

The Sheaf



SJYPS



@SJYPS

ST. JOSEPH'S YOUNG PRIESTS SOCIETY

www.stjosephsyoungpriestssociety.com

23 MERRION SQUARE, DUBLIN 2, IRELAND, D02 XE02. TELEPHONE: +353 (1) 676 2593 Email: editor@sjyps.org

AUTUMN/WINTER 2017

Thanksgiving Mass at Saint Andrews

The annual Mass of Thanksgiving for Priesthood arranged by the Society in Dublin was celebrated on the Feast of Christ the King in Saint Andrew's church, Westland Row. The office of St Joseph's Young Priests Society at Merrion Square is in the parish of Saint Andrew.

Concelebrating on the occasion were the priests in the photograph hereunder:



Fr Seamus McEntee our Chief Chaplain, Fr Tom Surlis Formation Director St Patrick's College Maynooth, Fr John McNamara Administrator Leixlip parish, Fr Damian Farnon Moderator Clondalkin parish, Rev Eric Cooney Administrator of the new National Office for Diocesan Vocations, Fr Enda Cunningham Administrator Westland Row parish and Fr Sean Farrell Spiritual Director St Patrick's Maynooth. Fr Cunningham is Director of Vocations for the Dublin Diocese.



Permanent Deacon in Santiago, Fr Tony O'Riordan SVD Chaplain Connolly Hospital, Fr John Greene Dublin Diocese and Fr Seamus McEntee Chief Chaplain St Joseph's Young Priests Society who visited Fr Greene working with the Colombian Missionaries in Chile. For the past 50 years the Dublin diocese has an outreach in Chile and Peru where diocesan priests anxious for some overseas experience can work side-by-side with the Irish Missionary priests.



Photo taken on the day of the ordination of David Vard to the priesthood by Bishop Denis Nulty of Kildare and Leighlin diocese. Ordained the 25th June 2017, Fr Vard became Ireland's youngest priest. Also included are Fr Ruairi O'Domhnaill Vocations Director Kildare and Leighlin and John Murphy president of the Society.

November 29, 2017

Dear Miss Brigid Kelly,

Greetings of Peace and Love in the Lord Jesus Christ!

I would like to express once again my sincere gratitude to you for your generous support in my seminary formation. Now, I would like to inform you that with the help of the grace of God, I am a priest now. I was ordained a priest last October 13, 2017 in San Isidro Labrador Parish, Diocese of Digos by Most Rev. Guillermor D. Afable, DD. This is the grace of God for me in my vocation to become a priest someday with the help of those people like you who continue to pray for me always. With this, I am really grateful of God and to you my dear benefactor.

Thank you so much and God bless you always!

Respectfully yours in Christ,
F. Anelmo L. Forteza Jr.



Prayer for Mother & Child

Lord Jesus, You are the source and the lover of life. Reawaken in us respect for every human life. Help us to see in each child the marvellous work of our Creator. Open our hearts to welcome every child as a unique and wonderful gift. Guide the work of doctors, nurses and midwives. May the life of a mother and her baby in the womb be equally cherished and respected. Help those who make our laws to uphold the uniqueness and sacredness of every human life, from the moment of conception to natural death. Together with Mary, Your Mother, in whose womb You took on our human nature, help us to choose life in every decision we take. We ask this in the joyful hope of eternal life with You, in the communion of the Blessed Trinity. Amen

Letters of Appreciation



4 August 2017

Thank you for your recent letter confirming the Society's financial assistance towards the formation costs for Declan McGeehan in Rome for the 2016/17 academic year. The ongoing SJYP prayerful and financial support is very much appreciated. Please convey my thanks and good wishes to the members.

With every good wish and blessing
✠ Donal McKeown, Bishop of Derry

4 August 2017

Thank you for your letter of July 2017, in which you refer to the Society's support for Tom Sneyd as a candidate for the priesthood at the Beda College, Rome. With Tom himself, I am most grateful for that support.

I now want to let you know that, having completed three years at the Beda, I have decided to bring Tom back to the Diocese to complete his formation in a pastoral context. I will not, therefore, be asking the Society to continue support for him in the coming academic year. I hope, all going well, that he will be ordained in 2018.

Meanwhile, I am happy to say that I have nominated Matthew Roche to begin his studies as a first year seminarian at St. Patrick's College, Maynooth. It is my understanding that Maynooth engages directly with St. Joseph's Young Priests' Society regarding seminarians in formation there. This is not a request or an application, therefore, but simply the sharing of a little good news.

Please convey my prayerful best wishes and kind regards to all at Merrion Square.

Yours Sincerely,
✠ Kevin Doran, Bishop of Elphin

31 July 2017

Thank you for your letter received on 24 July 2017 with regard to the Seminarians in the Archdiocese of Armagh who have received financial assistance from the Society towards their Seminary costs the academic years 2016/2017.

We are indebted to you for the generous help given to our seminarians with regards to their education and personal expenses. I am most grateful to St Joseph's Young Priests' Society for this support and would like to offer my sincere gratitude to you all.

I will remember everyone at the Society in my prayers.

With every blessing and kindest regards,
Yours sincerely
✠ Eamon Martin, Archbishop of Armagh

25 July 2017

On behalf of Bishop Treanor may I thank you most sincerely for your correspondence of July 2017 in respect of the three seminarians in the Down and Connor Diocese who have benefitted enormously from the Society's most generous contribution to their education.

Fr Milo Manuelito was recently ordained to the Priesthood in a wonderful ordination ceremony in St Peter's Cathedral, Belfast on 25 June 2017 and his journey to that memorable day has been gratefully helped by the St Joseph's Young Priests' Society.

Bishop Treanor wishes me to assure you of a special place in his prayers for the Society and all those who

participate and contribute to its apostolate.

With every good wish and blessing.
Yours sincerely
Rev Eugene O'Hagan
Chancellor, Down and Connor Diocesan Curia

24 July 2017

I write to thank you on behalf of Archbishop Martin for your very kind letter outlining the financial assistance granted by the Society towards the Seminary costs for the academic year 2016/2017, on behalf of Michael Byrne, Robert J. Smyth, James Daly, Conor Gannon and Joe Keegan, who are studying in Rome.

The Archbishop is deeply grateful for the generosity of the members of the St. Joseph's Young Priests' Society.

With every kind wish,
Your sincerely,
Bishop Eamonn Walsh, Archbishop's House, Dublin

24 July 2017

Thank you for your letter received recently in relation to financial assistance provided by St. Joseph's Young Priests' Society for the support of Seminarians during their formation. I want to acknowledge with deep gratitude the support provided for our student, Thomas Small, who has currently completed his First year in Theology in Maynooth.

May God continue to bless the members of St. Joseph's Young Priests' Society and the work you are doing.

With every good wish,
Yours sincerely,
✠ Leo O'Reilly, Bishop of Kilmore

25 July 2017

Bishop William Crean, Bishop of Cloyne, has asked me to convey his sincere gratitude to the St. Joseph's Young Priests Society for its support of students studying for the priesthood and in particular for John Magner.

John was ordained on the 25th June last in the Cathedral in Cobh and has been appointed to the Parish of Kanturk in north Cork.

The Bishop also wishes to thank the Society for its ongoing prayers in these challenging times.

Sincerely
Fr. Jim Moore, Cloyne Diocesan Secretary

24 July 2017

Just to thank you for your recent letter outlining the substantial support St. Joseph's Young Priests' Society offers seminarians studying for Kildare & Leighlin Diocese. Your support is deeply appreciated by the seminarians and all of us in the Diocese.

Obviously it brought great joy to the Diocese to see Fr. David Vard ordained a priest a few weeks back, and to realise the huge part St. Joseph's Young Priests' Society played in his formation.

On behalf of David, Seán, Darren, Robert & Peter once again many thanks.

Every blessing
✠ Denis Nulty, Bishop of Kildare & Leighlin

25 July 2017

On behalf of the Galway Diocese I wish to thank you most sincerely for the generous support the St. Joseph's Young Priests' Society continues to provide to the clerical students of our diocese.

Over the course of six years, the support amounts to a huge sum. We are indebted to all the members of your society. Also, I acknowledge the essential spiritual support you provide through praying for vocations and priests.

Last Sunday, we had the joy of celebrating the ordination of Fr. Declan Lohan. He is a fine young man and his priesthood is made possible through your support.

I pray for God's blessing on you and upon all members of the St. Joseph's Young Priests' Society.

Yours sincerely,
V.Rev. Michael Canon McLoughlin
Diocesan Administrator, The Cathedral, Galway

24 July 2017

Many thanks for your kind letter detailing the support given to students for the Diocese over the past academic year both in Maynooth and Rome. Needless to say this support is greatly appreciated. I have a student at present in the Beda College in Rome but because of his circumstances he is self financing. He will be joined this autumn by another student who would appreciate support. Does the Society's support extend to the Beda College?

Could I also raise the issue of students from the monastery at Silverstream, Stamullen which is of diocesan rite but follows the Benedictine rule. Its priests are incardinated into the Diocese. They now have thirteen in the community, three of whom are priests with one studying for the priesthood with the Dominicans. The majority of the community will not be ordained. The monastery began with two priests but attracting applicants from all over, including Ireland!

With renewed thanks and appreciation,
Yours sincerely,
✠ Michael Smith, Bishop of Meath

21 July 2017

Greetings from Thurles. I write to acknowledge your letter received in the office here today. I wish to thank you and the members of St. Joseph's Young Priests Society for your support of the students for the priesthood from this Archdiocese - Mr. Kilian Heney.

Thank you for the work you do and the generous support through prayer and financial support that you give to those preparing for the priesthood.

Yours in Jesus Christ,
✠ Kieran O'Reilly S.M.A., Cashel & Emly Diocese

21 July 2017

I write to thank you for the update on the financial assistance offered towards seminary costs. I greatly appreciate the assistance offered to three of our Limerick Diocesan students. May God reward your generosity and I know the students are also very thankful for the support they received.

Warmest regards
✠ Brendan Leahy, Bishop of Limerick

As we celebrate the Birth of our Saviour, Ossory Diocesan President of the Society, Paul Clarke, wishes all members a holy and peaceful Christmas and along with Marian Fennelly Diocesan Secretary and National Vice President, courtesy of the Ossory Times, they reflect here on the activities of the Society during the past year, its continuing mission in supporting priests and the work of promotion vocations.

At the outset we wish to acknowledge the great support we have received from Fr Willie Purcell, National Vocations Co-ordinator and Fr Kieran O'Shea Ossory Vocations Director. It is much appreciated. We are lucky to have them both. A word of thanks to our diocesan committee for all their help and support during the year. Vice president Phil Cooke, Treasurer Anna Rafter and a special thanks to our secretary Marian Fennelly who has been so professional and a tremendous help in assisting the Diocesan President. We look forward to continuing the good work of our Society in 2018.

The Society has been in existence since 1895 founded by Olivia Mary Taaffe, a woman who saw a need and worked tirelessly to fill that need by supporting young men who wanted to go forward for Priesthood but could not afford it. She certainly could relate to our time in that she suffered great personal tragedy going from being a very wealthy lady to being homeless following the deaths of her husband and son. The fact that we are still active today proves her determination. The Society is a voluntary lay organisation with Branches throughout the whole of Ireland administered by an Executive Committee led by President John Murphy with Central Council meetings held twice a year where ordinary Members have a voice. We also have an annual Congress Retreat day for Members in each Province with guest speakers and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

The Ossory Diocese is always ably represented at all these events. During 2017 a group travelled to Maynooth in May to meet with seminarians whose sheer enthusiasm gave us great encouragement. We again had two full buses at our Knock Pilgrimage on June 24th and forty members attended Our Lady's Island Pilgrimage on Sunday July 23rd along with our Chaplain and Ossory Vocations Director Fr Kieran O'Shea who concelebrated with Bishop Denis Brennan at Mass.

On Saturday 4th November we accepted an invitation from Fr Kieran to meet with him for Mass and Adoration and to discuss how we can best work together in the Diocese. It is envisaged that Vocations Promotion will take place in Parishes throughout the Diocese during the coming year. A beautiful Banner is available to use. As a Society we can contribute to this work, raising awareness of our society in the process. A Branch in every Parish dedicated to praying for Vocations to Priesthood and Religious life would be a great option and hopefully a dream we can realise.

Our AGM was held on November 9th at Villa Maria, Kilkenny starting with Mass celebrated by Fr Kieran and followed by a well attended lively and informative meeting facilitated by Paul our Diocesan President. Speaking at our

AGM. Fr Kieran invited us to reflect on the current deficit in the number of priests and vocations and to see the situation not as a crisis but as an opportunity to rethink and deepen our understanding of ministry in the Church and to reflect on the ministry of the ordained priest today in light of teachings of the Second Vatican Council and as outlined more recently by Pope Francis. He remarked that while all the Baptised share in the priesthood of Christ, the ordained priest is called to be a leader of the Christian community, which doesn't always mean being in charge.

Sometimes we hear that today's priests are overworked. Fr. Kieran stated that many people are overworked and priests cannot expect to be different. However it is important that their time and energy is not taken up with administration alone but with pastoral and spiritual outreach to all sections of the community undertaken with the joy of the gospel and respect for each person. In relation to the promotion of vocations he stressed the importance of the life of the priest in the community in attracting others to respond to a call to priesthood. He asked the question 'what do young people see? Do they experience the ministry of their local priest as a valuable contribution to the community, do they sense the truly radical Good News of Jesus Christ throughout the life and witness of the priest?' He also stated that there was need for new beginnings, a need to once again sow the seed of faith in the language that young people can understand before we can expect them to even recognise that they are being called to serve in the church. He complimented the Society and especially grandparents in how they do this so well.

2017 also provided an opportunity to renew our celebration of forty hours of adoration for vocations traditionally held on the Feast of Christ the King. This year in conjunction with the Diocesan Vocations Office we invited every Parish to host one Hour of Adoration for Vocations giving many more people an opportunity to be involved.

Finally a total of €772,842.00 was spent by the Society on the education of 94 Irish and 570 foreign Students for Priesthood in the financial year 2016-2017 thanks to the dedication of ordinary people working quietly around the country. An achievement to be proud of so well done and remember Masses are said every day for your intentions and those of our Benefactors living and deceased. Archbishop Eamon Martin remarked that we work 'under the radar' perhaps it's now time to work over the radar?

If you would like to know more about the work of St Joseph's Young Priests' Society or may be interested in starting a branch in your parish contact Paul 086 2523534 or Marian 086 0693510

Have you heard of Venerable 'Mama Bosco'?

While St. John Bosco is a beloved saint among Catholics, many do not know that his mother, Margaret Bosco, was declared Venerable in 2006 and has an advancing cause towards beatification.

Margaret Occhiena was born in a small town in Italy in 1788 to a large family of faithful Christians. At the age of 24, Margaret married a young widower and father, Francis Bosco, who was a farmer and had a son named Anthony.

The couple would go on to have two more sons before Francis died of pneumonia in 1817. Left with three children, Margaret devoted her life to her family and fostered the teachings of Catholicism within her children over the coming years. She also cared for her mother-in-law.

Although Margaret was illiterate, she was known for her wisdom in the Catholic faith and did her best to instill virtue and knowledge within her children. When her son John told her that he wanted to be a Catholic priest and work with youth, she



encouraged him in his vocational desire.

John was ordained a priest June 5, 1841 and would become known as Don Bosco. Over the coming years, Margaret would co-found the Salesian Apostolate with her son John in Turin.

The Salesians primarily serve the poor and youth through ministry and education. After their founding, the Salesians built an oratory in Turin, which they used as a school and orphanage for boys.

Margaret spent her remaining days caretaking the orphaned boys at the oratory, which is whence her nickname "Mama

Bosco" or "Mama Margaret" comes.

Margaret died in 1856 at the age of 68 from pneumonia after she received last rites. But she reminded her children that "Our Blessed Lady will always be in charge."

Margaret's cause for beatification was opened March 7, 1995, as St. John Paul II declared her to be a "Servant of God." On October 23, 2006,

Benedict XVI named her Venerable, recognizing her for heroic virtue.

The cause for the beatification of Margaret Bosco has one more step in the Church. In order for her cause to advance, a verified miracle needs to be attributed to her intercession, in which there is no scientific or natural explanation for the proposed miracle. After this, the Pope would then declare the beatification.

After the declaration of beatification, the final step to sainthood includes one more verified miracle, and then the Rite of Canonization, which is usually performed during a Mass said by the Pope.

Recently Deceased

PARISH BRANCHES

Abbeyfeale Mary O'Donnell, Michael O'Donnell, Timmie O'Rourke, Noreen Flynn, Nora Corkery.

Ardfield / Rathbarr Teddy O'Sullivan, Breda Howard, Miriam Lynch (Butler), Paddy Holland, Eileen Coghlan, Joan O'Callaghan, Fachtina O'Sullivan, Tim Jo Hurley.

Ballinascreen Eileen Devlin, Anthony Rooney, Sean McCullagh, Bridget McCloskey, Maureen McCullagh, Mary McKenna, James McGlade, Dessie Diamon, Brendan Bruton.

Ballinlough Jane Healy, Peg Whooley.

Ballyphehane Mary Carroll – Deasy, Marian Hayes.

Blackpool Betty Lyons

Bohermeen Francis Lambe, Ann Reilly, Josie McConville, Maria Reilly, Joe Murray, Francis Fitzsimons, Margaret Fagan, Joe Reilly, Patricia Thornton, Michael Carroll, Mark Kerrigan.

Caherdavin Finola O'Dwyer.

Carrickmore Margaret Kerr.

Carrigaline James Cotter, Gabrielle Mackin.

Christ The King - Cork Mary Coughlan, Billy Horgan, Ann Crowley, Jim O'Donovan.

Cleenish Hugh McCabe, Myles Bartley, Patrick Tracey, Andrew Cullen, Gerald Francis McGinley, John McLoughlin, Maura Hunt, Eamon McGurn, Gertie McCabe, Martin Farrell, Teresa Corrigan, Bridie McGrath, Babs McGuinness, Kate Sweeney.

Coleraine Bernard Morahan.

Coolock – St. Brendan's Marie Moynihan

Corlough-Templeport Maura Heery, Terence McIntyre, Pat Brady, Eileen Brady,

Catherine McSweeney, Bernadette Auckinson, Danny Dolan, Philip O'Reilly, Katelyn Reilly, Teresa O'Rourke, Nora Kellegher, Marie McIntyre.

Curraheen Road Mary Buckley.

Derrygonnelly/Botha Anne McCauley, Sean Gallagher, Neil Jones, Kathleen McShea, Mai Portone, Honora McShea, Thomas Murphy, Eamon Hoy, Patricia Hoy, John McLaughlin.

Drogheda Mary Kierans, Noel Kelly.

Dungannon Mary McSloy.

Ennis Daniel Lynch.

Enniskillen Nora Clifford, Patsy Jones, Sr. Sheila McKenna, Bernadette Conway, Orla Sheridan, Patricia Hoy, Catherine Keenan, Eileen Donegan, Mary Gibson, Moira Hunt, Martin Dillon, Patrick McMahan, Bernadette Conway, Lucy Suttle.

Faughanvale (St Mary's) Karen Kearney-Dunne, Ita McGroarty, Pauline Ferguson, Bridie Callaghan.

Foxrock - Sarah Ann Hayes, Brian McGarry.

General Sr. Patricia Dee (Mary Dee)

Graugenamanagh Jim Bolger.

Holy Family Ballinagroarty Eddie McCullagh

Irinestown Martin Kelly, Brendan Monaghan, Kevin McCarney, Mary Valentine, Elizabeth Duffy, Michael Scallon, Rita McMullin, Patrick McCusker, Margaret Keown, Josephine McGuigan, Dan McFadden, Josie O'Hanlon, Margaret Maguire, Tommy O'Hanlon, Geraldine Mullan, Dan Rowe, Maureen Gallagher, Annie Conway, John Carney.

Knockninny Gerald Donohoe, Patricia Watterson, Carmel McKelvey, Eamon McBrien, Austin Winterson, Canon Brian McNamara, Rosaleen Maguire, Gretta Lee.

Leighlin Peg Haughney

Lurgan Jim Brady (Aghagallon), Mary Ewings (Lurgan).

Mount Merrion Nellie Rogan, Don Cockburn (Late RTE).

Naas Margaret (Peggy) Moloney

Portadown Eddie O'Neill, Terry Crenny, Eileen Mackle, Gerard Creaney, Harry Creaney, Winnie Donaghy.

Rathfarnham - Clare O'Sullivan.

Rathgar Mary Josephine Gilligan.

St. Columba's Long Tower Joe Quigley, Margaret McKee.

St John's - Granaghan Mary Mullan, Peter O'Loughlin, Brigid McKeown.

St. John the Baptist – Clontarf Tommy May, Garlath May, Larry Nolan, Jnr.

St. John Vianney – Ardlea Maureen Doherty.

St. Luke's – Twinbrook Seamus Hannaway.

St. Patrick's Kilkenny. Tony Canny, Mary Hennessy.

St. Patrick's - Limerick Monica McNamara.

Steelstown-Our Lady of Lourdes Mary O'Connor.

Templemore Peggie Keane.

Terenure Peggy Tyrrell.

The Three Patrons Parish Anna Mennan.

Tubberclair-Glasson Marie Lowry, Eileen Walker.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Anonymous Donation €10, €40, €50, €500