

The Sheaf



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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

WINTER 2019



President of the Society John Murphy and the Chief Chaplain Fr Seamus McEntee are with (L to R) Anna Rafter and Marie Morkam

Two vacancies on the Executive Committee have been filled following nominations to the vacancies prior to the October Central Council Meeting held in the Ashling Hotel Dublin. Seen here with the President of the Society John Murphy and the Chief Chaplain Fr Seamus McEntee are (L to R) Anna Rafter and Marie Morkam.

Anna Rafter is from Bennettstown Co Kilkenny. She joined the Society in 2003 and she recalls her Parish Priest at the time, the late Fr Seamus Henry, inviting her to consider getting involved in supporting and promoting the work of St Joseph's. She did and became a member of Freshford branch.

At an AGM shortly afterwards she was elected vice-president of Freshford branch, and currently is president of the branch there.

At present Anna is also serving as vice-president of the Society's Ossory Diocesan Committee, having previously been treasurer and prior to that, secretary of the Diocesan Committee.

Marie Morkan is a member of the Society for the past 33 years.

During this period she has been in turn secretary of the Society's Cashel and Emly diocesan committee and has served the Cashel Provincial Council as secretary, treasurer and vice-president.

She set up a junior branch of the Society in the Convent of the Sacred Heart Roscrea where she was a Secondary Teacher. With amalgamation of the schools in 2000 however, it was no longer feasible to continue this branch. It was the last of the Schools Branches to close.

She is now president of her local branch in Templemore Co Tipperary.

This is a photo of Gordon Celendar who paid a visit to us at Merrion Square, to show us his Marathon Medal having participated in the Dublin City Marathon on 27 October.

Gordon had arranged a number of sponsors and had decided to donate the money he raised to St Joseph's Young Priests Society. In all, the total amount came to €1,750, for which the Society is extremely grateful. Thank you Gordon.

One of Gordon's favourite pastimes is running marathons for charity. In 2019 he raised €6,500 for several worthy causes. He ran several road races including four full marathons. In addition to Dublin in October, he ran London, Tallinn and Lisbon.

Gordon says that his love for sacred music empowers his ministry as a cantor for a few Dublin city-centre churches, and looking back over 2019 he feels he was blessed in so many ways having made several pilgrimages to holy sites all over Ireland.

Ad multos annos, Gordon!



THE SOCIETY'S PURPOSE is to promote the vocation of the priesthood by prayer, financial help and the witness of our Christian living.

With your generous support we have been able to assist:

Year	Students			Expenditure	Ordination to Priesthood
	Irish	Overseas	Total		
2016/17	94	570	664	€772,842	175
2017/18	84	536	620	€622,068	118
2018/19	65	563	628	€571,517	148

Please continue to support and promote the work of the Society

Papal Blessing

“In appreciation of the work and fidelity of St. Joseph's Young Priests Society in fostering vocations to the priesthood, His Holiness Pope Francis cordially imparts the requested Apostolic Blessing invoking abundant divine graces to the President, Committees and Members of St Joseph's Young Priests Society.”



The 14th of November 2017 was a decisive day in my life. I was ordained a Catholic Priest in St Mary's Pro-Cathedral Dublin by Archbishop Diarmuid Martin. The refreshing sensation of placing a new, heavy chasuble with a white and golden design over my head and the way it covered my body, will never leave me. It was the moment in my life where I realised, I had both accepted and received something truly historical and divine. Something one, holy, Catholic and apostolic. My life was not my own any longer. New standards now had to be maintained, the old self was to welcome this new reality, not as an enemy, but as the new commander of the ship. For only a few years earlier the new would have seemed alien and

totally incompatible with the old self, and yet, here both now stand together in harmony. For the old self had its time, *in persona Christi* was now in effect. In short holiness was now the name of the game. This I welcomed with great enthusiasm and joy. And so, as I hugged my parents, I now faced and climbed the steps to join my brother priests and bishops around the sacred altar of St Mary's Pro-Cathedral.

Yet since ordination, one of the greatest difficulties I have had, has been able to have a positive and encouraging conversation about Priesthood. More often than not the person or persons I am having the conversation with, try to twist my words and constantly speak about what the priesthood should be, what I should be, how I should act, and live out the ministry entrusted to me by Christ through his Church. This is a mentality that is sadly repeated so often through the media in our country and through those in positions of public trust and influence. Forces that try to turn the priesthood into something that is more fitting with their mentality. Yet all this has done has been to undermine and diminish the priesthood, both its sacramental and social role in our parishes and communities.

For this reason and the difficulty, we seem to have as a faith community to speak encouragingly and promote

Vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood, I, along with a small group in the Tallaght Deanery have decided to promote vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood. What that entails is to simply help make the Priesthood visible and to try and bring a fresh awareness to this extraordinarily beautiful vocation within the Tallaght Deanery. Starting on February 21st in St Mark's Church Springfield, Tallaght at 19.30hrs, a holy hour will be held for all who want to pray for vocations, and for priests who wish to come and renew their love of Christ in their vocation, to rekindle why they were drawn by the Lord to this role in the first place. And on April 25th – 3rd of May a novena will be held in St Marks' Church, for more vocations in our Diocese and further afield. It will focus on various themes related to the Priesthood as exemplified in many of the saints. It is chance to join the prayerful and supportive efforts of the St Joseph's Young Priests Society, who have an exceptionally dedicated group in our Parish. And to bring awareness of their work and the need for new strong and courageous Spiritual Shepherds, men who mirror the Good Shepherd.

Fr. Bill O'Shaughnessy



At the AGM of the Enniskeane Parish Branch of St Joseph's Young Priests Society at Gort Mhuire, Ballineen, are Gertie Stroker, Ballineen, Mary Dempsey, Minane Bridge, Mary Hurley, Ballineen, Eileen O'Driscoll, Enniskeane, Redempta Furney, Mayfield, Cork and Helen Crowley, Enniskeane.
(Pic courtesy Fr Tom Hynes PP)



Fra Paul - happy face - centre of photo in black.
Back at base after 4 day mountain trek in the Dolomites in Northern Italy - see article "A Dubliner in Italy" on page 3

A Dubliner in Italy

by Paul Spaine - 10 November 2019

So many people encouraged me to give the priesthood formation a try, and yet I resisted the idea very much. It's a wonder now, how an Irish man has found himself living in Italy in an International Seminary amongst diverse nationalities both from the Orient, the Middle East, Africa, Europe, the USA as well as Latin America. The greater influence in the cloister halls is from Argentina, which blends in well with the Spaniards along with the Columbians and our popular Chilean friend Agostino. Agostino is well esteemed by the Argentinian formation team of the Institute of the Incarnate Word. Our founder of the Institute is from Argentina, and through God's guiding hand, our religious order has branched into the five continents of the world. We celebrate diverse feast days at our seminary, including St. Patrick's Day.

The town where our international seminary is based is Montefiascone, in the province of Viterbo. This small town is rich in religious, cultural and military history as far back as the Etruscans who established their military base before the Romans came to the fore and besieged this important centre. Later again Pope Urban V resided in Montefiascone in the military barracks before he regained entrance to Rome. Viterbo has an important military air force presence for Italy today.

Montefiascone has the nearby Lake Bolsena, and the town of Bolsena, which is host to a Eucharistic miracle. The reliquary of the miracle is now housed within a purpose built Cathedral in Orvieto not far from a popular Italian well dubbed St. Patrick's well for its analogy of depth and stairway towards purgatory. Montefiascone is up on a high hill, which gives the town commanding views as far as the Mediterranean Sea coast. It is under 2 hours from the airports, and accessible by train. It is also on the popular Camino route called the 'via Francigena' where pilgrims stop by to visit the Cathedral of St. Margaret, with its impressive dome making for a well-known town landmark.

At the seminary, we do our lessons in Italian, and we speak in community through the medium of Italian. I felt that it would be good to learn a language, and so I found myself learning Italian... I immersed myself in the environment which is the best way to learn the local lingo. Most of the seminarians are of a young age bracket of 25 years, and find it very easy to pick up languages. For me it was more difficult, being much older, but there was plenty of help at hand as the professors are dab handy

at speaking in English when necessary to help me along with my studies. I'm now in 2nd Theology, and I have no problems with the lingo. What a blessing!

There is a great spirituality within our Institute, the 'Institute of the Incarnate Word', with a focus on St. John Bosco, St. Ignatius of Loyola, St. Maximillian Kolbe as well as St. Maria Goretti. We have a devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and a devotion to Blessed Mother Mary. We have our daily morning Mass, and we have evening adoration, and we pray the liturgy of the hours. As religious, we undertake vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience, as well as a forth vow of slavery to the Madonna. I love the popularity of the song written by Dana Rosemary Scallon, Lady of Knock, which is often sung by the seminarians with enthusiasm. They just love the melody, and it is a great song to bring to attention the story of apparition at Knock.

Another good thing about being in a seminary in Italy is the easy access to the great spiritual centres. We have done diverse cultural tours and so Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ has gifted me with many unique opportunities to travel the length and breadth of Italy to visit reliquaries of important saints. I visited the reliquary of St. Padre Pio, Saint Catherine of Siena, then of course there is the town of Segni where I did my Novitiate, where on arrival on my first day I found a plaque in the booking office at Colleferro railway station in honour of what they termed a daughter of immigrants to the town of Segni, Maria Goretti. There are many other places that I have had the good fortune to visit, and needless to say, the Vatican with all its wonder. I loved the opportunities of doing mission work in Italy. The Italians are fond of the Irish, and have shown me a *céad míle fáilte* at their residence. By and large the Italians still have the love of the faith, and they don't mind throwing off fireworks on patron saint days in their locality. That is something that has impressed me a lot.

So many good priests have helped me come to be here in Italy, although little do they know of their important influence. They shall remain anonymous so as not to be robbed of their heavenly reward. I will say though, that there is one priest from the Dublin diocese who encouraged me to enter Maynooth after a propodeutic year in Valladolid, Spain. He really had faith in me. There is another Dublin diocese priest who had a big impact on my early spirituality developments with the idea of frequent Mass and adoration with a close-knit prayer

group devoted to Our Lady and St. Maria Goretti. Then there is another Dublin priest from the farming community in south Dublin, who is always praying for vocations, and has a great devotion to St. Mother Theresa. There was yet another priest from the Oblate Fathers who had always encouraged me to give the priesthood a go. Then there is the priests from my local parish and the parish team who have been a big source of encouragement, and not to forget there has been wonderful support for the parish faithful. The Legion of Mary has been a great source of inspiration to add to the list.

My parents and my brothers and sisters have played a big role, without which it might have been impossible to go forward for the religious life. My parents also brought me to Knock when I was younger, and it was because of that, I found it hard to abandon the Catholic faith. Many friends and acquaintances have prayed for me, and some have told me that the Lord will bless me for entering the seminary. I see now how right they are, and often think, sure these people who knew of these blessings, should surely follow on the road to the religious life, rather than look a gift horse in the mouth.

All in all, I thank God that I am here, I enjoy the community life, the social and sporting activities, the apostolic work we do, the spiritual aspects, the study with is very integrated with the living tradition of the Catholic faith handed down from the apostles and the church fathers. I love also the fact that I can come home to Ireland often to visit family and friends for Christmas and summer holidays.

People ask me what is the best thing about Italy, and I have struggled to come up with a definitive answer until recently. I can say that it's not the culture and history, it's not the scenic beauty, it's neither pasta meals nor the pizza that makes Italy for what it is, but it seems to be the coffee which unites the Italians. They have a fondness for a coffee snack with friends, and that has been the hallmark since I came to Italy in 2015. So perhaps one day we shall see you in Montefiascone for a coffee. In the meantime I will keep all my supporters of the Saint Joseph's Young Priests Society in my prayers for all the support they have given me.

Cordiali saluti in Gesù e Maria,

Fra. Paul

(See photo bottom right page 2)

Recently Deceased

LOCAL BRANCHES

Ardboe Mary O'Neill, Bridie Devlin

Ardfield / Rathbarry Kitty Hayes, Fr Michael Scully, Josephine Hennessy, Sr Anselm Whelton, Ethna O'Sullivan, Chrissie Hayes

Ballinlough Jim O'Hea, John Bracken, Eileen Knowles, Joan Collins, Josephine McCarthy

Ballinspittle Nancy Nyhan

Ballyphehane Nancy Glavin, Liam ó Draighneáin

Bantry May Murphy

Bohermeen Michael Buchanan, Fred McElroy, Thomas Gilsenan, Joan Ryan, Marcella O'Brien, Cissie Casserly, James Maher, Tommy Griffin, Pat Rispin, Bridget Carter

Castlewellan Phyllis Doyle, May O'Neill, Canon Bernard Magee

Christ The King Nora O'Reilly

Claudy Benny O'Kane

Cleenish Hilary Keenan, Kathleen McGovern, Patrick Melly, Mary Power, TPOwens, Eileen Farmer, Kathleen Kelly, Margaret McCann, Rose McKeown, Mary McAloon, Peter Murphy

Clonakilty Fr Eddie Collins

Corlough -Templeport Rose Carty, Liam Donohoe, Brigid Cunningham, Brendan Smith, Br Joe Bannon, Paddy Glennon, Ciaran Dolan, Vera Cosgrove, Paddy Joe Farrelly, John Auckinson, Mary (Mamie) Beatty, Cyril Cosgrove, Tony McCann, Teresa McCabe, Sean McHugh, Josie Prior, Margaret (Rita) Hanly, John Boyle O'Reilly, Kevin Smith

Curraheen Road Margaret Callanan, Séan Cotter

Derrygonnelly/Botha Teresa Carlton, Francy Ferguson, Kathleen McSherry, Eileen Maguire, Thomas Farmer, Kathleen Magee, Rosemary Magee, Peter Brewster, May Brewster, John Cameron, Eamon McGullion, Dympna Burns, Michael Carroll

Drogheda Barney McKenna

Dunamanagh Nellie McKenna

Dungannon Sr Anthony Devlin.

Enniskillen Colin James Wright, Sean Hoy, Maureen Chester, Annie Dooris, Nora Love, Nora Ledwith

Glanworth Margaret O'Donoghue

Glendermott Frances McLoone.

Graiguenamanagh Larry Dunne

Irvinestown Bernie Johnson, Una Reihill, Nancy McDonald, Patrick McDonald, Lily Scallon, Fr Kevin Scallon, John Blake, Alo Scallon, Gerry O'Donnell, Levene Gillen, Margaret Monaghan, Eamon Murphy, Catchie McHugh, Lauralee Baird, James O'Reilly, John Dolan, Winnie McFadden, Brendan McGuinness, Maisie Tierney, Gerald Baird, Teresa Mulligan, Veronica Morrissey, John Teague, Aidan McGuinness, Pat Maguire, Pat Rooney, Paddy McDonagh, Rodney O'Connor, Hugh Balfour

Killester Miriam Harris

Kinsale Mary O'Brien

Knockkninny Sarah Scarff, Thomas Clarke, Mary McGovern, Eugene Owens, Pat Reilly, John Owens, Rose Watterson, Tom Cassidy, Bridie Reilly, Allie Murphy, John James Reilly, Francis Corrigan

Lordship & Ballymacscanlon Paddy Lyons, Maura Tuite, Josie Campbell, Bernadette McKeever, Josephine Toner, Mary Hughes

Maghera Charlie Murtagh, Peggy Doherty, Anne Johnston, Susan Cunningham, John McCloskey, Margaret McEldowney

Moville Mary Thompson

Navan (St Mary's Jubilee) Fr David Wall SSc

Navan Road Peadar Casey

Our Lady Crowned (Mayfield) Larry Walsh

Portadown Dessie Harney, Bernadette McEarland, Annette Green, Bridget Kelly, Tom Monaghan

Raheny Owen D Clarke

Rathmines Laurence Kearns

St John the Baptist - Clontarf Patty Coogan

St Kevin's Harrington Street Joan Ryan

Timoleague Fr Eddie Collins

Trillick Petey Kelly, Brendan McSorley, Teresa Carlton, Pat McQuaid, Charlie McAleer, Mary McGirr, Isidore Kelly, Agnes Muldoon, Margaret Green

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Anonymous Donations € 184, € 100, € 100

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

Call for expressions of interest

In April 2020 the Sheaf celebrates 125 years of continuous publication. Since 1895 when the launch of St Joseph's Sheaf marked the beginning of the Society, the Newsletter/Review has uniquely been produced on a purely voluntary basis, its only expenditure being the printer's bill and the postal charges.

Now is considered the right time for a full consideration of the role of the Sheaf in the light of present-day thinking; when co-incidentally this last issue of 2019 marks the end of the term of office of the editor Mr Dominic Dowling.

Accordingly, this is a call for written expressions of interest especially from members of the Society, who would like to offer their talents as researcher, producer and editor of the Sheaf. All communications regarding this matter to Mr John Murphy President of Society, marked Private and Confidential. Emails are quite acceptable.