THE HOUSE OF THE IMMACULATE DECEPTION

Gallagher mansion is 'officially' owned by close aide and money-man John Rooney

SPREE: Christina Gallagher shopping at Woodies

MASSIVE: Luxury mansion on the outskirts of Mayo

MOTOR: Christina Gallagher in her 7 series BMW

THE *Sunday World* has uncovered shocking financial dealings involving "holy" woman Christina Gallagher and her controversial House of Prayer.

We can reveal that hundreds of people around the country were asked to give huge donations to the House but to sign the cheques to one of her closest aides, American John Rooney.

The money was to be used for a secret project which would save millions of souls.

So secret was the mission that nobody could be told what it was in case the Church – which does not approve of the House of Prayer – stopped it.

Fabulous

Devout Catholics, who were called to secret meetings around Ireland by Gallagher and her spiritual director Fr Gerard McGinnity, handed over millions of euro.

Today we can reveal that John Rooney is the official owner of the fabulous €4 million mansion where Gallagher lives in Malahide.

His name went on the land registry at the same time as the huge fund raising campaign was going on in Ireland.

Now furious donors are wondering what happened to the huge sums of money they handed over.

Gallagher herself does not put her name to the number of properties she effectively owns. She is not even a named director of the House of Prayer although she runs the operation.

One seven bedroom mansion outside Newport, Co Mayo, where she used to live before moving to

CLOSE: Fr McGinnity and Christina Gallagher pictured at the house

Malahide was supposedly bought by an organisation called the Blue Ivory Trust which she and her organisation set up. She used the premises again last week.

We can reveal that Rooney is Gallagher's main fundraiser in the US who collects money from the six Houses of Prayer in America and Mexico and sends it to her.

Fr Gerard McGinnity this week went on the Joe Duffy Liveline show to say Gallagher did not own the €4 million Malahide mansion we uncovered last week, but refused to say who did own it.

We can reveal that before the house was bought two years ago hundreds of the House of Prayer's most devoted supporters were invited to a series of meetings up and down the country.

Fr McGinnity told one meeting of 30 people that money was urgently needed to save millions of souls and sent around a sheet of paper asking people to write down what they could pledge.

Astonishingly, Fr McGinnity handed the paper back when the total came to "only" €1.5 million because the House of Prayer needed €2 million.

One attendee told us: "We weren't even told what the money was for. We were just told that the project was so secret that if it got out it would be stopped.

Assumed

"But we were told that it was to save millions of souls and when you are talking to deeply religious people, that is the right thing to say.

"We assumed it was to set up houses of prayer in America. We are all devout Catholics so we all paid up. Everyone at those meetings was hand-picked.

"People were falling over backwards to give money and were ready to sell their land to do it.

"We were told to write the cheques to a John Rooney, but we did not know why."

The woman was horrified when we told her this week John Rooney's name was listed on the land registry as the owner of the Malahide mansion from April 2006.

"We gave more than €20,000 and I have to wonder now if that money went straight into that house," she said.

"Hundreds of people all over the country signed cheques to him. This is simply unbelievable.

"Even if it didn't go to this house and he is genuine, what are they collecting all this money for from ordinary people when this guy has a €4 million house. Why don't they sell the house and donate that money?

"Gallagher's daughter lives in a €1 million mansion. Why don't they sell that and donate the money?"

Revelations

Other former Gallagher followers also spoke of their fury following our revelations over the last few weeks.

Pensioners who handed over thousands of euro – sometimes their life savings – to her controversial House of Prayer say they were conned.

The Sunday World was bombarded with calls and emails this week after we revealed that the secretive founder of the dubious religious centre on Achill Island was living in a fabulous millionaire's row mansion on an exclusive estate Malahide.

Our revelation that she was also driving a magnificent seven series BMW – which start at €110,000 – also sent out shock waves.

Two weeks previously we also revealed she had bought a fabulous €1 million home outside Ballina – where her daughter Mary now lives.

Not only did past supporters