

The Sheaf



ST. JOSEPH'S YOUNG PRIESTS SOCIETY

www.stjosephsyoungpriestssociety.com

23 MERRION SQUARE, DUBLIN 2, IRELAND, D02 XE02. TELEPHONE: DUBLIN 676 2593

AUTUMN 2016

NEW PRESIDENT FOR THE SOCIETY

At the October half yearly meeting of the Central Council, the governing body of the Society, many tributes were paid to George Dee who retires after five years as the Society's President. Messages of good wishes for his retirement were received from around the country wishing him and his wife Cathy and their family every happiness in the future.

Following the celebration of the Eucharist by the Society's Chief Chaplain, Fr Seamus McEntee, Mr Dee (from the Archdiocese of Tuam) announced that his successor would be John Murphy (from the Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin), no election being necessary as the two other nominees for president had withdrawn in favour of John Murphy. As Mr Murphy would to some extent be unknown to the members' delegates from the Provinces of Armagh, Cashel and Tuam, he has kindly agreed to our request to provide a brief summary of his CV for this issue of The Sheaf. He writes as follows:

Firstly, I am humbled and honoured to be elected as Honorary President of Saint Joseph's Young Priests Society for a three year term.

Allow me please to introduce myself to those of you who may not know me. I am John Murphy born in County Wexford. I was educated by the Christian Brothers for whom I have, and always had, the highest regard. I studied engineering at U C D and I am a Chartered Civil Engineer and a Fellow of the Institute of Engineers of Ireland. I worked in civil engineering construction all my life, in the USA, UK, and Libya in my earlier career, but mainly here in Ireland on large infrastructural projects. I retired from business in 2010.

I am married to Catherine and we have two daughters, a son-in-law and two grandchildren. We are living in Naas since 1980 where I am actively involved in parish ministries and also at diocesan level in promoting Eucharistic Adoration.

I have been a member of Saint Joseph's Young Priests Society for more years than I care to remember and have served/serving in various roles as Branch President, Diocesan President and for the last six years Dublin Provincial President. I am a member of the National Executive Committee for eight of the last nine years. For



President John Murphy with George Dee and Fr Michael Maher SM Dundalk.

the last three and a half years I have served on the Bishops' National Vocations Council of Ireland at Maynooth as the lay representative of Saint Joseph's Young Priests Society.

My hope is that the members and supporters of our Society will continue the vital work of praying for and promoting vocations, particularly vocations to priesthood, as well as providing financial support for the education and training of students to the priesthood. I asked at our October Central Council meeting, and now repeat my request, that each branch should endeavour to recruit just one new member before our meeting in May 2017. Also I repeat my request to members to double the number of times you recite our vocations prayer daily and also to pray for all our priests and seminarians on a daily basis.

Finally, may I ask for a prayer that my efforts and service for the Society, and your efforts and service, may play some small part in bringing about in due course what we all hope for - more new priests, particularly here in Ireland. God Bless,

John Murphy

Mother Teresa's Prayer for Priests

Mary, Mother of Jesus,
throw your mantle of purity over our priests.
Protect them, guide them, and keep them in your heart.
Be a Mother to them,
especially in times of discouragement and loneliness.
Love them and keep them belonging completely to Jesus.
Like Jesus, they, too, are your sons,
so keep their hearts pure and virginal.
Keep their minds filled with Jesus,
and put Jesus always on their lips,
so that he is the one they offer to sinners and to all they meet.
Mary, Mother of Jesus, be their Mother,

loving them and bring them joy.
Take special care of sick and dying priests,
and the ones most tempted.
Remember how they spent their youth and old age,
their entire lives serving and giving all to Jesus.
Mary, bless them and keep a special place for them in your heart.
Give them a piece of your heart,
so beautiful and pure and immaculate,
so full of love and humility,
so that they, too, can grow in the likeness of Christ.
Dear Mary, make them humble like you, and holy like Jesus.
Amen.

Letters to the Editor



Good Shepherd Catholic Church, PO Box 35, Chiredzi

18th October 2016

Dear Brigid Kelly

I write this letter to express my profound gratitude. I started my studies in theology in August 2012 and finished this year June 2016 at Chishawasha Regional Major Seminary. I was ordained a deacon on the 5th of December 2015 at Godomere Mission, Priesthood on the 16th of July 2016 by Right Rev. Bishop Michael Bhasera at Silveira Mission in Bikita district. I celebrated my thanksgiving Mass on the 17th of July 2016. The photos I enclosed were taken on my thanksgiving Mass.

I truly appreciate your continuous support and your very generous sponsoring. Though things were tough in the seminary, your contribution helped me to develop and succeed to Priesthood. Without your involvement and generosity, I would not be able to reach my potential goal.

Thank you again for your generous and continuous support.

Yours sincerely

Rev. Fr. Tawanda
Chitumba



Saint Joseph Regional Seminary
St. Joseph Village, Cubay, Jaro, Iloilo City

6th July, 2016

Dear Ms Brigid,

Greetings of Peace!

Our God continues to call young men and women of humble hearts to work on his vineyard. Likewise, he touches generous hearts to help these men and women fulfill their calling.

I, Seminarian Christian James R. Duran, from the Diocese of Kabankalan, one of the young men who desires to follow the Lord and to work on his vineyard. I am now on the 7th year of my seminary formation as a first year theology student of St. Joseph Regional Seminary, Jaro, Oloilo City.

This year I am so blessed to become one of your society's beneficiaries. Hence, I would like to express my deepest and heartfelt gratitude for your continued support for my vocation to the priesthood. Rest assured of my prayers for you and for St. Joseph's Young Priests Society.

May St. Joseph continue to bless and guide us in all our endeavors.

God Bless us all!

Sincerely yours,

Sem. Christian James R. Duran



To the Editor.

Dear Dominic,

I would be pleased if you would consider putting the attached photo in The Sheaf.

The photograph marks the presentation of a certificate at our Diocesan Meeting.

The certificate is from the Society to Mrs Pearl McEvoy who was President of the Dromara Branch in the Dromore Diocese from 1984 until 2014.

The photo shows the officers of the Dromara Branch: Declan Dunniece President, Eithna McKay Treasurer, Pearl McEvoy outgoing President and Olive McKay Secretary.

Thank you and best wishes from

Catherine McEvoy
Dromore Diocesan President



To General Secretary,
23 Merrion Square,
Dublin 2.

2nd September 2016

Dear Brigid,

As you know we support students in the diocese of Orlu in Imo State Nigeria, our contributions being forwarded to the bishop of Orlu, Rt Rev Dr Augustine Tobechukwu Ukwuoma.

Bishop Augustine was here in Ireland recently and before returning home he wished to call to Merrion Square to express his thanks in person to members of the Society.

Due to time restraints he was unable to call, so as a last resort he asked that I would pass on his gratitude and also his apologies for not making it to the Society's house.

I enclose a photo which was taken with myself and maybe his thanks could be conveyed to the members and benefactors through the medium of The Sheaf.

Many thanks

Declan Sheridan
President of St. Mary's
Jubilee Branch Navan



St Joseph's Society Mass for the feast of Christ the King 2016

Talk at St Andrew's Westland Row, Dublin by Fr Enda Cunningham Adm Westland Row

Can I begin with a little confession: I'm slightly uneasy with the title of today's feast, Christ the KING. I'm sure there are people whose only experience of kingship has been positive; but the kings I know all belong to history, and mostly from our neighbouring island, and to be honest the effects of kingly aspirations for domination and imposed authority leave sometimes a bitter and at best ambiguous taste in the heart!

So how about celebrating Christ the champion? Or perhaps even better, Christ the HERO?

For heroes show us our better nature, lifting us up to see our true potential. Most importantly, they invite imitation. I was lucky enough growing up as a child in Dublin to be able to play on the road. When Wimbledon was on, everyone was out walloping a tennis ball; after the World Cup it was a soccer ball; watching the Dubs there'd be rows over who could be Brian Mullins, or Jimmy Keaveney and who'd be stuck playing Paddy Cullen! Nowadays it's probably Brian O'Driscoll or Paul O'Connell, Diarmuid Connolly or Katie Taylor that sets the kids' hearts and bodies racing! Followers of Irish teams, of course, more often than not have to settle for what is known as the moral victory, when the result doesn't reflect the display of courage in the face of more talented opposition, so that even if we actually lose the match the crowd are still singing "you'll never beat the Irish": it must drive the supporters of the other team crazy, but that's the Irish for you!

That's how I like to think of today's feast: Christ our Hero. ... Heroes invite imitation. "Be merciful, as your heavenly Father is merciful." This has been the invitation of the past year in our Church, the Year of Mercy that draws to a close today. I hope you have been more aware of the power of mercy in your life, and have had reason to rejoice at experiencing that mercy in many ways.



Fr Enda Cunningham
Newly appointed Dublin Diocesan Director
of Vocations

I'm very conscious that not too many men these days seem to want to imitate the choice of priesthood that I and my fellow-concelebrants here today made some years ago. I suspect that the primary reason we were led to consider priesthood as a vocation was because of the example we had seen from the priests around us, whether in school, or parish church, or in our family or community circles. I know that you, as members of St Joseph's Young Priests Society, would share our gratitude for the example of humble service, sometimes even heroic service that we have witnessed from priests serving our Church in varied ways. That is not to deny the reality of anger and deep offence caused by the scandalous betrayal of that calling by some: indeed, it only serves to deepen it. But such betrayal cannot negate the truth that we have had great priests in the past, and continue to have today: such is the abundance of God's mercy to the Church, for which we give thanks.

Heroes come in many forms, however. If people rightly look to priests to bear witness to that love of Christ which shines forth from the mystery of the Cross, a love that is prepared to lay down its life for others, we priests would be the first to acclaim the heroic witness given by you, the baptized faithful. That heroic love is seen daily in the never-ending service of parents for their children or children for their elderly parents, and in those who have heard the call of the Master to follow his example and "wash the feet" of those in need, in a thousand different ways.

I am sure I speak for each priest here when I say that I could not survive without the support, the love and prayers of so many. That is why I am so grateful for your work within the Society, seeking to promote vocations and offering practical support to seminarians here in Ireland and abroad. You would probably be the last to consider yourselves as heroes of the faith, but that is what you are!

I would encourage you to continue to bear witness to our Catholic faith and to do so in a spirit of joy. St John in his letters says that "perfect love casts out fear." When we look only to ourselves, planning our future only with the calculations of the pragmatic, then it must appear, like the apostles asked to feed the multitude, that our few "loaves" will never be enough for "so many." But Christ is our Hero: bring whatever resources you have to me, he says ... and then watch what I will do!

May Christ continue to bless you as abundantly as only He can. And thank you for encouraging us to truly be priests after the model of the Good Shepherd who laid down his life for the sheep. May there be many others to carry on that mission of being bearers of God's mercy in our world. Amen!



Group photo of participating clergy, choir and organising committee at the Society's pilgrimage to Our Lady's Island in July.

The chief celebrant, Most Rev Alphonsus Cullinan, Bishop of Waterford and Lismore, is on the left of the photo.

FORM OF BEQUEST

*Please remember St. Joseph's Young Priests
Society in your Will*

*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*

Thank You

St. Joseph's Young Priests Society
(A society of lay people organised in parishes and work-places throughout Ireland)

Thank you for your support of the Society's work in the past. The need for more priests to carry out Christ's work is as real now as it has ever been.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

We believe at this critical time our Society is called to a renewal of faith; to proclaim boldly the Gospel of Jesus Christ; to work in partnership towards creating a greater understanding of Christ's call: "Come follow Me"

OUR PURPOSE is to promote the vocation of the priesthood by prayer, financial help and the witness of our Christian living.

With your generous support we have been able to assist:

Year to June	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Irish Students	120	114	111
Overseas Students	738	586	590
Total Students	858	700	701
Expenditure	€948,644	€869,587	€816,922
Ordinations to Priesthood	177	159	120

Please continue to support and promote the work of the Society.

Papal Blessing

"In appreciation of the work and fidelity of St. Joseph's Young Priests Society in fostering vocations to the priesthood, His Holiness Pope Francis cordially imparts the requested Apostolic Blessing invoking abundant divine graces to the President, Committees and Members of St. Joseph's Young Priests Society."

Cunningham & Co Chartered Accountants

Berkeley House, Ballybin Road, Ashbourne, Co. Meath.
Ph: 01-8498800

**TO: ALL MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS OF
ST. JOSEPH'S YOUNG PRIESTS SOCIETY**

9th September 2016

Subject: Financial Operations of St. Joseph's Young Priests Society

This is to confirm that

Cunningham & Co., Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors carry out a full annual audit of the financial accounts and transactions of St. Joseph's Young Priests Society in accordance with FRS 102, the Financial Reporting Standards applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland. The Auditor's Report and Statement of Accounts are published in the Society's Annual Report which is circulated to all branches.

All Office Holders of the Society (i.e. President, Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Secretary, Editor of The Sheaf and members of the Executive Committee) give their services on a voluntary basis and receive no remuneration whatsoever for their time.

The only employees of the Society are a small complement of 1 full-time and 2 part-time office staff who handle the day-to-day administrations of the Society and their total remuneration is outlined the Annual Audited Accounts every year. Staff salaries and pension amount to 6% of total annual income; other overheads amount to a further 11%, giving a total of 17%. This means that 83% of all income received goes directly to the work of the charity in promoting vocations and supporting the education of students for the priesthood.

Given the size of the Charity, the day to day financial operations of the Society are running well.

All cheque payments or money transfers must be signed by at least two of four authorised signatories from the following mandated Officers, President, Vice-Presidents (2), and Treasurer.

The Society is registered with the new Charities Regulatory Authority, Charity No. 20002244 and has already submitted its first annual report for 2015. It is also registered as a Charity with the Revenue Commission, CHY No. 1508.

The Society is currently preparing to adopt the Governance Code for Community, Voluntary and Charitable Organisations in Ireland.

Peter Cunningham, B.Comm. FCA. QFA.

For and on behalf of Cunningham & Co., Chartered Accounts & Registered Auditors.

Recently Deceased

VOCATIONAL BRANCH
Insurance Branch Tom Cawley, Eddie O'Brien

LOCAL BRANCHES

Ardagh and Moydow Teresa Farrell
Ardfield / Rathbarry Kitty McCarthy, Denis O'Sullivan, Michael Whelton, Donal Hayes
Ballymena Patsy Neeson, Anna Griffin, Mary Martin
Ballinahinch / Killoscully Dick Coughlan, Joan Ray
Ballyhaunis Helen Hoban
Bayside Eamon Rogers
Blackpool Garry Moore
Borrisoleigh Norah Butler
Carrigaline May Cogan
Cashel Phil Mulligan
Christ the King, Turner's Cross Andrew Farry, William Coughlan
Claregalway Pat O'Connell (Galway Diocesan President), Mary Grealish (Claregalway Branch Secretary)
Claremorris Bernadette (Birdie) Smyth
Clonakilty Phil White, Bernie O'Brien

Curaheen Road, Cork Mona Buckley, Mary Linehan, Ted O'Connor
Derrygonnelly / Botha Pat McIntyre, Pat Sheerin, Michael Farrell, Francie Magee, Leo Griffin, Aileen Magee
Dolphin's Barn Sheila Lynch
Douglas Alan O'Hare
Drogheda Michael Coyle
Enniskillen Rose O'Reilly
Faughanvale (St Mary's) Annie McKeever
Harold's Cross Helen Keane
Killesher Mary Teresa Williamson, Christine Walmsley, Neil Crawford, Vera Curyry
Kinsale Chris Leahy
Knockninny Pdraig McGovern, June Cassidy, Hugh James Curry, Rose O'Reilly, Kathleen Gunn, James Clarke, Mary Jane McGovern, Joe Donohoe, Jim Hanlon, Teresa Lynam, Jim Waterson, John Burke, Myra Owens
Lisgoold Dan Joe McCarthy
Maghera Marion Hegarty, Tommy Duggan, Susan Doherty, Paddy Lagan, Margaret Hurley, Sheila Convery
Middleton Anne McCarthy, Fr Michael Campbell CC

Mount Merrion Rosaleen Brady
Moycarkey / Borris Mary Hayes
Mullagh Eileen Hetherton
Mountnugent / Balinacree Mary Brown, Josephine Gilroy, Sean Fagan, Michael Reilly
Our Lady Crowned (Mayfield) Donal Buckley
Portadown Mary Murray, Patricia Mulholland, Eileen McCoy, Mary Litter, Roslyn Magill, Terence McCann
Raheen Margaret (Babs) Shanahan
Rathgar May O'Reilly
Rathmines Bernadette Fitzgerald
Steelstown (Our Lady of Lourdes) Oliver Smith
St John's, Granaghan Jamie Mullen
St John the Baptist, Clontarf Anto Bernie
St John Vianney, Ardlea Christine Sweeney
Templemore Mary Kennedy
Trim Una Mangan
General James Cruite-Walsh, Fr Martin Mumaghan (in Kenya)

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Anonymous Donations €20, €23.5c, €20