



THE HOUSE OF

'THEY TREATED

'There's no love or compassion in the House of Prayer. They kept me in a room for three days and ignored my calls for a doctor. I was in total agony'

THE CHANGING FACE OF CHRISTINA GALLAGHER...



GONE TO THE BIRDS: Christina Gallagher and, inset below, House of Prayer



FAMILY: Christina with grand daughter Marie and husband Paddy



DIRECT LINE TO GOD: Gallagher

GARDAI are to probe claims that a man lay in agony for three days in Christina Gallagher's House of Prayer before being allowed to go to hospital.

A volunteer worker at the controversial centre run by the fake visionary says he was kept in a room after falling from a ladder and smashing his leg.

The furious pensioner told the *Sunday World*: "They basically put my life in danger. I have made a full statement to the gardai."

Frightened

The man, who does not want to be named, has attended the House of Prayer on Achill Island since 1994 and moved there full-time last year. He said he was appalled at the way he was treated.

"My accident shows how hateful



Christina Gallagher really is," said the man, who still has a plaster cast on his shattered knee.

"People on the outside do not see what goes on there. You have to be on the inside to see what really goes on.

"There is no love or compassion. Gallagher is always talking of God's love, but what happened to me was the total opposite. I was so ill-treated after the accident by her and her staff.

"They locked me away in a room from the Friday to the Monday and ignored my calls for a doctor. I was in agony.

"From the very beginning I was disturbed by the behaviour of these people. It was not usual. There was so much secrecy. They would haul you over the coals for nothing.

"Christina rules the whole thing like a

queen in her palace. She gives all the orders.

"Everyone is frightened of her. It has gone completely away from being anything religious. It has nothing to do with the Catholic Church. It is a sect, like the one recently in Texas.

"She is completely in control of everything and everyone is terrified of her. They treated me like a dog."

The devout Catholic, originally from England, said he had handed over thousands of euro to the cult organisation and now planned to sue them to get his money back. He was also owed €8,000 in unpaid wages, he claimed.

Gracious

The man retired to Ireland to work in the House of Prayer last December.

He described how he fell from a ladder while cleaning windows at the House of Prayer on April 4. He was working alone after being refused help.

He said: "Every morning you report to the work supervisor, and she allots the work for the day.

"My job was to clean all the outside

windows. It was a Friday which is one of the busiest days as everyone is preparing for the big pilgrimage on the Saturday.

"I cleaned all the lower ones and then I came to the tall ones in the chapel. I went to the supervisor and asked for help. I knew there were three men who were available.

"But I was told no way could they spare someone today. 'You know Friday is the busiest day' they said.

He got back on the ladder and as he reached one of the top rungs he felt it sliding across the tarmac, hurling him to the ground.

"I felt an excruciating pain in my right knee and my arm. I was there for 20 minutes before anyone appeared."



Staff eventually found him lying on the ground in agony. One man rushed off for help.

"He came back with a wheelchair and took me to the kitchen. Who was sitting there, but Christina herself. I could not believe it. It is not usual for her to be there on a Friday. It is very unusual to see her at all.

"I said 'gracious me, it's you.'

But she did not say anything. She did not answer and stared at the floor as if in a trance and suddenly jumped up and left the room. That was the last I saw of her. She didn't ask me how I was or anything.

"The next thing they were fussing all around me and got some frozen peas and put them on my knee. I asked for