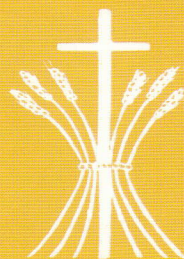


The Sheaf



ST. JOSEPH'S YOUNG PRIESTS SOCIETY

www.stjosephsyoungpriestssociety.com

23 MERRION SQUARE, DUBLIN 2, IRELAND.

TELEPHONE: DUBLIN 676 2593 AUTUMN 2013

Speaking at the October Central Council Meeting, which is effectively the Society's AGM, the president George Dee reported that June 2012/2013 was a very good year for the Society.

Having especially thanked the four provincial presidents for organising their successful congresses and coming up with such wonderful guest speakers, he went on to say to the assembly:

"If you listen to radio or watch television or read newspapers on a regular basis you will agree we live in a very troubled world with almost daily murders, suicides and deaths on our roads. Everything is doom and gloom.

Then you come to a Congress or Council meeting of St Joseph's Young Priests Society and you see such friendly faces and wonderful smiles and you are in a different world. I believe the answer to that is very simple you are not thinking about yourself. You are all working tirelessly promoting and praying for vocations and helping fund the education of students to the priesthood. It is a wonderful vocation.

In the year ending 30 June 2013 you had a hand in the ordination of 147 priests all over the world and each one of those priests is obliged to say a Mass for your intentions; 147 Masses, a nice thought"

The General Secretary Brigid Kelly presented a summary of the position over four years. Our purpose, she said, is to promote the vocation of priesthood by prayer, financial help and the witness of our Christian living and with your generous support we have been able to assist:

Year to June	ORDINATIONS			STUDENTS		
	Irish	Overseas	Total	Irish	Overseas	Total
2010	9	109	118	118	669	787
2011	10	120	130	117	710	827
2012	14	164	178	108	711	819
2013	13	134	147	107	715	822

The number of students assisted for Ireland is 107 and for overseas is 715.

The overseas students were broadly located as follows: -

Africa 424	India/Pakistan 112	Philippines 43
South America 39	Eastern Europe 54	Asia/Others 43.

The president and members of the Executive Committee wish to thank sincerely all the members and benefactors who have made this possible by their prayers and donations. The need for more priests to carry out the priestly ministry is as real now as it has ever been and your continuing support is greatly appreciated.

PROVINCIAL CONGRESSES 2014

Saturday 29 March **Kilkenny**, St John's Church & Centre and Langton's Hotel.

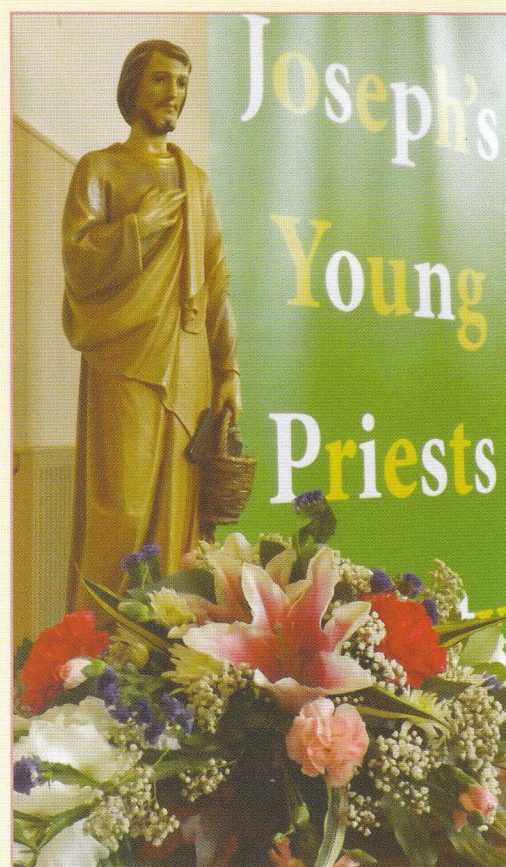
Saturday 12 April **Ennis** Co Clare, The Old Ground Hotel.

Saturday 3 May **Knock** Co Mayo, St John's Rest & Day Care Centre.

Saturday 10 May **Monaghan**, St Macartan's Cathedral and Hillgrove Hotel.

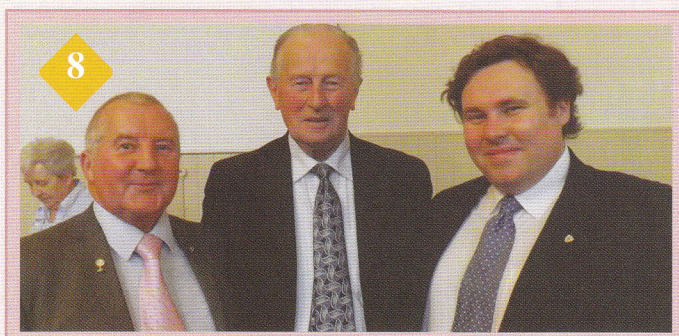
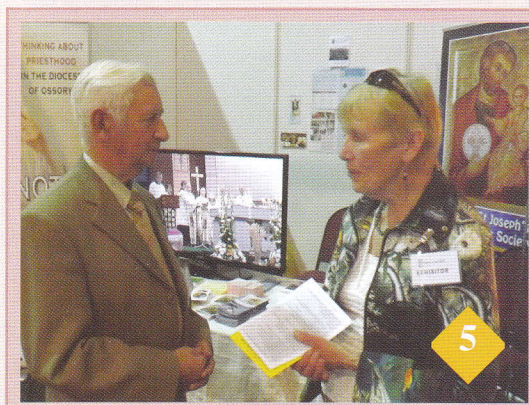
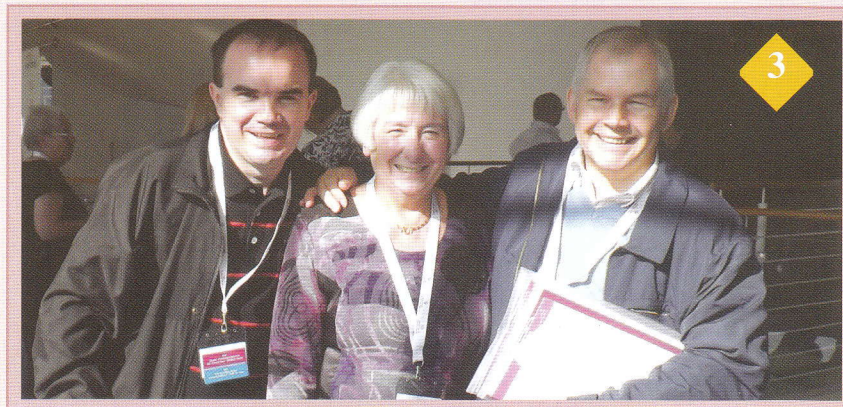
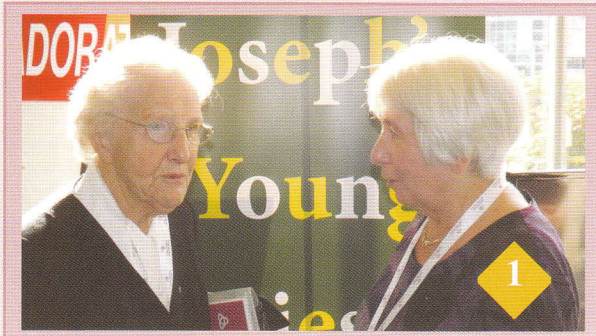


The President of the Society Mr George Dee (centre) with the two vice presidents who were elected in October, Marian Fennelly and Pádraig O'Brien. The four provincial presidents, Pat Denning (Armagh), John Murphy (Dublin), Pat Hayes (Cashel) and Michael Carty (Tuam) were previously elected locally.



'Saint Joseph, pray for us and for all our benefactors living and deceased'

Promoting the work of the Society ...



Pic 1 Sr Ignatius McEvoy RSM and Jean T Clarke president DSW & Connor diocesan committee, who arranged the Society's stand at the Living Church Congress at the Waterfront Hall in Belfast over the last weekend in September.

Joseph's) showing their services to enhance the faith. This was in addition to a range of talks and workshops in which the Society participated. Paul Clarke with Lil Downey are shown here.

Pic 2 Elisabeth Ohlbock from Austria at the Focolare stand at the Waterfront Hall in Belfast. Elisabeth agreed to pray for priestly vocations with her Focolare friends every evening at their night prayers.

Pic 6 Fr John Gilligan celebrated the Mass at Central Council in All Hollows in October

Pic 3 Fr Brian Watters, Jean Clarke and Edmund Collins at the Waterfront Hall Sat 28 Sept 2013

Pic 7 A Cashel & Emly diocesan group of Society members, hosted Vice Pres Rev Dr Michael Mullanney and a clerical student from the diocese, Vincent Stapleton, (seen at back row of photo), on a recent visit to Saint Patrick's College Maynooth. Deacon Dominic Meehan is due for Ordination to Priesthood on Sunday 24 November in the Cathedral of the Assumption Thurles. He will minister in the Cashel Diocese.

Pic 4 Joan O'Connor and Kitty Doyle represented the Society at a local exhibition in the South Dublin parish of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour

Pic 5 At the 'Faith of our Fathers' conference and exhibition arranged by the Catholic Voice newspaper in Kilkenny on 13-15 September there were 69 organisations (including St

Pic 8 Two of the Trustees of the Society, Tony Melia and Thomas T P Murphy pictured with George Dee at the October Central Council Meeting.

Please remember St. Joseph's Young Priests

Society in your Will

FORM OF BEQUEST

I give and bequeath to St. Joseph's Young Priests Society,
23 Merrion Square, Dublin 2 the sum of
€.....for the charitable purposes of the Society and

I declare that the receipt of the General Secretary
of the Society shall be sufficient discharge to my Executor

At a mission last March in the cathedral of Ss Peter & Paul in Ennis on the theme of the Seven Sacraments, Fr Ger Fitzgerald CC who was ordained in 2011 for the diocese of Killaloe, spoke on the sacrament of Holy Orders. Having dealt with the priestly life and ministry as promulgated by Pope Paul VI in 1965 in Presbyterorum Ordinis, Fr Ger spoke about his own vocation to the ministerial priesthood.



Having only been ordained for two years, I must confess I feel greatly under-qualified to speak to you tonight about the gift of priesthood, as it is one which I am still unpacking; yet here I am.

The first thing I want to say, and perhaps the most important, is that priesthood is not mine. This is not my vocation. It belongs to God. He is the author and direction of the vocation to which he has called me. Yet, this calling is not unique because it is a call which echoes from the very beginning of time with the creation of Adam and thus throughout the course of Salvation history.

My own journey to priesthood began with a firm foundation in the home, thus stressing the importance of the family in society. The Ecclesia Domestica, wherein the first yearning seeds of a vocation are sown, is the fertile soil in which hope, love and knowledge of God can grow and develop. My own parents were certainly not over religious, but prayer played an important role in the home. I cannot tell you that I always wanted to be a priest. Certainly when I was a young boy I wanted nothing else, but when the teenage years came and thoughts turned to romance and love amongst other things, I quickly pushed priesthood to the back of my mind and locked it away. Nor can I speak to you of a so called 'Damascus moment'. There was no blinding light, no voice from heaven. Instead I found myself like Elijah in 1 Kings 19:13, finding the Lord in the gentle blowing, the gentle stirring deep inside the heart which no person can control. The movement of the Holy Spirit over the still waters of the soul, prompting an entirely new way of life, a life for God and yet not one lived in fear but a life lived 'with' God.

Priesthood is a wonderful gift. I have the pleasure of being in a vibrant parish where the people are friendly, welcoming and thankfully understanding!! I have the privilege of working with a parish team from whom I am always learning, always seeking advice and to whom I am always indebted. Priesthood is not like any other job. It is not 9-5 or 8pm-8am. It is continuous service in the name of Christ to his people.

One is blessed to be with people at every stage or life, in baptism we welcome newly born children into our hearts and the Church as they become 'light of our world'. At weddings we join in the joy of two people who give their lives to each other in a reflection of the love Christ has for his Church thus mirroring the existence of the Trinity. At funerals we accompany the bereaved and pray for the deceased - and at Mass we unite the faithful in the re-presentation of the Paschal mystery of our Lord. It is a privilege and joy to journey through life with people, walking with them at every stage of life's journey in hope, in despair, in love and in trial, in sickness and in health.

Pope John Paul I in his final General audience said "We cannot embrace Christ, on the cross, without being hurt by a thorn from the crown of thorns..." With this in mind I am aware too of the great sense of humanity which accompanies the call to priesthood. I often admire other priests I see who seem to have it all sorted out. I however, often struggle with the immensity of this calling. I sometimes struggle to pray, I struggle with celibacy and with the problem of evil in our world. I often struggle with feelings of great inadequacy for the position I hold. This is the human side, the side we should not be ashamed to show, the side Christ showed when he wept at the death of Lazarus.

We have a very high calling yes, but we must not forget our humanity. Neither must we forget the poor. This is so central to my idea of priesthood. Christ came to the poor, the marginalised, those whom society rejected. In the same way, priesthood should be lived out in a sense of poverty. By that I mean a twofold poverty. Initially, a poverty of self, meaning that we realise this is not my vocation, I am not in charge here, this is not for my benefit nor is it for my personal gain. This is for God, towards God and by God and for his people, the Church. That self-poverty is the rejection of personal agendas and is ultimately, a poverty for freedom. If we read the creation story in Genesis we see God created the world for us to be rulers over it, not for it to rule over us. In the same way priesthood must be lived in such a way that the trappings of advancement and careerism do not get in the way. It also frees us to realise that it's in God's hands. As Pope John XXIII was famous for saying once, while he was worrying over some administration matters, "It's your Church, you're the boss, I'm going to bed!"

The second type of poverty we must involve ourselves in is the poverty of the people, be that material, spiritual, mental, health or otherwise. Poverty in our world today takes on many forms, not just material. We as priests, as representatives of Christ the good shepherd, as those who stand in persona Christi, should identify with, journey with and be beacons of hope to those who suffer any form of poverty.

I was blessed beyond words on 19 June 2011 to be ordained by Bishop Kieran O'Reilly. I am privileged to be on a journey where I have made loads of mistakes but am still learning. It is a real joy to be a priest, but is not without its struggles and trials. To any students or anyone contemplating priesthood, I would say keep praying, keep going and keep searching for the Lord who seeks us out.

Priesthood is magnificent, a most unique manner of life, yet one which, I am happy I am a part of, and one which I hope, with God's help and God willing I will remain in for a long time.

Letters



From the Vatican, 5 July 2013

Dear Mr Dee,

His Holiness Pope Francis has asked me to acknowledge the message of good wishes which you sent to him on behalf of St. Joseph's Young Priests Society on the occasion of his election to the See of Peter. He is grateful for the devoted sentiments which you expressed, and he thanks you for the support of your prayers for his ministry as Universal Pastor of the Church.

Assuring you and the Society of a remembrance in his own prayers, the Holy Father invokes God's abundant blessings upon you.

Yours sincerely,
Monsignor Peter B. Wells
Assessor



Eden Park Road, Dublin 14
20 August 2013

Dear President,

It must have been towards the end of last year that I advised Bridget that I was considering formally resigning from my position as one of the Trustees of the Society because of the unfortunate deterioration of my sight and hearing.

So, it is with great regret that I must resign formally from the above, having been involved in the Society for over 60 years, six of which I served as President. During those 60 years it was a privilege and an honour to have been involved in such a worthy cause in the life of the Irish Church.

I wish to place on record my appreciation of the support I received from officers and members in all sections of the Society during that time.

I am quite sure that under your capable leadership the Society will continue to serve the Church in Ireland with the same dedication as it has done in the past.

Accordingly, I am sending you and all members and benefactors my best wishes and prayers for the future.

Yours sincerely,
Michael O'Connor

Pilsen, November 13, 2012

Dear Anne,

I would like to thank the whole St Joseph's Young Priests Society for your contribution towards the fees of our seminarian Petr Mecl for the year 2012. In June of 2012 he finished the studies with success in Rome and on 18 of August Petr Mecl was ordained as a priest and now he is the chaplain in the parish in Klatovy.

For this reason I would like to ask you to assist another seminarian Petr Konopik. His details you can find in the attached list. In the attached headed notepaper there are bank details for the transfer of monies.

We're so grateful for your help and your generosity and we will pray for a full blessing for all the members and benefactors of your Society. I remember you together with the other diocesan benefactors in my prayers.

Yours in Christ,
Mons František Radkovsky
Bishop of Pilsen



MANILA October 9, 2013

Dear Brigid,
Greetings from a very humid Manila!

Thank you for your letter and for the list of our three seminarians which St Joseph's Young Priests Society is helping. Kurt Zion Pala, Erl Dylan Tabaco and Louie Ybanez are all studying theology at Loyola School of Theology. I am personally very grateful to your Society for the wonderful help which you are extending to our seminarians.

As a young priest I was assigned in Armagh Parish and I got to know many of your members there, in fact to this day I have remained friendly with Frances Rafferty who is a very faithful and loyal member of your Society. The dedication of so many of your members throughout Ireland is an inspiration.

Please find enclosed the signed copy of the list of our students which I am returning to you. Please be assured of my prayers and that of our community for your members. May God continue to bless your mission.

Sincerely yours,
Fr. Raymond Husband,
Rector

Recently Deceased

LOCAL BRANCHES

Ardee Sr Patrick, Kathy Duff, Kitty Smith, Robert Cavanagh, Mona Farrell, Daisy Walters, Bridie Carrie, Vera Callan

Ballyroan Maurice Leahy

Ballinlough Margaret McCarthy, Noel Lehane, Joe O'Sullivan, Jim Long

Ballyphehane Bridget O'Reilly

Birr Bridie Connor

Bishopstown Mary O'Driscoll, Tom Enright

Blackpool Nora Flaherty

Blarney Maureen Ryan, Annette Linehan, Kitty O'Sullivan, Anne Kelly, Mary Teresa Murphy, Chris Kelleher, Kevin Feeney

Caheragh Pat Lynch, Billy O'Donovan

Carrigaline Frances Twomey, William (Billy) O'Sullivan

Castlecomer Sr Columba Coffey

Castletown / Kilpatrick Nancy Sheeran

Coolock - St Brendan's Gerry Fitzgerald

Curraheen Road, Cork Michael Dennehy

Derrygonnelly / Botha Moira Farrell, Fr Marius

Donnelly CP, Johnny McCaffrey, Nora Cassidy, Louie McGuillion, Seán McGovern, Kevin McLaughlin, Paul McTeggart, Seán Beatty, Betty Hoy

Donaghmore Séamus Smyth, Phelim Savage, Monica Fitzpatrick, Maggie Kennedy

Dundalk Teresa Keohane, Kathleen McKeown, Nan Brennan, Kathleen Cassidy, Brendan Mulligan, Ena Kellaghan, Shirley Clarke, Sally Kelly, Packie Thornton, May Woods

Drogheda Catherine Gray

Edenderry Mary Dillon

Faughanvale (St Mary's) Teresa O'Brien

Foxrock Teddy O'Brien

Francis Street, Dublin Annie Geraghty

Graiguenamanagh Frank Whelan, Vera Foley, Helen Crean

Holy Family - Ballymagroarty Sheila McGeehan

Kinawley John B McHugh, Mairead Keenan, Anita O'Brien, Michael Boyle, Mollie Malanaphy, Charlotte McGoldrick, Phillip Clarke, Kathleen Owens, Olivia Reilly

Knockninny Vincie McPhillips, Tommy Fitzpatrick, Benny McManus, Maureen Maguire, Olivia O'Reilly, Séamus Clarke, Maureen Come, Mary McAdam, Barry Burke, Charlotte McGolderick, Mary Clarke, Patsy Caherty

Larkhill Philomena Duffy, Tommy Sheridan, Frank McGeough

Marino Jack Wilson, Dessie Blayney, Roger Lambe, Rose Moore, Tom Shields

Monasterboice Michael Flanagan

Mountnugent / Ballinacree John Murphy, Brian Daly, Séamus Sheridan, Maura McClarey, Margaret Lynch, Tom Kelly, Rose Dempsey, Bridie Plunkett

Our Lady Crowned - Mayfield Philip Walsh, Stella Buckley

Our Lady of the Rosary - Limerick Rita Perkins

Portadown Sr Martha Masterson, Margaret Coyle, Phyllis McPartland, Patrick Halpenny, Siobhán Devlin

Quin Fr Michael McNerney, Fanny Corbett

Ss Peter & Paul, Athlone Irene (Rene) Rowland, Delia Curley

St Ignatius, Galway Frank Synott

St John's, Granaghan Dan McMullan

St John the Baptist, Clontarf Andrew (Andy) Wall

St John Vianney, Ardlea Annie O'Shaughnessy

St Kevin's, Harrington Street John Maguire, Edel Nolan, Alan Nolan

St Monica's, Edenmore Margaret Mitten

St Vincent's, Cork Nora O'Keeffe, Kathleen O'Donoghue

Steelstown (Our Lady of Lourdes) Colette Doherty

Swanlinbar James Murphy, May Cassidy,

Joe McGovern, Kathleen Cullen, Kathleen Cox, Peter Cassidy, Patrick Drumm, Terence McGovern, Delia Sakiene, Fr Michael Darcy, Mary O'Brien

Templemore Sr Martha Shanahan, Peggy Davey, Nancy Tracy

Terenure Betty McCullough

Trillick Kevin McCann, Rose Maguire, Barney Barrett, Margaret Burns, Madalene Garrity, Barney Leonard

Trim Maureen Murray, Ted Murtagh, Sr Philomena Gleeson

General Pat Toman, (late Armagh Provincial President), Monica Fitzpatrick

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Anonymous Donations €10, €10, €10, €20, Anne €500, €5