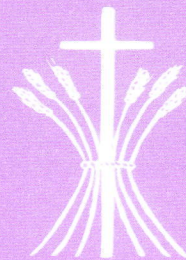




The Sheaf

ST. JOSEPH'S YOUNG PRIESTS SOCIETY

www.stjosephsyoungpriestssociety.com



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AUTUMN 2010

CLOSURE OF THE YEAR FOR PRIESTS

BISHOP LEO O'REILLY on the Kilmore Diocesan Pilgrimage to Knock

I suggested to our priests some time back that this pilgrimage would be a good occasion for us as a diocese to mark the end of the Year for Priests. I asked them to come here today on pilgrimage if their Mass schedules permitted, and to ask as many of their parishioners as possible to come also to share this day with us and to pray for us. I am delighted to see so many here today, whether in response to that invitation or not. We need your support and your prayers now as never before.

It was exactly a year ago yesterday that Pope Benedict opened the Year for Priests. The Pope said in his letter launching the Year: "This Year [is] meant to deepen the commitment of all priests to interior renewal for the sake of a stronger and more incisive witness to the Gospel in today's world." Interior renewal - that is where all renewal must begin. And it is renewal for the sake of mission, the mission of witnessing to the gospel in the world.

Renewal does not begin in external structures or elaborate plans or projects. It is something that each one of us has to embrace personally and prayerfully. It means conversion, turning back to God, acknowledging our failures and our sinfulness and asking forgiveness. It means rediscovering Christ, rededicating ourselves to his service and putting him once more at the centre of our lives and of all our endeavours.

It was a terrible irony that the Year for Priests coincided with the revelations of the horrendous abuse by priests and religious contained in the Ryan and Murphy reports here in Ireland and the further revelations that these sparked in several other countries. Pope Benedict noted this coincidence in his homily at the closing of the Year for Priests in Rome on the 150th anniversary of the death of St John Vianney some days ago. He had this to say about it:

Had the Year for Priests been a glorification of our individual human performance, it would have been ruined by these events. But for us what happened was precisely the opposite: we grew in gratitude for God's gift, a gift concealed in "earthen vessels" which ever anew, even amid human weakness, makes his love concretely present in this world. So let us look upon all that happened as a summons to purification, as a task which we bring to the future and which makes us acknowledge and love all the more the great gift we have received from God. In this way, his gift becomes a commitment to respond to God's courage and humility [in choosing us] by our own courage and our own humility.

We priests are earthen vessels that carry a treasure. We are fragile, vulnerable and prone to failure. But we have been entrusted by God with this priceless gift of priesthood. We are bewildered and angry at the crimes of some of our brother priests against children and at the failures of bishops to put a stop to them. We feel our priesthood has been tainted and that we have all been 'tarred with the same brush'. We feel shamed and humiliated by all that has happened.

But we need to reflect and to make sure that our anger is not just at the humiliation and loss of credibility that we have suffered - justified and all as that might be. The harm done to children should be the main focus of our anger - harm that often had dire consequences for the rest

of their lives and tragically led some of them to early graves. Children were damaged not only by sexual abuse, but also by serious physical abuse. And this happened in some of our parishes, our schools and institutions.

St John Vianney, the Cure of Ars, who is the patron saint of parish priests and has been our model and example during this Year for Priests, said: "The priesthood is the love of the heart of Jesus". Abuse of children is a terrible betrayal of that love of Jesus we as priests and bishops are called in a special way to bear witness to. Can I take this opportunity of once again apologising to all who suffered abuse at the hands of priests and religious, and particularly those in our own diocese who suffered in this way. Can I apologise too for the failures of bishops and superiors to stop that abuse continuing.

Pope Benedict proposes that we look on this coincidence of the Year for Priests and the appalling revelations of abuse by priests not as mere coincidence. He invites us to see it as a call to purification, a call to value and love all the more the great gift of priesthood that God has given us. The Pope speaks about God's courage and humility in giving us this gift of being other Christs, and he says these sad events are a call to us to respond to God's courage and humility by our own courage and humility at this difficult time.

The Pope's call echoes the call of Jesus in today's gospel: If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself, take up his cross every day and follow me. These words of Jesus come just after Peter had spoken up and acknowledged Jesus as the Messiah. Up to now the disciples followed Jesus enthusiastically as he healed the sick, cast out demons, fed the crowds and calmed the seas. Now they had to learn to follow the suffering Messiah. They had to face the scandal of the suffering and death of their Messiah. Jesus was reminding them again of the Beatitude: "Blessed are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account..." As Christians and as priests we cannot avoid carrying the cross.

Can I conclude with a final quotation from Pope Benedict's words about the Cure of Ars which are very relevant to our theme of renewing the priesthood:

It was his fervent prayer life and his impassioned love of Christ Crucified that enabled John Mary Vianney to grow daily in his total self-oblation to God and the Church. May his example lead all priests to offer that witness of unity with their Bishop, with one another and with the lay faithful, which today, as ever, is so necessary. Despite all the evil present in our world, the words which Christ spoke to his Apostles in the Upper Room continue to inspire us: "In the world you have tribulation; but take courage, I have overcome the world" (Jn 16:33). Our faith in the Divine Master gives us the strength to look to the future with confidence.

The Pope concludes:

Dear priests, Christ is counting on you. In the footsteps of the Cure of Ars, let yourselves be enthralled by him. In this way you too will be, for the world in our time, heralds of hope, reconciliation and peace!



PARISH OF DRUMCREE, PORTADOWN - TRIDUUM FOR THE YEAR FOR PRIESTS.

report by Kathleen Beattie, Portadown Branch

In April the Society's branch in the Parish of Drumcree organised three evenings, reflecting and praying as the Year for Priests drew to a close.

The first evening Fr Thomas McGovern from Dublin gave a talk on the ordained ministerial priesthood and the common priesthood of the faithful, distinguishing between the two, mentioning the need of fostering vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

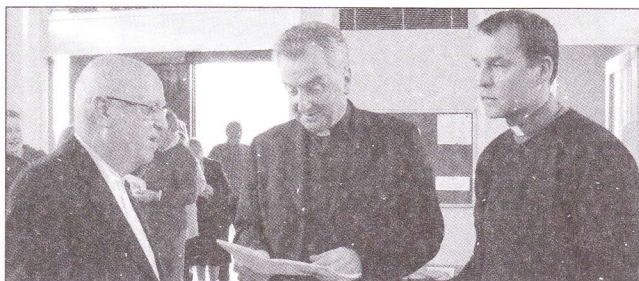
The second evening, Bishop Donal McKeown, Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Down and Connor, came and celebrated the Saturday evening vigil Mass and gave the homily.

Bishop McKeown spoke of the current challenges facing the Church and highlighted the importance of priesthood today and the need for vocations to the Lord's harvest, where each of us in the Church, single, married, religious, has a special part to play.

The final evening concluded with our coming together before the Blessed Sacrament. At the rosary we reflected on the Mysteries of Light particularly.

The evening was filled with prayer and singing and it concluded with Benediction. These three evenings certainly helped us to focus on the reality of Catholic Priesthood today.

Our picture shows Bishop McKeown with Fr Brian White our Chaplain and members of the Committee. St John Vianney, pray for priests, pray for us.



Preparing the format of the Holy Hour to conclude the day of veneration of the relic of St John Marie Vianney at the church of St John Vianney, Ardlea, Dublin - Frs Pat O'Donoghue (Dublin Diocesan Director of Music), Ciaran O'Carroll (Episcopal Vicar for Evangelisation) and Eamonn Bourke (Chief Chaplain, St Joseph's Young Priests Society). Bernie Corry president of the Branch at Ardlea and her committee were pleased to take part in welcoming the many people from parishes throughout the diocese who came during the day to pray and venerate the relic. At the start of the Year for Priests in June 2009 St John Marie Vianney, patron of Parish Priests, was confirmed as patron of all priests, by Pope Benedict XVI.



Dear Editor,

About eighty members of St Joseph's Young Priests Society from the Galway and Tuam Dioceses joined the local Cummer Branch at Corofin Tuam, on 14th June for an evening of prayer for vocations and to honour the memory of local woman Olivia Taaffe, the Society's foundress. Thanks to Fr Oliver Hughes for his inspirational homily, encouragement and support.

This photo for The Sheaf shows George Dee, vice-president of the Society with some of the members who came from the various branches.

Many thanks, Kate McGrath, President Cummer Branch



The Cork and Ross Diocesan Pastoral Development Team invited all members of Parish Assemblies, Pastoral Councils and Liturgy Groups to a resource evening, 'Promoting Vocations in your Parish', on Wednesday 14 April at the Church of the Way of the Cross at Togher. Each parish represented received a free resource pack which included a DVD, Posters, Prayer Service, guided Holy Hour text, music, suggested Prayers of the Faithful, Prayer cards, information, contacts, children's resources, music, ideas for promoting vocations and more. Our photo shows members of St Joseph's Young Priests Society from Clonakilty who attended the evening at Togher. Joseph Merrick addressed the gathering which included Canon Kerry Murphy-O'Connor, Fr Charlie Kiely and Fr Noel Kehoe CSsR.

Year For Priests Seminar

On Thursday 27 May 2010, Saint Patrick's College, Maynooth, in cooperation with the Irish Bishops' Conference, hosted a seminar to mark the Year for Priests. Archbishop Timothy Dolan, Archbishop of New York, delivered the keynote address entitled 'God is the only treasure people desire to find in a priest.' This event was attended by priests and laity from throughout Ireland along with representatives of religious congregations and missionary groups, as well as students and staff of St Patrick's College, Maynooth. See www.vocationsireland.com for text of Archbishop Nolan's talk.

'One Life, One Call, One Response'

Archbishop Michael Neary, Archbishop of Tuam, on 28 June 2010 launched a new online initiative and accompanying literature to promote vocations to the priesthood and religious life in the Archdiocese of Tuam. The initiative 'One Life, One Call, One Response' took place in Knock House Hotel, the eve of the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul. The launch included the distribution of posters, leaflets and prayer cards, and the introduction of a new website to encourage vocations throughout the Archdiocese. Archbishop Neary, in a video recording in Irish and English, reflected on the reality of his own vocation and encouraged others to give positive consideration when they hear God's calling to the priesthood. See www.onelifeonecalloneresponse.com or www.youtube.com/watch?v=XZmK9igD-2U



These Altar Servers from a parish in the West of Ireland were among the many altar servers at the Mass at Knock on 26 June

**FROM ARCHBISHOP DIARMUID MARTIN'S TALK AT KNOCK
ON THE OCCASION OF THE SOCIETY'S PILGRIMAGE 26 JUNE 2010**

There are many examples of the commitment of lay people in today's Church and that involvement will be greater in the years to come as the appreciation of the role of lay people in the Church is sharpened and as institutions and structures are refocused to recognise and facilitate that lay commitment. This is an urgent necessity.

Lay involvement is not something due to a shortage of priests, but to a different and more correct understanding of the nature of Church. It comes from an understanding of the meaning of our baptism. The changing role of lay people will, however, have an effect on the day to day life of the priest. In addition to re-establishing a more correct understanding of the Church community, greater involvement of lay people will also free the priest from many tasks which were never really his.

What does freeing-up the priest mean? In some cases it means giving the priest a little more space for himself as an individual. Priests are often really overburdened and so many priests, even young priests, live under pressure on their health and spirituality. Look after your priests. They need the support and the affection of their people. No two priests are alike; each has different talents and limitations. Welcome all of them. Through the integrity of your Christian life encourage your priests to be truly faithful to their calling.

But 'freeing up the priest' means above all freeing the priest up to carry out the specific mission that has been given to the priest. Priests need to remember that doing fewer things can actually mean enhancing rather than diminishing the role of the priest. The role of the priest is not about activities, much less about power, but about witness. Pope Benedict addressed the question in a meeting with priests only two weeks ago. He stressed that we should realise "that the priest does not just do a job, with so many hours of work after which he is free and lives for himself, but that he is a man impassioned by Christ". To be filled with the joy of the Gospel with all our being is the main condition of our priestly ministry.

A first fundamental dimension of that passion about the joy of the Gospel is that the priest be a man of prayer, especially at a moment when many people have difficulty in really understanding what prayer involves and where there is so much pressure on us not to find time to pray. The hustle and bustle and the hectic rhythms of our lives have often left us afraid to be on our own and afraid of the silence which we need to enter into communion with God. Priesthood is not about doing things, but about witness to the God of Jesus Christ. Without prayer that witness will lose its fundamental anchor.

The second fundamental dimension of that passion for Jesus which must mark the priest is the Eucharist. Faith in Jesus Christ is never just individualistic. When we read the Acts of the Apostles, we see that the early Christians were known by the fact that 'they gathered': they gathered to share the prayers, the word and in the breaking of bread and their gathering developed a particular style of life, that of sharing, that of communion. For many of my generation, coming to Church was more about fulfilling an obligation and 'getting communion' than about gathering as a communion, as the body of Christ. It was fulfilling an obligation which each one of us could do in our own time and in our own form, without any interaction with others.

Today we must discover the various senses of communion: Communion with Jesus, but also a life-style of communion with others at a moment when solidarity and communion were never so much needed. The Eucharist challenges individualism and self-centeredness. Through the Eucharist the priest must become a man for others, captured into the self-giving sacrifice of Jesus and thus into the love of God which is kept present throughout time through the Eucharist. It is through a Eucharistic spirituality that the priest finds a way which will lead him beyond individualism and indeed beyond clericalism and any sense of caste. The priest who lives the Eucharist is one who is truly open to the world and its needs and who sees that the answers to the needs of humanity will never be attained

just by providing material needs, but through creating a reality of communion, which will ensure that needs are met and that others can flourish through our self giving.

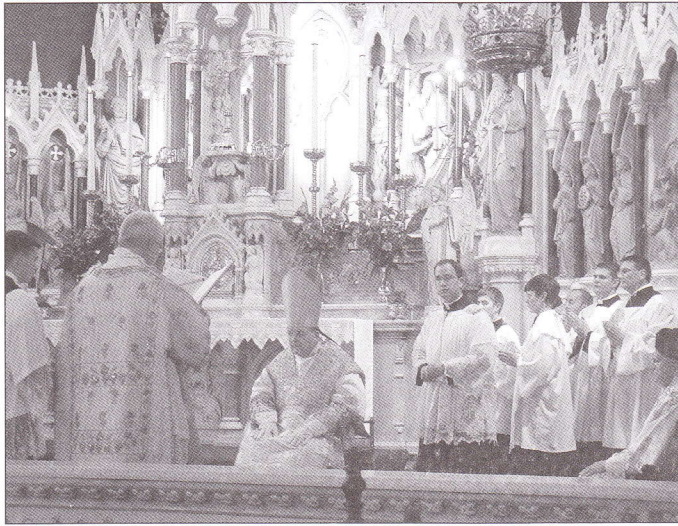
The third pillar of a priestly spirituality is love of the scriptures. I have had a quarter of a million copies of the Gospel of Saint Luke printed and distributed within the Archdiocese of Dublin this year. A certain type of catechesis can easily trap us in a faith of formulae and rules and norms. We need a faith which through daily reading the Scriptures will capture us into the mystery of his Jesus' teaching but above all into the mystery of his life.

We pray here today for priests. We pray that priests will grow in the understanding that a Church of communion will enrich the ministry of the priest and free him so that he can be one who speaks to his people about God. The priest must be the one who speaks about God with words and without words, through the witness of a life that reflects that of Jesus.

The priest whose ministry is understood in this way will also be able to speak without any complex about the priestly calling itself and not be either timid, much less ashamed, to speak to others about the joy of his ministry. Saint Joseph's Young Priests Society has for generations dedicated its mission to providing new priests for the Church. That work of prayer and generosity is more necessary than ever. We owe all of you a debt of gratitude.

The Church's mission began on the day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came on the Apostles and freed them from their own anxiousness to go out to all nations. The Apostles had gathered with Mary, the Mother of Jesus. At this shrine of Mary we turn to her intercession to support all priests, especially those who feel insecure and tired in their mission, that the Holy Spirit will help them recover that fundamental priestly sense of joy at being able to speak about the love of God revealed in Jesus Christ.

See www.dublindiocese.ie for Dr. Martin's full text.



On Wednesday 14 July Archbishop Raymond L. Burke, Prefect of the supreme tribunal of the Apostolic Signatura, celebrated a Solemn Pontifical Mass in the Extraordinary Form at St Kevin's Church, Harrington Street, Dublin. The Apostolic Signatura, the highest judicial authority (apart from the Pope) in the Catholic Church, is the office of the Holy Father that takes care of the administration of justice in the Church.

Archbishop Burke (formerly Archbishop of St Louis Missouri) is seen here seated for the singing of the Epistle by the Sub Deacon of the Mass Fr William Richardson (Dublin Regional Marriage Tribunal). The Deacon was Fr Michael G. Nevin (Parish Chaplain) and the Assistant Priest was Fr Gerard Deighan (Administrator Harrington Street Parish). The Lassus Scholars provided the Sacred Music.

Members of the Society attended the (1962 Liturgy) ceremony. It was in Latin apart from the Sermon in English and the Kyrie in Greek. After Mass the Sacrament of Confirmation was administered to members of the Latin Mass community.

From: Sr Janet

Admittedly it was Sunday afternoon, with the warm sun shining brightly and enticingly over the Thames, inviting even the most reluctant soul out-of-doors and, admittedly, St Benet's church is inconspicuous, the haunt of the Welsh-speaking Church of Wales (even if in London), but the door stood open invitingly.

Curious because its name suggested considerably greater antiquity than its architecture would have implied, I decided to explore.

The minister and his congregation were putting their heart and soul into the celebration of Evensong...but the congregation consisted of one lady and an unseen organist.

The trio offered a laudable example of commitment and perseverance. It must take a fair amount of faith and willpower to continue in such a situation. What happens if one person does not come to church? What if the minister himself is, for some reason or other, unable to participate? Presumably Evensong would have continued in the absence of an organist, but if a congregation is only three people, there are not many options available to the parish. There are not many people in London who speak Welsh and so the numbers of those attending any church services are always going to be small.

Yet small is beautiful. Tucked away, out of sight of the passing world, there were three people praising God on a Sunday afternoon.

May God bless them...

And may he bless you, too.

Sr Janet

Recently Deceased

VOCATIONAL BRANCHES

Civil Service

Catherine Gardiner, Tom Murray, Margaret Purcell, Doris Brook

Clothing Trade

Gertie O'Reilly

Insurance Branch

Maurice Byrne, Colm Driver

Licensed Trade

Catherine (Kitty) Cagney, Martin Downes, Denis Bradshaw

Local Authorities

Pat O'Connor

Motor & Engineering (Cork)

May Cronin

LOCAL BRANCHES

Ardfield / Rathbarry Mary Teresa Nylan, Denis O'Leary, Kitty Smits

Ballinahinch Masie Hickey

Ballinascreen Charlie Stewart, Teresa Convery, Michael Langan, John Doyle, Agnes McEldowney, Patricia McCusker, Seamus Kerrigan, Frances McGregor, Eileen Timoney, Susan McNally, Patrick Kelly, Michael Kelly, Mary McBride, Mary O'Kane, Angela O'Keeney, Peggy Trolan

Ballinaspittle Teresa O'Brien

Ballyphehane Bridie O'Sullivan, Brendan O'Reilly, Eileen Walsh, Ann Brown

Ballyroan Thomas Hanafin

Bandon William Kelly

Blarney Brigid Lynch, Daniel Burke, Brendan O'Donoghue, Biddy Hallissey, Sile O'Siochain, Gavin Burke, John Hallissey, Denis Mullane, Carmel Spillane, Eric O'Connor, Terence Foley, John Joe Spillane

Boyle Sr Kieran Wynne.

Caheragh Hannah Twomey (nee Keane), Denis Collins, Mollie Brickley, Madgie Genning, Paddy Evans, Jack Leahy, Aisling O'Sullivan, Humphrey O'Leary

Callan Sr Canice, Kathleen O'Sullivan

Carrigaline Finbar Hogan

Castlebar Donie Murphy, Tony McHugh, Peter McGough, Margaret Carroll, Maureen Heverin

Christ the King, Turner's Cross Eileen Martin

Cleenish Rosie McCabe, Celia Ferguson, Patrick Treacy, Patrick McMahon, Denis Stewart, Terry Ferguson, Eileen McGourty, John McGourty, Margaret McFadden, Nora Toal, Mary Maguire, Tom McGrath, Winnie Keaney, Josephine Willoughby, Kieran Delacy, John Leonard, Patrick Duffy, Gerry Delacy, Tony Williamson, Frances Cox, Patrick Farmer, Bridie Graham, Dymrna Nolan, Eileen Quinn

Cootehill Helen McCabe

Derrygonnelly / Botha Aidan O'Dare, Bea Jones

Douglas Michael Jackson, Maura Boland, Rose O'Sullivan

Drogheda Rose McGovern, Tony Vaughney, Ann Collins

Dundalk Gerry Reid, Edward McEntegart, Sheila Brennan

Enniskillen Paddy Farmer, Maisie Martin, Sean Breen, Tom Love, Harry McCauley, Frank Burns, Ciaran Gilgunn, Bridget Graham, Livinus Cassidy, Francis Slevin, Grainne Mulhern, Eileen Quinn, Breda Burns, William Gallinagh

Foxrock Sinead Donnellan, Denis McCarthy

Galmoy Anna Lanigan

Gilford Kathleen Smyth, Alice Green, Nan Green

Glendermott Agnes Quigley

Graignamanagh Edward Hayden

Kilgarvan Hannah O'Sullivan

Kilkishen Della Ballarin, Pauline McNamara, Marie Carroll

Knockninny Tom Blake, Rosetta McManus, Marie Clarke, Maureen Hegarty, Raymond McManus, Joe O'Reilly, Kathleen Murray, Seamus Reilly, Susan Reilly, Philip McGoldrick, Mary McMenamin, Patrick Watterson, T P McCarron, John James McBrien

Lurgan Ivan Nelson

Maghera Margaret McKeague, Colm McRory, Paul Glass, Brigid Moran, Archie McMaster, Margaret Woods, Patsy Harkin

Mallow Fr Declan Hennessy.

Marino May Woods, Johnny Kane, Ellie Lyons

Mourne Road, Dublin Jim Finn

Naas Michael O'Halloran

Oldcastle Mrs Willis, Mrs McEntegart

Portadown Rita McParland, Tommy Livingston, Brigid McCann

Rathfriland Eilish McConville

Rathmines Ann Butler

Rochfortbridge Joe Keegan, Michael Usher, J J O'Connor

Saggart / Rathcoole Clare Mooney

Sandymount Catherine (Kitty) Corry

St Anthony's, Clontarf Tom Doherty, Catherine Cagney

St Kevin's, Harrington St John Sheehan, Kathleen Pearson

St Patrick's, Limerick Margaret (Peg) Fitzgibbon

St Paul's, Belfast Frances Finnegan

Ss Peter & Pauls, Athlone Maisie Martin, Pat Ganly

Thomastown John Barron

Tinryland Joe Townsend

Trillick Tommy McCaughey, Alice Breen, Patricia McAnespy, Bridie Green, Tessie McAloon, Mickey Garrity, Bridie McCusker, Lily O'Hagan, Ethna Kelly, Eamonn McCahey, Phonsie McCarron, Kevin Quinn

Willington Patricia O'Connor, Brendan Maroney,

General Mary O'Hara (Castlebar), Nora Neary (nee Gibbons), Anne Rushe

ETERNAL REST
GRANT UNTO THEM, O LORD.