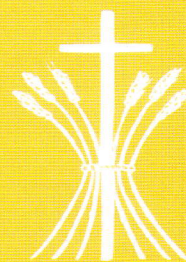


The Sheaf

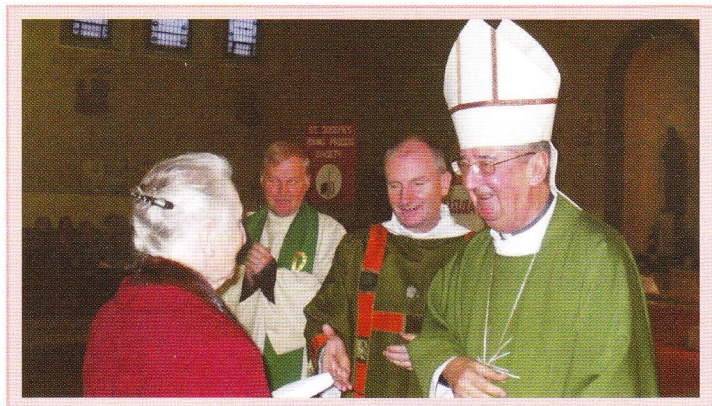
ST. JOSEPH'S YOUNG PRIESTS SOCIETY

www.stjosephsyoungpriestssociety.com



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

WINTER 2012



Presentation by the Archbishop of Dublin, Dr Diarmuid Martin, at the Church of the Holy Child, Whitehall, on Sunday 18 November 2012

The Society was pleased, on the occasion of the Mass it arranged in November to give thanks for the Priesthood in Ireland, to also celebrate the presentation by the Archbishop of Dublin, of the *Benemerenti Medal* awarded by Pope Benedict XVI to Maureen Keogh, one of its most dedicated and esteemed members.

Archbishop Martin presented Miss Keogh with the Papal Medal in recognition of her work for the Society over many decades. Looking on in the photo are V Rev John Gilligan Adm Westland Row and Deacon Brendan Kealy.

Maureen has devoted her whole adult life to furthering the aims of the Society since she first became a member in 1949. She was a member of the Motor Trade Branch from her base in Dunlops for many years. Maureen acted as Assistant Honorary Secretary of the Society nationally from 1974 until 1986 when she was appointed General Secretary of the Society and she continued in that post for over 10 years.

In more recent years, Maureen has been an active member of her local branch of the Society in Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, Harold's Cross, Dublin, at the same time maintaining a high level of involvement with the Teachers Branch, with the Dublin Diocesan Committee and the Central Council of the Society. But it was perhaps as the driving force behind the organisation of the Society in the

south central Dublin district that Maureen has met with the greatest success. She has been indefatigable in the unrelenting effort and attention she has given to the establishment of new parish branches and to assisting a number of branches experiencing difficulties.

The fruits of her work and prayers are there to see, especially in the number of new branches in North Kildare and South Dublin. Perhaps the following extract from a handwritten letter sent by Maureen to the president of each local branch in her district in January wishing all members every blessing both spiritual and temporal and offering the full support and advice of the District Committee at any time, best encapsulates Maureen's approach: "As we begin another year let us all resolve to do our level best to promote the aims of the Society in our own parishes and further afield. Let us endeavour to invite, to encourage and hopefully involve as many as possible to pray for an increase in vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life and to strengthen the Parish Branches"

Maureen who is truly a person whose lifelong commitment to fostering the aims of Saint Joseph's Young Priests Society richly deserves the award of the *Benemerenti Medal*. Her self-effacing quiet and prayerful way and her deep faith have been an inspiration to all who have met her.

The Benemerenti Medal

Benemerenti Medals are awarded to men and women who have merited special recognition by the Holy See. The Medals are Pontifical Decorations instituted by Pope Pius IV in 1775, and are conferred on people who have distinguished themselves by their accomplishments by giving special service to Catholic principles or by showing an active fidelity to and love for the Church.

The medal is worn on the breast, suspended by ribbons of the papal colours. It is a cross composed of one large and four small squares. It shows the image of Christ, whose hand raised in blessing. On the left of the transverse arm of the cross is a depiction of the tiara and crossed keys, and to the right is the shield of the Pope and his motto. On the reverse is the word *Benemerenti*, which means "good merit".

The award is accompanied by an Apostolic Diploma in Latin, which may be translated as follows:

**BENEDICTUS XVI,
PONTIFEX MAXIMUS**

**BENEDICT XVI,
SUPREME PONTIFF**

*honouring by a mark of distinction,
has seen fit to bestow upon*

MAUREEN KEOGH

*the Medal Benemerenti,
established for those exceedingly
well deserving in Christian
matters.*

Given at the Vatican, 2012

2013 SATURDAY CONGRESSES

23 March – All Hallows, Dublin

6 April – St John's Centre, Knock

13 April – Kilmurphy Lodge, Limerick

20 April – St Macartan's, Monaghan

Klatovy,
Czech Republic.



Dear Friends,

Let me introduce myself. My name is Petr Mecl and I am 45 years old. In this year I finished my preparation for service as the priest. My original profession is teaching. I studied at the pedagogical faculty of the Charles University in Prague. Then I worked as the teacher at the different grades of education and at the different schools.

From 2004 I was for two years the secretary of Bishop Radkovský and in 2006 I went again to school as a student. I started my studies at the theological faculty of the seminary at Prague. There I finished my studies of philosophy. After two years I continued my studies of the theology at Pontificia Università Lateranense in Rome.

Bishop František Radkovský of Pilsen ordained me on 18 August 2012. Now I am the chaplain in Klatovy, a town south of Pilsen.

I would like to thank you for your help during the time of my preparation for service to God, to the Church, to the people. Thanks to your support I could be at the Czech College in Rome and acquire many books and other things for my today's service.

I would like to celebrate the Holy Mass for you or for your intentions. For your foundation I will celebrate the Holy Mass on 12 November.

Let our God send his blessing down on you and I ask for the intercession of Our Lady, the Virgin Maria.

Yours sincerely,
(Fr) Petr Mecl



The Ss Peter and Paul branch of the Society in Athlone recently marked the retirement from the branch of Teresa Keogh. Teresa, who lives in the Batteries, Athlone, was the president of the branch and, though she will no longer attend meetings she will still remain active, having been involved since 1985. The new president is Angela Costello. The group meets once a month in the Liturgical Centre with Canon Liam Devine as chaplain, and raises monies for the tuition fees of seminarians.

Pictured above are (back, l to r):

Patricia Lynch, Rose Kirby-O'Hanlon, Canon Liam Devine, Angela Costello, Blanche Harney, and Anne Savage.

(front, l to r): Sr Muriel Fetherston, Nell Geraghty, Teresa Keogh, Bridie Woods and Sr Bríd Geraghty.



Seen here with Dominic Dowling at the Society's House is Sr Angela, Convent of Mercy, Booterstown who presented a cheque for €500 in memory of the late Sr Magdalena Frisby, who was a member of the Booterstown Branch.

King William's Town,
South Africa.
20th September, 2012

Dear Members of the Society,

It is with jubilation, happiness, joy and a deep sense of gratitude that I'm writing this letter. I cannot begin to express my joy for being able to have finished my studies without wanting and needing anything.

The day our late Bishop Coleman told me he has accepted me for priesthood was what I thought 'a good day,' not knowing what lay ahead of me. I did my orientation year in Oudtshoorn (a small semi-desert town) and when I arrived there I could not envision a happy stay in that orientation seminary! Within no time, I blended very well with other students from neighbouring dioceses.

The following six years, we were sent to Cape Town for the remaining years of our priestly studies. It was in Cape Town that my priestly vocation was nurtured to another level.

Finally, this year April 27th, I was ordained a priest, in one of the most beautiful churches of our Diocese, Pawulos Oyingcwele (St Paul's) Catholic Church. That was indeed one of a good day, a great day!

This was all possible because of your funding. I have no words and the word 'thank you' seems inadequate for what you have made possible because of your generosity.

I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Umuntu ngumuntu ngabantu!

Yours in the ministry of our Lord.

Fr Xolisile Kondlo

St. Columban's, Navan, Co. Meath.

18 October, 2012

Dear workers for St Joseph's Young Priests Society,

I introduce myself as a retired Columban missionary who has worked many years in a small diocese in the centre of the Philippines. When we took over that area in 1950, we replaced four Filipino priests and three Spanish priests.

Today, that diocese has about fifty local diocesan priests. St Joseph's Young Priests Society is the great benefactor of the diocese as they have financed

- Ten ordained priests
- Four awaiting ordination
- Five major seminarians.

So on behalf of our beloved Bishop Patrick Buzon (a Salesian) and the whole diocese of Kabankalan, I wish to thank you all sincerely for the great help you have given in supporting those students for ordination.

Twenty years ago, I requested help from your office in 23 Merrion Square for a seminarian in the major seminary (theology only - 5 years). The response was generous,

I have told the beneficiaries many times to offer Mass and to pray for St Joseph's Young Priests Society in Ireland. So once again on behalf of our Bishop Buzon SDB and the good people of Kabankalan diocese, I say Thank You, Thank You, Thank You.

With every good wish

Yours sincerely

Fr Patrick Hurley.

*In the course of his homily at the Church of the Holy Child, Larkhill,
Dr Díarmuid Martin Archbishop of Dublin, said:*

The New Evangelisation and the Year of Faith proclaimed by Pope Benedict XVI are not just about plans and strategies and programmes. They are about the manner in which we authentically live our faith as a gift received from the God who is revealed in Jesus Christ. Jesus calls us to witness to that gift of faith in a doubting and uncertain world, but also a world which is searching and seeking for something deeper in life.

The first witness of the priest, as one who is entrusted with proclaiming the Word of God, is to show that his faith in Jesus really brings meaning and hope into his own life. Only the fully evangelized can be true evangelizers.

The challenge of New Evangelisation is one which requires courage and enthusiasm. We thank God at this celebration for our priests and how they today continue faithfully to carry out their ministry in the face of ever deeper challenges from both within and outside the Church.

"Being a priest today is following a lonely and unsettling furrow, but the vast majority of priests know that they have the human and spiritual resources to face those realities. If any group has faced and existentially lived through the crisis that the Church is experiencing in Ireland and have led the path to turning the corner of renewal it is priests".

I choose these last words about priests deliberately because they are words I used in a talk last year as an expression of my support for and indeed my admiration for the work of priests. I was saddened when one commentator later, ignoring these words, took up another phase of that talk, misrepresented it and said that I had used the occasion only to undermine priests. That misrepresentation continues regularly to re-appear in other news reports.

Priests today, in the face of many difficulties and challenges they face, are not helped by negative polemics or personal agendas. Like any of us, as I said earlier, there are moments in which the frustrations of priests - with the ups and downs of their lives and the uncertainties they experience about how their ministry is experienced - can lead them to dejection. That is why priests need our prayers and our support so that they can carry out their mission with renewed enthusiasm and dedication.

Our Church needs priests; our Church needs holy priests; our Church needs priests whose lives are deeply rooted in the word of God and in prayer; our Church needs priests who find fulfilment in what is at the heart of their ministry; our priests need to be



Archbishop Díarmuid Martin with (l to r) Frs Damian Farnon, Peter O'Connor, Michael O'Grady, John Gilligan, and with Deacon Brendan Kealy, Frs Niall Mackey, Gerry Kane and John Jones, photographed at the Church of the Holy Child, Larkhill on 18 November for the Mass celebrated 'in thanksgiving for priesthood'.

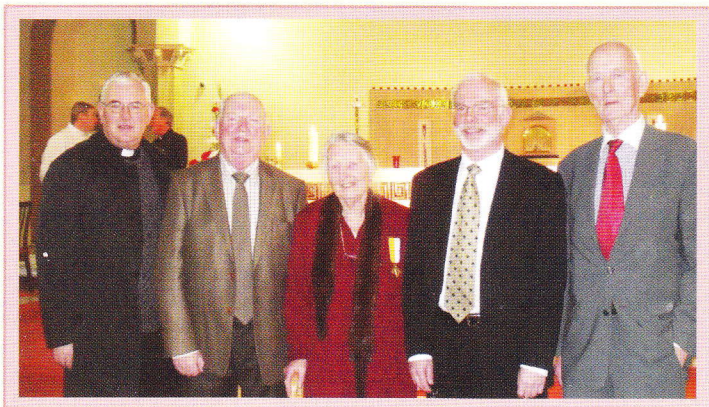
encouraged to find new ways of priestly fraternity. The prayerful support of the entire believing community is vital to their identity and ministry. Priests need to know just how much their ministry is vital to the lives of those they are called to serve. I am privileged to witness that support of parishioners for their priests week by week in the parishes I visit. The fruitfulness of priestly ministry is interconnected with the prayers and the Christian life of the entire community of believers.

We are here to encourage more young men to listen to the signs of the time that are present in their own hearts and discern whether Christ may not be calling them towards a priestly vocation. Again this is not just a matter of new campaigns and programmes. Vocations spring from within the life of the community of believers. The more we reflect on and live out the centrality of the Eucharist, the more we will understand how vital the mission of the priest is as minister of the Eucharist and as one whose life becomes what is celebrated in the Eucharist. The priest must develop a likeness to the Jesus who revealed through his suffering and death the greatness of God's love.

We thank God today also for the work of Saint Joseph's Young Priests Society and for your continuous prayerful and practical support for vocations and for the ministry of priests. At the conclusion of this Mass, I will present the Papal Medal *Bene Merenti* to Maureen Keogh who has contributed to and inspired your work over so many years. We thank God for her work, alongside so many other men and women, who gratefully recognise, respect and sustain the unique ministry of priest in today's world.

Jesus' message about the future of creation and where the world is going is in fact not just a message about the future but a message about how we live our faith today. It is a message about our belief in the fact that Jesus' word will prevail. It is a belief that goodness and love can prevail and that goodness will prevail if we respond to evil with goodness and if we respond to the effects of greed and selfishness by living a life of goodness and self-giving love.

History is not just the science of looking back. History is the story of the passage and transmission, generation after generation, of what is good and truthful and loving so that our living together as God's family bears a fruit that is worthy of our humanity, as it journeys under the inspiration of the Spirit towards the blessed hope, the coming into our lives of the salvation of Jesus Christ.



Maureen Keogh with her parish priest V Rev Gerry Kane, Kieran Hickey chairman of the Dublin Diocesan Committee, Peter Tierney president of the Bankers Branch and Tony O'Connor treasurer of the Dublin Diocesan Committee, at the Church of the Holy Child, Larkhill on 18 November.

Courtesy Visit to the Pontifical University



Armagh Provincial President, Pat Denning, has sent us this photograph of members and friends from the Kilmore and Meath dioceses who visited the seminarians studying for priesthood at St Patrick's College Maynooth during the summer.

Rev Deacon Seán Maguire, who has since been ordained for the Diocese of Kilmore and is now a curate at Bunnoe, Cootehill, Co Cavan, showed the visitors around the College, the museum which is not normally open, and St Mary's Oratory before they joined the seminarians for lunch in the Pugin Hall. The visit concluded with a celebration of the Eucharist at which Rev Ronan Drury Professor of Homiletics and Editor of 'The Furrow' was the celebrant.

Recently Deceased

LOCAL BRANCHES

Ardagh & Moydow Mary Grehan
Ardee Brian Lynch, Mary Sharkey, George Osborne, Johnny Byrne, Mary French, Kitty Byrne, Fr Paddy Kennedy, Fr Kevin Steen
Ardfield/Rathbarry Frances O'Driscoll, Jim Nyhan
Armagh Elizabeth Oliver
Ballina Fr Muredach Tuffy
Ballinascreen Alice Jo O'Neill, Annie McCrory, Clare O'Kane, Garry Manning, Helen Kelly, Philip Doherty, Martin Breen, Mary Cleary, Patrick Joseph McGuigan, Rosie McGuigan, Oliver Sargent, Margaret Kennedy, Eugene McGarvey
Ballyphehane Eileen Garvey, Áine McAuliffe, Gretta Galvin, Billy O'Neill
Bekan Jeremy Dee, Sarah Forde, Mary Murray, John Kelly, Mary Morris
Blackpool Josephine O'Shea, Rose Keane
Blarney Brenda Mulcaire, Adrian Hickey, Helena Hamilton, Ted O'Connor, Jim Horgan, Declan O'Connor, Tony Earle Alan Cahill, Eileen O'Donoghue
Botha/Derrygonnelly John (Sonny) Hearn, Mary Treacy, Joe Elliott, Josie Elliott, Tom Greene, Peggy Jones, Paddy Flanagan, Annie Britton, Teresa McCauley, Bobby Beatty, Fergus Farrell, Margaret Leonard
Boyle Sr Sarto Harlow
Caherdavin Nora Lowney, Denis W Lowney, John Michael Lowney
Carrigaline Olive O'Connell, Tom Foster
Cashel Maura Quinlan.
Christ the King, Turner's Cross Bernadette McCarthy, Billy Maxwell, Eileen Noonan, Maurice Noonan, Christine Thomas
Cleenish Rose Cunningham, Cassie Ray, Terence Leonard, Laura Spence, Kathleen McGourty, Ellen Maguire, Gary McGowan, Mary Treacy, Michael McTiernan, Murty Coryn, Anna Stewart, Kathleen Stewart, Anne Keenan
Clonakilty Mary Cooke
Douglas Bertrand Darmagnac

Drogheda Peter McMonagle, Patsy Black
Dundalk Patricia Harrison
Ennis Mary Quinn
Enniskeane Teddy O'Leary
Enniskillen Onnie McGovern, Margaret Presley, Johnny Henderson, Owen Curry, Josie Cleary, Gerry Dolan, Bridget McCormack, Gary McGowan, Frank Carney, Murty Cornyn, Kathleen O'Connell
Fermoy Kathleen O'Connor
Goleen Betty O'Leary, Kevin Hodnett, Dermot Cullinane, Denis Downey, Jerry Kennedy, Joe Barry, Colin Sweetman, Joe O'Sullivan, Dorothy Rich, Neil Lynch
Glendermott Ethna Johnston
Irvinestown Eileen O'Hara, Noreen Breen, Sarah Tomany, Annie McAirt, Fred Beacom, Sarah Rehill, Séamus Barnett, Beatrice Gormley, John Bonnar, Patsy McKenna, Wm Spratt, Eamon McGarrity, George Brogan, Clifford Brian Edwards
Killorglin Sheila Monroe
Knockninny Dolores McManus, Mary Wynne, Michael Cogan, Rose Ann Gunn, Anna O'Rourke, James Dolan, Hubie McCaffrey, Tommy Reilly, Jim McGovern, Tommy Burke, Brendan Reilly, Paddy Drumm, Margaret Prosser, Peadar Lunney
Letterkenny Frank Comiskey
Limavady Paddy Corr, Teresa Ferris
Lordship & Ballymacscanlon Kathleen Cumiskey, Charlie Dullaghan, Philip Duffy, Brian McDonald, Owen Keenan, Monica McDermott, Ciss McShane, Peter Traynor, John Carroll, Mary O'Connell, Bernadette Callan, Margaret Breen, Bernadette Breen, Francis Loughran, Therese Taffee, Mairead White, Aleece Ryan, Joe Finnegan, Gavin Sheelan
Maghera Bridie McGuckin, Anne Hutchinson, Samuel Woods, Kathleen Convery, Seán Conway, Annie Tohill, John Bradley, Betty McKeefry, Michael Convery, John McEldowney, Andy McCusker, Séamus McKee
Mallow Michael Ferris, Kitty Tuohy, Noel Tuohy, Frank O'Keefe
Middleton Branch Jerry Wallis, Mary O'Brien, John McCarthy

Monasterboice Alice Brennan
Monkstown Anna Tisdall
Mountnugent/Balinacree Joe Daly, Molly Clarke, Patricia Gavin, Philomena Cullen, Mary Kelly, Fr Frank O'Reilly PP
Mourne Road, Dublin Rita Cody, George Fox
Our Lady Crowned (Mayfield) Gerry Foley, Finbarr Lucey
Our Lady of the Rosary (Limerick) Tom O'Neill
Pennyburn David Ramsey, Ella Burns, Jack McElholm
Portadown Teresa Leonard, Barney Lavery, Bridget O'Connor, Paddy Gorman
Rahan Philomena Hussey
Rathmines Marie McGlynn, Eileen Hoey, Sheila Byrne
St Anthony's, Clontarf Kitty Nolan, Charles Sydnor, Teresa Rice, Catherine Murphy, Maureen McGeoghie
St Ignatius's, Galway Annie Faherty, Margaret Duggan, Mary Conroy, Chris Ruane
St John the Baptist, Clontarf Mary Streicher, Hubert May
St John Vianney, Ardlea Vera Mulcahy
St Kevin's, Harrington Street Kathleen O'Brien, Kathleen Simms, Paudge Snee, Margaret Donohue
St Mary's, Edgeworthstown May Clarke
St Mary's, Limerick Paddy Keane
St Patrick's, Limerick Annie Noonan
St Sylvester's, Malahide Alice Gibney
Swanlinbar Patsy Cassidy, Ben O'Brien, James Maguire, Tom Carron, Seán Gilheany, Francis Maguire, Rose Gilleece, May Cassidy
Tournafulla Patsy Hartnett, Bob Larkin.
Trillick Jane Montgomery, Sara Ellen Farry
GENERAL Dr Patrick Francis OSA Bishop Emeritus of Yola & Kano Diocese, Nigeria

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

€20, €30, €40, €50, €50, €80, €100, €100, €100
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