

The Sheaf



SJYPS



@SJYPS

ST. JOSEPH'S YOUNG PRIESTS SOCIETY

www.stjosephsyoungpriestssociety.com

23 MERRION SQUARE, DUBLIN 2, IRELAND, D02 XE02. TELEPHONE: +353 (1) 676 2593 Email: editor@sjyps.org

WINTER 2018

A young SVD missionary working in Indonesia

I'm Fr John Zheng, SVD, and I'm a Chinese priest and working in a minor seminary in Indonesia. Last month my good friend Fr Seamus McEntee visited me, and he suggested that I should write a story about my vocation and about my work here. Now I'm writing a short story about my vocation and some information about the seminary where I'm working.

I was born in a Catholic family in northern China. There are four children in the family, and I'm the first child. And I grew up with my grandma since I was a little child. Because my parents were very busy at that time. And my grandma was a very devoted person to her Catholic faith. I remember that she prayed three rosaries every day. And she told me very often that I should be a priest later. Her words gradually entered my ear. In the year 1997, I finished my secondary school and I entered a minor seminary as a diocesan near my home town, which was very supported by my family. There I studied two years. And during the time there I read several

biography books about saints, which changed my vocation direction. I found many of the saints were religious, and with their vows' and their communities' help they fulfilled the religious life serving in the Church. After that I tried to find a suitable religious congregation. And through my aunt, an SSpS sister, I entered SVD.

Following the SVD formation I did two years novitiate in Beijing. And after my first vows I entered a major seminary in Wuhan city central part of China. There I studied philosophy three years. In the year 2008, I was sent to study theology abroad, and I chose to study in Ireland. And eventually I did my theology in St Patrick's College Maynooth. Then I was ordained deacon there, and as a deacon I practiced in St Mary's Parish, in Haddington Road Dublin for about one year. In the year 2014, I was ordained to the priesthood in the SVD community church in Donamon Roscommon by Bishop Christopher Jones, bishop of the diocese of Elphin.

After my perpetual vows, I was assigned to the SVD province Ende, Indonesia. And after my priesthood ordination I came to the country, and there I learned for one and a half years the Indonesian language. And then I was sent to the diocese Manokwari-Sorong by the SVD to work in a minor seminary, Seminari Petrus van Diepen. The seminary is about one hour driving from the city Sorong, West Papua, the very eastern of Indonesia. Here I'm teaching and living in the seminary with the seminarians. In the seminary, there are seven priests (one Carmelite, three SVDs and three diocesan) who are teaching and serving the three hundred and twenty seminarians. This is a minor seminary, and there are two schools, Primary and Secondary schools in the seminary. Every year there are several seminarians enter the major seminary after their graduation from the secondary school, last year there were eight. They can freely choose to be religious or join the diocesan.

Over all, I have been working in Indonesia for four years. Generally I'm happy to work with the people here. Although this part of the world is not developed and the people don't have high education, I feel they are genuine to their life and deep in their faith. May the lovely Lord bless this field and guide us working well with the locals. And please remember us in your prayers. May God bless us all.

(Fr) John Zheng.

SVD (Divine Word Missionaries)

The Beautiful Hands of a Priest



We need them in life's early morning,
We need them again at its close;
We feel their warm clasp of true friendship,
We seek them while tasting life's woes.
When we come to this world we are sinful,
The greatest as well as the least.
And the hands that make us pure as angels
Are the beautiful hands of a priest.
At the altar each day we behold them,
And the hands of a king on his throne
Are not equal to them in their greatness
Their dignity stands alone.
For there in the stillness of morning
Ere the sun has emerged from the east,
There God rests between the pure fingers
Of the beautiful hands of a priest.
When we are tempted and wander
To pathways of shame and sin
'Tis the hand of a priest that will absolve us.
Not once but again and again.
And when we are taking life's partner
Other hands may prepare us a feast
But the hands that will bless and unite us,
Are the beautiful hands of a priest.
God bless them and keep them all holy,
For the Host which their fingers caress,
What can a poor sinner do better
But to praise Thee who chose thee to bless
When the death dews on our eyes are falling,
May our courage and strength be increased
To see, raised above us in blessing
The beautiful hands of a priest.

This poem was passed down orally in Ireland and around 1963 was given by Fr Crowley of Dunsallagh to the Clare singer Tom Linehan who recorded it in song. See pages 93-95 of The Mount Callan Garland: Songs from the Repertoire of Tom Lenihan of Knockbrack, Miltown Malbay, County Clare by Tom Munnally and Marian Deasy.



Our chief Chaplain Fr Seamus McEntee studied with Fr Zheng at Saint Patrick's College Maynooth. In June last Fr Seamus had the opportunity of visiting him in Indonesia.

Fr Seamus is on the far left in this photo and Fr John Zheng on the far right. The others are seminarians.



Fr Bill O'Shaughnessy who was the homilist at the annual Mass of Thanksgiving at St Andrews church Westland Row Dublin seen here with Pauline McHugh Secretary of the Society who presented him with a stole marking the occasion.



Fr. Robert Smyth newly ordained priest for the Dublin Diocese receiving a Stole from St. Joseph's Young Priests Society, Drimnagh Branch from President Jean Tyrrell, Treasurer Lucy Becon, on the occasion of the Celebration of Mass at their AGM in Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, Mourne Road, Drimnagh.



Oops! Apologies to these good ladies who were incorrectly identified with John Murphy in the Autumn Sheaf. They are Mary Fenton and Mary Cummins of Renmore branch in Galway. Their branch is in its 29th year, having been set up locally in 1991 - Ed

Ordinations in Bratislava 2018

(See letter on page 3)



Ordination of Dominik Pavol, CM



Ordination of Miroslav Val'ko, CM



Officers and members of Clonallon Pastoral Area - Warrenpoint, Rostrevor, Burren, Mayobridge, and Clonduff Parishes who attended a special Mass for Vocations on Sunday 2nd December in St Peter's Church Warrenpoint. Included is Canon J Kearney who concelebrated the Mass with Fr McGivern and Fr C Byrne Mayobridge Parish

Great News for you

www.VocationMinistry.com is now Free

Thanks to a generous benefactor, www.VocationMinistry.com is now Free to use! That means that all the resources under the Guide and Leadership Resources tab, that you need to make your work easier, are FREE! If you have a subscription, you will not longer be billed! If you recently signed up, I pray that you will see this as a donation to Vocation Ministry.

Please pray for the son of this benefactor who is a diocesan seminarian. Enjoy the website.



Mass for members of the executive whose year of office commenced on 1st November, with Fr Vincent Mc Mahon LC. (L to R back row) John Murphy, Pdraig O'Brien and Peter Tierney (front row) Joan O'Brien, Marie Dempsey, Marian Fennelly, Pauline McHugh, Rita Russell and Kieran Hickey.

Letter from the Slovak Vincentians



November, 2018

Congregation of the Mission,
Slovak Province

Dear St Joseph's Young Priests Society,
Thank you for your letter from October 2018. Please, let us express to you our deepest thanks for your generous support of four seminarians studying for the priesthood from the Slovak Province of the Congregation of the Mission and send you some information and photos about them as well as certified Student List of study year 2018/2019.

All four seminarians introduced on this list for your support properly finished their studies of the previous academic year, two of them have already received their priestly ordination and the next two continue in the following stages of their preparation for priesthood in this school year 2018/2019.

Both **Dominik Pavol, CM** and **Miroslav Val'ko, CM** in the previous academic year, properly finished their 6th year of study in Major Seminary in Bratislava and received their Priestly Ordination in Bratislava on 23rd of June 2018. (see photos of their ordinations on page 2).

Patrik Borzecky - in the previous academic year, he properly finished his 3rd year of

study in Major Seminary in Bratislava. In the current academic year (2018/2019), he is in 4th year of study for priesthood in Major Seminary in Bratislava.

Peter Majercik - in the previous academic year, he properly finished his 2nd year of study in Major Seminary in Bratislava. In the current academic year (2018/2019), he is in 3rd year of study for priesthood in Major Seminary in Bratislava.

Please, let us ask you for your kind support to introduce four seminarians also for this academic year 2018/2019.

Our Congregation, as well as the information on our seminarians in the Missionary Priest Seminary of St. Vincent de Paul in Bratislava is focused mainly on the groups marginalized in society, and also on the spiritual leading and support of those who are serving these groups with their social and charitable work. The seminarians study at the Roman Catholic Theological Faculty of Sts. Cyril and Methodius at Comenius University in Bratislava. Currently, we have two seminarians and one candidate.

Preparation of our seminarians for priesthood - study and formation time, since they have entered the Major Seminary till

they received their priestly ordination - takes 8 years altogether. In means 6 years of study plus two years of pastoral praxis, usually after 4th or 5th year of study. The first year of pastoral praxis is focused on foreign language study (mostly Italian, Spanish or English) and the second year is focused on helping in parish or in missionary team of the Congregation of the Mission.

Your kind support is very encouraging to us and it helps us to cover expenses connected to study and formation of our seminarians.

Our practice is that all expenses of our seminarians including those for education, tuition, and other school-fees are covered by our Congregation of the Mission - so we would like to ask you to send your support also for this academic year 2018/2019 to account of our Congregation of the Mission. Our bank connection remains the same as in the previous year.

We remain thankful and remember all our benefactors in our everyday prayers and by our Holy Masses. May the Lord centuple reward you for your gracious help to us.

Yours sincerely,

P. ThDr. Jaroslav Jasso, PhD., CM
Superior Provincial

NOVEMBER'S NATIONAL COME AND SEE RETREAT

A résumé courtesy Rev Deacon Eric Cooney

In November, the National Vocations Office based at Maynooth arranged the first ever 'National Come and See Retreat' for young men, to provide them with an opportunity to explore priesthood. The rationale for a 'national' retreat was that it was felt that if a Diocese was to run a similar retreat on its own, it may not generate sufficient interest to justify, and if only a few men turned up, it may have been hard to generate a positive atmosphere.

Mount St. Anne's at Killenard near Portarlinton, was selected as a central location outside Dublin. However for some of the men travelling by public transport, this was not an ideal location. There were no attendees from any of the more northern dioceses, which would suggest that another location should be considered, or perhaps running a number of retreats on a regional basis.

PROMOTION

The Office designed an A4 poster and a Trifold brochure. Copies of both of these were sent by post to 1,273 parish priests across the county in early October, with an accompanying letter inviting the priests to consider if there were any young men in their parish that they would personally encourage to participate. Through Saint Joseph's Young Priests Society, the office also mailed out posters

and brochures to an additional 370 SJYPS members. We also did live radio interviews on Radio Maria and Spirit Radio to promote the retreat. In addition, the Archdiocese of Dublin included a notice about this on its weekly email distribution. A number of Dioceses also promoted the retreat on their Websites.

ATTENDANCE

The retreat was aimed at men aged between 18 and 40. In the end of the day, we had a small number of applicants who were in their late 40s and one who was 52. We also had two applicants who were only 17, which we had to decline, due to Safeguarding.

In total, 14 men attended.

There was a very positive atmosphere for the whole of the retreat. The majority of the men were in their 30s and 40s. There was excellent interaction and questions raised. Five of the men attributed their being there due to the fact that they had seen a brochure or poster on the notice board in a church. This was very encouraging feedback, showing that it is worthwhile investing in promotional materials and resources.

Over the course of the Friday evening and Saturday morning, input was given by Fr Willie Purcell, Bishop Alphonsus Cullinan and myself Rev Eric Cooney.

Bishop Denis Nulty also supported the retreat by attending on the Saturday morning.

FEEDBACK

A number of very positive emails were received after the retreat expressing thanks and appreciation for the retreat. A sample of these are:

"Many thanks again for the retreat it's been helpful for me"

"Just a note of thanks for organising the retreat weekend. Your hard work is really appreciated"

"Just a quick note to thank you so very much for the Come and See retreat. It was a wonderful and fruitful experience. The presentations were interesting and informative, the discussions amongst the participants exciting and encouraging, and the venue superb. God bless the wonderful work you are doing in the National Vocations Office."

Rev Eric Cooney, a Permanent Deacon of the Archdiocese of Dublin is the Administrator of the National Vocations Office, which was established by the Irish Catholic Bishops Conference in July 2017. The purpose of the office is to provide support services, training and vocations promotional resources for the network of Diocesan Vocations Directors.



Pondering an icon could be an aid to Prayer for Vocations

This icon of St Joseph with the Child titled “Seosamh, losa” comes from the heart of Scottish Highlands, from the Loch Ness area that was evangelised by Saint Columba (in Irish Colm Cille) and his monks.

It is written in egg-tempera by Sister Petra-Clare of the Sancti Angeli Benedictine Skete, Marydale, Cannich, near Beauly, in Inverness-shire.

It shows Saint Joseph holding the Child Jesus on his left arm.

The iconographer writes that the icon’s gold background stands for the presence of God, gold being an incorruptible substance. The icon’s ground, the source of all that is created on its surface, shows that God is the ground of our being. The Child in his garments of gold tinged in red shows that he is ‘God from God, light from light, begotten not made, who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven’... and will ascend.

The letters in his halo are Greek, O Q N, the Being, ‘I am who am’, the one who proclaimed himself in the burning bush to Moses.

In his left hand the Child holds the synagogue scroll, identifying him also as ‘the Word made flesh that dwelt among us’.

His right hand is raised in blessing in the gesture still used by priests of the Eastern rite, indicating the Greek letters of the name of Jesus, ‘IC XC’.

St Joseph supports the Child and holds in his right hand the matzah - the Passover

unleavened bread which is the forerunner of our Eucharistic bread. The matzah is normally decorated, a tradition continued in the stamped symbol on our altar breads.

In this icon written for Saint Joseph’s Young Priests Society, it is shown with a cross and a sheaf of wheat being the logo of the newsletter of the Society, The Sheaf, the first issue of which in 1895 effectively brought the Society into being.

In an ordinary Jewish family situation, the father would bless the matzah before breaking it at the start of the Passover Seder. Here however, the Child, the visible image of the Father in heaven, ‘He who has seen me has seen the Father, blesses the matzah and the work which its symbol represents.

The icon is unsigned, for an icon is a gift from the Church to whomsoever it is given, and no icon is named until every stroke is finished and no more painting is done. The ‘naming’, is like a baptism of the icon.

For Saint Joseph’s Young Priests Society, our Irish vocations support organisation, this icon is unusual in that has been named not in Greek, but in the Gaelic language in Celtic script - Seosamh losa.

No icon is complete however until the second and third of the three essential events occur -

- (1) the prayers of the iconographer
- (2) the blessing of the Church and
- (3) the veneration of the faithful.



It is traditional in the Eastern Church to discreetly keep an icon for 40 days before the blessing ceremony in memory of Christ’s fast in the wilderness.

Accordingly when it arrived in Dublin, our icon remained undisturbed in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament for the forty days of Lent.

After that, the icon with the Book of the Gospels was carried in procession to a celebration of the Holy Eucharist where it was blessed and incensed by the Celebrant.

Then, following veneration by the congregation, the icon began its work of grace to continue throughout the years.

The grace remains forever active, waiting to be claimed by all who come to ponder in prayer before the icon, which continues to hang undisturbed in our Oratory at 23 Merrion Square. Dublin 2.

Recently Deceased

VOCATIONAL BRANCH

Insurance Branch Denis O’Sullivan (Branch Treasurer)

LOCAL BRANCHES

Abbeyfeale V Rev Canon James Neville, Tess Collins, J D Broderick, Morgan Breen

Ardfield / Rathbarry Denis Jer O’Donovan, John Calnan, Derry O’Donovan, Mary O’Mahony

Armagh Peter McSkeane, Joseph Fegan, Mary McManus, Lil McSorley, Kathleen Sheridan, Barney Traynor, Jim McManus, Peter Fegan, John Convery

Ballinascreen Kathleen Bradley, Charlie McKenna, Barney McGuigan, Hugh Heron, Sophia Conway, Jim O’Hagan, Gerry Clerkin

Ballymena - All Saints Sally Mayo

Ballyphehane May Mulhar, Tim Ó Murchu, Maura McAuliffe Sanchez

Ballinahinch / Killoscully Angela Ryan

Ballinascreen (Draperstown) Kathleen Bradley

Ballyroan Patricia Doyle

Bantry Jim O’Sullivan

Beechwood Avenue Dr Dermot W MacDonald

Blackpool May Cunningham, Mary O’Donnell

Blackrock - Cork Mary O’Connell

Bohermeen Elaine Battersby, Máire Clarke, Sadie Manning, Joe Bray, Nora McDonagh, Rose Carolan, Frank Carberry, Felix Smith, Tossie McNally, Miriam McGrath, Joe Reilly, Bridget Gaughran, Dymna Ward, Brendan Rogers, Pat Quirke, James Gilsenan, Mary Meehan, Sean Cahill

Carrigaline Peter Hogan, Mary Lynch

Christ The King Branch - Cork Mary O’Shea

Cleenish Margaret McGuinness (Babs), Kathleen Sweeney, Packie Howe, Tom Parker, Peggy Scott,

Thomas Maguire, Teresa McTaggart, Myles Bartley, Mary Gallagher, John Cullen, Kathleen Ferguson, Jim Jones, Bridget Quigley, Murty Cornyn, Martina Kelly, Jim Cunningham, Kathleen Clancy, Rita Owens

Clonduff Bridie Rooney

Clontarf Sheila Kiely

Corlough - Templeport Michael McPartland, Michael Baxter, Joe McMorrow, Kathleen Murphy, Mary Brigid McGovern, Mary Kiernan, Aloysius Mimna, Bridie Mimna, Rita Prior, Tom O’Reilly, John Brady, Alice McGovern, Eugene McKiernan, Margaret O’Hara, Mary Duignan, Eugene McManus, Stephen McCaffrey, Brigid McGovern, Marion McGoldrick, Maureen Kellegher, Oliver Plunkett, Patsy McGovern, Greg McGovern, Hugh McAuley

Curraheen Road Mary Kenneally, John Kelleher

Derrygonnelly / Botha Renee Maguire, Charlie Woods, Lily Cassidy, Teddy Walmsley, Mary McGriskin, Ann McGrath, Bridget McLoughlin, Mary Meehan

Drogheda Kathleen Vaughey, Josie Judge, Maureen Coyle

Dundrum Tony O’Connor

Enniskeane Joan O’Sullivan, Seán O’Sullivan.

Enniskillen Catherine Gunn, Teresa Bogue, Rodney Barron, Leo Gornley, Mary Corrigan, Tom McCloskey, Colette McCann

Frankfield / Grange Betty Cashman

Foxrock Brendan O’Kelly, Una O’Kelly, Dan

McInerney, Fr Eric Powell SDS (Sallynoggin)

Freshford Marie Hogan (former president of the Society)

General Pdraig Murphy

Grauguenamanagh Mairead Connolly, Nellie Bolger

Knockninny Margaret Gilroy, Jack Maguire, Vincent Maguire, John Francis McGurn, Julia Rooney, Siobhan McGovern, Mary Donegan, Carmel Owens

Letterkenny Dermot Hannigan

Maghera Mary Anderson, Hugh Convery, Michael Kelly, Daniel Bradley, Patrick Cassidy, Christine McKenna, Assumpta McLoughlin, Mary Ellen Rooney, Angela Farrell, Mary McAtamney, Daniel Moran

Navan (St Mary’s Jubilee Branch) Mary Seery, Paddy O’Rourke

Portadown John McCooe, Sharon Kelly, Joe Campbell, Joe Hatton, Sinead Daly, Rose Magill, Molly Knox, Barney McVeigh, Godfrey Martin, Alice Murphy

Rathmines Laurie McConville

St John’s – Granaghan Michael Conway.

St John the Baptist – Clontarf Sean Hartigan, Maureen Coogan

St John Vianney – Ardlea Peggy Fennell, Peggy Twomey

Solohead Kathleen Ryan

Swanlinbar Kevin McAuley, Hugh Murphy, Margaret McBarron, Rimantas Stauciumas, Margaret (Oney) McGovern, Grace Doonan, Eileen Lynch, Gerard Maguire, Annie Darcy, Brendan Leonard, William Bennett, Patrick McGovern

Tempogue Maureen Caulfield

Terenure Rose Heather

Thomastown Una Kelly, Maura Murray, Mary Dunne

Tournafulla Stasia Rohan

Tracton Sr Mary Jacinta Slyne

Trillick Kevin Monaghan, Phil Burns, Brigid Keenan, Jack McSorley

Tullamore Phil Malone.

Willington Philomena (Phil) Kane (branch president)

Westport Margaret Moran, Fr Patrick Burke

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Anonymous Donations €20, €500