



The Sheaf

ST. JOSEPH'S YOUNG PRIESTS SOCIETY

www.stjosephsyoungpriestsociety.com



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

WINTER 2011

The Report with Statement of Accounts for the Society's year ended 30 June 2011 was proposed, seconded and adopted at the Central Council Meeting held in St Patrick's College Drumcondra Dublin on Saturday 15 October 2011. Fr Anthony Buckley, Diocese of Cork & Ross concelebrated Mass with Fr Stephen Redmond SJ to open the Council Meeting. Father Buckley was ordained to the priesthood on 4 June this year. Father Redmond is chaplain to the Licenced Trade branch of the Society.

Delivering her report, the General Secretary Brigid Kelly said that during the year under review two new branches were registered in Armagh Province, one in Cashel Province, and three in the Dublin Province. She said 12 branches became inactive and 6 were reactivated, meaning that the position at 30 June 2011 was that in addition to the three staff at the Society's House, the members were organised in 467 branches - 169 branches in Armagh Province, 104 in the Dublin, 127 in the Cashel, 53 in the Tuam provinces - and 14 Vocational branches. A total of around 1,200 people attended one-day congresses in counties Monaghan, Tipperary, Kildare and Mayo. The common theme of the talks at these four assemblies was 'The Road to Emmaus'. It was felt that these congresses were successful in that they gave the local members and benefactors a greater sense of involvement.

Happily the report for the year under review showed a welcome increase from 120 to 130 in the number of clerical students ordained. Only 10 were Irish ordinations however, 120 were ordained overseas. The number of Overseas Students on the register is now 710 and Irish Students are now 117 - meaning that the Charitable Register is now providing assistance for a total of 827 men in preparation for priesthood.

The Society's annual pilgrimage to Knock was on Saturday 25 June. It was held in conjunction with the National Eucharistic Congress. Around 13,000 people attended. Cardinal Brady was the chief celebrant and homilist and most of the other bishops in Ireland participated and helped with the anointing of those who received the Sacrament of the Sick.

The Treasurer, James Finnerty presenting his report which had been previously circulated to the branches, welcomed an overall increase on the Society's incoming resources, but stressed his concern at a fall in branch subscriptions from €696,831 the previous year to €621,823. This was a contributory factor to the reduction in resources expended on Student Support, Vocations Promotion and Management and Administration of the Society

The result of the election of officers for the period commencing 1 November 2011 is shown in the box alongside. The President, Mr George Dee was elected for a term of three years, the others for a period of one year, except the treasurer Mr James Finnerty, who indicated his inability to serve for other than a short period due to his family and many other commitments. The four Provincial Presidents, for Armagh, Dublin, Cashel and Tuam were previously elected locally and were already holding office on 15 October. Father Eamonn Bourke, vocations director for the Archdiocese of Dublin, continues as Chief Chaplain to the Society.

Tributes were paid to the outgoing president for her work in promoting the apostolate of St Joseph's at parish Masses and attending many Society meetings around the country, during her term of office.



Mr George Dee Began Claremorris Co Mayo in the Tuam Archdiocese was elected National President of the Society at the Central Council Meeting in St Patrick's College Drumcondra Dublin in October. He is seen here at the college with his wife Kathy following the announcement of his election.

CENTRAL COUNCIL

October 2011

The following (showing their home dioceses) were elected or appointed to their respective offices

Elected by Central Council

President:

George Dee Tuam

Vice Presidents:

Patrick Denning Kilmore
Dominic Dowling Dublin

Secretary:

May O'Connor Tuam

Assistant Secretary:

Rita Russell Dublin

Treasurer (pro tem):

James Finnerty Clonfert

Committee:

Sean Bolger Ossory
Marian Fennelly Ossory
Marie Hogan Ossory
Josie O'Hare Dromore
Peter Tierney Dublin

Provincial presidents elected locally

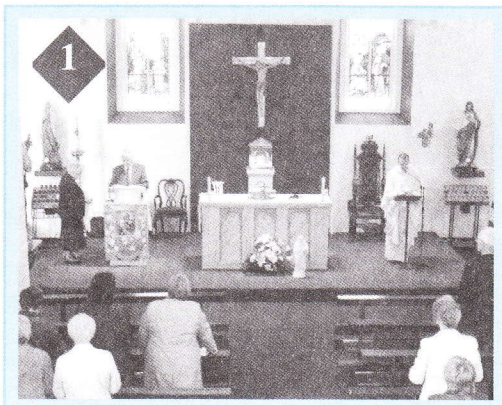
ARMAGH Patrick Denning (Kilmore)
DUBLIN John Murphy (Kildare & Leighlin)
CASHEL Patrick Hayes (Limerick)
TUAM Michael Carthy (Elphin)

Appointed by Central Council

Dominic Dowling - Editor of The Sheaf
Cunningham & Co - Auditor to the Society
Frank Friel & Co - Solicitor to the Society

Appointed by the Archbishop of Dublin

Rev Fr Eamonn Bourke - Chief Chaplain



Pic 1

Mr Dan McCann leading the Prayers of the Faithful during Mass celebrated by Fr Peter McAnenly at Ballapousta. The small statue of St Joseph at the foot of the altar stood until recent years in the little shell house in the plantation at Smarmore Castle. The statue was frequently the focal point of Mrs Taaffe's afternoon walks.

Pic 2

Mr Tony Malia welcomed the congregation to Saint Catherine's church Ballapousta and invited them afterwards to refreshments in the adjoining parish community hall.

Pic 3

Fr Anthony Buckley, Diocese of Cork & Ross, chief celebrant of the Mass at the meeting of Central Council on 15 October 2011

Pic 4

At the pilgrimage to Our Lady's Island in July, Josie Kelly from Tinryland and Fr Brendan Nolan PP joined the choir of male voices from Graiguecullen for the music for the Mass, Procession and Benediction.

Pic 5

Fr Owen McKenna SMA (seated) celebrated Mass at Mrs Taffee's altar for the members in Dublin in August. The officers of the diocesan committee Tony O'Connor (treasurer), Peter Tierney (president) and Rita Russell (secretary) are with him in this photo.

Pic 6

On 11 December 2010 Dublin-born Archbishop Adrian T Smith SM, Archbishop of Honiara Solomon Islands, ordained Fr Belasio Matekavi who studied for the priesthood at Holy Name of Mary Seminary from 2002 to 2009. Father Belasio has written thanking our members and benefactors for their support over the years.

Pic 7

On 26 February 2011 Bishop Philip Sulumeti, Bishop of Kakamega Kenya ordained four new priests for his diocese. They were supported by the Society until ordination. Seen here with his parents during the ceremony is Father Felix Chisaka. He has been appointed assistant priest at St Joseph's Cathedral Kakamega.

Remembering Mrs Taaffe at Ballapousta ...

Fr Peter McAnenly PP, vocations director for the Archdiocese of Armagh, in the course of his talk during Mass in St Catherine's church, Ballapousta Ardee on Sunday 25 September said:

My name is Peter McAnenly, a priest of the diocese for the last 16 years. For the last eight years I've been based in the parish of Dungannon but next weekend I move out to the neighbouring parish of Eglishton in Co Tyrone to be Parish Priest... but I've been asked to stay on as chaplain to the two secondary schools in Dungannon as well. As I said at Masses in the parish this morning, such a change is about letting go and giving thanks for the joys and privileges of what has been, but it's also about looking forward to the future with great hopes and with dreams...

We are all aware our Church needs priests. We need them to celebrate the Sacraments, to be with us in those moments of joy and sadness and to help us to understand the Good News of God's love and mercy for all his people. If I go round the church here I'm sure we all could tell many lovely stories about our experiences of priests and the positive influence that some priests have had on our lives. Unfortunately in recent times, that is one of the things that has been clouded as a result of all of what's been going on in the Church....whilst the media has been quite happy to run with the gossip or with the bit of scandal, time and time again, what has been overlooked is the incredible fidelity and faith and the wonderful commitment of so many good and holy priests.

I know many priests who have acknowledged over these last few years that what has kept them going through difficult times is people like yourselves.....in other words the faith and fidelity of so many wonderful people and not just your support and your care but your ongoing commitment to the Lord and your commitment to living out your faith on a daily basis.

Our faith of course is a gift, a precious gift which all of us inherited. We have received it as a gift from our parents and grandparents and from generations of people who have gone before them. But we too and the people of our time have a responsibility to hand on that same gift. And so it's up to us not to lose that gift. It is our task to ensure that the people of our time and those who will

follow us will come to know Jesus It is our call/mission/task to help them come to a deeper love and understanding of the Eucharist. And that's one of the things that has always inspired me about the work of St Joseph's Young Priests Societywhilst you're involved in promoting vocations to priesthood and religious life, you're also actively involved in giving great witness in the lives that you live and in the work that you do; and in so doing, you share something of your own faith with others and you challenge others to come to know the Lord a little more fully.

For many years you have been responding to the call of Olivia Taaffe, your foundress. Olivia was a woman who believed that all Catholics had a responsibility for the wellbeing of the Church. And so she focused her efforts on supporting priestly vocations in whatever way she could. And over the years over 100,000 people have become involved in the work of her Society in parishes all across the country. And as far as I know there's something like 470 branches in Ireland at the moment.

My mother was a member of St Joseph's for many years....I think she got involved when I was a young student in Maynooth College. Over the years she and a small group of men and women came together every month for their meeting and they did great work like yourselves not just at local level but very often far beyond....they held prayer meetings, praying for the Church, praying for vocations, they had Eucharistic adoration and seminars and retreats and so on.... but as well as their commitment to prayer, they also did so much in terms of generating funds to support young men financially on the path to priesthood.

Over the last few months and I have spent quite a bit of time with a few young men who have been discerning their call in life...men who have been reflecting a lot on the call to priesthood. Three of those men have entered Maynooth and thankfully there are others who are still in touch and who are seriously reflecting on the call to

priesthood. I think that we all need to be praying for a greater openness.... that all of us may be more open so that we may hear God's call and in turn, know what it is that he wants of us as we live our lives.

In our second reading today, St Paul reminded us of the importance of being united in our faith and being united in our love. And he went on to talk about the merit in having a common purpose in mind. And today we not only remember Olivia Taaffe and the purpose of St Joseph's Young Priests Society but we also acknowledge that all of us as members, are people who are actively involved in building his Kingdom among us.

And in keeping with the message of the Gospel today.....all of us are responding to God's will, and we pray that we will continue to respond to that will in all that we do. We pray that through our continued efforts more men and women will give of their lives not just as priests and religious.....but we pray too that many more will give of their lives in living out their faith and become more actively involved in doing good and in sharing the love and the peace of God in the life of their Church and in their local community.

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*

"Let's all do our part..."

In the Book of Jeremiah, the Lord makes this beautiful promise, 'And I will give you shepherds after my own heart who will feed you with knowledge and understanding.' (Jer 3,15). Right now the shepherds seem in short supply. Is God letting us down? I don't think so, but God helps those who help themselves, so just maybe he is waiting for us to do our part...

But what is our part? Well dare I suggest we do what the Lord asks...

■ Firstly. Pray. The Master himself commands us, "The harvest is great but the labourers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers into his harvest" (Luke 10,2). We cannot over-estimate the power of prayer. If we knew the power of prayer we would never get up off our knees. The obstacles to hearing and following God's call are many. How incredible to think that with my prayers and sacrifices I can help a friend or young person I know, to give a decisive yes to God's call.

■ Secondly. Build a stronger culture of vocation by putting God's plans back at the centre of all our lives. As I read somewhere recently, "If we don't all have a vocation, then none of us do." Through Baptism everyone of us is called by Christ to the love and service of God and neighbour and each of us in our own unique way. I suspect many young people are unaware of this great truth that gives such meaning and joy to life. When the Lord said to Jeremiah, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I consecrated you; a prophet to the nations I appointed you." (Jer 1,5) He was telling all of us that He has a plan, a destiny for the lives of each and every one of us. It does not matter if it is my five year old niece or my 81 year old neighbour. God has a plan and a place for us all in that plan.

■ Thirdly. Suggest it to someone, invite someone. When God calls he often does so through other people. Think of Samuel sent to anoint David, or Elijah throwing his cloak over Elisha. Look at the first disciples. No sooner were they called by Jesus than they went off and called others; Andrew called Simon, Philip called Nathaniel. And no one can say they are too old to be the voice of the Lord. Think of Simeon and Anna in the sunset of their lives witnessing to everyone that this child was the promised Messiah. And the way God worked through them he has worked all through history and he still works today. One priest I know told me that in the year he answered the call, five different people suggested he think about being a priest. Of course I am not suggesting we indiscriminately invite just anyone to think about a vocation... that would be imprudent! But we could ask ourselves, is there any young person I know who would make a good priest. We could pray, "Lord show me who you want to call, show me whom you are preparing" And the invitation should be very gentle and respectful. Maybe just a question, like "Did you ever think of being a priest?"

■ Fourthly. Offer yourself. If you are a young man or woman pray about your vocation, asking God what is his plan for you. If you feel you are called to marriage ask him to guide you to the person he has planned for you but don't close the door to a life totally dedicated to spreading the Gospel. Lord do you want me to be your priest? Do you want me to be a nun or consecrated to you? And if you love him a lot and are brave enough go one step further and pray, "Here I am Lord. Call me." He won't be long in answering that prayer.

God wants to give us Shepherds after his own heart. He is preparing them but he needs hearts to pray for them and voices to call them. Let's all do our part so they can say "Yes" to God.

- Fr Fergal O Duill

Brendan Daly RIP 1927 - 2011

Brendan Daly, National President of the Society from 1975 to 1981, died on 29 September 2011. He was a dedicated member of the Society from the time he commenced employment in 1947 with the Department of Post & Telegraphs in Waterford, until his death.

In 1966 Brendan was a founder member of the Munster Regional Committee of the Society. That committee was a fore-runner of the Provincial Councils which were introduced under the 1972 Constitution. In 1972 he was elected Cashel Provincial President and he went on to become at age 48 the youngest ever President of the Society.

He was elected a member of the National Executive Committee in 1968 and served on that committee for 40 years. During that time he was involved in many areas of the Society. He produced the Commentary & Guide to the 1972 Constitution and this is still being used as a reference by many branches. He was involved in researching for many events, including the book Olivia Mary Taaffe that was written by Fr J Anthony Gaughan and published as a part of our Centenary Celebrations. For his work for the Society Brendan was conferred with the papal honour Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice in 1993.

Brendan is survived by his wife Eileen, who was a tremendous support to him in all his work. He is also survived by his son, daughter, and four grandchildren.

A quotation from the Book of Micah (6:8) reminds me of Brendan:
... this is what Yahweh asks of you:

only this, to act justly, to love tenderly and to walk humbly with your God.

Ar dheis De go raibh a anam dilis. E S

Recently Deceased

VOCATIONAL BRANCHES

Insurance Branch Des O'Brien, Pat O'Connor

Motor Trade Branch Fr Seamus Ward SJ son of the late Jimmy Ward, a founder of the branch

Vintners Branch, Limerick Mary Foley

LOCAL BRANCHES

Abbeyfeale Louis McEnery, Kathleen Wren, Donie Cusack

Armagh Breige Corrigan,

Ballybricken, Waterford Brendan Daly, a Past President of the Society

Ballymagroarty Michael Kerr, Phoebe Doherty

Ballyphehane Sr Delia, William Buckley, Eddie O'Mahony

Blackpool Bridget Walsh, May Smith

Blarney John Forrest, Margaret Ryan, John Kiely, Patrick Walsh, Frank O'Brien, Declan O'Mahony, Conor Nagle, Maisie McSweeney, Cornelius Shine, Denis Lynch, Nigel Coulter, Martin Noonan, Mary O'Driscoll, Paddy Horgan

Bohermeen Teresa Hogan, Nancy Fitzsimons

Carrigaline Sheila McCarthy

Cashel Eileen Knightly, Vera Scannell, Teresa Grant

Castlepollard Joseph Cunningham, Mary Heslin, Bernadette Maguire

Castletown-Kilpatrick Pal Reid

Castlewella Sally Crego

Christ the King, Turner's Cross

Ann Bannon, Eileen Manning, Joan Winning, Mervyn McGregor

Churchtown Sadie O'Doherty

Cleenish Mary Teresa Owens, Terence DeLacy, Paul McGinley, Phil Connors,

John Quinn, Kathleen Lunny, Matt Maguire, Bernadette Large, William McSherry, John McGrath, Yvonne McKenzie, Margaret Duffy,

Sarah Leonard, Terence McGovern, Patsy Murphy, Margaret Britton, John McBarron

Douglas Kitty Sherman

Drogheda Aidan Flanagan, Paddy Gallagher

Dundalk Biddy Bogley, Jimmy McNulty,

Carmel Minogue

Dundalk, St Patrick's branch

Rosaleen McCourt, John Arthurs

Dundrum George O'Hara, Peg Guest

Edenderry Jerry Hickey, Paddy Dunne

Edenmore, St Monica's branch

Brendan Burke

Eskra Josie Kelly, Patricia McSorley,

Pat Treanor, Peggy McBride, Gerry Corrigan,

Maimie Mullan, Mary O'Hagan,

Gerry O'Hagan

Foxrock Dame Anna Dowling

Galmoy Kitty Gannon

Glasthule Margaret (Peggy) Carden,

Cyril Cardon

Goleen Angela O'Sullivan, Julia Newman,

Ann O'Mahony, Sean Griffin, Mary

McCarthy, John O'Donoghue, Denis

O'Sullivan, Joseph Goggin, Josephine Goggin,

Denis Warde

Killoughter Sr Damien Kelly, Sean Cusack,

Philip Smith, Tom Heneghan, Rose Reilly,

Carmel Nulty, Mick McCabe, Donal Smith,

Eileen Brady, Rose Brady, Pat Tully,

Pat Brady, John Leonard, Sr Leo O'Callaghan,

Michael Mulvanny, Eugene Leonard,

Cassie Matthews, Kevin Brady, Larry Sherry,

Harry Tully, Bridget Smith

Knockninny Brian Donegan,

Mary Flanagan, Mairead Murphy,

Joe McBrien, James Nugent, James Gilleece,

Nora McCauley, Michael McDaid,

Alice Keenan, P J Lunney

Maghera Mary McKenna, John McMath,

Harry Stewart, Bridget McCusker, Clare

Bradley, Brigid Doherty, James Dougan,

James Heaverson, Michael Porter

Marino Sean McCabe, Peter Shelvin

Mount Merrion Maura Murray

Naas Eileen Kelly

Newbridge Bill McCarthy

Portadown Bridget Hayes, Rose McVeigh,

Jimmy McNally, Mary Hall, Marie Foy

St Agnes, Belfast Sean Doran, treasurer of the

branch and Down & Connor diocesan

president

St Ignatius, Galway Christina Ruane

St John the Baptist, Clontarf Bríd Corcoran,

Art McGann, Thomas Healy

St John Vianney, Ardlea Larry Byrne

St Kevin's, Harrington St Bridget Dineen,

Eugene Bresnihan, Dan Birmingham

St Mary's, Creggan, Derry May Mullan

St Mary's, Limerick Marina Smith

St Munchin's, Limerick Eileen Conway

St Patrick's, Pennyburn Kathleen Deeney,

Annie Morgan, Maeve Gallagher

Templemore Sally Cummins

Templeogue Sheila Reynolds

Terenure Ella McMenamin

Trim Kathleen McGowan, Rose Daly, Rose

Bagnal

Tracton Nellie Cowhig

Urlingford/Graine Julia Mullaly

General Oliver Purcell

ANONYMOUS DONATIONS

€22.24, €50.00, €50.00