changes in personnel were common and would not attract gossip.

Mr McGuire, who was a city councillor for a short period in the 1940s, died in 1964 of a massive heart attack while speaking at a business meeting in Dublin. He is survived by his daughter Patricia Dempsey who lives in Quilly, Co Clare, his sons Mattie (Adare), Billy (Cappagh) and James (Australia).

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