



The Sheaf

ST. JOSEPH'S YOUNG PRIESTS SOCIETY

www.stjosephsyoungpriestsociety.com



23 MERRION SQUARE, DUBLIN 2, IRELAND.

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SPRING 2015

DIACONATE ORDINATIONS AT THE PONTIFICAL IRISH COLLEGE, ROME



A former marketing consultant and a graduate of music, both students of the Pontifical Irish College, Rome, were ordained deacons in the Basilica of 'Santa Croce in Gerusalemme' in Rome by Dr John Buckley, Bishop of Cork and Ross as they neared their ordination to priesthood.

Marius O'Reilly from Ballincollig in Cork, a graduate of University College Cork and of the UCD Smurfit Business School was later ordained a priest on the Feast of Christ the King. Conor McCarthy from Finaghy in Belfast is due for priestly ordination on 28 June this year for the Diocese of Down and Connor.

Left to right pictured above are: Fr Tom Norris (Spiritual Director), Msgr Ciarán O'Carroll (Rector of the College), Deacon Conor McCarthy, Bishop John Buckley, Deacon (now Fr) Marius O'Reilly, Fr George Hayes (Vice Rector) and Fr Hugh Clifford (Director of Formation).

We wish both men every joy, happiness and success in their priesthood and God's blessing on their ministry as messengers of hope and mercy, and as proclaimers of the joy of the Gospel in the Ireland of today and into the future.

Thanks to the support of you - the members and benefactors of St Joseph's Young Priests Society, we are able to make a contribution to the educational costs incurred in Rome at the Pontifical Irish College. Currently our yearly contribution amounts to 69,000 euro, in relation to 12 of the students of the college whose names are on the Society's register at present.

We ask you to please constantly remember these men in your prayers, and also the staff at the Irish College who help prepare new priests to proclaim boldly the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the way of truth, goodness, holiness and generous service to society.

Holy Family Residence, Roebuck Rd, Dublin 14

Members and Benefactors are welcome to join the Little Sisters of the Poor at a Special Mass for Vocations on the third Thursday of every month at 7.30pm.

These Masses are celebrated by a rota of priests, some of whom are retired missionaries. Light refreshments are provided in the Tearoom afterwards.

St Patrick's College, Maynooth, Co Kildare

Members and Benefactors of the Society are welcome to attend the following weekly Masses involving the seminarians in Maynooth

Sundays: In St Joseph's Oratory at 9.30am

Thursdays: In St Mary's Oratory at 6.30pm

Hymn to St Joseph

(to the air of Morning has Broken)



Joseph our Father, tender and strong one.
Husband of Mary; Father to Christ.
Faithful protector of him who made thee;
Breadwinner for the true bread of life.

In you the faith of Patriarchs blossomed.
Rooted in silence, nurtured in prayer.
Bearing its harvest, love pure and steadfast,
Keep us loved father, safe in your care.

Praise to the Father, whom you reflected.
Praise to the Son, a child at your knee.
Praise to the Spirit whose spouse you cherished.
For you, St. Joseph, praise ever be.

Words courtesy Carmelite Sisters, Knock

Dublin Provincial Congress : 14 March 2015

Theme “Consecrated Life”

The Dublin Provincial Congress took place at All Hallows College, Dublin beginning with Mass celebrated with the Very Rev Dom Mark D Kirby OSB, Prior of Silverstream Benedictine Monastery assisted by Fr Séamus McEntee our Chief Chaplain. Hymns were led by Josie Kelly, Kildare & Leighlin Diocese.

In his homily, Dom Mark reminded us that the first issue of the Sheaf was issued 120 years ago on a Feast of St Joseph: how many Priests have been ordained since then with our help? Never forget the benefits the Lord has bestowed on us through his Priests - gifts that only they can give, like the Sacrament of the Sick, Matrimony and the Divine Sustenance of Communion. Without them we are a human agency, doing some good. Our history shows that we sent many Priests and Religious all over the world to proclaim God's word, but then came humiliation, but none so bad that cannot be mended, for God is merciful. Now there are voices proclaiming the imminent demise of the Church in Ireland while at the same time there are strong gentle voices supporting her. St Paul says 'we know not what we pray for'. Sacred Liturgy gives us that prayer that the Lord wants to hear. He will come like spring rains.

Introduced later by John Murphy Dublin Provincial President, our Guest Speaker, Dom Mark, explained that he had served under the rule of St Benedict for forty years in Connecticut until Bishop Smyth of Meath invited them in 2011 to come and set up a Monastery. There are five men, American, Irish, French and South African, of which two are priests and they rarely come out, so we were indeed privileged to meet them. Dom Mark entertained us with his story of a Palm Sunday, being of Italian/Irish decent, as a child he brought palm to his Italian Grandmother and received a silver dollar, but when he did the same for his Irish Grandmother she already had palm.

Pope Benedict XVI said we need men who have their gaze directed to God and whose hearts are open so that they can be touched by God and through them God can be near them. Dom Mark asked 'why are Priests not consumed with fire when they enter the Sanctuary?' Through the gift and ministry of Priesthood conferred sacramentally, they are acting in the Person of Christ. We have lost sight of the generativity of the Church. Priests and Religious are called to a life giving spiritual Fatherhood and Motherhood in consecrated life.

The Family also has been attacked through dissent from Humanae Vitae, it is crucial now to recover the dignity of family. He concluded with the story of Dom Maurice Scott charged with treason and executed at Tyburn in 1612 for being a Catholic Priest. Asked by the Protestant Archbishop of Canterbury George Abbott if he was a massing priest, he

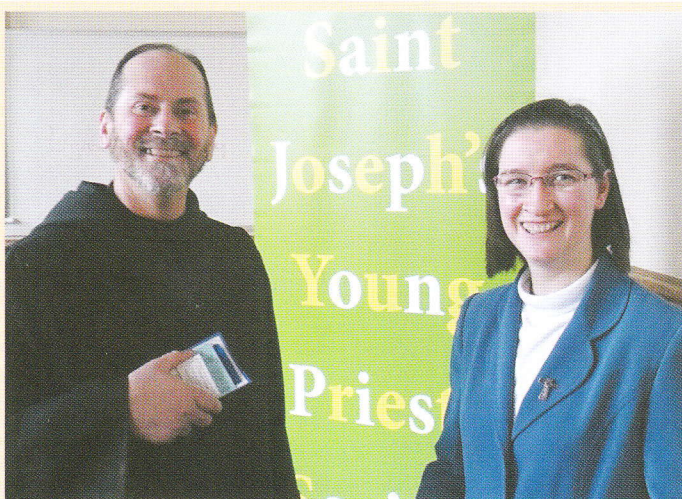
answered that if there were no priests there could be no Bishops. He was a sacrificing priest happy to die for such a great cause. St Joseph's Young Priests Society should continue to beseech God for Massing Priests.

President George Dee welcomed everyone and thanked Dom Mark for his inspiring words. George was delighted to see so many attending for the first time and encouraged us to ask for new members and branches. He informed us that unfortunately it has been necessary to cut down financially on support for foreign students but we will always support Irish students for priesthood.

We resumed after lunch when Dominic Dowling, Vice President of the Society introduced Sr Louise O'Rourke of the Sister Disciples of the Divine Master PDDM. She entered the Convent in 1998 after Leaving Cert in Athlone, served in twenty three different missions, studied theology and is now Assistant Vicar for Religious in the Dublin Archdiocese serving 3,200 Priests and Religious. She began by showing us a DVD made to promote Consecrated Life. Each of the five people featured, including herself, spoke of their own journey. The DVD received 12,000 hits on UTube. It was refreshing to listen to this young woman who reminded us the younger generation of Religious don't carry the baggage that's gone before: yes there is a history to recount and one yet to create, a need to look to the past with gratitude and the present with passion and the future with hope. In this 'year of consecrated life' 29 November 2014 to 2 February 2016, Pope Francis has encouraged all sisters to a vocation of motherhood in the Church through tenderness and fruitful chastity. In this role, life can be good or difficult, but happy and satisfying. She spoke of the beauty of life dedicated to God, it was a leap of Faith but a risk worth taking and she is certain that God has a plan for her through the work of the Holy Spirit. Religious are called to wear God's smile: what a vivid positive picture that paints! The Church mirrors Society, will have the same flaws, therefore we need to renew our commitment daily to God. Just as Moses and the Jews in the desert, had to look at what was needed, so too do Religious in the present time. She asked 'do we really want Vocations'? What carisms and apostolates are needed in Ireland now? Bishop Kevin Doran and Archbishop Eamon Martin have asked us to pray that the Holy Spirit will fall afresh on us. Pope Francis has asked us to 'wake up the world'.

I cannot do justice to our two Guest Speakers; suffice it to say this was a very special day for all who attended.

Marian Fennelly, Dublin Provincial Secretary



Very Rev Dom Mark Kirby OSB Prior of Silverstream and Sr Louise O'Rourke PDDM Assistant Vicar for Religious Archdiocese of Dublin



Speakers at the Congress in KILLARNEY - Fr. Patrick Cahill OJSS and Humphrey O'Connor, third year student for priesthood.

Fr. Cahill from Thurles, is the first Irish ordained member of the Association of the Family of Mary. Having studied engineering in Limerick he trained as a teacher in Cork before commencing his studies for priesthood in Rome. He was ordained in 2009

Tuam Provincial Congress : 28 March 2015

The Tuam Provincial Congress was held in Knock, Co Mayo. The Bishop of Elphin was chief celebrant of the opening Mass. Bishop Kevin Doran is no stranger to the Society as he was the Society's Chief Chaplain from 1998 to 2006. Bishop Doran was joined at Mass in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel by Fr Séamus McEntee, Chief Chaplain to the Society, Fr Austin Fergus, Chaplain to the Tuam Provincial Council and Fr Shane Sullivan CC Tuam. The Mass was followed by Benediction.

In his homily, Bishop Doran said that a priest must be a good listener and a good communicator who must have the wisdom to reconcile and be able to bring people together rather than drive them away. He said that priests should always live for their flock, and they need courage to speak the truth.

After Benediction we went to St John's Rest & Care Centre for the remainder of the meeting.

Following registration, Provincial President Marie Dempsey welcomed all present especially EWTN, who would be televising some of the proceedings. The Dioceses in the Tuam Province are Achonry, Clonfert, Elphin, Galway, Killala and Tuam. Members from the Ardagh and Clonmacnoise Diocese also joined us. In her address, Marie said that we must strive to keep the faith alive and ensure we have enough priests to cater to the needs of all our parishes. We owe this to Olivia Taaffe, our foundress. She then introduced George Dee who is the National President. He began his address with the Opening Prayers of the Society, then encouraged all members to keep up the good work that they have been doing throughout the years.

Marie then introduced Fr Shane Sullivan who is a Curate in Tuam. Fr. Shane gave a brief outline of his life. He was born in America but felt the call to become a priest in Ireland. He said that St Joseph is a very fitting Saint to be patron of the Society. No one knew Jesus as well as St Joseph did. Fr Shane then spoke about areas of need among priests and the various struggles they encounter, for example the struggles faced with their identity, knowing the meaning of their priesthood and the struggle with their spirit of fear. He also encouraged us to

help our priests and to thank them and pray for them to love Christ more. Without a level of holiness a priest cannot fulfill his priestly duties. It is important to tell them that we support them. Holy lay people inspire priests.

After that very inspiring talk we all went to the Knock House Hotel where we enjoyed a beautiful meal. Sincere thanks to the management and staff.

We returned to St John's Rest & Care Centre where Fr Séamus McEntee addressed us. Fr Séamus, works in Clondalkin in Dublin. He is also diocesan assistant director of vocations. He has a varied and interesting life and was ordained a priest in June 2014. Fr Séamus spoke about renewal of priestly identity in the Irish Church today. There is a great lack of trust in the Church as an institution, however to counteract this he said priests who represent the Church must be examples of holiness. He sets Jesus as depicted in the New Testament as the exemplar for priests. By keeping their eyes fixed on Jesus, Priests will be able to say as St Paul said 'Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ'.

He also spoke about the pastoral care of vocations to the priesthood, saying that Christ has always chosen some people to work in a more direct way with him. Priestly vocations are very varied in the world today there is a lack of vocations in the Western world whereas in other places vocations are on the increase. Continued prayer for vocations is

essential, as is encouragement from parents and siblings of any family member considering priesthood or religious life,

In conclusion, Marie thanked Fr Séamus for a truly impressive talk; Bishop Kevin Doran for celebrating Mass and for his inspiring homily; George for a most interesting address and Fr Shane for really wonderful talk. Fr Sullivan has kindly provided the text of his talk. A copy can be requested from the General Secretary at 23 Merrion Square Dublin 2. Marie also expressed gratitude to Georgina who played so beautifully and to Connie and all present for the lovely singing at the Mass. Thanks were also extended to Fr Richie Gibbons and the staff in Knock who were so helpful and cooperative in making the day a success and on behalf of the Society, she wished him every success with the ongoing improvement works in the basilica, which will be truly spectacular when finished.

EWTN were thanked for recording the Congress and bringing it to a wider audience. A special thanks was extended to the Tuam Provincial Council Spiritual Director, Fr Austin Fergus. That concluded the business of the meeting and George Dee, the National President led the concluding prayers.

Marie Dempsey, Tuam Provincial President



Opening of the MONAGHAN Congress - Fr. Raymond Donnelly CC Enniskillen, (centre) with (from left) Paul Treackey Maynooth student, and Frs Sean Clerkin PE Tydavnet, Des O'Donnell OMI and Paddy McGinn Adm at St Macartan's Cathedral. Fr O'Donnell was the main speaker at the Congress, His talk, which he commenced before lunch, was on 'Consecrated Life', He was introduced by Pat Denning, Armagh Provincial President.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Dominic,

The Clondalkin branch of SJYPS along with myself have initiated a 'prayer outreach for vocations' initiative which began on 10 January last and which will run until the closing of the Year for Consecrated Life on 2 February 2016.

We invited individuals/families/schools in the parish to host a specially commissioned chalice from the parish in their homes for a week. They also undertake to commit to pray for vocations each day, either by reciting the SJYPS prayer for vocations, rosary etc. We provide a Chalice, Corporal, Purificator, candle and prayer cards and literature about SJYPS. We have had a huge response already, with families signed up to take the chalice for a week at a time, right up until the end of May so far.

As word spreads, more and more people want to take the chalice and pray for vocations, and we add their name to the list. Families receive the chalice on a Saturday and it is then collected by myself with members of SJYPS or passed directly between the homes themselves. Some have offered financial support also, though this is not the main purpose of the initiative. Those who take the Chalice are encouraged to continue praying for vocations and invited to come to any meeting of SJYPS if they wish.

I am attaching a few photos for you to look at. I was thinking that you might put one in the next issue of the Sheaf outlining our initiative and how successful it has been so far. It promotes prayer for vocations, SJYPS and builds awareness around vocations for priesthood and religious life. It also



builds unity in the parish, and creates an opportunity for me as a priest to get to know parishioners. At the end of the year, I will offer Mass for the intentions of all those who hosted the Chalice.

We also hope to have the Chalice in some of the oratories of the schools in the parish. There are 11 schools in the parish, including three secondary schools. This is hoped for sometime in Oct-Nov 2015.

The photos attached are of a recent family who hosted the chalice for a week. In the photo are from left to right, Brendan Kennedy, his wife Valerie Kennedy, Marie Harrington (President of the Clondalkin branch of SJYPS) and myself Fr Séamus McEntee. Brendan and Valerie Kennedy are the father and mother of Stephen Kennedy who is a deacon with the community Institute of the Incarnate Word, based in Rome. Stephen, who is from the parish of Clondalkin, hopes to be ordained a priest this June 2015.

God bless, Fr Séamus

Recently Deceased

VOCATIONAL BRANCHES

Insurance Branch John Farrell, Phil Flood

LOCAL BRANCHES

Ardfield/Rathbarry Connie O'Driscoll, Jo McGeoghan, May Deasy
Armagh Dymna Oliver
Ballinascreen Marie Donnelly, Anna McCormick, Maureen Murray, Maggie McGillian, Gertrude Coyle, Mary Gallagher, Michael McCullagh, Frank Kelly
Ballyphehane Patricia Buckley, Kathleen O'Riordan, Marian Cotter
Ballymena Breda McKay
Blackpool Catherine O'Connor, Gerard Manning
Bohermeen Rose Duffy, John Daly, Anne Daly, Thérèse McGarr, Francis Kearney, Marian O'Reilly, Cissie Herward.
Caherdavin Mai Fitzgerald, Jim Quinn
Cavan James Campbell
Christ the King, Turner's Cross Norma Buckley, Gerard Ryan
Claregalway Maura Collins
Cleenish Mary Lucy, Brendan Corrigan, Daniel Morris, Charles O'Dolan, Frank Burns, Oisín McGrath, Michael Scott
Cork Commercial Branch Maeve Shanahan
Derrygonnelly/Botha Clare Swift, Roseann McGrath, Charlie Jones, Julia Cassidy, Teresa Jones, John Curran
Douglas Killian Hurley
Drogheda Kathleen Callan
Dundalk Gabrielle Walshe, William Trift, Betty McKeveit, Winifred Connolly, Áine Murphy, Patricia Dardis, Tom McCrave

Dundrum Kathleen Walker, Kathleen Larkin
Dungannon Frank Gates
St Monica's, Edenmore Margaret Mitton, Elizabeth Jordan
Ennis Mary Moroney, Peig McNamara
Enniskillen Peter Duffy, Johnny Murphy, Lily Wynne, Frank McGovern
Faughanvale (St Mary's) Joseph Coyle, Peter Logue
Foxrock Damien Fortune, Michael Begley, Noel Turley
Irvinstown Alice McElholm, Gretta Woods, Sheila Doonan, Dan Monaghan, Jim Kelly, Joe Conway, Patrick McGoldrick, Tony McDonagh, Aiden Allen, Aodh Martin Mullan, Margaret McCarron, Tommy Mongan
Kileentierna, Kerry Jerry Cronin, Tadhg Kerin
Kinawley John Smith, Mollie Breen, Margaret McGovern, Peter Gilleece, M Grudden, Mary Smith, Kathleen Drumm
Knockninny Kathleen Lynch, Sarah Ellen Kiernan, Gretta Murphy, Brigid McCusker, Betty Gilleece, Frank Drumm, Hugh Drumm, Pat McGolderick, Anna McKeivitt, Francis McGovern, Joe Drumm, Jim McCaffrey, Bridie Duggan
Larkhill Marjorie Mooney, John Carroll, Fiona Carroll
Lordship and Ballymacscanlon May Elmore, Peggy Traynor, Gerry Fitzgerald, Michael McGee, Eamon Carroll, Una Begley, Lena Bolster
Maghera Philomena Convery, Paddy Hegarty, Mona McKenna, David O'Connor, Mary McCloskey, Jean McKenna, Mary McGuckin, Patsy Higgins, Madge Inglesby, Patrick Joseph Magee, Fergal McFalone, Brigid O'Neill, Alex Woods
Marino Branch Leo McPartlin, Kathleen Conway,

Kathleen Ryan, Jimmy Moore
Mountnugent/Balinacree Feichín Gammell, Christina McEnroe, Carmel Daly, Lil McLarney, Tony Dillion
Mullingar Branch Nancy Kennedy
Naas Cal McCarthy, Patti Lynch, Dermot McNamara
Navan (St Mary's Jubilee Branch) Alice Allen
Our Lady Crowned, Mayfield Jim Furney, Eileen Murphy
Portadown Teddy Speers, Maureen Farnon, Gerard Fox, Mary Best
Rathmines Elizabeth (Lily) Keogh
St Anthony's, Clontarf Jim Hanrahan, Mai Hanrahan, Meta Joyce, Maureen Reddin
St John the Baptist, Clontarf Eva Brennan, Christopher Woulfe
St John Vianney, Ardlea Mary Walsh, Lily Morris, Geraldine O'Connor
St Patrick's, Limerick James Walsh, Teresa Walsh, Gerry Patterson, Helen Leahy
St Patrick's, Pennyburn Gerry Campbell, Roy Turton
St Vincent's, Sunday's Well Patsy O'Shea
Templemore Brendan Kennedy
Terenure Maureen Donnelly
Trillick Tony Masterson, Damien Maguire, Nora Green, Michael Keenan, Sarah McCann
Tubberclare/Glasson Mary Connaughton

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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 Picture of Pontifical Irish College ordinations, courtesy Francis Cousins INTERCOM