

The Sheaf



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ST. JOSEPH'S YOUNG PRIESTS SOCIETY

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SUMMER 2018

MEMORIAL CELEBRATIONS AT BALLAPOUSTA

On Saturday 26 May 2018 a Centenary Mass of remembrance and thanksgiving for the life and example of the Society's foundress Mrs Olivia Taaffe was celebrated at St Catherine's church Ballapousta, Ardee, Co Louth. This is the church where Mrs Taaffe, a truly remarkable woman, worshipped during the first 25 years of her married life in nearby Smarmore Castle. It is alongside the wall of St Catherine's that she was laid to rest in May 1918.

The main celebrant and homilist at the centenary Mass was His Grace Most Rev Eamon Martin, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, who at the conclusion of the ceremony, was formally thanked by David Greer, president of the Armagh provincial council of the Society.

We give thanks today, David said, for the hard work of members past and present who have carried on the work started by Olivia.

We give thanks for those years and we look forward together to the future.

'I thank all of those who participated in the liturgy in various ways, musicians, singers, readers, those who presented the gifts and especially Archbishop Eamon for accepting the invitation to be main celebrant today. Also thanks to Canon Peter Murphy PP and the parishioners of Ardee parish for their kind welcome, as always, to Ballapousta; and to all priests and religious who have joined us. I would also like to thank Mr Joseph McConville (Parish of Drumcree) for his work in cleaning the Taaffe Family headstone in preparation for today's celebrations'.

Following prayers for vocations and for the success of the World Meeting of Families, all were invited to light refreshments in the nearby Hunterstown Restaurant.



Members, friends, benefactors of the Society with parishioners at the graveside of Mrs Olivia Taaffe



St Catherine's church Ballapousta



Sr Therese Clarke Convent of Mercy Dundalk,
Miss Peta Taaffe and Miss Pauline McHugh Secretary of the Society



Tony Melia a trustee of the Society with Archbishop
Eamon Martin and David Greer



Members of the Society and their friends who participated in the seminarians Mass at Maynooth on Thursday 26 April 2018



*At the Tuam provincial congress on 7 April
During the teabreak at Knock, Eileen White Galway diocesan president and Marie Dempsey the provincial president with the John Murphy the Society's president.*



Three visiting prospective clerical students who attended Mass celebrated by Fr Vincent McMahon at the Holy Year Oratory Dunne's Stores Cornelscourt: Vincent from Germany, Joey from USA and Sebastian from Poland



Rev Gerard Quirke at his Ordination to priesthood by Most Rev Michael Neary Archbishop of Tuam in the Cathedral of the Assumption Tuam on 3 June. George Dee former president of the Society presented Fr Quirke with a violet stole on the happy occasion.



*At the Armagh provincial congress on 14 April
Front Row from Left to Right - Christina McLaren, Martina Hamilton, Kate Quinn, John Murphy
Second Row from Left to Right - Jean Clarke, Eibhlin O'Reilly, Stanistaw (seminarian), Catherine McEvoy
Middle Row from left to Right - Josie O'Hare, Maura Murphy, David Greer, Hugh McCague, Deacon Malachy McElmeel
Back Row from Left to Right - Marian Fennelly, Fr Peter McAnenly, Stefano (seminarian) & Deacon John Taaffe*

REPORT FROM DUBLIN CONGRESS

Congress Theme: 'Family: The Domestic Church'

Our annual Congress took place at All Hallows College on a sunny April Day with a very strong attendance. For those of us lucky enough to be there the day's programme was both inspiring and uplifting.

Dr Dermot Ryan, our first Guest Speaker began the day with Holy Mass dedicated to priests and deceased members of our Society. He used the story of Moses leading the Israelites out of Egypt and a young boy's modern 'take' on it to illustrate how illogical our Faith is, but it is the same Faith and the same Gospel as in Jesus' time. He asked us 'are we with Jesus or against him'.

Following John Murphy's welcome address Marian Fennelly introduced Fr Dermot as a Kilkenny native, President of St Kieran's College, Chair of Council of Priests, in charge of Adult Faith Development & Communications for the Diocese of Ossory. He also lectures and loves hurling. In his very entertaining Power Point presentation which featured a lot of Kilkenny Hurling and a little Rugby, which Fr Dermot used to point out that if you don't know the rules you can't be involved in the game. The same applies to our Faith.

He listed the good and bad traits of the apostles: "Jesus' Family". They were not perfect. Neither are we but we can be part of the Parish Family through helping the priest. He cannot be good at everything and each of us has talents that we can use for the good of this extended Family. During questions, Fr Dermot explained that all the apostles except St John were martyred. Asked about his own vocation, he said that he knew when he was sixteen, his parents wanted him to go to college first, but he attended a discernment meeting and it made sense to him. He even brought a friend for support in case it wasn't what he expected. He completed his studies in St Patrick's College Carlow as St Kieran's had closed by then. After serving as curate for some years in the diocese he did further studies in Rome.

Following a lovely lunch, President John Murphy introduced our second Speaker Hannah Evans, Outreach Co-ordinator for World Meeting of Families, on secondment from Trocaire and based in Maynooth College. She had done parish pastoral work for the Dublin diocese. She spoke about the hopes, dreams, rows, making up, sharing, caring and unconditional love of the extended family and likened it to the parish family of

welcoming, caring, forgiving. Many people are of the opinion that prayer is private but it should be communal. She asked what kind of welcome is there for young families. She didn't feel comfortable taking her small child to Mass for fear of disturbing others. Practical initiatives should be undertaken to involve them on special days as Faith is transmitted through the language of family: Love. Her hope for WMOF is that through listening and learning from other families it will be a ministry of affirmation at the heart of the Christian Community. Her final quote was 'Hope is the ability to hear the melody of the future: Faith is the courage to dance to it today, so let's dance'.

Kieran Hickey introduced our third Speaker, Fr Billy Swan from Ferns diocese, who completed a degree in chemistry before becoming a priest in 1988. He did further studies in Rome some of which was at the same time as Fr Dermot. He also served as Director of Formation at the Irish College in Rome. He thanked us for the work we do at this challenging time to show the world the witness to God of the family through the Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This is the time to set up the seed bed of vocations with the help of the Communion of Saints through whom we see the grace of God enriching the Family. There is a technical explosion of communication that gives us instant news which we cannot ignore causing social and economic stress rather than leading to deeper relationships in family. It's all about the individual not the community. We are less skilled at interaction leading to loneliness: we are together alone. In England a Minister of Loneliness has been appointed. He advised us to say thanks and look a person in the eye. It is no surprise that there is a decline in engagement with Church: believing but not belonging. John 15 says 'I am the vine; you are the branches', we cannot survive alone. It is important for parishes to be connected to stay strong inviting others especially immigrants to belong. We need spiritual direction, someone to journey with us: Thank God for Priests and Hannah.

The day ended with Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction led by Fr. Billy after which John Murphy thanked everyone especially those involved in organising the day. He concluded by wishing us a safe journey home.

Marian Fennelly
Dublin Provincial Secretary

REPORT FROM CASHEL CONGRESS

Congress Theme: 'Family: The Domestic Church'

The Cashel Congress took place in the Radisson Blu hotel Limerick on Saturday the 24 March. Fr Frank O Connor CC St John's Parish, Limerick was the keynote speaker. He gave an inspiring talk on 'Family: The Domestic Church'. This was followed in the afternoon by another talk by Noreen Lynch, Pastoral Development Co-ordinator, Limerick Pastoral Centre. Noreen also spoke on the theme while reminding us of the special role played by St Joseph in the Holy family in Nazareth.

President John Murphy addressed us after lunch and led us in praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet. Congress concluded with Holy Mass which was celebrated by Most Rev Brendan Leahy, Bishop of Limerick. Our cantor Maria Mc Cormick led the singing. There was a good attendance. We welcomed all our members especially a group who travelled from West Cork. The

meal was excellent and the weather was nice for travelling.

Special thanks to Mary Dempsey, Provincial Secretary, for all the organization she put into making it a success; and to Salesian Sister Ann Collins our Limerick Diocesan President, who was also involved in organising Congress. Our chaplain Rev Fr Liam Enwright helped set up the Eucharistic Adoration with Sr Ann in the morning. Bríd Sheehan, President of St Patrick's Branch arrived with two beautiful flower arrangements. Many thanks to all the committee for their hard work and to all those who took the time to attend, and to our speakers and to Bishop Brendan Leahy who helped make it a memorable occasion.

Una Noonan
Cashel Provincial President

Modern Family – The changing shape of family

by Fr Johnny Doherty CSsR Belfast

Children are great people for asking questions. As we grow older we can lose this ability and we can want to keep everything as it always was.

It was to get in touch with all the questions that people have about Family Life and about Marriage that, five years ago, Pope Francis did something that no pope ever did before. He initiated a world-wide consultation. Questionnaires were sent to every diocese and every parish throughout the Catholic Church. Many people and groups filled in these as best they could.

The questions asked were about people's experience of Marriage and Family Life and how the teaching of the Church impacted on their lives.

The results of the questionnaires were collated and out of this emerged the main questions that confront people today.

These questions were then reflected on and discussed at two Synods of the Church in Rome made up of representatives, lay and clerical, from around the globe. Each of these Synods lasted a month.

Six months after the second of these Synods, Pope Francis issued a wonderful letter called *Amoris Laetitia* - The Joy of Love. He addressed it to all of us. Every Catholic home should have a copy of this letter. And, I suggest, every Catholic family should make it part of family life.

The World Meeting of Families

These days we should be thinking about and praying about many aspects of this warm and wonderful letter from our Holy Father, Pope Francis. This letter will also be at the centre of the celebrations of the World Meeting of Families in Dublin in August 22 to 26.

There are some very important values that we have to keep in mind during these days and that will be very much part of the great event in August.

1. The dignity of each human person from the moment of conception to the moment of natural death. Nothing should ever be more important than that.
2. Every family, whatever its composition, is a sacred place where Christ lives because of our Baptism and because of the love that unites each family. This can be a difficult one for us. In the Gospel we hear that there was no room for Mary and Joseph and their baby at the inn. We hear too of how they had to leave their own home and take refuge in Egypt. We cannot have a Church where there is no room for particular kinds of families or people of particular life-styles or orientations.
3. The marriage of a man and woman has a very special place in God's plan for humanity. This marriage also has a special place in our Catholic tradition as we name it a Sacrament, a source of Christ's presence for the world. This too can be difficult for some of us.
4. As Catholics we are formed in faith by the Word of God in the Scriptures and in the teaching and tradition of the Church. We do not just follow our own ideas and opinions but let ourselves be informed by the faith we share. Again, this is difficult for many in a world that would seem to value personal and private ideas as the ultimate in human wisdom.
5. We can only deal with the complexity of today's Church and world when we bring them into prayer. Through prayer we allow God's Spirit to guide us as we try to work through difficult questions together.

May Mary, our Mother of Perpetual Help, be close to us through these days and all through the World Meeting of Families as we gather one another into our prayers and into our hearts.

The above is taken from the opening address by Fr Doherty at a novena on the theme of The Joy of Love at the church of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Foxrock Dublin in May.

Recently Deceased

LOCAL BRANCHES

Abbeyfeale Fr Peadar De Burca, Billy O'Brien

Ardfield / Rathbarry John O'Donovan, Josephine Leonard, Maureen Nyhan

Bohermeen Bridie Woodman, Patrick Cole, Mattie Allen, Eileen Cully

Callan Teresa O'Sullivan, Sr Noreen DeBuitléar, Sr Catherine Grainger, Carmel Burke

Carrigaline Brenda O'Mahony, John Crowley

Clonakilty Mary Cronin, Mattie Sutton

Drogheda Margaret Connolly

Dundrum Sadie O'Rourke

Enniskillen John Dunne, Eugene McConnell, Kathleen Henderson, Sammy Masterson, Christine Waterson, Sheila Slevin

Errigal James McGilligan, Anne McKenna, Lizzie McGilligan, Nellie Conway, Michael Murphy

Foxrock Fr Gerard Doyle

Glanworth Elizabeth (Lizzie) McCarthy

Lisnaskea Gerard (Gerry) Collins

Maghera Sean Convery, Liam McKaigue, Piotr Krowka

Monasterboice Monica Loughran

Mourne Road Branch Olive Howard, Mary Moylan

Our Lady Crowned (Mayfield) Kathleen McKenna, Bernadette Mullane

Portadown Frank McCann, Erin Mackle, Jimmy Donnelly, Christopher Mangan, Bridie McNeice

Skibbereen Joan Sheehan, Mena Daly, Virgie Daly

Tubberclare/Glasson Lizzie Murphy

General Maureen Smyth, Teresa Murphy

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Anonymous Donation €10, €100, €1,000