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ST. JOSEPH'S YOUNG PRIESTS SOCIETY

www.stjosephsyoungpriestssociety.com



SAINT JOSEPH'S YOUNG PRIESTS SOCIETY, 23 MERRION SQUARE, DUBLIN 2. TELEPHONE: DUBLIN 676 2593

SPRING 2010



The President of Ireland, Mrs Mary McAleese, hosted afternoon tea at Áras an Uachtaráin on Friday 12 February 2010 for a representative group from Saint Joseph's Young Priests Society accompanied by clerical students and their teachers, vocation directors and some 15 young and newly ordained priests from around the country.

The courtesy visit to the presidential residence in the Phoenix Park enabled Mrs Marie Hogan, president of St Joseph's to compliment Mrs McAleese on her work both here in Ireland where she has a very full schedule and abroad representing the people of Ireland, where, whenever feasible and if at all possible, she took the opportunity of meeting with Irish missionaries.



With Mrs Marie Hogan are Bro Colm Mannion and Bro Maurice Colgan, students for the Dominican priesthood.

Mrs McAleese told the new priests, all of whom were introduced to her individually, that she hoped they would find a great passion and fulfilment that would sustain them throughout their lives and that along the way they would help a lot of people.

Over tea, most of the visitors had the opportunity to have a brief word with the President. Afterwards her ADC, Sgt John Grennan led the guests on a guided tour of the Áras.

For the members of the Society, the visit, taking place during the Year for Priests announced by Pope Benedict XVI, was an occasion of quietly supporting the work of the priesthood in accordance with the Pope's prayer "that God will give holy priests to his Church and will increase in the faithful the desire to sustain and help them in their ministry".

Photos: John McElroy



President McAleese greeting Father Emlyn McGinn, having been introduced by Joe Merrick.

SATURDAY CONGRESSES 'Priesthood, the reality today'

13 March	BELFAST	11.00am St Peter's Cathedral, 12.30 Balmoral Hotel
20 March	CORK	10.30am Registration Silver Springs Moran Hotel
10 April	KNOCK	10.15am Registration at St John's House of Rest
24 April	MAYNOOTH	10.15am Registration at St Patrick's College

PILGRIMAGE ARRANGEMENTS

FRIDAY 16 April	Shrines of France (overland) Details: Phone (01) 676 2593
SATURDAY 26 June	Our Lady's Shrine, Knock. Commencing 2.30pm
SUNDAY 25 July	Our Lady's Island, Wexford. Commencing 3.00pm



Marie Hogan introduces Fr Eamonn Bourke, Kathleen Delamere and Dominic Dowling.

Diocesan Vocation Directors Meet in Maynooth

On Thursday 11 February, Vocation Directors from sixteen dioceses around Ireland met in Maynooth for an afternoon of discussion, sharing and support. Although such meetings take place regularly, those present felt that this meeting was of particular benefit following the release of the Murphy Report before Christmas.

The meeting, which was also attended by Joseph Merrick (St Joseph's Young Priests Society) and Andrew O'Connell, (Presentation Brothers), began with lunch hosted by the President of St Patrick's College and his senior staff. Monsignor Connolly acknowledged the invaluable contribution made by Vocation Directors, and assured those present that they were always welcome in the College, especially when organising a visit by prospective candidates – which is always useful in the discernment process.

The meeting proper began with prayer from the Divine Office, after which, Fr Patrick Rushe, the National Coordinator for Diocesan Vocation Directors invited all directors present to introduce themselves and say how long they had been involved in vocation work. As it turned out, those around the table had gathered up a total of 99 years in vocations ministry, and accounted for 59 (68%) of the 86 seminarians currently studying for Irish Dioceses.

As directors were encouraged to share with each other how the ministry was doing in each diocese, (particularly Dublin, Limerick, and Kildare & Leighlin), quickly emerging were the themes of support and encouragement for priests within these dioceses, not only from the laity, but also from among the clergy themselves. This might be surprising, but vocation directors can find it challenging (to say the least) to recruit the assistance and involvement of other priests. However, it came to light in the discussion that a few dioceses even have 'priest-only' vocation committees who visit schools and parishes to speak about vocations - which is good to hear in these difficult times.

These programmes as well as vocation workshops, and the distribution of vocations literature all remained high on the scale of activity and as effective ways of communicating the vocations message, although the inevitable difficulties caused by the vocation directors having more than one 'job' to do was highlighted as an impediment to a more effective vocations strategy.

The support of the laity, particularly in the formation of Vocations Commissions, was also highlighted as a growing positive trend in vocations ministry across the country. Not least among organisations in this regard, are the members of

St Josephs Young Priests Society who are doing great work promoting vocations, praying for vocations, and giving financial support for seminarians in Ireland, and abroad.

The upcoming celebrations of 'Vocations Sunday' on 25 April and 'Priesthood Sunday' on 26 September were highlighted as opportunities for co-ordination between dioceses (at regional level) for some kind of common promotion or joint resource. Bulletin 'blurbs' or vocation intercessions for use in parishes could be circulated at these times. Both these have proved to be very popular among priests, probably because they are easy to integrate into the Sunday Mass or Bulletin. Vocation Directors using these resources promised to share copies with others.

Last year's record intake of 36 seminarians, is being surveyed at present to try and discover some helpful statistics about what informed their decision-making, enabling them to 'enter' in 2009. It is hoped the results of such a survey will be in circulation shortly after Easter, and could help target diocesan vocation efforts in the right direction.

Before the meeting concluded, the dates of two international vocation directors conferences (European in Hungary 1 to 4 July and USA in Milwaukee 13 to 16 September) and our own in Cavan, 17 to 19 October, were discussed. It was agreed that two Vocation Directors would try and attend the international venues, while all dioceses were encouraged to send someone to the conference in Cavan.

Father Rushe thanked those present for their participation in what was a forward-looking discussion, where all had the chance to 'share' their own experience. He pointed out that his term of office as a Diocesan Vocation Director for Armagh and as National Coordinator would be coming to an end in June 2011, and encouraged those around the table to consider if they would like to volunteer for the post. Fr Rushe indicated that the Bishops' Conference had given approval, in principle, for the new National Coordinator to be appointed to serve alongside him for his last twelve months, to ensure a smooth transition.

Finally, all agreed that the best resources for vocations are: happy, healthy and holy priests, carrying out their parish ministry with professionalism and genuine pastoral concern. The Vocation Directors made this their own personal pledge as they concluded the meeting with Evening Prayer from the Divine Office for the day, the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, the World Day of Prayer for the Sick.

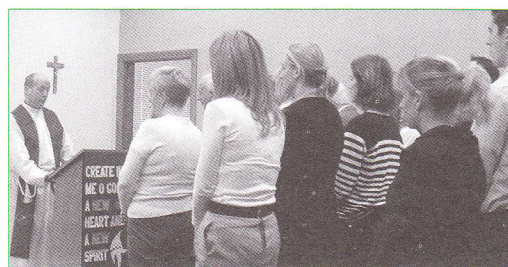
PJR

83rd AGM of the Electrical Industries Branch

The 83rd AGM of the Electrical Industries Branch took place on Ash Wednesday and approved its Statement of Accounts recording members' subscriptions transferred to the Central Fund of the Society at €14,500 for the year.

Four persons employed by the Electricity Supply Board, who organised weekend retreats at Manresa in Dollymount, established the branch in 1927. It is unique in that it has provided a succession of dedicated officers who voluntarily served St Joseph's Young Priests Society at national level.

Seen here with Msgr Eoin Thynne HCF, chaplain to the branch, are Michael O'Connor, Tommy O'Keeffe, Seán Roche and Joe Mathews. Following the meeting Msgr Thynne celebrated the Eucharist and imparted Blessed Ashes to all at the Mass.



Spiritual Seminary of s.Josaphat,
76018, Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine
November 10, 2009

Brigid Kelly,
St. Joseph's Young Priests Society
23 Merrion Square, Dublin 2, Ireland

Glory be to Jesus Christ!

Dear Brigid Kelly,

Rectorate of Ivano-Frankivsk seminary is grateful for the letter 04.09.2009 in which your Society is ready to help to our orphan seminarists with the money for education in our seminary.

We would like to inform you that seminarist Nazariy Kashchak became priest and went on mission to Argentina. Bishop Sviatoslav Shevchyk invited him. (Fr. Nazariy's photo is attached). We are grateful that with help of your Society he became a priest.

Mykola Pryshliak graduated from the seminary and now he works in Catholic school. He is teacher of Christian ethics. Also he is preparing for diaconal ordination.

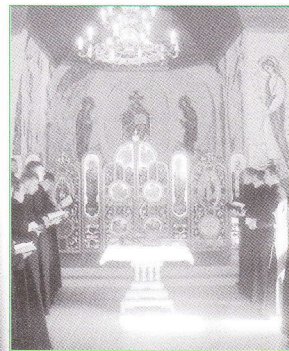
Hershon Vasyly and Filipovych Vasyly started their studying of psychology at the Precarpathian National University named after Vasyly Stefanyk. They also are preparing for diaconal ordination.

Hevak Mykhaylo found a relative in USA who agreed to pay money for studying at the seminary for Mykhaylo. Mykhaylo is grateful for the funds you provided for him. He appreciates your help.

We present you five new seminarists that are studying theology first year. They have some material problems. They come from families without parents or without one of the parents. They are: Kasiy Nazar, Sikach Taras, Maksymiv Taras, Kibel Nazar and Boyanetsky Mykhaylo.

Also we are sending you pictures about our seminary's life. Every day on Mass we thank God that we have such generous philanthropists that help our seminarists and in this way you also help Christ's Church.

Sincerely yours,
Fr Oleg Kaskiv. (Rector of the Seminary)



A WORD OF EXPLANATION

Included among the 817 clerical students on the Society's charitable register, are some 50 beneficiaries in the Eastern European region who are training for ministry mostly in their own countries.

Father Kaskiv's letter from the seminary near Lviv near Ukraine, reminds us that the Society contributes to the cost of education to priesthood, not only of priests for the Catholic Church in the West, but also of priests in the Eastern Catholic Church.

The Ivano-Frankivsk Seminary of St Josaphat educates priests for the Ukrainian Catholic Church, the largest Eastern Catholic Church *sui juris* (speaking for itself and managing its own affairs). It acknowledges the spiritual and jurisdictional authority of the Pope. The Church has an episcopal form of government, with organizational divisions (eparchies) led by metropolitans and bishops. The head of the Church is the major archbishop of Lviv, Ukraine. The Pope consecrates bishops. They, in turn, ordain priests

and deacons. As this is traditionally a national Church, its evangelisation of people has been limited to Ukrainians. Over the years, the clergy have emigrated with their people and now operate in numerous countries around the world.

The rites of the Church however, follow the traditions common to the Byzantine Christian Churches of Constantinople. The order of the Mass, the principal Divine Liturgy, outwardly differs little from the Latin rite of the Roman Catholic Church, but the prayers and invocations said throughout the Mass vary considerably in following one of three Eastern rites. The Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom is followed for most Sunday Masses and other occasions. The Liturgy of Saint Basil is celebrated on ten solemn occasions each year, and the Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified is celebrated on Wednesdays and Fridays during Lent and from Monday to Wednesday of Holy Week, the bread and wine having been consecrated on the preceding Sunday.

With the Soviet invasion of Ukraine in 1939, the Ukrainian Catholic clergy were

imprisoned and all religious activity was suppressed. Not until the liberalisation of Soviet rule in Ukraine in 1989, culminating in Ukrainian independence in 1991, did the Church return to legal status and the serious situation of the Greek-Catholic Church in Ukraine become better known in Dublin. Later, Archbishop Desmond Connell decided that the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Divine Liturgy should be celebrated in Saint Kevin's Oratory of St Mary's pro-cathedral in Dublin, and it has been ever since, at 4.00pm every Sunday, by Archimandrite Serge Keleher. The Brothers of Saint John of God presented the icon-screen and most of the icon-prints on the screen came from Greece. By 2000, Ukrainians were beginning to come to Ireland in significant numbers. Then in 2004 Bishop Hlib (Lonchyna) was appointed to look after the congregation in Ireland, as well as the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic communities in Italy and Spain. So far, Father Serge has baptized 135 children. Some families have gone overseas, so now there are Irish Greek-Catholic Ukrainians in the USA, in Canada and in Australia.

A Thought from Sister Janet.....

In case you thought otherwise, let me tell you that becoming a saint is a real hassle!

I had plans of becoming a saint before I made my First Holy Communion. By the age of seven I had already decided that I wanted a place in heaven and that I was going to do whatever I could to get there. Somehow, I was always thwarted. I tried to attend an ordination in the parish (the church was opposite my home) but my father, who was the Master of Ceremonies, told me that I was too little, so I marched up and down the street, singing hymns at the top of my voice in the hope that someone would hear, realise how desperately I wanted to see what was happening and let me in. They didn't and I quickly bored of my protest. In any case, in those days, I knew very few hymns by heart.

Then my teacher, Miss O'Connell, read us the life of Pope St Pius X. He apparently used to go to Confession every day, so I thought that might give me a quick entry to heaven. After less than one week, one of the priests told me that he didn't think I needed to go every day and that perhaps I should let some of the grown-ups have a chance!

Then Miss O'Connell read us the life of Blessed (now Saint) Julie Billiart. Well, I thought that the possibilities of escaping from my pursuers in a hay cart were rather remote, especially as I lived in the city. I liked the idea of a miraculous cure, but I didn't fancy being paralysed for several years and having to hang around for the miracle. Also, I didn't know the Novena to the Sacred Heart, apparently at the end of which Julie was healed.

Saint Francis appealed to me, except for his habit of throwing himself into rose bushes and thorns. I've always liked nature and have loved the image of Francis strolling through the woods, using two twigs as a make-believe violin and bow. Francis fasted. So would I. I gave up sweets for about 18 months...until my mother bought me a Mars Bar...and if you've never eaten one, then you have no idea of the exquisite luxury of nibbling the chocolate, first from the top, then from the sides and lastly from the bottom of the bar, before tucking into its equally luxurious centre. Since that moment, I've never decided to avoid sweets for the rest of my life. Sugar in tea and coffee was a

different matter. The penance of giving it up has been replaced by a complete dislike of the sickly-sweetness of tea or coffee with sugar. Again, sanctity has been thwarted!

Recently I had the privilege of attending Mass in the Jesuit chapel at La Storta, a most artistically unimpressive wayside chapel not far outside Rome. It was there that St Ignatius had a vision of Jesus carrying the Cross and that he understood his vocation to be a companion of the suffering Jesus. As I understand it, La Storta was the real beginning of the Society of Jesus.

As I sat in the little chapel, I could 'see' an uncertain Ignatius, perhaps a bit scared, perhaps anxious that he might not be 100% accurate in the way in which he saw the road ahead. It was, maybe, a bit like St Francis heading off to Rome to ask the Pope for permission to preach penance. Onlookers probably thought they were both idiots! Perhaps they were.

At the end of it all, it seems to me that sanctity is not about certainty in one important sense. Just because someone became a saint, it doesn't mean that he or she had all the answers and that the road ahead was clear, without the normal uncertainties of everybody else's life experience. It seems to me that a fair bit of their road was nothing more than sheer muddling through, doing the best they could with the little that was available to them, the only certainty being that it was all done in the hope of coming closer to God. I reckon that hopeful muddling is the path open to most of us. It sounds inconvenient, but at least it gives me a chance to go to God, as I am, not as a poor copy of someone else.

That sounds OK. Jesus said that God loves me as I am. That suits me, too. Life quickly proves that I can only be me. I'm not a Saint Pius X, a Julie Billiart, a Francis of Assisi or an Ignatius of Loyola. I am me. I have my own way of coming to know God and it is in my own life that God will make himself known.

God bless,
SR JANET

Recently Deceased

VOCATIONAL BRANCHES

Civil Service Peig Morgan

Insurance Jim Keogh, Larry Conlon, Pat Taggart, Paddy Lacey, Peggy Meegan

Licensed Trade Paddy Carr, Conor Redmond

Motor & Engineering Josephine Maginer, Jack Farrell

LOCAL BRANCHES

Abbeyfeale Shelia O'Connell, Jeffery Harnett, W J Crowley

Ardfield / Rathbarry Mary Cahalane, Kathleen O'Brien

Armagh Peggy McElroy

Athea Kit Leach

Ballymote Eileen Cawley, Mary O'Donnell

Ballyphehane Dan McCarthy, Catherine O'Leary

Blackrock Michael Williams, Carmel Broderick

Blarney Geraldine Osborne, Nan Dilworth, Eileen Browne, John Wiseman, Tony O'Mahony, Ann O'Leary, Elizabeth Murphy, Bill Twomey, Kathleen Doran, Claire Healy

Buncrana Annie Doherty, Francis McKinney

Caheragh Susan O'Donovan

Cavan Patsy Maloney, (Founder of the Branch)

Christ the King, Turner's Cross Rowland Connolly, Maura Looney, Anne Quinn, Donal Duggan

Clontarf, St Anthony's Mary Langton, Mary Lively

Derrygonnelly/Botha Paddy Leonard, Maurice McGuinness, Peter Maguire

Douglas Maura Boland, Sheila Moynihan

Dundalk Lily Daly

Enniskillen Elizabeth Colton, Loretta Moon, Danny Goan, Phil Dooris, Shelia Downey, Mary McAnespie, Maura Donegan, Mona Maguire, Colette Ellis, Geraldine McManus, Maureen Maguire, Bridie McBrien,

Eskra Rose McGinley, John McCarroll

Golden Kitty Whelan, John Horan, Kit (Tierney) Whelan, Jimmy O'Neill

Grauguenamanagh Eileen O'Carroll, Alice Dowling, Moira Byrne

Irinestown Oliver McGarrity, Tony Henderson, Terence Muldoon, Kathleen Gallagher, Seán McGarrity, Willie Shannon, Mary Kirwin, Séamus Maguire, Jim Valentine, Annie Maguire

Killorglan Brendan O'Reilly

Maghera Kevin Convery, Mary Dinsmore, Kathleen Murtagh, Willie McGill, Malachy Rooney, Louis Gallagher, Patrick McErlean, Eileen Kieft, John Scott

Marino Georgina Ledwith

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Passage West Albert Harding, Sr Kevin Hayden

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Rathkeale Bríd O'Shea, Mary Murphy, Jack Hickey

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St Munchin's, Limerick Josie O'Sullivan, Noreen Smith

St Patrick's, Cork Kevin Conboye

Sutton Eileen Buckley

Templemore Mary Gleeson

Templeport Ailís Bannon, John Brady, John Edwards, Annie Farrell, Noel Gorby, Eugene McDermott, John McGovern, Mrs Christy McIntyre, Maureen McLoughlin, Seán O'Reilly

Tournafulla Ellen O'Gorman

Westport Ann McGing

Wexford Thomas O'Grady

Willington Anastasia Stokes, Mary Cleary

Overseas Most Rev John Moore SMA, Bishop of Bauchi, Nigeria

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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