



The Sheaf



ST. JOSEPH'S YOUNG PRIESTS SOCIETY



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Every beginning is a promise



Newly ordained Fr. Antun Pašalić
with his family

In this Springtime of his priesthood Antun will not be alone: good help will be there for him – “is gaire cabhair Dé ná an doras”: God’s help is nearer than the door.

In the gospel Jesus is telling Antun that the Holy Spirit will teach him everything he needs to know to fulfil his priestly role: The Advocate, Holy Spirit whom the father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all I have said to you.”

“I would like to share a thought or two about priesthood from the late Father Daniel O’Leary called Beauty and the Priest. He said that:

“The vocation of the priest is to be a prophet of beauty, to remind people of the light within them; to reassure them that they are, as Thomas Merton realised ‘shining like the sun.’ There is a beautiful way of celebrating Eucharist, of preaching the Word, of being present to those who are hurting, of embracing sinners, of dancing with the limping on this precious earth. Meeting such beauty in a priest people will then believe that by their very presence, every word, and every meal they share becomes a small but vibrant sacrament of God’s beauty, warming people’s hearts when they grow too cold, and bring the morning early, when the nights are too dark and too slow.”

The Bishop concluded his homily with words from Fr. Antun’s native Croatia and his adopted Irish: “Congratulations, every blessing, happy days, and God

bless you: Cestitamo! Blagoslovi! Sretni Dani! Bog blagoslovio! And as we say in this country: Moladh go deo le Dia!”



JOSEPH'S DREAM

López Portaña, Vicente; *Joseph's Dream*; 1805; Oil on canvas; Height: 187 cm, Width: 118 cm; (P007735); Madrid, Museo Nacional del Prado, © Photographic Archive Museo Nacional del Prado.

The sleeping Joseph, his elbow propped on the table and the Infant Christ on his lap, receives the angel's warning to flee and thus avoid the massacre of children ordered by King Herod (MATTHEW 2, 13).

This is one of López's most important religious compositions from his early career as a mature artist in Valencia.

On Sunday, 24th April, 2022, Divine Mercy Sunday, Bishop Fintan Monaghan ordained Antun Pašalić as a Priest of the Diocese of Killaloe. Fr. Antun’s parents and family travelled from their native Croatia to be present in Ennis Cathedral.

In his homily at the Ordination Mass, Bishop Fintan remembered the day in 2016 when he shared the pilgrim climb of Croagh Patrick with Antun and also said:

“Today marks a new beginning in Antun’s life and it is full of promise and hope, or as the late Brendan Kennelly in his poem Beginning puts it:

***Every beginning is a promise
Born in light and dying in dark
Determination and exaltation
of Springtime
Flowering the way to work”***

“Today’s gospel offers words of comfort and challenge to Antun as he embraces the work Kennelly speaks of in his poem.

SAINT JOSEPH, SERVANT OF CHRIST, PRAY FOR US!

'You Will Be My Witness'

Dublin Provincial Congress: Maynooth: Saturday May 14th 2022

Marian Fennelly

A well attended Dublin Provincial Congress representing Dublin, Kildare & Loughlin, Ossory, Ferns and joined by Meath Diocese took place in Maynooth Seminary at the invitation of Rector Fr. Tomás Surlis beginning with Mass celebrated with Fr. Chris Hayden and the Seminarists, joined by Fr. O'Neill from Tennessee.

In his homily on the Feast of St. Matthias, Apostle, Fr. Chris reminded us that proclaiming God's Word will always have consequences including the work of our Society. We pray to the Lord of the Harvest but the fundamental task of all baptised people is to foster a christian community where love is learned so that priests can be created. This can only happen in fertile soil where the Faith message and the person is alive. He asked 'why would anyone be a priest? They need to come from a holy people with a desire to pass on the Christian Faith, a place of catholic resistance not reluctance: from that Faith community will flourish the particular call to priesthood. He pointed out that, notwithstanding the age profile, we have more priests than forty years ago as then there was a 90% practice rate compared to today's 6%.

Following the welcome address and wise advice from President John Murphy, Sr. Anne Codd, Presentation Sister was welcomed with sincere thanks to Fr. Corkery for his expert IT support. She expressed her delight in sharing the life and Faith of a small community in Pakistan where she witnessed postulants taking their final vows, deacons who were ordained on April 29th and other great works. Sr. Anne based her enthusiastic Talk on our own Mission Statement. Our mission statement requires us to be facilitators of dialogue towards a renewal of Faith at this time. She quoted Pope Benedict VI's 'The Door of Faith' as being warm and appealing but unapologetic about our Faith, to believe in one God who is Love and have an appreciation of who we are and what we are offered in christian love received and communicated as an experience of grace and joy. We choose to entrust fully to God: to believe God and to believe in God.

She referred to John's invitation to be joyful in our lives and Mission. She likened our Earth to a clock where each cog depends on the next, where we haven't thought of the 'whole' system or unintended outcomes. How could we continue to mine minerals and not think of the effect on other parts of our eco system? There is no neutral stance: we choose to stand strong with the pain of others. We are branches of the true Vine with a shared passion. We are part and co-responsible for our planet. There is no split between human and divine. Relating to Porta Fidei 2011 (Pope Benedict XVI) we have lived through enormous change with Faith being questioned. There cannot be any conflict between Faith and genuine science: they are different routes to the same truth with the unifying thread of thinking big. Dogmas

cannot be changed but ethics and attitudes can. What does it mean to 'boldly proclaim the Gospel and what Gospel do others see in us?

'Come follow Me' To understand 'follow' as to imitate Jesus is limiting: we do participate in the ongoing life of the Church, building community, celebrating liturgy & prayer in service to humanity. We become what we practice: I believe I am a witness: 'You shall be My witness'. Contributions from members emphasised that Divine Intervention and prayer were our greatest need at this time.

After lunch, we were joined on Zoom by Rev. Tomás Surlis Rector of the Seminary. He gave us an overview of Formation leaving us in no doubt about how difficult a journey this is: everything they do is centred on Jesus, it's as simple and as challenging as that. It begins with propedeutic year in Valledolid or Salamanca, having worked with the local vocations director initially followed by study of Discipleship and Configuration along with a university degree at St. Patrick's and ending with pastoral stage back in the Diocese with ongoing formation. The four dimensions of formation are Human, Spiritual, Intellectual and Pastoral with God, through Jesus in the Holy Spirit. Identification with Jesus creates harmony and balance which translates into the way we interact with others, our bodies given to Him as He gave His. Their spiritual and human journey is linked and nourished by prolonged and silent prayer. Intellectual/academic formation aims for effective maturity. Pope Francis, in a letter to priests in 2019 advised that to be present to God and others we must first be present to ourselves and be grateful. Gratitude is a powerful weapon. Covid has brought an epochal change where we should anchor ourselves in the traditions of the Church, concentrate on the present and not dwell on the past or the future. Where there is life and fervour, vocations will spring up. Functionalism or pastoral organisation do not attract vocations, only baptismal fervour will attract vocations. Do not be afraid to ask someone to consider a vocation to priesthood.

The day ended with Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration, Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Rosary and blessing led by Fr. Chris to whom we are indebted for making it such a special day.

DAILY 4^{PM} PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Will you take five minutes each day
to pray for vocations?



*Remember us
in your Will*

*Should you desire to include the Society in your legacy bequests, it is
advisable to consult your solicitor when making or amending your Will.*



Remembering Fr. Hugh Boyle, S.D.B.

by his nephew Kieran Downey

The members and friends of St. Joseph Young Priests society Ballymena and district were saddened to hear of the death of Fr. Hugh Boyle S.D.B. Fr. Hugh died on the 31st December 2021. He was born in Ballymena on the 20th December, 1937, into a large family and one of his sisters is Mrs. Yvonne Downey who is one of the founder members of the Society in Ballymena and Yvonne served as Diocesan President and also as Branch President.

It is one of the names given to St Francis de Sales that he was called, “The Gentleman Saint”, for though he lived in the tempestuous times of the Counter Reformation and was called eventually to minister as Bishop of Geneva – a city which he could not enter due to it being the centre of Calvinism- that his life and ministry was marked by a disarming civility and politeness even to the bitterest of theological foes. St Francis, who gave his name to the order founded by St John Bosco two centuries later, could not be a better model and inspiration for one of his sons in Fr Hugh Boyle. His death on 31st December 2021 marked the end of 84 full years of a life lived in gentleness, joy and an unfailing politeness – except when playing tennis or golf- and marked the life of priestly service given in Swaziland, South Africa and in the last years in the parish of Sean Mc Dermott Street before moving in the last months to the Salesian Provincial House in Crumlin, Dublin.

Born to Hugh and Martha Boyle, Hugh was their second son and seventh child. He attended All Saints Boys School beside the Church of All Saints, Ballymena before then enrolling in the Salesian Secondary school and seminary Pallaskendry County Limerick, then entered the novitiate and theological studies in Maynooth before his ordination in Harryville Church on June 22nd 1974. After serving for a summer in Glenravel he was posted to the various ministries of teacher of religion, music and sports (having won a Senior Limerick County medal while in Pallaskendry) all conducted with his usual gusto, gentle good humour and love of



Fr. Hugh Boyle and Mrs. Peggy McQuillan

sharing the Faith through these various ways but pre-eminently, through the CELEBRATION of the Eucharist. It was that he celebrated the Eucharist through his words, his music and experiences – usually with a poem or song as well- that made the Eucharist a true celebration of Christ on the altar and into the lives of the people of Mitchell’s Plain, Capetown for 21 years. After a sabbatical, a return to Swaziland he contracted pneumonia during his attendance at the World Eucharistic Congress in 2012 which eventually prompted his permanent return to Ireland in 2013.

It was a great privilege for all of us to have Fr. Hugh join us on the bus to Knock for our yearly day of pilgrimage. The atmosphere was completely different when Fr. Hugh on with us. Fr. Hugh had a very uplifting and social personality and this affected all of us in a good way. It was a long journey from Ballymena to Knock over 4 and a half hours but with Fr. Hugh on board the times passed so very quickly. He enriched us all with his prayers and guidance and in between decades of the Rosary hymns were sung and interesting stories were told. We were proud indeed to see Fr. Hugh with all of the other priests on the altar in the Basilica concelebrating Holy Mass.

On the bus journey home we said the Rosary and prayers of thanksgiving for a wonderful day. We stopped for a meal in Bundoran and we all felt a sense of good fellowship and good humour that happens when people dine together. There also was an opportunity for anyone to have a private word with Fr. Boyle if they

felt in need of it. After the meal we were entertained by Fr. Hugh in song and with jokes and we were encouraged to sing songs and wave our arms and stamp our feet to the music. We arrived home in Ballymena at around 11pm and we had a very early start of the bus leaving in the morning at 7 am so we all felt physically tired but we were spiritually energised by Fr. Hugh being with us. His affection was infectious, his ceaseless desire to make those around him smile, to truly celebrate their faith is something that we will all remember and carry with us. The trip to Knock will never be the same again!

I want to finish with a little quotation from St Francis de Sales, that Gentleman Saint from one of his letters of spiritual direction, “It is not that one glimpses God despite the persons around one, but one finds God precisely through and with those other people”.

Quiet Man

A quiet man: his name was Joseph
A quiet man: you’d hardly notice
Came from a town you wouldn’t boast of
Said the Lord, ‘that’s the man of my heart’

A man you’d trust in every weather
You’d call him just, not over-clever
He never fussed – well, hardly ever
Said the Lord, ‘that’s the man, now we’ll start’

*In Galilee a lovely lady
In mystery a new-born Baby
And quietly, no but, no maybe
‘I’ll love them, I’ll do what I can’*

A man instilled with adoration
A man who filled his given station
A man who held the world’s salvation
Thank you, Joseph, the Lord’s quiet man

A man who prayed, quite angel-haunted
A man who stayed where he was wanted
A man who paid the price appointed
Thank you, Joseph, the Lord’s quiet man.

Stephen Redmond SJ

Le gach dea-ghuí

The following letter of thanks was received recently from a seminarian. If there was a doubt in anyone's mind of the positive impact that your individual contribution to St. Joseph's Young Priests Society is having every day upon individual lives and the Church at large, here is proof...

13th May 2022

St. Robert Bellarmine & Our Lady of Fatima

Dear St. Joseph's Young Priests Society,

Ba mhaith liom a rá go bhfuil mé fíor-bhríoch da thacaíocht flaitiúil domsa. Tuigim gur mór an iodhbairt í dá bhaill agus bígí cinnte go mbeidh mé ag guí oraibh lá i ndiaidh lae.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude for your most generous support of me in pursuing my vocation. I am conscious of the sacrifice this entails for your members. Please be assured of my prayers for you all each day. I will do my utmost to co-operate with God's grace and, God willing, become a holy Priest. Your support, especially in the form of prayer, is an essential help in this regard and I am truly grateful for it. Go raibh míle míle maith agaibh.

*Le gach dea-ghuí,
Dáire McGrath*

SUPPORT VOCATIONS!

Support the work of Saint Joseph's Young Priests Society. Contact your local branch or the General Secretary of the Society. Get involved in our work and prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood in Ireland and around the World. Participate in a wide range of activities and events to foster the vocation of the laity within the Church.

Come, follow Me! (LUKE 18:22)

St. Joseph's Young Priests Society



PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK

Ireland's International Eucharistic & Marian Shrine
Saturday, 25th June, 2022

Outdoor Stations of the Cross and Rosary Procession at 2 p.m.

Concelebrated Mass in Knock Basilica at 3 p.m.

All are welcome to attend!

Contact your local branch for further details.

St. Joseph's Young Priests Society



PILGRIMAGE TO OUR LADY'S ISLAND

Ireland's Oldest Marian Shrine

Sunday, 24th July, 2022

Confessions from 2 p.m. Holy Mass at 3 p.m.

All are welcome to attend!

Contact your local branch for further details.

Recently Deceased

LOCAL BRANCHES

Ardmore John McCarron

Armagh Miceál Hanratty

Bishopstown Joan O'Shea

Blackpool Beatrice Daly, Kitty Geaney, John Hyde.

Bohermeen Helena Dallas, Pete Fitzsimons, Joe Travers, Lewis Reilly, Bernard Gilbride, Hugh Gilbride, Johnny Casserly

Christ The King May Hurley, Ina Roche.

Dungannon Mary McGeary.

Foxrock Helen Lane, Denise Loftus, Gemma McInerney.

General Ken (Kenneth) MacGowan.

Holy Family Ballymagroarty Fr Paddy O'Kane

Irvinestown John Sloan, Trevor Cassidy, Attracta Maye, Joe Maguire, Margaret Fox, Brian McCauley, Elaine McCarthy, Oliver Scallon, Carmel Keenan, Kathleen McKeivlin, Dolly McCaffrey, Claude Maguire, Brigid Kelly,

Rita Hynes, Adrian Hynes, Agnes McCrory, Rose Turner, Levinus Sweeney, Lillian McCaffrey, Rose Teague, Margaret Barnett, Sadie Davis, Liam McCusker, Pat Kelly, Margaret Donnelly, Tristan McCahey, Shaun Eves.

Kilclief Jeannie Mullan.

Killorglin Pat O'Neill.

Knockinny Seamus Brennan, Sean Reilly, Jack Murphy, Rose McManus, Nancy Wallace-Christou, Jack Brough, Annie Nolan, Hugh McGovern, Tommy Farrelly, Karen Connolly, Eamon Maguire, Imelda Maguire.

Limavady Joe Cummins, Hugh McClarey, Patrick Canning, Sarah Archibald, May Toner, Robert Glenwood Trout, Brigid Carmichael, Avril McGowan.

Maghera Tommy Convery, Anne Marie Dickey, Rosie O'Rourke, Marian O'Neill, Kathleen Lagan, Angela Collins, Thomas Patrick Porter, Annie O'Doherty, Alice Averell, Mary Dougan, Fr. John Cargan, Teresa Moran.

Mellifont/Tullyallen Dolores Leonard, Patrick Devine, Nora Devine, Bridget Walsh, Albert Murray, May Flanagan, Owen Russell, Terence Russell, Nicholas Taaffe, Mary Philomena Clarke, June McGrath, Fr. Peter Devine SMA, Maureen Carry, Martin Murphy.

Navan Road Kay Gleeson Hickey.

Pharmacy Eileen Healy.

Portadown Helen Dolan, Charles McCaffrey, Aidan Fearon, Gretta Henderson, Bridie McCrory, Eamon Jordan, Peter Rafferty.

Rahan Sr. Oliver Wrafter, Katie Cooney.

St. John the Baptist - Clontarf Kitty Blacoe, Rita Wall, Monica Doran.

St. John Vianney, Ardlea Esther Fogarty

St. Vincent's Sundays Well Noreen Crotty
Templemore Mary Shelley, Brigid Madden, Sr. Breda Coman.

Terenure Eileen Healy.

If you would like a few copies of *The Sheaf* for your friends please telephone the Office.

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