

The Sheaf



SJYPS



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ST. JOSEPHS YOUNG PRIESTS SOCIETY

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AUTUMN 2019



Newly ordained by Bishop Donal McKeown in St Eugenes Cathedral, Derry, is Fr Declan McGeehan who celebrated his first Mass in St Columbs Church, Longtower. He is pictured receiving a stole from St Josephs Young Priests Society, presented by Christina McLaren, Derry Diocesan President of the Society. Included in the photo are Margaret Curry and Celine McDaid from Faughanvale and Glendermott branches. Picture courtesy of The Net Newspaper.



Officers and members of Clonallon Pastoral Area - Warrenpoint, Rostrevor, Burren, Mayobridge, and Clonduff parishes attended a Mass for Vocations in St Peters Church Warrenpoint. Included is Canon J Kearney who concelebrated the Mass with Fr McGivern and Fr C Byrne Mayobridge.



Cardinal Sean Brady presided at the liturgical celebration marking the start of phase 2 development of the Redemptoris Mater Armagh Archdiocesan Missionary Seminary in Dundalk. Members of St Josephs were please to meet the students and their Rector at refreshments afterwards



A moment of joy after the Candidacy Ceremony of Gabriel and Michal at the Dundalk Sminary



At the Congress: (L to R) Fr Seamus McEntree, Dominic Dowling, John Murphy, Marie Dempsey, David Quinn and Professor Michael Mulally



Marie Dempsey Tuam Provincial President (centre) with members from Galway and Limerick (L to R) Maureen Corbett, Mary Flynn, Caroline Griffin, and Una Nunan. Mark Mc Cormick from DCU is with them for the photo.

National Congress : August 24th/25th 2019

Theme

“Be not afraid” : “The Lord is my Shepherd”



Members from all corners of Ireland came together for our annual Congress over two days in late August. For those who attended, it was a wonderfully happy and informative occasion blessed with good weather, excellent speakers and a fun evening of music and song. Congress began and ended with Mass lending the right tone to our deliberation. We had an hour of Adoration for Vocations on Sunday morning, thanks to Fr Seamus and Fr Gilbert.

Deacon Eric Cooney, National Vocations Office reminded us that it was the Feast of St Bartholomew, Apostle and Martyr, who transformed from being cynical to great faith following his encounter with Jesus. Eric's main focus is to support Vocations Directors. The national Come and See weekend last November attracted 14 men while the same number attended Maynooth in May. This is a great encouragement to those already seminarians. The propedeutic year at Valledolid is invaluable in spending time with men on their journey. Eric informed us that 1000 young people attended Youth 2000 at Clongowes. Bishop Cullinan met with 39 men interested in Priesthood. Great things are happening, we should not be afraid.

After lunch, President John Murphy welcomed us. He quoted Deuteronomy where Moses told Joshua not to be afraid that the Lord would lead him out of the desert. John reminded us also of the twofold purpose of the Society. He introduced Fr David Vard, Portlaoise the youngest diocesan priest in the country. Fr David took us through his journey to priesthood from dismissing Religion as not for him to a trip to Lourdes as a helper where he witnessed the faith of the Pilgrims while speaking to a priest who awakened the Call in him. Good priests can influence men to become priests.

David Greer Armagh Provincial President introduced Baroness Nuala O'Loan, Member of the House of Lords and former Northern Ireland Police Ombudsman where she experienced great goodness and evil. She shared a very personal account of tragedy and fear in her own life and how she got through it, which gives us courage to face our uncertain times. She defined what it is to be catholic as a call to and sense of holiness, to be attentive to the present, reaching out to new people in our community quoting St Teresa Christ has no hands but yours etc. We should not underestimate what we can give.

Then a Q&A session was open to the floor. Padraig O'Brien Treasurer advised that income has halved in the past ten years and should that trend continue there would be nothing left in ten years. New ways of fundraising will have to be devised. The president added that we have reserves, a revised application process to include more stringent checks and an open invitation to leave money to the Society. Gerry Quinn reminded us that if tax payers donate more than €250, sign the appropriate form with their PPS the Society can claim 31% back. Jean Clarke from the North pointed out that their tax system does not recognise the Society's charitable status. John Deacy, Skibereen was successful with personal letters to households followed by a visit to gain new members. Further discussion took place around Church gate collections and rebranding the name of the Society with the addendum: supporting vocations to avoid confusion. Josie O'Hare suggested Mission Sunday as suitable for raising awareness. Contemplative Orders could be invited to pray for vocations. Fr Gilbert encouraged us by reminding us that we are doing what the Gospel requires, that there is no future without the priest. He also spoke briefly about the 100 years of Christian living in Rwanda.

After tea we enjoyed an evening of music and song by Josie Kelly Tinryland branch and Enda Smyth, Leixlip branch.

David Quinn, reminded us that Be not afraid is the most recurring phrase in the Bible. Christianity has survived against impossible odds, even Atheists know Jesus. People have moved away from an authoritarian Church only to be led by social media which brings its own problems of anxiety and a feeling of not keeping up. The same scandals in the Church have happened in sport but people have not given that up. All the negative publicity has been aimed at the Church. There is no alternative but to not be afraid and keep going as a community of God, our encounter with Jesus making life worthwhile where ordinary people live saintly lives. David spoke about the Sisters who sacrificed their lives to be nurses and teachers of the poor. While our numbers of students are scarce, other parts of the world are doing great. A diocese has to look like it wants vocations with a dedicated and motivated Vocations Director supported by the Bishop.

Professor Michael Mullaney, introduced by Dominic Dowling, is President of the Pontifical University of Maynooth with more than 700 lay students while Fr Tom Surlis has sole responsibility for the students in the Seminary with 34 residents and 30 non-resident students for priesthood. He thanked us for keeping the Faith and supporting and recognising the value of Maynooth Seminary. The Church will go forward trusting in the primacy of God's grace through the witness, leadership and teaching of Pope Francis. He is challenging us to change to a new way of church by being more adult, less passive, recover our sense of Mission and be outgoing: this is not just an Era of Change but Change of an Era, to a synodal Church that includes all people.

Mass was led by Fr Michael. Following St Luke's Gospel about the narrow door to heaven – will only a few be saved? We should make ourselves humble, have compassion rather than indifference, be close to God and after will come fulfilment. St Catherine of Sienna said the way to hell is rejection of closeness to God.

A CD of all talks at Congress, may be ordered from the General Secretary at 23 Merrion Square.



Marian Fennelly
(Vice President of the Society)

SJYPS - Missionary to the Core

Fr Séamus McEntee – Chief Chaplain

In the Church's yearly calendar, October is marked as the Month of the Rosary but it is also the month to reflect on what it means to be missionary. 2019 marks the 100th anniversary since the publication of Pope Benedict XVI's mission document, *Maximum Illud* (that momentous call). It was the first major mission document of the 20th century and it signaled a new way to understand more fully that "momentous call" of the Lord to "go into the whole world and preach the Gospel to all creation" (Mk 16:15). To mark the occasion, Pope Francis called for an Extraordinary Month of Mission, celebrated in October 2019.

The theme which Pope Francis has chosen for this extraordinary month of mission is "baptised and sent". He wants to rekindle in every baptised person that sense that we are all called to mission, to witness, to teach, to win others for Christ. And being sent on mission is at the core of what SJYPS is about. Though we may not be able to go on mission ourselves, our desire is that through our prayers and support of seminarians, priests all over the world are going on mission with our support.

A great tradition of involvement in the modern missionary movement of the Church grew up in Ireland throughout the latter half of the 19th century and early 20th century. From every parish in Ireland, men and women travelled to the ends of the earth as missionaries. Five Irish Catholic missionary orders were founded: St Columban Society (also known as the Maynooth Mission to China) in 1916; the Missionary Sisters of St Columban in 1922; the Missionary Sisters of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary in 1924; St Patrick's Foreign Missionary Society (Kiltegan) in 1932; and finally, in 1937, the Medical Missionaries of Mary. These missionary orders had a substantial influence in the countries where they put down roots. There was also increased missionary activity with lay societies such as SJYPS (1895), the Pioneer Association (1898), the Legion of Mary (1921) and so on.

Many foreign missionary orders were also founded in the mid-19th century, such as the SMA Fathers (1856), The White Fathers (1868), the Divine Word Missionaries (1875), the Pallotines (1845), The Mill Hill Missionaries (1866), Missionaries of the Sacred Heart (1854), Salesians (1859) Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate (1816) and these along with many well established orders such as the Jesuits,

Vincentians, Franciscans, all had houses in Ireland and actively recruited here to send missionaries abroad. Through these new missionary institutes and family networks, our missionaries have contributed enormously to the mission entrusted to the Church by the Lord.

I myself had three grand-aunts who were Sisters of St Joseph of Cluny and spent many years in the Seychelles Islands on the foreign missions. And when I was in my 20s I was inspired by the missionary life of St Ignatius and St Teresa of Calcutta and joined the Missionaries of Charity Fathers, founded by Mother Teresa. I spent a number of years on the missions in Mexico, India and Italy before finally deciding to become a diocesan priest for the Diocese of Dublin.

The involvement in the missionary movement by so many is something that we as members of SJYPS can be proud of because it was through these Irish Missionaries going abroad to mainly developing countries around the world, that SJYPS became involved with supporting so many seminarians in Africa, South America and Asia. These priests, some who became bishops, remembered the work of SJYPS back in Ireland and looked for prayer and financial support for their seminarians as their dioceses grew and as the number of seminarians increased and the faith spread.

I often wonder in looking back over the past 125 years since the founding of SJYPS, and ask how many were the thousands of seminarians who became priests and how many hundreds of thousands of people were baptized and how many millions of people were brought to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ through a priest that was prayed for and supported by SJYPS. Our direct influence has achieved extraordinary results.

In calling for the Extraordinary Month of Mission, Pope Francis said that any form of missionary initiative, "renews the Church, it revitalizes faith and Christian identity, and it offers enthusiasm and a new incentive. Faith is strengthened when it is given to others". This is one of Pope Francis' main points in his Apostolic Exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium* (Joy of the Gospel) in which he stressed that "missionary outreach is central to all of the Church's activity" and that Christians all over the world are to be "permanently in a state of mission". This is a message that we as members of SJYPS are very familiar with. So let's not be fearful, but courageous in our trust that the Lord

will continue to send more labourers into the harvest to bring the Gospel to all peoples around the world.

It's just over 40 years since the visit of Pope St John Paul II to Ireland in 1979. What he said is perhaps even more relevant today than it was back then. He said: "The task of renewal in Christ is never finished. Every generation, with its own mentality and characteristics, is like a new continent to be won for Christ". The task of missioning is never-ending.

The theme of the extraordinary month of mission is "baptised and sent" and though most of us may never travel to foreign parts to share the Good News of God's love, our vocation is still to have a missionary heart, wherever we find ourselves. St Thérèse of Lisieux, whose feast day we celebrated on 1st October, can be a guiding example of this love that God has and how we can share it in the little actions and prayers that we say each day.

Thérèse, who spent 9 years as an enclosed Carmelite nun and died at the age of 24, was declared by Pope Pius XI as patroness of the missions along with St Francis Xavier. Unlike Francis, who travelled to India and Japan, Thérèse never travelled abroad as a missionary, yet her heart was missionary, her heart burned to save souls for Christ. She wrote: "In spite of my littleness, I have the vocation of the Apostles. I would like to travel over the whole earth to preach your Name and to plant your glorious cross on foreign soil. But one mission alone would not be sufficient for me, I would want to preach the Gospel on all the five continents simultaneously and even to the most remote isles".

St Thérèse also had a great love for priests and towards the end of her life, wrote to a young priest, Abbe Maurice Belliere who had written to the Carmel of Lisieux asking if a sister could pray for the success of his missionary activities. Thérèse wrote many letters to him encouraging him when he felt weak, alone or afraid, sharing her "little way," in which she teaches to offer our ordinary actions and events of each day to God in love.

May St Thérèse, St Francis Xavier and all the missionary saints of Ireland bless our endeavours as members of SJYPS not only during this extraordinary month of mission, but always.



Sons of Our Parish: All Saints Ballymena Group recently celebrated the 25th Anniversary of the start of their branch of the Society. Priests that were born in our parish and also serving in our parish along with Monsignor Sean Connolly (Founder member) and Father Kevin McGuckien (Diocesan Vocations Director) concelebrated a special Mass in thanksgiving.

Priests from left to right: Fathers Paddy McKenna, David Delargy, Hugh Boyle, Aidan Kerr, Aloysius Lumala CC. Ballymena, Damian McCaughan, Monsignor Sean Connolly, Frs Liam Blayney, Dermot McCaughan, Kevin McGuckien, Paddy Delargy PP Ballymena.

Recently Deceased

BRANCHES

Abbeyfeale Hughie Collins

Armagh Mrs Patsy Kelly, Conor Kilifin

Ballagh / Ballyleague Pauline Brennan

Ballymena - All Saints Chris Neeson

Ballyphrane, Cork May Murphy, Deirdre Andrews

Beechwood Avenue Eileen Browne

Blackrock, Cork Canon Kieran Twomey PP, Dan O'Connor

Bohermeen Nuala Byrne, Terry McMullan, Mary Darcy, Gloria Morris, Anne English, Sean Mallon, Seamus McMahon, Patrick Conway, Ryan McGovern, Jay Durkin, Evelyn Duignan, Clare Patterson, Julia Newman, Nancy Gibney, Tom Murtagh, Brian Murtagh, Sean Dolan, Matt Mujllen, Marie Ryan, Elenor Gillick

Carrickmacross Frank Ward

Delvin Carmel Doherty

Ennis Maureen O'Brien

Enniskillen John Collins, Ryan Smith, Pat Illand, Jim Hopkins, John Anthony Maguire, Tony Quinn, Jimmy Magee, Conrad Howe

Glendermott Laurence McGilloway

Kilkishen Bidy Considine

Maghera Treá Kearney, Eileen Mulholland, Alex Deery, Terence Doherty, Mary Ellen Mullan, Lil Magill, Brigid McKeown, Peggy Donnelly

Midleton Peg Kerins, Josie McCarthy

Mourne Road, Dublin Cora Burke, Kay Dayman, Olive Howard

Our Lady Crowned (Mayfield) Joseph Mullane Jnr

Rathcoole Mary Cryan

Rathfarnham Audrey Cahill

Rathmines Elizabeth Porter

St Johns - Granaghan Tom Bennett, Ann McAtamney

St John Vianney - Ardlea Frances Butler, Paddy Beatty

St Patricks - Dundalk Briege McArdle, Kathleen Tumilty

St Patricks - Limerick Jack Sheehan

Terenure Ann Whelan

Three Patrons Branch, Derry Angela Coyle

Trillick Philomena McCarney, Siobhan McQuaid, Maura Kelly, John McGirr

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Anonymous Donations €15, €15, €30, €100, €100



All Saints Ballymena Group members including Mrs Yvonne Downey, Branch Vice President, Mr Paddy McGroggan, Branch President, Mrs Jean Clarke, Down and Connor Diocesan President and Mr David Greer, Armagh Provincial President,

FORM OF BEQUEST

Please remember St. Josephs Young Priests Society in your Will

I give and bequeath to St. Josephs 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