

# The Sheaf

ST. JOSEPH'S YOUNG PRIESTS SOCIETY

[www.stjosephsyoungpriestssociety.com](http://www.stjosephsyoungpriestssociety.com)



23 MERRION SQUARE, DUBLIN 2, IRELAND.

TELEPHONE: DUBLIN 676 2593

SPRING 2014

A 125 strong delegation from Derry Diocese visited the National Seminary, St Patrick's College, Maynooth on Saturday 22nd February. The group consisted of parishioners from 23 Parishes in the Diocese, among them those involved in Parish Ministries, members of St Joseph's Young Priests Society, Legion of Mary and Saint Vincent de Paul.

Sean O'Donnell, a sixth year Derry Seminarian from Muff, Co Donegal said "It was wonderful that so many took up the opportunity of coming to visit. Over the years many people in the different parishes in which we have been placed have said they would love a chance to visit and see the place where so many of their priests had been trained. We are only delighted to have them here."

On their arrival they were greeted by the seminarians from both Derry and other Dioceses who, after a welcome cuppa, acted as tour guides showing the visitors around the buildings, the grounds and the famous classpieces depicting past Ordination Classes. The classpieces certainly were the centre of attention as people looked for the pictures of their current or former priests.

After lunch, hosted in Pugin Hall, Monsignor Brendan Devlin, a native of Gortin, who resides at the College, gave some of his vast knowledge of the history of the magnificent College Chapel.

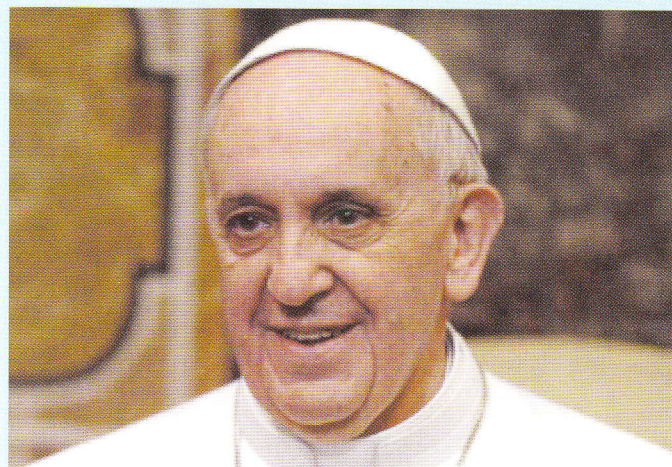


Monsignor Devlin also celebrated Mass for the group. Members of the College Chapel Choir provided the opportunity for the visitors to hear Maynooth as well as see it. During Mass for the Feast of the Chair of Peter, Monsignor Devlin stressed the family link between all those present. "Even though some of us have never met until today, we are all family through our Baptism in Jesus Christ".

He focused on the history of the faith in Derry and how through tough times this has been preserved and handed on to each generation in its turn. Prayers were also offered during the Mass for our newly appointed bishop, Bishop Donal McKeown.

The visitors posed for a group photograph and there was another opportunity to mix and chat with the seminarians in Pugin Hall before heading north again.

Chris McDermott, a fourth year student for the Diocese from Melmount Parish, Strabane, said "There was a great atmosphere around the place. It was an enriching experience for both student and visitor. There was so much more we could have shown them, but best to leave something for a return visit."



Jesus, Mary and Joseph to you, Holy Family of Nazareth, today we turn our gaze with admiration and confidence; in you we contemplate the beauty of communion in true love; to you we commend our families, so that in them, marvels of grace be renewed.

*Pope Francis*

*Prayer for the Pilgrimage of Families of the World*





# Dublin Provincial Congress

March 29th 2014

**Theme “The family as the foundation of human society and as the domestic Church”.**

The Dublin Provincial Congress took place at St John's Parish Centre Kilkenny, following Mass in St John's Church concelebrated by Fr Willie Purcell, National Co-ordinator of Diocesan Vocations, with Fr Paddy Cushen, Ferns Diocese, assisted by Deacon Fergal O'Neill, Naas.

In his homily, Fr Willie quoted St Augustine in asking 'How can I achieve Holiness?' Humility, he said, leads to prayer and no prayer goes unanswered and a profound sense of prayer leads to Charity, our ultimate relationship with God. By the example of our lives radiating joy, peace reconciliation and wisdom others can come to know God. Olivia Taaffe had these attributes in abundance, believing that God would take care of everything.

Guest Speaker, Fergal O'Neill is a parent and teacher who spent four years training to be a Deacon. He spoke enthusiastically about Family and Church. He thought this was a wonderful theme, showing the domestic Church as the human family breaking down to the individual family as the Church cellular. He thanked God for Pope Francis, the first pope to address families directly. We have a mandate to expose and re-affirm marriage, to be courageous in standing for truth.

We are called to holiness in whichever state we are: married, single or celibate, so that there is a seamless love between Church and Family. Spouses are special gifts. People with no children are asked to reach out to their relatives in taking responsibility for the domestic Church. The basic cell is the family and the nucleus of that cell is mercy. Pope John Paul II said: 'As go the family, there goes society and the whole world'. Where there is mercy and love God is present. Francis of Assisi advised: Preach and if necessary use words. We have lost sight of the need for Christ among us, so when our child says he wants to be a priest, we should allow him to go and be independent in service, to be proud and stand up for his vocation with unconditional love.

There is a profound cultural crisis undermining authority in the family. The Church must understand the present situation of marriage and family. There is a mistaken concept of independence, where countries are offered contraception, sterilisation, divorce, abortion instead of supporting families and tackling poverty. Fergal ended with a prayer for the Family.

The President of the Society George Dee, welcomed everyone and thanked Fr Willie for his willingness to do everything we ask of him. He reminded us that the pope has asked families to recite the third decade of the glorious mysteries: The Descent of the Holy Spirit – for the success of the Synod of Bishops in October.



*George Dee, Deacon Fergal O'Neill, Marian Fennelly, Paul Clarke and John Murphy at the Dublin Provincial Congress in Kilkenny.*

*Pic Tony Breen, Drogheda*

We resumed after lunch at Langton's Hotel with Fr Willie being joined by Sr Patrice, a Carmelite contemplative Sister from Lismore, Co Waterford. Fr Willie is involved in setting up a training programme for vocations directors and also a national discernment programme for those contemplating priesthood. We were delighted to hear that enquiries regard priesthood are up. He reassured us that we are doing God's work and God will not let us down. Sr Patrice told us about her Community having come through difficult times with their aim being to live a practical spirituality in a spiritual way. Their ministry is only as good as prayer and always for the sake of others. Thursday afternoons are reserved for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, praying for priests. She is doing a Masters Degree in Spirituality with Elizabeth of the Trinity for her thesis. Elizabeth was musical, a good listener and used her devotion to God to control her temper. While her mother was against it, she entered the convent at twenty one to silent spirituality, an intimacy beyond our imagining. Elizabeth died at twenty six.

Sr Patrice mentioned the isolation that is so prevalent in society today, that we can only truly exist in community. She concluded by saying our Society is an inspiration in the Church, that we should live with a contemplative heart as our foundress Olivia Taaffe did.

The day was a wonderful experience for us all.

**Marian Fennelly,**

**Secretary, Dublin Provincial Council.**

## Diary Dates

*Saturday 28th June Knock Shrine*  
*Sunday 27th July Our Lady's Island*  
*Sunday 5th October Ballapousta*



# CENTRAL COUNCIL MEETING

AT ALL HALLOWS COLLEGE DUBLIN, SATURDAY 17 MAY 2014

*The following is one of the four reports from the provincial councils of Armagh, Dublin, Cashel and Tuam presented at All Hallows. Reports from the Vocational Branches and the Board of Priests were not scheduled on this occasion*

## ARMAGH PROVINCIAL COUNCIL

### Dromore Diocese

We currently have 15 branches. Two are weak. Our main focus is on trying to keep our existing branches active. Our diocesan meetings are well attended and all members are very dedicated to the aims of the Society. Members attended the Provincial Congress in Monaghan and we hope to travel to Knock for annual pilgrimage on 28th June. Many members recite the rosary on first Fridays after Mass and people are praying for our two seminarians who will be ordained to the priesthood in Newry Cathedral in June.

*Diocesan President---Josie O'Hare.*

### Kilmore Diocese

We have twenty one branches in our diocese. A few of them are weak. We are still working on the formation of two new branches, but a lot of work remains to be done. Quarterly meetings are held in the Pastoral Centre, St Patrick's College, Cavan and are very well attended. Our diocesan branches were well represented at Provincial Congress in Monaghan. Guest speaker was Orla Walsh who spoke on 'From Adults to Elders: Handing on the joy of the Gospel'. George Dee was in attendance. We have Eucharistic Adoration every day from 11am to 12 midnight and the first Sunday of each month is set aside as a special day of prayer for vocations to the priesthood. We have two seminarians in Maynooth at present. We intend to travel to Knock for annual pilgrimage in June.

*Diocesan President---Michael Lee.*

### Clogher Diocese

Several branches are continuing to struggle. However we are hopeful of getting two new branches set up in the coming months. A new branch was set up in Scotshouse in recent months and another more recently in Ederney. As part of our efforts to address this issue, I wrote to each Parish Priest in the diocese requesting his assistance. Vocations Sunday May 11th was again marked in a variety of ways throughout the diocese. Attendance and participation of the laity at these events is always encouraged. Armagh Provincial Congress was held in Monaghan and the attendance was very good considering all the other events which were taking place on that day. The response was very positive to the guest speaker's talk and to the day in general. Where it is not already occurring the practice of Sunday evening devotions for an increase in vocations is highly recommended. One of our seminarians will be ordained a Deacon in a few weeks time.

*Diocesan President---Pat Garvey.*

### Armagh Archdiocese

The new diocesan president has reconvened quarterly meetings and they are very well attended. Branches are continuing to promote the aims of our Society. All branches continue to meet on a monthly basis and some branches are supported by their Parish Priest. Branches are small in some cases but are committed and dedicated to the work of the Society. The diocese currently has a number of seminarians studying for the priesthood and we continue to keep them in our prayers. The Armagh diocesan branches of the Society continue to bear fruit and it is my hope that we will continue to do so over the coming years.

*Diocesan President---David Greer.*



*At the May Central Council Meeting in All Hallows, Phil Cooke and Jean Murphy, St Patrick's Branch, Kilkenny.*

### Derry Diocese

Our diocese has 26 branches and all but three are working and active. Three are being revitalised with a team speaking at weekend Masses. Our continued focus is to bring a number of new branches on board. Our members attended recent Congress in Monaghan and the feedback is very positive.

*Diocesan President---Michael Cregan.*

### Down & Connor Diocese

There are currently 19 active branches. The diocesan committee continues to meet quarterly in St Malachy's Seminary, Belfast. We were represented at the Provincial Congress in Monaghan. Some members were of the view that a period of say twenty minutes should be allocated to allow people to ask questions about the day to day affairs of the society. We continue to strive to open new branches but unfortunately this is becoming very difficult and many branch presidents are having difficulty keeping their branches going. We have one seminarian being ordained to priesthood in June and another later in the year.

*Diocesan President---Jean Clarke.*

### Meath Diocese

There are 26 branches in the diocese. 21 are doing well. Five are finding it hard to keep going because of their age profile or illness or inability to recruit new members. A number of our members attended the Dublin Provincial Congress in Kilkenny. Venues for quarterly meetings are rotated around the diocese with an average of 12 branches and 32 people in attendance. We have 10 seminarians in studying for priesthood at present.

*Diocesan Secretary---Paul Tuite.*

### Ardagh & Clonmacnoise Diocese

Mass is celebrated at each quarterly meeting by Fr Pierre Pepper. It is always well attended. A number of our members attended the recent Tuam Congress in Knock. Each branch has a monthly meeting and the St Joseph's prayer book is used in this get-together. All the branches send their donations to Merrion Square. Eucharistic Adoration is on-going in all parishes.

*Diocesan President---Eibhlín O'Reilly.*

### Raphoe Diocese

Mrs Lena Gavigan was selected as diocesan president last year. There is much work to be done going forward. There are currently five fairly active branches in the diocese. There are over eighty thousand Catholics in the diocese, so a big effort is needed to get more branches established.

*Diocesan President---Lena Gavigan.*





*Right Rev Monsignor Daniel Neenan representing the Bishop of Limerick Dr Brendan Leahy presented Bríd Sheehan president of St Patrick's Branch Limerick with the Benemerenti Medal on the 1st May, memorial-day of St Joseph the Worker. With them in the photo is Fr David Gibson PP St Patrick's Parish.*

*Benemerenti Medals are awarded to men and women who have merited special recognition by the Holy See. The Medals are Pontifical Decorations instituted by Pope Pius IV in 1775, and are conferred on people who have distinguished themselves by their accomplishments by giving special service to Catholic principles or by showing an active fidelity to and love for the Church.*



*Concelebrating with Bishop Kieran O'Reilly (centre) at the Cashel Provincial Congress in Ennis were (l/r) Frs Fergal O'Neill, John McGovern, Eamonn Purcell, Paddy Costello, and Ignatius McCormack.*



*A Cashel & Emly group was hosted by Rev Dr Michael Mullaney and a clerical student from the diocese Vincent Stapleton, (seen at back row of photo) on a visit to the National Seminary in Maynooth. Fr Dominic Meehan who was ordained last November in the Cathedral of the Assumption Thurles, was with us also.*

*- Joan O'Brien*

## Recently Deceased

### VOCATIONAL BRANCHES

**Bankers Branch** Mary (May) O'Donohue

**Civil Service** Sheila Coakley, Marie MacAree

**Clothing Trade** Luke Conroy

**Insurance** Tom Corr, Dick Maher, Séamus Farren, Des O'Loughlin

**Motor & Engineering** Marguerite Kelehan, Danny Healy

**Pharmacy** Seán Ryan

### LOCAL BRANCHES

**Ardfield/Rathbarry** Nellie O'Driscoll, Kitty Tobin

**Ballinascreen** Margaret Donnelly, Susanna Groogan, Philip Donnelly, Mary O'Hagan, Lillian Larkin, Mary Bradley, Patsy Heron, John Henry, Pat Molloy, Sally Loughran

**Ballinlough** Kathleen Desmond, Chris O'Regan

**Ballyphehane** Margaret Linehan, Alice Coleman, Marie Shortland, Maura Jordon, Marie UíAodha, Cáit O'Connell

**Ballymena** Kathleen Killough, Marie Moore

**Ballymote** Maura Regan.

**Bishopstown** Pádraig O'Connor

**Blackpool** Margaret O'Callaghan, Kitty Horgan, Mary M Cronin

**Blackrock, Cork** Seán O'Connor, Peg Coleman

**Blarney** Paddy Ring, Brenda Browne, Billy Flynn, Mary Cronin, Billy Foley, Paddy Coleman, Jeremy Dooling, Ann Buckley, Seán Kelleher, Tim Cooke

**Bohermeen** Sadie Carty, Mai McCormack, Paddy Shaffrey

**Bohnacoola (Cloonturk)** Josephine McNulty, Eileen Duffy

**Botha-Derrygonnelly** Dessie Moore, Emly Love, Johnny Hoy, May Wamsley, Katie Tracey, Molly Duffy,

Anna Cadden, Seán McCloskey, Michael McGullion, Molly Magee, Margaret Jones, Patrick McCaffrey, Gerry Gallagher, (founder member of Branch) Molly McConnell, (former president of Branch), Dessie Greene, Liam Corrigan, Roseanne McGuinness, Madeline McQuaid, Ena Duffy, Edwin Sheerin, Jim Kelly

**Boyle** Margaret O'Sullivan

**Carrigaline** Bridie Kiely, Siobhán McDonald

**Cashel** John Knightly, Mona Ryan, Marie Cronin

**Castlewellan Branch** Sadie Poland

**Christ the King, Turner's Cross** Elizabeth O'Sullivan, Kitty Good, Dan Delea, Lil Dullea, Michael O'Mahony, Eileen O'Brien

**Clonakilty** Margaret O'Regan

**Crosshaven** Marie (Cronin) Smyth

**Douglas** Philomena Hurley

**Dungannon** Fr Terence Kelly, Annie Herron

**Enniskeane** Daniel Hurley

**Enniskillen** Sr Gemma McCusker, Kate Slevin, Sarah McQuillan, Madeleine Murphy

**Faughanvale (St Mary's)** Moira Gormley

**Foxrock** Eamonn McHale

**Foxfield/Kilbarrack** Fr Declan Doyle

**Grauguenamanagh** Patsy Dowling, Colm McDonald, Eddie Doyle

**Gurteen** Michael Costello

**Harold's Cross** Peter Kavanagh

**Killorglin** Hanna McCarthy, Joan Keane, Bridie Moroney

**Kinsale** Kathleen Kiernan, Teddy McCarthy

**Knockninny** Rosaleen Cassidy, Owen Gunn, Madeline Murphy, Jane McKiernan, Rebecca Connolly, Fr Patsy Young, Peter McManus, Albert Hegarty, Annie McGovern, Crissie Gilheaney, Kevin Shannon, Martin Crudden, Patrick Crudden, Frank Maguire

**Maghera** Patrick Mulholland, Elizabeth Convery, Andrew O'Neill, Brendan Harkin, Vincent Young, Brigid Campbell, Mary Wilson-Highstead, Colette McMullan, Carmel Zeoli, George McLaughlin, Jeannie Lagan, Alice McCloy

**Marino** Patricia Carmody, Mrs Gannon

**Mourne Road, Dublin** Ellen Giles

**Newcastle West** Maura Lane, Breda Carey, Peg Leonard

**Our Lady Crowned, Mayfield** Sue Cummins, Phil O'Shea, Mark Callaghan

**Rathgar** Rt Rev Mgr John Joseph Moloney

**Rathmines** James Geraghty

**Scartaglen** David O'Connor

**Skerries** Esther Weldon

**St Anthony's, Clontarf** Tommy Wright, Jim Wilson, Marie Hayes, Maureen Lyons, Maureen McGoey

**St John the Baptist, Clontarf** Eileen Soden-Wynne, Hugh O'Rourke

**St John's, Granaghan** Kathleen Smith, Hugh Tohill

**St Joseph's, Limerick.** Marie McQuaid

**St Joseph's, Mayfield** Pat Harrison

**St Kevins, Harrington Street.** Marie MacAree,

Sylvia Mullins, Edie O'Callaghan, Anne Nolan

**St Patrick's, Limerick** Josephine Harnett, John Irwin

**Sts Peter & Paul, Athlone** Mary Clarke,

Josephine McGowan, Peter Berry

**Templemore** Alice McCullagh

**Tournafulla** Dick Harnett

**Killeavy - (Upper & Middle)** Róisín Larkin, Susan Hollywood

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

ANONYMOUS DONATIONS

€25, €100, €5, €50, €1,000, €3,000.