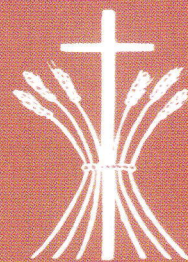




The Sheaf



ST. JOSEPH'S YOUNG PRIESTS SOCIETY

www.stjosephsyoungpriestssociety.com

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SUMMER 2015

A FRUITFUL YEAR FOR THE SOCIETY

The Society's year ending on 30 June 2015 has proved to be a positive one. 159 students (of which 20 are Irish) were ordained to priesthood. To each of them we send our congratulations and our wishes for a happy and fruitful ministry.

Thanks to EWTN the international media organisation, the speakers at this year's Provincial Congresses of Armagh, Dublin, Cashel and Tuam were recorded on video. The general theme running through the speakers' presentations was 'Consecrated Life'. Some 1,200 mainly local people attended the venues at Monaghan, Dublin, Killarney and Knock. The talks are available on the Society's website.

As George Dee, President of the Society records in the introduction to his 2015 Presidential Report circulated with the audited Statement of Accounts to all 411 branches, 'Thank God for another good year for the Society, and I must thank all of you have worked so hard during the year to keep our Society in such good shape. Again the Provincial Congresses were a great success. Unfortunately, I missed the Armagh Congress as it clashed with Cashel's, to which I had already been committed, but Vice-president Dominic Dowling represented me at the Armagh Congress on the day. Sincere thanks to all who had a part in organising them.'

During the year the members of the Executive Committee undertook the weighty task of completely overhauling, diocese by diocese and seminary by seminary, our total overseas missionary effort. There was an average attendance of 11 out of the 15 entitled to attend these meetings. This work was done mainly to ascertain what other sources of financial assistance the colleges had; so as to better enable us in the light of up-to-date information to make more just decisions when assessing requests for assistance particularly in the case of replacement and new students. One consequence of this undertaking is that our overseas students for ministry in their own jurisdictions have dropped from 738 to 586. In addition to students overseas there are of course 114 in Irish colleges, making a total of 700 beneficiaries now on the Society's Charitable Register. The overseas students are broadly located as follows:

OVERSEAS STUDENTS

Africa	342
South America	46
India	97
Eastern Europe	48
Philippines	25
Asia and Others	28

Another event this year was a general assembly of all diocesan and provincial presidents. This was arranged primarily by Peter Tierney and Marian Fennelly not only to analyse and consider solutions to a noticeable downward trend in subscriptions from branches, illustrated by ever-vigilant treasurer Kieran Hickey at recent central council meetings, but also to look into the reasons for the closure of some branches during the year and to suggest remedial measures. In 12 months the Dublin province saw a reduction in the number of branches from 92 to 89, Tuam province from 50 to 47, Cashel from 104 to 102 and while Armagh remained unaltered at 161, the long established Vocational Branches dropped from 13 to 12.

One consequence of this assembly has been a significant and generous response from members resulting in subscriptions exceeding last years by 11,000 euro. Another consequence is that some worthwhile ideas, suggestions and recommendations for the future wellbeing of the Society emerged from the workshop meetings.

In thanking all our members and benefactors for their spiritual and material support during the year ending June 2015, it would be remiss of the Sheaf not also to formally acknowledge and express the Society's appreciation for the dedication and commitment of our five voluntary Trustees whose professional guidance during the year has been invaluable. They are Tony Melia, Ardee; Angela McCann, Dún Laoghaire; Thomas Murphy, Newbridge; Peter Tierney, Dún Laoghaire; and David McEllin, Rathfarnham. Like President George Dee and all of the Society's elected officeholders throughout Ireland, they give freely of their time as a labour of love in the cause of Jesus Christ.

National Eucharistic Congress 2015



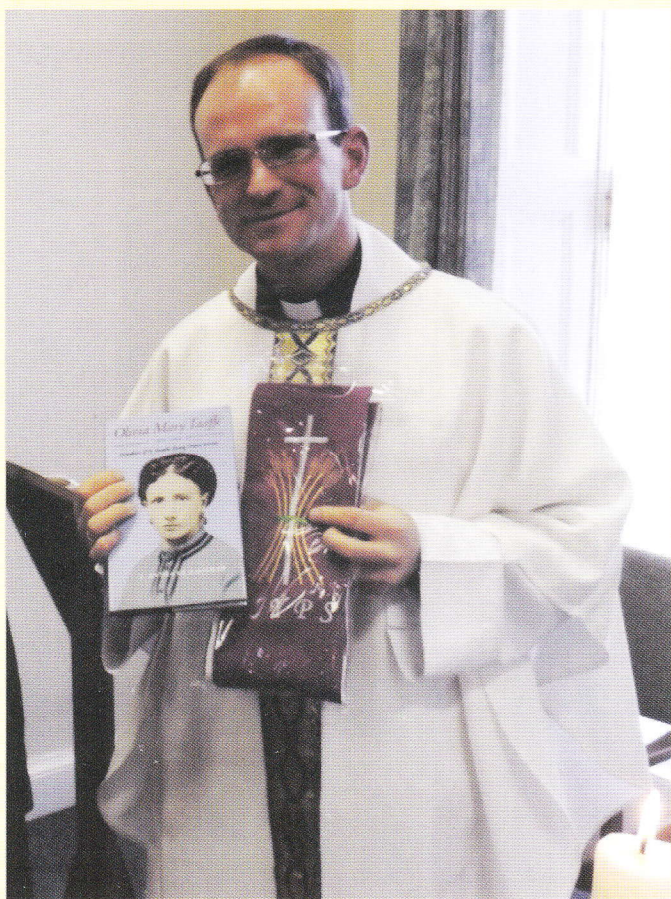
At the Eucharistic Congress in Knock over the weekend of 26-27 September the theme of 'Christ our Hope' will be explored especially in the context of Christian Marriage and Consecrated Life, two of the great visible signs of Christ. Both marriage and consecrated life reflect the self-giving of Christ that is at the heart of the Eucharist.

The programme includes more than 30 workshops and talks from such groups as Cana Ireland, Couples for Christ, Marriage Encounter, Retrouvaille, Accord, Catholic Grandparents Association, Rises of the Roses, and the National Team for Catechetics. Members of Religious Congregations will be participating and leading Morning Prayer, Vespers and Night Prayer. There is a concert in the Basilica on Saturday evening followed by a candlelit procession to the Blessed Sacrament Chapel for an all-night vigil, where young people from Youth 2000 will remain overnight at Adoration.

The Bishop of Elphin, Bishop Kevin Doran writing in Intercom describes the Congress as an opportunity for all who come to pause for a few days, to gather, to listen, to learn, to pray together and experience God's love.

We pray that the Congress will be a time of great joy and hope leading many of us into a deeper relationship with Christ, our Hope.

Visit www.nec2015.ie for the details.



Recently ordained Fr David O'Connor is one of two Irish seminarians on the Society's Register who have been preparing for priesthood at the Lumen Dei (Light of God) Seminary in Spain for missionary work in Peru, where Fr Kevin Anthony Farrell is already ministering.

Prior to his departure for Peru, Fr David expressed a wish to celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving for intentions of the members and benefactors of the Society, and he is seen here after Mass at Olivia Taaffe's altar at a monthly meeting of the Society on 19 May.

Fr David is now a priest of the Prelature of Ayaviri. Ayaviri is between 4,000 and 5,000 meters high up in the mountains.

Practically nothing grows there. Agriculture is very limited. Livestock farming is mostly poor quality cattle, sheep for wool, and alpaca for wool as well. In the lower parts of the Prelature and even in the forest, access roads are virtually impassible, so that in the most fertile places, production is very difficult to extract at a reasonable cost. Consequently between 60% to 70% of the population are living either in poverty or extreme poverty and the others in a little better situation.

Bishop Kay Martin Schmalhausen, bishop of the prelateure of Ayaviri has 10 young men right now studying philosophy and theology.

FORM OF BEQUEST

Please remember St. Joseph's Young Priests Society in your Will

I give and bequeath to St. Joseph's Young Priests Society,

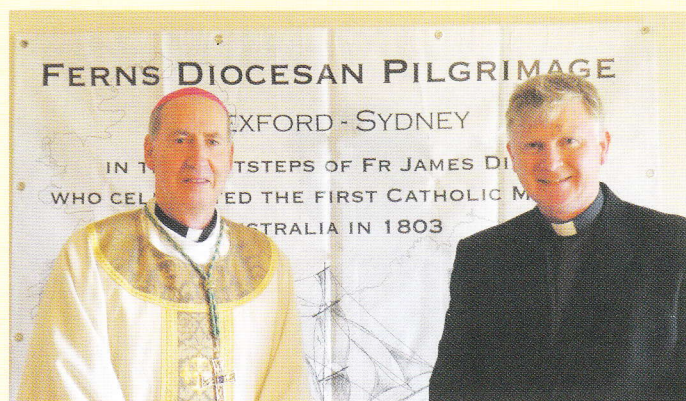
23 Merrion Square, Dublin 2 the sum of

€.....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



Most Rev Denis Brennan Bishop of Ferns with Fr Séamus McEntee Chief Chaplain to the Society. Bishop Brennan was main celebrant at our pilgrimage to Our Lady's Island on 26 July. Following the procession around the island he imparted Benediction.

The notice regarding the pilgrimage to Sydney marking the first Mass celebrated by Fr James Dixon in New Holland, as Australia was then known, is interesting. Fr Dixon was one of three priests transported after the 1798 Rebellion, though they had taken no part in the Rising. They were arrested on suspicion and transported without trial as convict prisoners and treated as such by the local governors. Fr Dixon was the only one allowed to exercise his priestly ministry during 1803 and 1804, but his permission was revoked in 1804 due to disturbances in one of the convict settlements. From then until 1817 there was no further Mass in New South Wales.

You may read his story in 'Father John Joseph Therry, Founder of the Church in Australia' in Booklet No 6 in the Sheaf Mission Series which may be had by post from the General Secretary at the Society's House for a nominal donation of five euro.

DRUMCREE PARISH CELEBRATION

On Sunday 10 May Parishioners from Drumcree Parish in Portadown gathered for a special evening with the local Jesuit community and Presentation and Assumption Sisters to pray with them and give thanks to them for choosing to consecrate their lives to God in this special way.

Each branch throughout our Diocese was encouraged to organise an evening of prayer/liturgy or other suitable event in their local parish to highlight this 'Year of Consecrated Life'.

In this special year our own local branch of St Joseph's Young Priests Society celebrates 30 years. Since its formation

we have prayed as a society and parish community for vocations to Priesthood and Religious Life.

Sunday 10 May was an evening to pray and give thanks before the Blessed Sacrament with our religious for the variety of gifts that they bring to our parish and the work that they do in various different ways. It is important to recognise their presence in our parish because they live out daily the message from the Gospel 'sick and you came to see me, stranger and you welcomed me, in prison and you came to see me'.

It was also a time to give thanks for those religious over the years that have lived among us and have died or sadly have left the parish due to ill health; not forgetting those native sons and daughters of the parish who have brought and preached God's word in other towns and countries and live out Pope Francis's invitation to wake up the world to the love of God by their example as a religious sister, brother or priest.

The evening concluded with a gathering afterwards in the Parish Pastoral Centre and the evening was enjoyed by all.

I enclose photo of the display in church courtesy of our sacristan Mr Francis Hagan. It symbolises each religious community and its founder/foundress.

David Greer, Armagh Diocesan President



Message from Fr Stephen Kennedy IVE

On the 27 June, in Montefiascone, Italy, by the grace of God I was ordained a priest with the Institute of the Incarnate Word. I consider this to be one of the greatest graces God has ever given me, and words cannot express my gratitude to Him for this tremendous gift. Originally from Clondalkin in Dublin, I went to school there before studying chemistry in UCD. After travelling in Europe, Australia and India, I entered seminary in Italy at 23 years, and I have been in formation there for the past eight years. Soon I will begin work as a missionary in a parish north of Rome.

My vocation came as a result of a period of discernment in which I prayed and reflected deeply on what God's will was for me. I knew from an early age that He wanted me to do something for Him, yet His call was not made concrete until I began to reflect on Christ Himself, and how He had died for me on the Cross. The force and the power of His love in taking on human flesh, suffering and dying so that my sins could be forgiven, captivated me and I began to ask Him in prayer what He wished me to do. I understood that He was calling me to be 'another Christ', to act 'in persona Christi', and that true happiness for me could only be found in a full and total response to His call. His call was gentle, but firm, and is best described as a longing that He placed in my heart for Him, a deep conviction that He had set me apart and chosen me from all eternity to serve Him as His priest. In particular, I was called to offer the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, to absolve sins in His name in Confession, and to preach the truths of the Catholic faith. I also discerned that He was calling me to life as a religious, and to consecrate myself to Him through vows of poverty, chastity and obedience.

As such, I prayed that He would show me where He wanted me to serve Him. I was given a leaflet on the Institute of the Incarnate Word (IVE) in Italy, and I visited them in Rome. Soon after I entered, and as time passed I realized that this was the fulfilment of God's call for me. I am very happy now as an IVE priest, and I am looking forward with great enthusiasm to spreading the



FR STEPHEN KENNEDY'S FIRST MASS AT THE CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY AND ST KILLIAN IN HIS HOME PARISH OF CLONDALKIN.

good news of Christ's redemption to all whom I will minister to.

The Institute itself was founded in Argentina in 1984, and currently has over 800 members, with missionaries present in over 40 countries, including Iraq, Syria, and Gaza. The charism is the evangelization of the culture, which is put into practice in various ways: preaching popular missions, apostolate with youth in oratories and summer camps, preaching the Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius, working in parishes, and caring for orphans and disabled people. A fourth vow of consecration to Our Lady is also taken.

It is true that the Church today is passing through a difficult period, but our faith must remain firm, in remembrance of the many trials that our ancestors passed through, in order to pass on the faith to us. God is omnipotent, and only allows bad, so that good may come. The extent of the suffering of the Church now, therefore, is in direct proportion to the greatness, the purity and the holiness which He has planned for His Church, and which will come one day in the future, at a time known only to Him. Far from despairing, therefore, we should look forward with faith and hope to this day. Essential to God's plan, however, is that a new generation of Irish priests and religious be raised up, in order to bring in a new era for Ireland. We all have a responsibility, therefore, to pray

for vocations, to support those who are in formation, and to be courageous and zealous in calling young men to serve Christ in His Church.

Over the past few years I have come to know of the work of St Joseph's Young Priests Society. Fr Séamus McEntee, the Chief Chaplain, is my local priest in Clondalkin, and he concelebrated at my First Mass there recently. I was also honoured with the presence of Dominic Dowling, vice-president, together with some other members of the Society. Prayer for vocations and practical support for those already in formation is work that will have as its reward God Himself. In familiarizing myself with the Society, I was struck by the hidden and silent work of its members, in imitation of its patron, St Joseph, who quietly and humbly supported the upbringing of the Eternal High Priest, Jesus Christ.

I am very grateful to the Society for its work in bringing about a new era for Christ, and for His Church. Let us all work together, so that many young men will answer the call to the priesthood, and so that they will burn with love for Him, and bring many souls to His Sacred Heart. Through the intercession of St Joseph and Our Lady, let us pray that many souls will answer the timeless call of Christ: "Come, follow me!"

The Society is pleased to have received via Sr Annunciata Forde, Presentation Convent Ballyphehane, and to make available to members on request, a copy of the story of the formation and early growth of the Society as used by Sr Anthony Maloney of South Presentation Convent Cork in her several promotional talks around Cork over many years. Sr Anthony who is now in her 90s has always taken a great interest in the Society.

Her notes mention the reception ceremony of Olivia Taffe's sister Harriet Blake who entered the Presentation Convent in Middleton in 1862. Harriet (Sr Ignatius Blake) 'chose the better part' Olivia said at the ceremony which she attended. Sr Ignatius died in 1888 and her tombstone is still to be seen at the (old) convent cemetery Middleton.

Following the death of Olivia's husband in 1891 and her only son's death in 1893, Olivia presented his blood-red hunting cloak (a 21st birthday present) to the Middleton Convent where it was used covered by an open lace cloth at Christmas and Easter as a Communion cloth on the nuns' prie-dieu. It is currently at the Society's House, where the Blessed Sacrament in a private oratory may be visited by members of the Society.

Sr Anthony is a grandniece of Fr Patrick Maloney CM whose story is alongside. The narrative of his life and death as a missionary in China 1871-1882 first printed in St Joseph's Sheaf aroused considerable interest and was subsequently published in booklet form as *Tipperary's gift to China* by the Catholic Truth Society, Dublin in 1919.

4 The Irish Catholic, June 16, 1955

Rev. Patrick Maloney CM

PATRICK MOLONEY WAS BORN IN THE PARISH OF DOON, CO. TIPPERARY AND FROM CASTLEKNOCK COLLEGE WENT TO THE IRISH COLLEGE IN PARIS IN 1865.

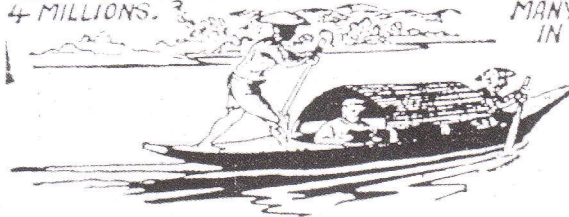
THE FOLLOWING YEAR HE ENTERED THE NOVITIATE OF THE VINCENTIANS AFTER ORDINATION HE SET OUT FOR CHINA AND IMMEDIATELY SET ABOUT LEARNING THE DIFFICULT LANGUAGE.

ALTHOUGH HIS HEALTH WAS AFFECTED BY THE CLIMATE AND FOOD, HE LABOURED WITH SUCH ZEAL AND SUCCESS THAT HE WAS CALLED THE "GOOD FATHER MOLONEY" BY THE FAITHFUL. TRAVELLING HUNDREDS OF MILES BY FOOT OR IN SMALL BOATS COVERED WITH BAMBOO LEAVES AS PROTECTION FROM THE WEATHER, FATHER MOLONEY, WAS IN 1876 PLACED IN CHARGE OF THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF KIANG-SI WHERE THERE WERE TWO THOUSAND AND SEVENTY SEVEN CHRISTIANS IN A POPULATION OF 4 MILLIONS.

MANY OF THE PAGANS IN THIS DISTRICT WERE BITTERLY HOSTILE TO CHRISTIANS AND THIS ADDED DANGER TO THE MANY GREAT OBSTACLES FACED BY THE IRISH VINCENTIAN. TRANSFERRED TO THE NORTHERN DISTRICT, HIS

HEALTH AGAIN BROKE DOWN, YET NO SOONER HAD HE RECOVERED THAN HE WAS ON THE ROAD AGAIN, OFTEN WALKING 20 TO 30 MILES A DAY ATTENDING SICK CALLS. HIGHLY REGARDED BY HIS SUPERIORS, HE WAS SENT BY MSGR. BRAY TO A SETTLEMENT IN YAO-TCHAN-SOU IN 1882. THERE THE FAITHFUL NOTICING HIS ILLNESS AND SYMPTOMS OF FEVER TRIED TO PERSUADE HIM TO REST, BUT HE PRESSED ON TO KIANG-TE-TCHANG WHERE HE WAS UNABLE TO PROCEED FURTHER.

A CHINESE DOCTOR PRONOUNCED HIM TO BE AFFLICTED WITH A TUMOUR OF THE FACE CALLED "TING-TSANG" AND HIS LIFE WAS IN DANGER. THE NEAREST PRIEST WAS HIMSELF DYING AT THAT TIME AND ANOTHER PRIEST ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY MILES AWAY, WAS SENT FOR BUT WAS UNABLE TO REACH THE SETTLEMENT UNTIL FOUR DAYS AFTER FR. MOLONEY'S DEATH.



Recently Deceased

VOCATIONAL BRANCHES

Motor & Engineering Anne Talbot
Teachers Branch Antoinette Quinn

LOCAL BRANCHES

Abbeyfeale Peggy Stack, Johnny Stack, Maryann Moloney, Noreen Nash, Nora O'Keefe
Ardfield/Rathbarry Mary Ellen Hayes
Armagh Mary Smyth, Elizabeth (Lily) Murphy, Joe Sherry, Maurice Hughes, Mollie Gorman
Ballyphehane Mary Blake
Ballymena Elizabeth O'Loan
Bekan Paul Kearney, Chris Flatley, Anne Finn, Anne Staunton, Annie Carroll
Bohermeen Bernie Keane, Philip McDonnell
Boyle John Joe Nerney
Cavan Gus Clail, Carmel Sharkey
Christ the King, Turner's Cross Nancy Kelly, Siobhán O'Connor, Br Angelus Fitzpatrick, Ita Dermody
Cleinish Sheila McCauley, Tom Power, Mary McGourty, Mary Teresa McLaughlin
Clonakilty Kevin Rogers, Margaret Allis, Noreen O'Regan
Douglas Raymond Roche
Drogheda Dymphna Matthews
Dundalk Brian McEntegart, William Tuft

Dundrum Sheila Pratt
Ennis Betty Burke
Fahan Michael Cregan
Harolds Cross Kathleen Clinch, Bridie O'Kelly
Irinestown Ann Clarke, Kathleen Cassidy, Martin Donnelly, Charlie Carney, Paddy Magee, Vincent Maguire, Mary Maguire, Nellie McGeehan, Julia McGaughey
Killesher Elizabeth Maguire, Thomas Williamson, Dermot Murphy, Paul Corrigan, Bernadette McLoughlin
Kinsale Peggy Connolly
Knock Mary Fleming (First president of the branch)
Knockninny Joe Drumm, Jim McCaffrey, Bridie Duggan, Philomena McGovern, Jimmy McQuaid, Mary Murphy, Shane Mulholland, Jim McCorry, John Murray, Dermot Murphy, Rose Cassidy, Frank Kavanagh
Limavady Brigid Tierney
Limerick, St Munchin's Branch Tom Norris (former branch president)
Lordship and Ballymaescanlon Lilian Jordan
Maghera Eliane Doherty, Bridget O'Neill, Alex Woods, Paul Greene, Sr Maria Lagan, Kathleen Devlin, Sheila McHugh, Anna Fleming, Annie McKenna, John Joe Convery, Desmond McKeefry, Joe Gormley, Sarah Catherine Kieft, Seán Brown, Marie Moore
Malahide Martin Kevlin

Marino John Glover
Melmount Bridie Duncan, Kathleen McDonnell
Middleton Myra Buckley, Seán O'Farrell
Mourne Rd, Dublin Una Duignan, John Brogan, Michael Kelleher
Naas Mary Mahon
Newmarket-on-Fergus Michael Arthur
Pettigo Ann Morrissey
Rahan Michael Walshe, Peter Hussey
Rathmines Helen McGrath, Kathleen Watson
St Anthony's, Clontarf Sheila Mrozek, Kay Hand
St John's, Granaghan Mary McKenna, Nora Lagan
St John the Baptist, Clontarf Michael McCauley, Patrick Connellan, Mary Loane, Peg Ryan, Margaret (Mairéad) O'Leary
St John Vianney, Ardlea Anne McCluskey
St Kevin, Harrington Street Kathleen Finucane
Sts Peter & Paul, Athlone Una Duffy, Peg Cuniffe, Rose Bannon
Trillick Gerald O'Brien, Dymphna Doyle, Liam McSorley
Tubberclare/Glasson Kathleen Fagan

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Anonymous Donations €100 A K Athlone, €10, €30, €10, €100, €10