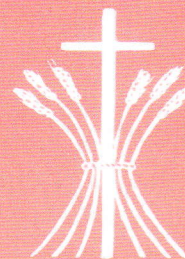




The Sheaf

ST. JOSEPH'S YOUNG PRIESTS SOCIETY

www.stjosephsyoungpriestssociety.com



SAINT JOSEPH'S YOUNG PRIESTS SOCIETY, 23 MERRION SQUARE, DUBLIN 2. TELEPHONE: DUBLIN 676 2593

WINTER 2009

THE YEAR FOR PRIESTS

In the course of the presentation of the Society's Annual Report and Statement of Accounts for the year ended 30 June 2009 at the meeting of the Central Council in Drumcondra on 17 October, the president of the Society Mrs Marie Hogan expressed her joy at the news that had just been announced by Fr Paddy Rushe (National Co-ordinator of Diocesan Vocations) that in September, 36 men had commenced studies for the priesthood in Ireland.

"Spiritually, we have been blessed in our Society over the past year, when we took up the initiative of Pope Benedict XVI, when he proclaimed the year 2008/2009 the Year of Vocation. There were many ceremonies and services during the year, which created a great awareness of the importance of Priesthood and Religious life. Following the Year of Vocation, we are now embarking on the Year for Priests. It is significant that our Holy Father has listed the year 2009/2010 as the Year for Priests, in order for each one of us to realise how important our priests are, for if we do not have priests, we will not have the Eucharist" the president said.

From Brigid Kelly's report as General Secretary, we read that the Society is assisting financially in the education of 817 clerical students, and that 147 students on the Society's register were ordained during the year. It is the first time in the history of the Society that over 800 students are being assisted. A summary of the position since 2006 is as follows:

Year to June	STUDENTS ASSISTED			ORDINATIONS		
	Irish	Overseas	TOTAL	Irish	Overseas	TOTAL
2006	107	660	767	19	108	127
2007	102	691	793	7	132	139
2008	106	691	797	14	157	171
2009	106	711	817	13	134	147

The overseas students, mostly for ministry in their own countries, are broadly located as follows:

Eastern Europe	50	India/Pakistan	120	South America	43
African Continent	430	Philippines	40	Others Overseas	28

From Pádraig O'Brien's report as Treasurer, we read that college fees & grants increased to €1,217,269 (from €1,204,220 the previous year), and that branch subscriptions fell to €764,756 (from €828,176). Fortunately however, income from other sources, such as donations, legacies and investments was sufficient to ensure that there was no necessity during the year to reduce expenditure on student support, vocations promotion or administration of the Charity; although the fall in branch subscriptions during the year to 30 June 2009 came to €63,420 – a reduction of 7.6% on the previous year.

Thanking the Society's members and benefactors in her concluding address to the congress, Marie Hogan said: To all those who hold office in the Society and who work tirelessly in the promotion of the Society, and also for their support to me in my work, I say a sincere thanks. In recognition of the Year for Priests, I share with you this quotation from the Curé of Ars, Saint John Vianney, *The priesthood is the love of the Heart of Jesus. When you see the priest, think of Our Lord, Jesus Christ.*

Prayer for Vocations

Loving God,
You have promised
never to leave your
flock unattended.
Send us good and
holy priests
who will desire
to give their lives
totally in your service.
Give to those whom you are
calling into ministry
the courage to say yes.
We ask this through the
intercession of
St John Vianney,
Patron Saint of priests,
in the name of Christ our Lord.
Amen.



Elected at Central Council

Vice Presidents:

George Dee, *Bekan Branch*
Dominic Dowling, *Foxrock*

Secretary:

May O'Connor, *Tuam Branch*

Assistant Secretary:

Josie O'Hare, *Saval Branch*

Treasurer:

Pádraig O'Brien, *Ballyshannon*

Executive Committee:

Peter Tierney, *Bankers Branch*
Kathleen Reynolds, *Templeogue*
Dan McCann, *Drogheda Branch*
Pat Denning, *Cavan Branch*
Kathleen Delamere, *Mullingar*

Appointed by Central Council

Dominic Dowling (*Editor of The Sheaf*)
Cunningham & Co, Ashbourne
(*Auditors to the Society*)

Pilgrimage to Ars

Details will be available presently of a pilgrimage to Ars and the Shrines of France from 16 to 23 April 2010.

Saint Patricks College Maynooth
Co Kildare, Ireland
Telephone: +353-1-708 4700

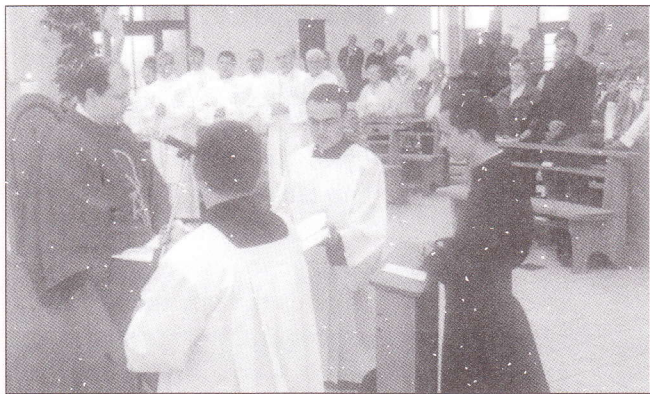
Dear Marie,

Here at St Patrick's College, Maynooth we embark on another year in priestly formation. It is a time when we become aware of the goodness of people.

In that context I wish to take this opportunity to gratefully acknowledge the commitment and support of the many members of St Joseph's Young Priests Society for their ongoing dedication and loyalty in enabling the work of priestly formation through prayer and financial assistance.

Please be assured of our gratitude and prayer and our endeavour to meet the spiritual needs of the Church in Ireland through the formation of men committed to Jesus Christ.

Yours sincerely,
Fr Paul Prior
Director of Formation



Ján Janček having signed his 'bonum propositum' to his Provincial Rev Josef Noga CM on the occasion of his (Ján's) entering the Major Seminary at Bratislava on 21 September 2009 to study for the priesthood with the Vincentians



Mrs Marie Hogan,
President of the Society



Our Lady Crowned Branch at Mayfield in Cork celebrated its 30th anniversary on Saturday 12th of September 2009. To mark the occasion, Spiritual Director, Fr Aidan O'Driscoll PP concelebrated Mass with Fr Pat O'Mahony CC assisted by Deacon Tom Tracey. Two of the founding members of the branch took part in the entrance procession, Mrs Eileen Buckley and Mr Joe Mullane. Deacon Tom Tracey gave the homily and thanked the members and benefactors of the Society for their help, encouragement and support by their prayers and financial contributions, which were very much appreciated. He told the congregation that the five years he spent in Maynooth were the happiest years of his life. Tom Tracey will be ordained on the 8th of December 2009 in Sts Peter and Paul's Church, Cork City for the dioceses of Cork & Ross.



Msgr Paul Callan, in the absence of Fr Finbarr Mullane chaplain to the Insurance Branch, celebrated Mass for the committee of the branch at Olivia Taaffe's altar on the occasion of its AGM on 17 November 2009. In addition to a legacy of €5,000 the branch contributed €4,736.50 donated by its membership to the funds of the Society during the year. The branch president Bernie Galvin is standing to the right of Msgr Callan in the photo.



The Society's literature created more interest than anticipated among university students young and old at this promotion during week 2 of Freshers' Week, the second week of the academic year prior to the start of lectures. Not surprisingly, the most commonly asked opening question was: What does SJYPS stand for?

THE CRUCIAL ROLE OF THE PRIEST

by Pat O'Leary

"The desired renewal of the whole Church (for which we long so ardently at the present time) depends to a great extent on a priestly ministry animated by the spirit of Christ"

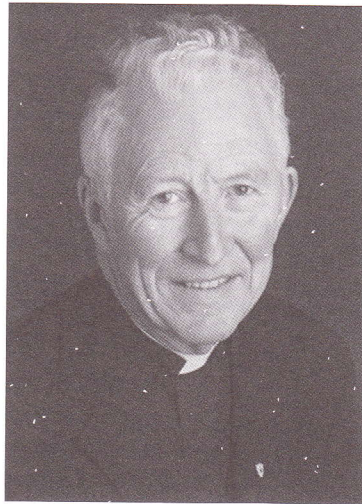
BISHOP PHILIP BOYCE recalled this profound statement from a Vatican II document (*Optatum Totius*, (No.1)) to emphasise the crucially important role of the priesthood in the life of the Church. Asserting the importance of this special Year for Priests, he pointed out that it is a year of spiritual renewal for priests and an occasion for us all to appreciate more deeply the mission and vocation of priests in the Church and society.

The Bishop of Raphoe was speaking at the annual Mass at Saint Eunan's Cathedral, Letterkenny in remembrance of Mother Julia Verhaeghe (1910-1997) the Belgian-born foundress of The Spiritual Family The Work of Christ, a new congregation of the Church, a number of whose sisters have been working with the Bishop of Raphoe, in Letterkenny, throughout the past fourteen years, where they are greatly loved and appreciated by the local community. There is also a branch of priests and brothers in the congregation, which 'form an integral part of its Spiritual Family'.

Recalling Mother Julia's life-long respect for priests the Bishop of Raphoe observed: One can truly say that in many ways her life was spent to obtain the gift of holy and fervent priests. She learned to understand that the vitality of the Church depended to a notable extent on the fidelity and zeal of priests. If they were holy, they would lead their flock to ever-greater holiness and union with the Lord. If they were holy, their prayer and apostolic activity would be more effective and would build up the Mystical Body of Christ (the Church) according to the designs of God.

"The priest who lives his priesthood in a worthy manner (Mother Julia once wrote), shows the world the true image of the Church."

Mother Julia often pondered in her heart the beauty and grace of priesthood, Dr Boyce continued. In her prayer she often asked the Lord Jesus to sanctify his priests and keep them faithful. She suffered to make reparation to the Sacred Heart for the infidelities of ordained ministers of the altar. She



*Most Rev Philip Boyce OCD
Bishop of Raphoe*

asked her spiritual daughters to be a support for priests in their life and apostolic activity. She was fully aware of how important it was, that the Sisters of The Work would have priests sharing and living in the same charism (or spirit), which she had received. They complement each other according to God's designs.

The life of a priest, according to the vision of Mother Julia, is simply that of living up to the grace and task given to him at Ordination. His mission is to radiate Christ, to preach the Gospel in accordance with the teachings of the Church, to administer the grace of the sacraments, bringing strength, guidance, comfort, encouragement, healing, and thus lead his people to the salvation promised by Jesus Christ. Mother Julia often underlined the fact that, in so far as he is an instrument of life, leading souls to a new life in God's grace, and nourishing that divine life in them, the priest is a spiritual father of many souls. He is not confined to the limitations of physical fatherhood, but leads a large number of spiritual children to life in God or to return to that life of divine friendship.

In her estimation the priesthood was always closely, even intrinsically, linked with the Holy Eucharist, said Bishop Boyce. The origin of the priesthood goes back to the Last Supper, the evening before the Lord suffered his passion and death on the cross, as a

sacrifice that would take away our sins and bring us salvation. Holy Thursday was always a day that immersed Mother Julia in the mystery of God's boundless love and mercy. In that hour he gave the Church two parting gifts, gifts that would remain with souls until the end of time.

Mother Julia often wrote about that solemn farewell in the Upper Room in Jerusalem when Jesus instituted the Holy Eucharist and the priesthood. "These are the two great gifts of his love which, in that hour of parting and mourning, He bequeathed to his Church. They are divine institutions, which flowed from his Heart that was overflowing with love.

"The priest is what his Mass is"
(Mother Julia).

At the very centre of a priest's day is the celebration of the Mass. There he unites himself with Christ on the altar in his offering to the Father for the redemption of mankind. From his daily sacrifice, the priest himself first of all should receive grace, life, wisdom and strength for his apostolic service. Mother Julia often said that a priest was *Sacerdos et Hostia*, a priest and victim, that is, he has the duty to be the one who offers the sacrifice to God and at the same time the one who is offered as a victim with Christ for the salvation of many. This he does through his obedience, his surrender to God's will, his faithful carrying of the daily cross.

"We thank the Lord for the presence of Mother Julia's spiritual daughters with us in the bishop's house and in the Cathedral parish here in Letterkenny throughout the past fourteen years. The Sisters, by their prayer and joyful service, support the parish and help to maintain an atmosphere of sacred reverence and prayerfulness here in the Cathedral."

May the Lord of the harvest grant them and the Diocese good vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life, concluded Bishop Boyce.

Pat O'Leary's report on Bishop Boyce's talk at Letterkenny, courtesy The Irish Catholic.

A Thought from Sister Janet.....

Some time ago, just as I sat down on a train and looked out of the window, a thud beside me announced the arrival of a little girl who turned out to be seven years old. "Hello. Can I sit beside you? My name is Georgia." So much for a previously planned peaceful, reflective journey!

The child was delightful. Our half-hour together was fascinating, as one question followed another with the beautifully simple curiosity that is unique to the very young.

Knowing that Georgia's mother was sitting on the seat behind, I suddenly realised, with deep regret, that my own enquiries could, these days, be misconstrued. "Where are you going? What are you going to do? Which are your favourite rides on the fairground?"

The absolutely normal questions that an adult puts to a small child, excited at the prospect of a family day out, are not always as innocent as they might seem. I rapidly altered my conversation and began to describe my own childhood experiences on the Ghost Train, but however much I continued to enjoy Georgia's conversation, some of my own pleasure had disappeared.

The journey reminded me of an afternoon when I chatted with an elderly man who was passing the time before he could collect his granddaughter from school. "I used to love to stand by the school playground and watch the children playing", he said. "It gave me so much pleasure and gave meaning to my day. Now I can't. I'm afraid that people will think that I'm up to something. I still collect my granddaughter from school, but I go for a walk first and

only approach the school when I know it is time for the children to come out. We don't hang around.... but something has gone from my life, something really precious."

Certainly, children are to be loved and protected. Any normal person is horrified by the thought of their spontaneity and innocence being damaged in any way.

Yet those who would hurt children have also hurt those of us who love them. In order to ensure safety for the youngest and most vulnerable amongst us, so many adults have been obliged to step backwards and deny ourselves the opportunity of sharing in the joy of childhood for a few moments. Especially those of us who do not have children, and those who do not work with children are enriched by the freshness and novelty of their outlook. They somehow manage to bring newness into even the most mundane events. How many of us have found ourselves laughing at a comment made in all seriousness by a small child who has succeeded, in a few words, in turning the adult world upside-down?

May children everywhere be filled with freedom and joy...but may they also spread a little of their happiness around them in ever-increasing circles, surrounding those of us who might be bystanders, but who would also like to be participants in their wonder and celebration.

*God bless,
SR JANET, FMDM*

Recently Deceased

VOCATIONAL BRANCHES

Insurance Branch Francis Brennan
Licensed Trade John O'Dwyer, Mrs O'Dwyer, Dermot Sheehan

LOCAL BRANCHES

Ardfield / Rathbarry Seán Hurley, Mary Murphy, Mrs Evans, Mrs Tobin, Peter Callanan, Jeremiah Collins, Agnes O'Flynn

Ballinascreen Charlie O'Hagan, Paddy McGlade, Colm McGuigan, Nancy Bradley, Patsy McWilliams, Michael McCullagh, Margaret Hegarty, Katie Reid, Mary Walsh, Mary Henry

Ballymacelligott Joseph O'Connell, Anne O'Connell

Ballyphehane Michael Walsh, Denis Kidney

Bandon Robbie Wilmot, Ellen O'Sullivan, Lena O'Mahony

Blarney Catherine Hegarty, Ciaran Walsh, Paddy Higgins, Breda Leahy, James Linehan, Hannah Crowley, Mary Mullane, Julia Feeney, Sharen Ruby, Mary Rooney, Sarah Buckley Boyle

Cavan Sr Kieran Wynne, Patsy Moloney

Caheragh Michael O'Donovan, Teddy Minihane, Kitty Collins

Carrigaline James Delanty

Christ the King, Turner's Cross Mrs T O'Sullivan

Cleenish Patrick Joseph McManus, Mary Downey, Paddy Clancy, Pat McGovern, Michael Flanagan, Séamus McGovern, Tony Caulfield, Greta Taylor, Colum Goodwin, Eithne Walls, Mick Boyle, Noreen Fitzpatrick, Celia Carrigan, Margaret Jane Kelly, Sr Assumpta Duffy, Beatrice Keaveney, Phil Maguire, Dermott Timoney, Katie McHughy, Mary Howe, Maggie Jane McBrien, John Gilmurray, Mary Lilly

Clonmellon. Jimmy Fagan, Tommy Cuneen, Anna O'Reilly, Sheila Keating, Michael Keating, Sarah Brown, Brigid Smith, Maureen Gilsean, George Synnott, Séamus Fitzsimons, Tadhg Foley, Kevin Carolan, Fr John Flood, Jack Sheerin, Nell Evans, Paddy Reilly, Oliver Murphy, Mary Molloy, Anna May Donohue

Coolock, St Brendan's John Brady
Crosshaven Fr Michael McCarthy

Doon Kathleen Hayes, Maureen Danaher

Downpatrick Rotha McClurg

Dunboyne Stephanie Reid

Dundalk Maureen Curley, Julia Cunningham

Dunlory Kathleen Gunning

Dunshaughlin Marie Naughton

Edenderry Maisie Foley

Enniskillen Mary McCusker, Catherine Maguire, Mary Ann Regan, Eileen Cassidy, Denise Lyons, Catherine Gillen Boucher, Colm Goodwin, Maureen Ownes, Bridie O'Shea, Philomena Love, Geoffrey Reid, Seán Falconer, Noel McNeill, Margaret Anne Donnelly

Errigal Isobel O'Kane, Carmel O'Kane, Róisín McCarron, George McCloskey, Willie McGuinness

Eskra Rose McGinley

Goleen Mary A Goggin, James O'Driscoll, Paul A Sheehan, Fr McCarthy, Fr O'Mahony, Marie Regan

Harold's Cross Noel Michael White, Bridie Burke

Knockninny Nancy Hughes, Margaret Lee, Connor Maguire, Kathleen McCorry, Mary Brigid McHugh, Enda Maguire, Francis Cassidy, Cormac Lunney, Hugh Lee, Noel McGovern, Séamus Drumm, Eddie Gunn

Marino Bridie Ledwith

Mourne Road Branch Eddie Walsh

Naas Mary O'Shea, Larry Kelly, Bill Maher

Newbawn Stella Gill

Passage West, Co Cork Fr Gerard Collins PP (Founder of the Branch), Margaret Reilly (Sacristan for 30 years)

Portadown Anna Fowler, Kathleen Hagan

Raheen Kay Shanahan

Sandymount Irene Murray

St Joseph's, Limerick. Ann Woods

St Joseph's, Mayfield John Murphy

St Kevin's, Harrington St Nora Armstrong, John Kelly, John Nicholson, Annie Ray, Lily Carmody, Nora Armstrong, Michael Brooks

St Patrick's, Eskra Rosie McGinley

Sts Peter & Paul, Athlone Julia (Dodo) O'Donoghue, Patricia Kenny, Bridie Carty

Templemore Mary Maher

Terenure. Ann Power, Eileen Mullane

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Tournafulla Fr Maurice Curtin, Michael Moroney, Mae Curtin

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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