

The Sheaf



ST. JOSEPH'S YOUNG PRIESTS SOCIETY

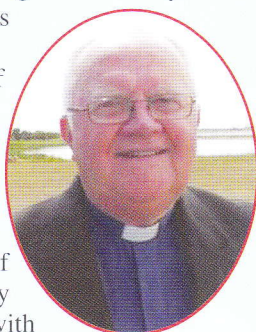
www.stjosephsyoungpriestssociety.com

23 MERRION SQUARE, DUBLIN 2, IRELAND.

TELEPHONE: DUBLIN 676 2593 SUMMER 2013

A NEW REALITY IN IRELAND TODAY

Rt Rev Mgr Joseph McGrath PP VF VG, New Ross, on the occasion of the Society's pilgrimage to Our Lady's Island in glorious sunshine on 28 July, spoke of the story of the Church in Ireland as a book of many chapters – some glorious, some of oppression, many of persecution, with the present chapter having a sad shadow over it because of the scandals of recent years.



This present chapter will remain part of our story forever. It will influence and colour much of our future. There must be no forgetting, denying or air-brushing out the past, because the damage done to children is too horrendous to ignore or forget. The good done and the evil perpetrated, stand side by side as two realities. One does not balance out the other. Both will make us what and who we are into the future, he said.

Part of the journey of reform and repentance is to remember and minister to those who were hurt, asking their, and God's, forgiveness for the failures of some of the messengers, while asking God's blessing on the future announcing of the message.

But, Mgr McGrath said, it is time to move on - carrying that cross - to a new beginning, a new tomorrow, striving to be what our mission demands, proclaiming the good news in word and deed, for that is the vocation of all the Baptised.

The basic function of every Christian is to cultivate a real, personal relationship with Jesus Christ; to assist in creating a

similar relationship with Jesus Christ through worship and prayer; and to express that relationship in service of each other. This is what the Church refers to as the universal call to holiness.

Prayer, worship and service are the basic building blocks of the Christian Community and the Kingdom of God – the vocation of every member of the Church. The priest, however, is called on to lead and journey with the community in striving for these ideals. He is an ordinary man asked to do extraordinary things for, in, and with the people; and the question for us, as members of St Joseph's Young Priests Society, is what can we do in the promotion of vocations, vocations to priesthood, particularly.

The aims of the Society give us the answer... 'to pray and support'. In addition we also need to take every opportunity to speak about and draw attention to the challenge of the priestly way of life, to highlight its importance in the life of the community, to invite men to consider that way of life, conscious of the commitment and idealism of youth.

Saint Paul asked 'how will they know if nobody tells them?'

The Society's aim - prayer- is absolutely central to promotion. Prayer is born in families, it is fed in communities, it is nurtured by programmes of Christian formation and it is strengthened by the grace of the Sacraments. Community and personal prayer are basic to the development of religious vocations.

Programmes, plans and projects are all important and valuable, but a person's discernment of a vocation call is above all the fruit of an intimate, personal and community friendship with the Lord. At all 27 'World Youth Day' gatherings to date, three popes, including Pope Francis in Brazil, had the same message –

personal friendship with Jesus in prayer is the answer, the hope and the source of peace, happiness and fulfillment, through service.

If young people know how to pray, they can be trusted to know what to do with God's call.

TWO NEW DVDs

Available by post

Each costs €10

from the General Secretary

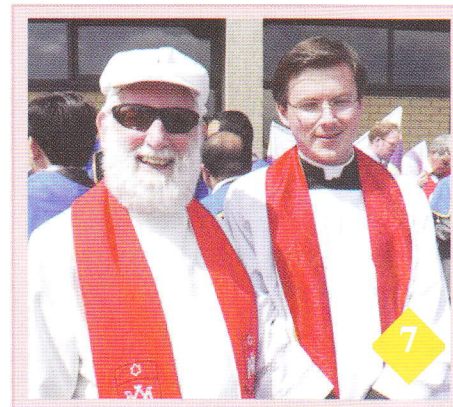
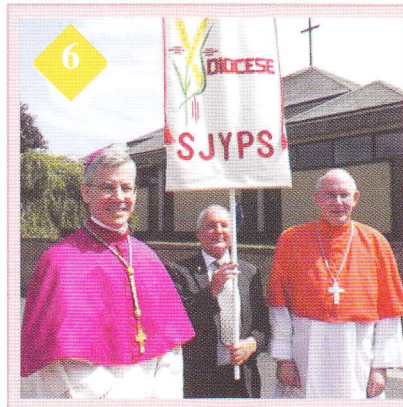
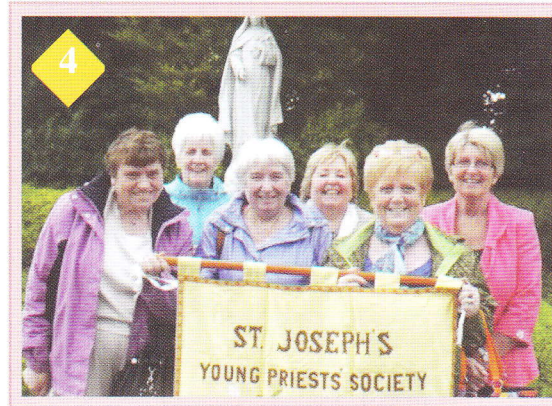
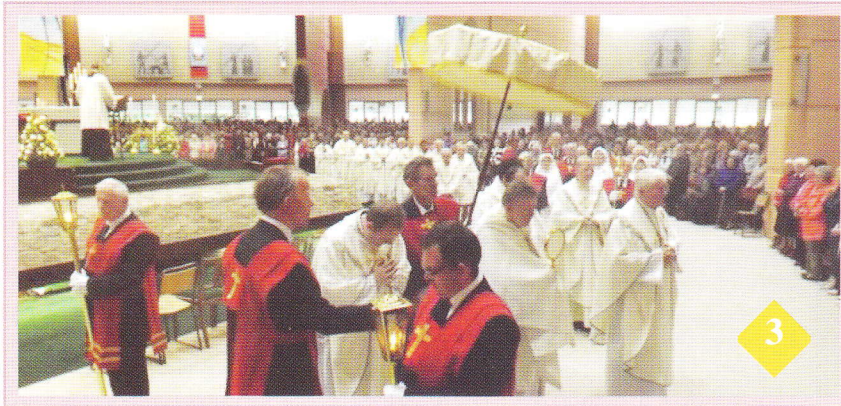
1. *The Society's 2011 pilgrimage to Knock celebrating the National Eucharistic Congress in June 2011*
2. *A History of Olivia Taaffe and the Society up to the International Eucharistic Congress in June 2012.*

THE SOCIETY'S CONSTITUTION

The subject of updating the structure of the Society has occupied the thoughts of its members over recent times, resulting in regular communication between the Society's House and the branches.

As announced at the meeting of Central Council in All Hallows College in May, the consultation period for final submissions of suggestions was drawing to a close. This concluded with the June meeting of the Executive Committee, and any further comments on the issue are now out of time. Many thanks to all who have contributed on the subject.

Following due deliberation, the Executive Committee unanimously approved the wording of a Draft Constitution which has now been circulated for adoption by Central Council in October 2013, thereafter for presentation to and approval by the Irish Episcopal Conference. If as a benefactor or member of the Society you would like to read a copy of the Draft, please contact the General Secretary.



Pics 1, 2 and 3

The uncertain weather on 22 June 2013 meant that those on the Society's pilgrimage to Knock did not process through the Domain. There was therefore an indoor procession. Following celebration of the Eucharist, Archbishop Michael Neary blessed the pilgrims in each of the Basilica's chapels during Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

Pic 4

These ladies from the diocese of Down and Connor had their photo taken at the Knock shrine of 'The Little Flower' (Saint Thérèse of Lisieux) before departing for Belfast.

Pic 5

Delegates from the branches in the Cashel Province to the meeting of Central Council in May, awaiting transport to Heuston rail station for the journey home.

Pic 6

By sheer coincidence, the Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Charles John Brown and the

Primate of All Ireland, Cardinal Seán Brady Archbishop of Armagh arrived at the same time as Tony Melia a trustee of the Society with his banner, for the start of the procession commemorating St Oliver Plunkett at Drogheda on Sunday 7 July.

Pic 7

Fr Michael Maher SM and Fr Paul Murphy at the Drogheda procession on 7 July. Fr Paul was ordained at Termonfechin the previous Sunday 30 June for the Diocese of Armagh.

Pic 8

John Murphy, Dublin provincial president (l) replaces Dominic Dowling (r) as the Society's nominee on the Council for Vocations of the Irish Catholic Bishops Conference.

Pic 9

St Joseph – detail from the Flight into Egypt in the XI century church of St Nediljice, at Zadar, Croatia. He is leading a donkey with Mary and the Child.

Please remember St. Joseph's Young Priests

Society in your Will

FORM OF BEQUEST

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

Fr Willie Purcell, National Co ordinator of Diocesan Vocations, delivered this homily at Knock on 22 June 2013.

The gospel (*Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24*) proclaimed for us today gives us a glimpse into the spirituality of the man we know as Saint Joseph, patron of St Joseph's Young Priests Society. By saying Joseph was 'a man of honour, a just man,' the Bible means that he was a man who was completely open to all that God wanted to do for him. He became holy by opening himself totally to God. Joseph surrendered himself to the unfolding plan of God in his life.

Joseph's true heroism was that he was a man of ordinary everyday life. He learnt how to listen to God's word. When Mary was known to be pregnant he thought of divorcing her quietly. But Joseph being a man of honour said 'yes' to God wholeheartedly and protected Mary and the child. A true patron for the protection of the unborn.

Joseph's life was one of challenge. He was unafraid of what it asked of him. Sometimes we as ordinary people, can be uncertain about what God is saying to us. St Joseph is a wonderful example for us. He is one of our greatest models of obedience, faithfulness and surrender to God's plan. Joseph the just man was simply, joyfully, wholeheartedly obedient to God. He carried out his vocation with complete fidelity.

A GREAT TIME TO BE A CATHOLIC

As we gather today as members of St Joseph's Young Priests Society with the many other pilgrims who are here in Knock, we gather as the Body of Christ. It is a great time to be a catholic and a great time to be a priest. A great time to be a catholic because of the deep hunger of our world and our country, for men and women of all ages like St Joseph to stand up and be counted for what they believe, living witnesses of the presence of God, in a world that is trying to ignore Him, but can only be saved by Him. It is a great time to be a catholic because we have a treasure worth much more than the world's wealth or power; the only treasure that matters, we have Christ the Lord. It's a great time to be a catholic because in our faith we have all we need for our life's most important possessions - Faith, Hope and Love.

Today at this shrine we take our place in the great story of Knock, remembering that wet Thursday evening of the 21 August 1879, when at about 8 o'clock, Our Lady, St Joseph, and St John the Evangelist appeared in a blaze of heavenly light at the south gable of Knock Parish Church. Behind them and a little to the left of St John was a plain altar. On the altar were a cross and a lamb surrounded by adoring angels. The apparition was seen by fifteen people whose ages ranged from six years to seventy-five and included men, women and children. Word quickly spread that God had sent his mother not only to the people of Ireland but also to the people of the world.

In 1879 Olivia Taffe the foundress of our Society was 47 years of age. I am sure that when she heard the great news of the apparition she rejoiced that not only the mother of God had come to our Country and our World, but also her beloved patron St Joseph. Olivia had a profound devotion to St Joseph. It was at Maranville in France at the shrine of the confraternity of St Joseph, that Olivia found the home of her heart's desire, the best source of consolation in her trials and the true inspiration of her apostolic life. Olivia Taffe was proud to be catholic; she trusted in God and like St Joseph recognised His unfolding plan in her life. She like Mary, said 'yes' to God and from the moment of her 'yes' she began a life of prayer and a life dedicated to the care of priests and those called to priesthood. A life inspired by the example of the confraternity of St Joseph. She never thought for one moment that on this day, 22 June 2013, this great basilica would be filled with members of the society she founded. For Olivia the most important thing was that God was recognised in all things and in the life of each person.

Olivia like Abraham in our second reading (*Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22*) had a strong faith that could not be shaken. Like Abraham and Joseph she placed her trust in God and knew that God would take care of everything for her. We have that same faith, we too know that God is with us, we too know that we can stand firm because God is our strength. God will never abandon us, his kindness is established forever, and we live in His unconditional love. It's great to be a catholic because like Olivia Taffe we have a strong foundation – our faith. In 1881 Canon Roy founder of the Archconfraternity of St Joseph wrote,

'The mission of the people of Ireland consists in spreading the Catholic faith, the Irish in their ordinary lives carry on the sermons which the priests have delivered and in doing so live lives like the apostles'.

Like Olivia we are called to share that faith with everyone, even if we feel burdened by sickness, worry, fear, or age, remembering that faith and prayer never grows old.

A GREAT TIME TO BE A PRIEST

It is also a great time to be a priest. Our world is hungry for God. Our world needs men who make a strong commitment to doing the work of God often in the midst of opposition and condemnation, men giving their lives to our brothers and sisters in joyful service, welcoming with joy those who come for baptism, restoring those burdened by sin in reconciliation, gathering people around the altar of the Lord on which He comes to us in the Eucharist, strengthening our young with the seal of the Holy Spirit, joining together the love of husband and wife, being with those who are making their final journey home and asking that God and Mary be with them when they close their eyes to this world.

It's a great time to be a priest and we need priests. We need men not only to ponder priesthood but also like Mary and Joseph to say 'yes' to the call of God. All of you faithful members of St Joseph's Young Priests Society and pilgrims here at Knock, like Olivia Taffe through your prayer and support, keep us priests going even when we feel like giving up, through your remembrance of us at Mass, times of adoration and your prayer for us at your society meetings, you strengthen us in hope. In our Gospel we hear the angel telling Joseph 'do not be afraid,' No matter what the world does or says we are not afraid because we are united as the Body of Christ and as brothers and sisters we journey as that Body, as pilgrims to God. We have the strength of each other's prayers and that confidence in prayer gives us hope, that hope gives us courage, that courage gives us strength, that strength encourages us in faith. Pope John Paul II preaching on St Joseph and priesthood reflects:

'With fatherly care he watched over Jesus Christ your Son. In the Church Bishops and Priests are 'fathers' and 'guardians' who are called to act as wise and loyal 'servants'. They are entrusted with the daily care of the Christian people, who, with their help, can confidently advance on the way of Christian perfection.'

Pope Francis recently said:

'Behind and before every vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life, is always the strong and intense prayer of someone: a grandmother, a grandfather, a mother, a father, a community'.

As priests we know you are always behind us and before us supporting our 'yes' to God.

My friends, it is a great time to be a Catholic - and it's a great time to be a Priest!

(Hear Fr Willie's own vocation story by tagging VOCATIONS on www.catholicbishops.ie -Ed)

St Joseph to be included in Eucharistic Prayers

By Cindy Wooden

Pope Francis and retired Pope Benedict XVI have a special devotion to St Joseph and have assured that devotion regularly will be shared at Mass by Catholics around the world.

The Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments said Pope Francis confirmed a decision originally made by Pope Benedict to include St Joseph permanently in the Eucharistic Prayers used at most Masses in the Latin rite.

A decree signed by Cardinal Antonio Canizares Llovera, congregation prefect, and Archbishop Arthur Roche, congregation secretary, said Pope Benedict had received petitions from Catholics around the world and approved adding after the name of the Virgin Mary, the words "with blessed Joseph, her spouse".

Blessed John XXIII had added the name of St Joseph to the first eucharistic prayer, known as the Roman Canon, in the 1960s. The new decree inserts his name into Eucharistic Prayers II, III and IV.

A congregation official told Catholic News Service that national bishops' conferences could set a date for the changes to begin if they believe that is

necessary, "but because it is a matter of only adding five words, priests can begin immediately".

The decree described St Joseph as "an exemplary model of the kindness and humility that the Christian faith raises to a great destiny, and demonstrates the ordinary and simple virtues necessary for men to be good and genuine followers of Christ".

St Joseph, "caring most lovingly for the Mother of God and happily dedicating himself to the upbringing of Jesus", has been the subject of deep Catholic devotion around the world for centuries, the decree said.

The congregation provided bishops around the world with the exact wording to use for Masses in Latin, English, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, French, German and Polish.

Pope Francis, who has a flower used as a symbol of St Joseph on his coat-of-arms, also chose the March 19 feast of St Joseph as the date for his inaugural Mass.

In his homily at the Mass, Pope Francis said that in the Gospels, "St Joseph appears as a strong and courageous

man, a working man, yet in his heart we see great tenderness, which is not the virtue of the weak, but rather a sign of strength of spirit and a capacity for concern, for compassion, for genuine openness to others, for love."

The new pope said exercising the role of protector as St Joseph means doing so "discreetly, humbly and silently, but with an unfailing presence and utter fidelity, even when he finds it hard to understand".

St Joseph responded to his call to be a protector "by being constantly attentive to God, open to the signs of God's presence and receptive to God's plans, and not simply his own," the new pope said.

Pope Benedict, who was born Joseph Ratzinger and celebrated the March 19 feast of St Joseph as his name day, told a crowd in Cameroon in 2009 that he had "received the grace of bearing this beautiful name".

"Throughout all of history, Joseph is the man who gives God the greatest display of trust," even in the face of the astonishing news that Mary was to bear a child, Pope Benedict told the crowd.—CNS

Recently Deceased

VOCATIONAL BRANCHES

The Bankers Branch Fr Barry Murphy (chaplain to the branch)

Clothing Trade Chrissie Harpur

Insurance John Meaney

Motor & Engineering Andrew Ryan (former president)

Pharmacy Noel MacManus

LOCAL BRANCHES

Abbeyfeale Maura Leahy, Mary Lyons, Peter Healy, Vera Broderick

Ardfield/Rathbarry Maureen Walls, Maureen O'Sullivan, Christine McCarthy, John McCarthy, Pauline Butler

Athea Bridie Ann Shine

Ballyphehane Joan Feerick, Oriol Bray

Bohermeen Robbie Byrne, Chris Kerrigan, Peter Clarke

Borrisoleigh Phyllis Cunniffe, Mary Ryan Rody

Caherdavin Mary O'Mara

Castletown/Kilpatrick Mary Daly

Christ the King - Turner's Cross Sr Marie Collins, Pat Connolly, Una Fehilly, Abina Murphy, Ann McGregor, Margaret (Madge) O'Donoghue

Cleenish Stephen Hogan, Bridie Melanophy, James McCullough, Nathaniel Corrigan, Michael Ferguson, Margaret Stewart, Patrick Joseph Nolan, Michael McAloon, Brendan Meehan, Lal DeLacey, Maura McBrien, Terence Bannon, Mary Gallagher, Desmond Keaney, Francis McGovern, May Lunny

Douglas Noreen Moloney

Drogheda Bridie Hurley

Dundalk Nan Brennan, Kathleen McKeown, Teresa Keohane, Briege Martin, Kathleen Cassidy, Brendan Mulligan, Dr Tom O'Callaghan, Maura Browne

Fermoy Ann Barry

Foxrock Bill Roche, Danny Spain

Frankfield/Grange Mary Kennedy

Guilford Patricia Malone, Bridget Fox, Brendan Gaffney, Eileen Owens

Harolds Cross Patrick Doyle

Holy Trinity - Belfast Very Rev Matthew Wallace

Killorglin Teresa O'Sullivan

Knockninny Francis Owens, John McManus, Mary Bartlett, Kathleen McGovern, P J Shannon, Fergus Reilly, Bridgid Martin, Vincent McCusker

Kinsale Marie Lombard

Larkhill James Neary, Una Neary, John Walsh, Mary Walsh, Owen Dempsey, Mary Lawlor

Lattin and Cullen Breda Kennedy

Loughrea Agnes O'Brien

Macroom Maire Dineen

Maghera Helen Convery, Michael McGrath, Liam Bradley, P J Convery, Patrick Donnelly, Kieran McKenna, Peter McWilliams, William Duffy, Maisie McCloskey, Brian Orr, HESSIE Sargent, Maisie McKenna, Charlie Doherty, Teresa Clingan, Mabel Flanagan, Mary McGuckin, Mabel Flanagan, Josephine Brennan, Jennifer O'Brien

Melmount Jimmy Haughey

Navan - St Mary's Jubilee Branch Tommy Finnegan

Our Lady Crowned - Mayfield Ann Considine, John Lynch, Paddy Sheehan, Jane O'Boyd, John O'Driscoll, Tom Bowles

Our Lady of the Rosary - Limerick Mary Barry, Bill Leonard

Portadown Tommy Mallon, Terry Cunningham, Carol O'Reilly, Bella Halfpenny, Maura Campbell

Rathmines Noreen Maher

Roscommon Kitty Moore, Maura Curran

St Agnes - Crumlin Vera Brennan

St Ignatius - Galway Bernadette Heagney

St John the Baptist - Clontarf Maureen O'Donoghue, Ita Nevin

St Joseph's - Dundalk Marie O'Hanlon

St Joseph's - Mayfield Patricia Harrison

Templemore Winnie Hogan

Trillick Eileen Donnelly, Bill Monaghan, Gerry Maguire, Michael McGuinness

Tubberclair/Glasson Michael Murphy

GENERAL

Cathal Brennan, Patricia Fay (Down & Connor)

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Anonymous Donations €1,159.96, €10, €10, €30, €15