



The Sheaf



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 2011

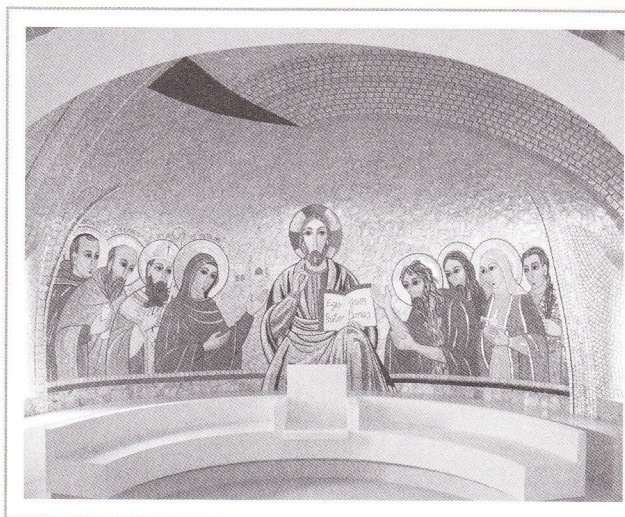
Members and benefactors of the Society will surely be pleased to know that the cost of the altar in the reordered chapel of All the Saints of Ireland in the Pontifical Irish College Rome has been met by St Joseph's Young Priests Society. The chapel was dedicated on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception 8 December 2010 by Cardinal Brady. Work on redesigning the Irish College chapel began after Easter 2008. Renowned artist and theologian, Fr Marko Rupnik SJ designed the new altar and sanctuary fittings, as well as a mosaic to decorate the walls of the chapel referring to its dedication: All the Saints of Ireland.

During the ceremony the relics of St Oliver Plunkett, a past pupil of the College (1647-54) were placed in the altar. They were wrapped in the stole of another past resident of the College (1996-2003) Father Ragheed Ganni ordained from the College in 2001 and martyred in Iraq in June 2007. Both are depicted in the mosaic behind the altar.

In a message acknowledging his gratitude to those assisted with the project, the Rector of the Irish College, Msgr Liam Bergin said that the reordering was made possible by the generous contributions of a great number of people, and to The Sheaf he wrote "Of course you may use photographs from our website. We cannot do enough to repay the Society for your kindness and goodness".

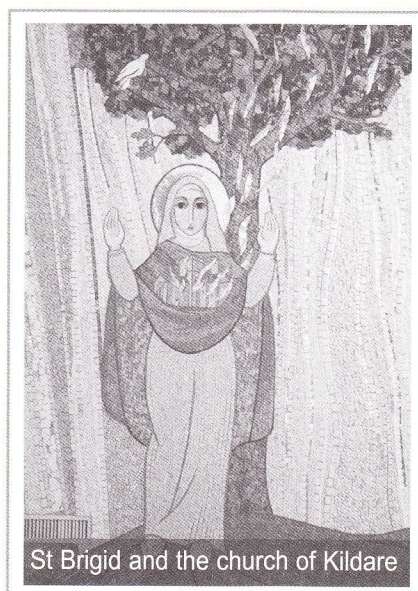
THE PONTIFICAL IRISH COLLEGE

Founded in 1628, this is the last of the many Irish Colleges that were once scattered over Europe when it was not possible to educate priests in Ireland. Today the College is home to 59 students - 27 are seminarians (and three from Orthodox Churches, sponsored by the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of Christian Unity) and 29 student priests who are doing post-graduate work in the ecclesiastical universities in Rome, with about half coming from Ireland and the others representing many different nations. On the College's website www.irishcollege.org may be found information on who lives there and on the College's ongoing mission of formation to priesthood.

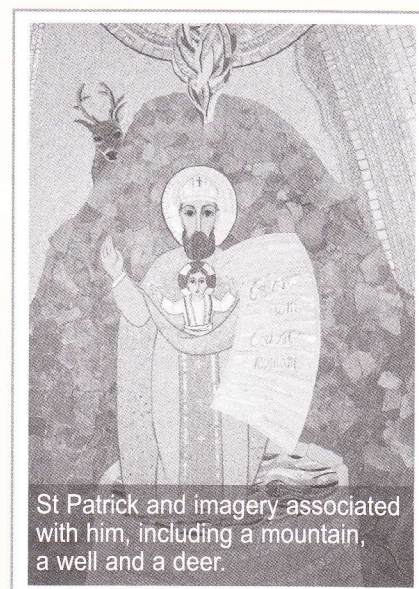


The College also organises different events for the Irish and for the wider international community in Rome. Some 250 couples celebrate their marriage at the College each year; young people are prepared for the sacraments of First Penance, First Communion and Confirmation. Conferences are hosted on different aspects of religion, history and culture.

For an interesting photo-tour of the College, just follow the appropriate links on www.irishcollege.org



St Brigid and the church of Kildare



St Patrick and imagery associated with him, including a mountain, a well and a deer.

Promoting the Society

by Margaret Fisher, Armagh Provincial President

In the New Testament, Saint Joseph was a carpenter; today he would be called a technologist.

St Joseph's Young Priests Society can surely make use of a little computer assistance with introductory talks when introducing the Society in new parishes.

In the past, a photographic slide show

was often used by a speaker to illustrate a talk on a given subject. The computer-technology version is known as a PowerPoint presentation. It is noted for its visual impact. Most students currently attending school will be familiar with it, as PowerPoint presentations are easy to compile and use. One such PowerPoint presentation

has been put together specifically for the purpose of presenting information on the Society at meetings to promote the opening of new branches in areas where none exists. It is about sixteen slides long, and a few sample clips are shown below. This presentation is available on disc from the Society's House, but it is best to have your own made up.

Iskaheen Parish

St. Patrick's, Iskaheen
Sacred Heart, Muff
St. Columba's, Drung

St. Joseph's Young Priests Society

How you can help
to build up God's Kingdom
in your parish today

What is

St. Joseph's Young Priests Society

- It is not a new, trendy group!
- Established in Ireland in 1895
- A society of lay people
- Approved by Irish Episcopal Conference

What are the purposes of the Society?

There are two aspects to this:

- 1.[a] To promote vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life.
- [b] To assist financially in the education of student priests who have a vocation.

Purposes continued

- 2.[a] To promote the vocation of the Laity
- [b] To foster greater understanding & love of the Mass
- [c] To help members to be Christ's presence in every aspect of life

How does the Society work

Through a branch group...
...formed in the Parish...
...with the approval of the Parish Priest.

They elect officers and meet each month to pray and organise the Society's activities in their community

What are the Society's activities?

- Encourages regular prayer for vocations
- Arranges ... prayer meetings ... vigils ... pilgrimages ... seminars ... retreats

So its members may give witness of Christian living

A Lay Society

Members are ordinary people who work through prayer and example to build up a truly Christian Community where vocations flourish naturally. No 'gimmicks'. No 'shortcuts'. No 'easy rides' to priesthood.

How are clerical students helped?

- They are supported spiritually by the prayers of members of the Society.
- They are supported financially by the Society through contributions from members and friends.

Why do students need financial help?

- Expenses for any students are substantial
 - Seminary education is no different ... except it takes very much longer!
- If needed, the Society adopts a student and helps to finance his education.

What students are helped by the Society?

Students for the Priesthood ...
... from any Irish diocese...
... who are eligible for help...
...and who are recommended by a Board of Priests appointed by the four Archbishops of Ireland.

Are only Irish students helped?

The Society assists students for the priesthood...
.....where the need exists.....
.....throughout the world.

How many students are currently being helped?

In the year 2009/2010:

- 118 in Ireland
- 669 overseas

"The task of fostering vocations depends on the whole Christian community, which should do so by living in a fully Christian way."
Vatican Council
Decree on Priestly Formation

Why Bother?

Members look to the future ...
... and their children's future.
They want to hand on their faith and their love of the Mass, for which priests are needed.

St. Joseph's Young Priests Society

A way that you can help
to build up God's Kingdom
in your parish today.

Since it is best not to simply read out aloud what appears on the slide, you will have notes that give you a commentary to add to the presentation. You will need a laptop computer (Come on - they are common!), and a digital projector (Try the IT department in a school!). Some young students will be able to produce an infinitely better version, with video-clips, film-footage, pictures, and music. You might have to tell them that you don't want Girls Aloud or Lady Gaga, but do let them help in arranging your presentation.



At a Quarterly Diocesan meeting hosted by Pennyburn branch, Fr David O'Kane Derry Diocesan Chaplain to the Society, presented Certificates of Formal Branch Recognition to members from newly opened branches at Fahan, Ballinascreen, and Faughanvale.

“Adoration outside Holy Mass prolongs and intensifies what has taken place in the liturgical celebration and makes a true and profound reception of Christ possible”

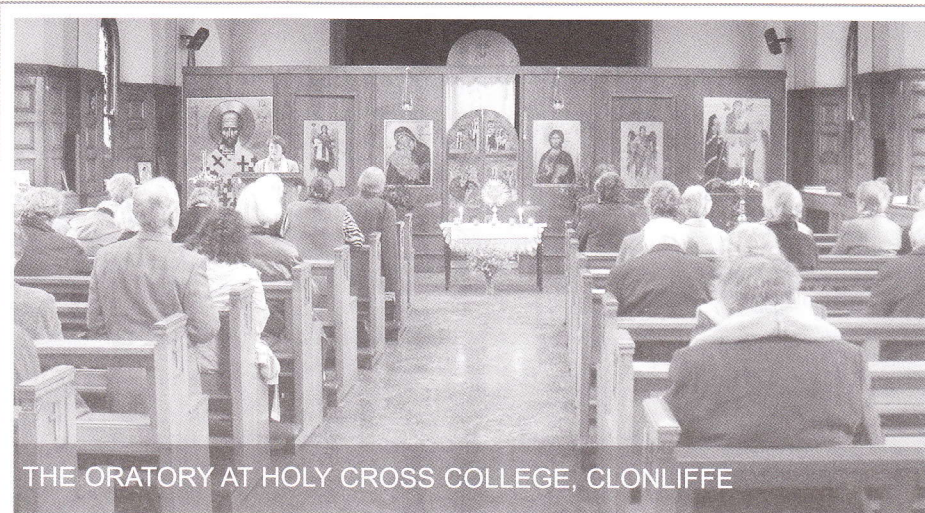
POPE BENEDICT XVI

Fr Eamonn Bourke, Chief Chaplain to the Society, conducted an afternoon of prayer at Holy Cross College, Clonliffe in October. It commenced with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

Each year at our afternoon of prayer for vocations in Clonliffe College in October the Dublin branches of St Joseph's begin with an hour of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. With humility and with faith we pray to the Lord and we implore Him to send labourers into the fields. God knows that we need these labourers and yet he respects us enough to allow us to ask Him for what we need. God does not presume anything. He does not take away our freedom to ask Him for our needs. He knows that as we ask, our openness for the gifts He gives grows. The more we pray and the more we ask Him for our needs the more accepting we are of the many gifts He has to offer.

We look to St Joseph as the model and inspiration. He was entrusted by God with the care of God's own Son. He brought Jesus up. With Mary he taught Jesus how to pray and how to love. So in tune was he with God, that when the disciples asked Jesus for a name for God He simply replied 'Abba', 'Father'. Jesus had learnt much about the love of God through the love of Joseph. Joseph in his turn learned love through his own prayer life, in his own surrender to the plan of God, by leaving his life as a simple offering to the Father in Heaven. On the altar of prayer St Joseph poured himself out. In pouring himself out he united his spirit with the Spirit of God.

This is why beginning each and every meeting of St Joseph's Young Priest Society with a celebration of the Eucharist or prayer before the Blessed Sacrament for even a few minutes is most desirable. In doing so it immediately reminds us who we are, and most importantly who we are working for and serving. It focuses our minds on the fact that what is important is not ourselves and our own advancement, but what is important is God and the advancement of His kingdom of love, truth and forgiveness. As Christ humbled himself on the cross for our sakes so too do we humble ourselves before



God and trust that He will send labourers into His fields, which are awaiting holy apostles, saintly priests, heroic missionaries and dedicated sisters and brothers!

Seven long years I spent in the Seminary in Drumcondra. During those formative years in Clonliffe College many different subjects were taken. The list of subjects stretched from Philosophical Anthropology to Eschatological Theology! A mouthful indeed! Many a book-filled evening stretched out well after the midnight hour in a quest for enough information so that the Bishop would deem me sufficiently learned for ordination. Eventually the goal was reached and all the hours paid off. However many years later I have come to realise that it was not so much the hours spent in book learning that would really stand to me in my priesthood but the hours spent before the Blessed Sacrament in prayer and thanksgiving, that really made all the difference!

Of course what people want from a priest is an ability to make known the truths of the catholic faith in a way that is accessible. However what I have also come to realise is that what people want most of all is a priest who knows the Lord, has met him in prayer, and has a personal relationship with God. We all want to know God. We can read about God, we can watch

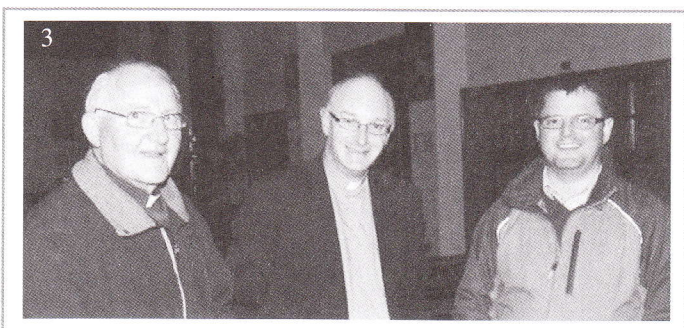
programs on the TV about Him but what we really want is to meet him face to face in prayer. We want God to be real to us.

Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament is a most profound way of meeting God our creator. That is why it has the title 'blessed' Sacrament. It is a most blessed and beautiful way of meeting the Lord. When kneeling before our God made real in the form of Bread we have no need to be afraid, no need to be embarrassed. We can be ourselves. We can hide nothing from God. He knows us intimately. He knows every fibre of our being. He knows every moment and experience of our day. Nothing is hidden. And so when we pour out our heart to our God in the Blessed Sacrament we don't change God - we change. Prayer changes us. In sharing our hearts with the Lord our trust in Him grows strong. In sharing our hearts with the Lord our relationship with Him deepens and matures. With that growth and maturity comes a deeper sense of our own worth and dignity. While kneeling before the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament our God reflects back to us beauty, perfection and peace. We absorb this into the very fibre of our being. It is why we often rise from prayer refreshed and healed.

He refreshes us.

He heals us.

He loves us.



1. Eileen Sparling, National President of St Joseph's Young Priests Society from 1993 to 1999, was happy to have the honour of greeting John Lenihan of Tournafulla branch on his reaching the age of 100 on 10 January and presenting him with a memento rejoicing at all he and the members of Mountcollins and Tournafulla branches have done over more than 30 years supporting students for priesthood for ministry in Ireland and overseas. John attends Mass daily in St Patrick's church, Tournafulla.

2. Marking the Year for Priests inaugurated by Pope Benedict XVI to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the death of the Cure of Ars proclaiming him patron of all priests, the Society commissioned the Sister Disciples of the Divine Master to design and produce a special stole for each of the priests ordained during the Year for Priests, who would like to have one.

Seen here with a white stole are Fr Eamon Purcell with Una Nunan president of the Society's Limerick Diocesan Committee and Brid Sheehan president of St Patrick's branch Limerick.

Father Eamon, a native of the parish of Doonane, Crettyard, Laois, was ordained within days of the start of the Year for Priests which began on 19 June 2009. Prior to his studies for priesthood at the Pontifical Bede College Rome, his 35 years in the hospitality industry took him to many different countries and eventually to Limerick. He was ordained a deacon in the Basilica of St Paul in Rome and ordained to priesthood in St John's Cathedral Limerick on 28 June 2009. Father Eamon celebrated his First Mass in St Lelia's Church, Ballynanty.

3. Canon Kerry Murphy-O'Connor, Fr Charlie Kiely (Cork and Ross Vocations Committee) and Fr Noel Kehoe CSSR at the 'Promoting Vocations in your Parish' evening in Togher Church. The Liturgical Music was provided by St Mary's on the Hill folk group, Cork City.

PROVINCIAL CONGRESSES 2011

Theme for reflection: **The Road to Emmaus**

Armagh	Saturday 12 March 2011	St Macartan's Cathedral & Hillgrove Hotel, Monaghan
Dublin	Saturday 19 March 2011	St Patrick's College, Maynooth, Co Kildare
Cashel	Saturday 2 April 2011	The Anner Hotel, Thurles, Co Tipperary
Tuam	Saturday 30 April 2011	St John's Rest & Care Centre, Knock, Co Mayo

Recently Deceased

VOCATIONAL BRANCHES

Insurance Branch

Fr Finbar Mullane Chaplain to the Branch, Etta Byrne, Kitty Bell

Licensed Trade

Gerry McKiernan, Tom Sexton, Sean Sweeney, Martin Downes

Motor & Engineering

Patricia(Patsy) Lynch, Pauline Hynes

LOCAL BRANCHES

Abbeyfeale Bill Crowley, Donie Cusack, Peggie Stack, Louis McEnery, Bridie Fitzgerald, Nora Collins, Bridie O'Connell, Geoffrey Harnett, Eily Harnett, Maurice Harnett

Ardfield / Rathbarry Pat O'Donovan, Kitty O'Donovan, Danny Keohane, Kitty Hogan, Pauline Hicks

Ardagh Freda Curley

Armagh James Kelly, Pat Sutton

Ballinascreen Francis McAuley, Alphonsus Kelly, Teresa Campbell, Susan Potter, Michael Bradley, John Rafferty, Rose McCloskey, Bridget Kelly, Patrick Convery, Susie Murray, John Farrelly, Elizabeth Edwards, Vivienne Groogan, Eoghan Kelly

Ballinlough Andrew McCarthy, Eileen O'Halloran, Nell Goggin, Teresa O'Hanlon, Oliver Lyons, May Cronin, Nell Harrington, Jennie Cahill past president of the Branch

Ballyphehane Kitty Bluett

Bandon Maureen Donegan, Hannah Lordan

Bayside Noel Manahan, Colm Ardiss

Blarney Ita Tobin, Michael O'Donovan, Dermot Ryan

Caheragh Kathy May, Julia O'Sullivan, Jim Kiely, Brendan O'Sullivan, Niall Connolly, Eileen O'Sullivan, Jeremiah O'Sullivan

Carrigaline Marie Walsh

Cashel Joan Quirke

Christ the King Branch, Turner's Cross Derry Lynch, Kitty Lane, Dan Cronin, Leanna Martin

Coolock - St Brendan's Kay Brennan

Curraheen Road Brid Hartnett

Derrygonnelly/Botha Ceila Corrigan, Liam Corrigan, Nancy Jones, Jim Masterson, Albie Greene, Joe Gray, Benny Love, Patrick McCauley

Douglas Kitty Sherman

Dundalk Gene Burns, Colette Kettle

Dungannon Rt Rev Mgr Liam McEntegart PE VG

Enniskillen Michael Lyons, Jean Potter, Nell Farmer, Kathleen Lynch, John Donegan, Francis Stewart, Kathleen McClintock, James O'Doherty, Lorraine Love, Edward Cleary, Gemma Mulhern, Dessie Gibson, Margaret Spillane, Leon Kavanagh, Paul Keaveney, Jim Dorothy, Kathleen Jones, Alacoque Rodgers, Mary Curley

Errigal Willie Mullen, Margaret McKeever, Una Proctor, Kathleen McNicholl, Lizzie McVeigh

Eskra Turlough Meegan, John McCarroll

Gilford Teresa Flanagan, Maureen

Morgan, Patsy McKiviergan, Eithna Synnott

Golden Mary Fogarty, Breda O'Brien, Jimmy Landers

Graiguenamanagh Moira Byrne, Mary Lennon, Alice(Ag) Hickey

Harold's Cross Kathleen Kennedy, Nora Steadman, Bridie Kavanagh

Kilgarvan Margaret Healy

Killorglin Mary Langford

Limavady Frank Mullan

Maghera Michelle O'Neill, Maureen Maguire, Danny Madden, John Clinch, Marie Craig, Patrick Guy, Sam Sargent

Marino Terence McMorro, Ann Shelvin

Monasterboice Bessie Leonard

Mountnugent/Balinacree Carmel McCabe, Phil Smith, Jane Lynch, Thomas McCabe, Tadgh Coll, Bridgid Mary Hourigan

Mourne Road Maureen Whelan, Elizabeth(LyLa) Mulligan

Newbridge Kay Wilson

North Cathedral Branch - Cork Sarah Courtney, Mrs Hogan

Our Lady of the Rosary - Limerick Mary McCarthy

Portadown John Edgar, Peter McCann, Sean McNally, Mary Geary, Irene Dignan

Rahan Jack Mooney, John Comerford, Michael Cummins, Mick Galvin, Joan Maher, Kathleen Hickey, Tom Hanley, James Meacle

Rochfordbridge Gerry Usher

Rush William Price

Springfield - Tallaght Larry Doyle

St Agnes's - Crumlin Rory O'Connor

St John the Baptist - Clontarf Susie Carolan, Alice Firth former Branch Secretary, Bernadine Fleming, Noreen O'Flaherty

St John Vianney - Ardlea Eamonn Atkinson

St Joseph's - Mayfield Teresa Sheehan, Nell Linehan, Jimmy Kennedy, Rita Field

St Kevin's - Harrington St Michael O'Shea

St Luke's - Twinbrook Bridie Lenaghan, Sean Garry

St Mary's - Limerick Sean Healy

St Munchin's - Limerick Paddy Feeney, Tom Dillon

Templeogue Julia McGing

Templeport Thomas McManus, Mae Kellegher, Noel McDermott, Anna Farrelly, Chrissie McAweeney, Kevin Dolaghan, Monica Bogue, Josie O'Brien, Kathleen Gilroy, Kate Ann Bannon

Tinryland Susan Mathews

Tralee Sr Mary Colmille Healy, Cornelius P Kelly

Trillick Bernard Maguire, Ellie Donnelly, Matilda McAnespy, Rev Fr Hugh McCaughey, Peggy Murphy, Maura McQuaid, Jimmy McGirr, Patsy Monaghan, Gerald Scott, Francy McCarney

Trim Nina Cully, Tom O'Halloran

Tullow Christine O'Brien