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**Message from Gerry Staunton  
Consul General of Ireland  
to the Organisers and Participants in the  
Crossroads Irish-American Festival 2011**

It gives me great pleasure to extend warmest St Patrick's Day greetings to the Organisers and Participants in the Crossroads Irish-American Festival, 2011.

The St Patrick's Season provides a wonderful opportunity for the Global Irish Family to gather together to celebrate our common values and identity; it also provides us with a wonderful opportunity to celebrate what it means to be Irish, and to participate with family and friends in Irish cultural activities and heritage events, such as the Crossroads Festival.

Irish men and women have brought the name of Ireland to countless lands. They brought with them our culture and our unique history and they introduced peoples around the world to St Patrick and his people. They earned respect and admiration for the way they enriched their new homelands, often overcoming huge obstacles and difficulties.

Let me conclude by warmly congratulating all those who have played a part in organising this year's Crossroads Festival, and by wishing the event every success.

We at the Irish Consulate are proud to support the festival and look forward to attending the events.

Gerry Staunton  
*Consul General of Ireland*  
San Francisco