



The Sheaf

ST. JOSEPH'S YOUNG PRIESTS SOCIETY

A LAY ORGANISATION FOSTERING VOCATIONS



SJYPS



www.sjyps.ie



@stjosephsheaf

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Mindful of his inspiring words and witness to the Christian Vocation, and especially to the Priestly Vocation, St. Joseph's Young Priests Society is saddened by the loss of Pope Benedict XVI. We join with Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, and the whole Church in praying for the repose of his soul and treasuring his legacy of teaching, especially his Message for the 50th World Day of Prayer for Vocations.

From the Message of Pope Benedict XVI for the 50th World Day of Prayer for Vocations

...Vocations to the priesthood and the consecrated life are born out of the experience of a personal encounter with Christ, out of sincere and confident dialogue with him, so as to enter into his will. It is necessary, therefore, to grow in the experience of faith, understood as a profound relationship with Jesus, as inner attentiveness to his voice which is heard deep within us. This process, which enables us to respond positively to God's call, is possible in Christian communities where the faith is lived intensely, where generous witness is given of adherence to the Gospel, where there is a strong sense of mission which leads people to make the total gift of self for the Kingdom of God, nourished by recourse to the Sacraments, especially the Eucharist, and by a fervent life of prayer. This latter "must on the one hand be something very personal, an encounter between my intimate self and God, the living God. On the other hand it must be constantly guided and enlightened by the great prayers of the Church and of the saints, by liturgical prayer, in which the Lord teaches us again and again how to pray properly." (Spe Salvi, 34).

Deep and constant prayer brings about growth in the faith of the Christian community, in the unceasingly renewed certainty that God never abandons his people and that he sustains them by raising up particular vocations – to the priesthood



BENEDICT XVI
(1927 - 2022)

and the consecrated life – so that they can be signs of hope for the world. Indeed, priests and religious are called to give themselves unconditionally to the People of God, in a service of love for the Gospel and the Church, serving that firm hope which can only come from an openness to the divine. By means of the witness of their faith and apostolic zeal, therefore, they can transmit, especially to the younger generations, a strong desire to respond generously and promptly to Christ who calls them to follow him more closely. Whenever a disciple of Jesus accepts the divine call to dedicate himself to the priestly ministry or to the consecrated life, we witness one of the most mature fruits of

the Christian community, which helps us to look with particular trust and hope to the future of the Church and to her commitment to evangelization. This constantly requires new workers to preach the Gospel, to celebrate the Eucharist and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. So let there be committed priests, who know how to accompany young people as "companions on the journey", helping them, on life's often tortuous and difficult path, to recognize Christ, the Way, the Truth and the Life (cf. Jn 14:6), telling them, with Gospel courage, how beautiful it is to serve God, the Christian community, one's brothers and sisters. Let there be priests who manifest the fruitfulness of an enthusiastic commitment, which gives a sense of completeness to their lives, because it is founded on faith in him who loved us first (cf. 1 Jn 4:19).

Equally, I hope that young people, who are presented with so many superficial and ephemeral options, will be able to cultivate a desire for what is truly worthy, for lofty objectives, radical choices, service to others in imitation of Jesus. Dear young people, do not be afraid to follow him and to walk the demanding and courageous paths of charity and generous commitment! In that way you will be happy to serve, you will be witnesses of a joy that the world cannot give, you will be living flames of an infinite and eternal love, you will learn to "give an account of the hope that is within you" (1 Pt 3:15)!

From the Vatican, 6 October 2012
BENEDICTUS PP. XVI

SAINT JOSEPH, PATRON OF EXILES, PRAY FOR US!

Homily for the Solemnity of Christ the King

Given by Fr. Stephen Kennedy, I.V.E., at the annual Mass in thanksgiving for the gift of Priesthood, St. Andrew's Church, Westland Row, Dublin 2.

It is with great joy that I am here with you all today to celebrate this Mass of thanksgiving for the gift of the priesthood. Many thanks to Fr. Séamus for having invited me to speak with you all, and a sincere thanks for all of the support that Fr. Séamus, and St. Joseph's Young Priests' Society, have given and continue to give to the order to which myself and Fr. Paul Spaine belong – the Institute of the Incarnate Word.

Today is a day of special celebration for us, as we celebrate the Solemnity of Christ the King. On this feast day, we exalt Christ as Our One and Only Saviour – the One who came to give us life, joy and hope. On this feast day of Christ the King, we recall that Christ is the only One who will satiate the deepest longings of our hearts. He alone can give us light in the hour of darkness and joy in the midst of sorrow. In the opening words of his pontificate, St. Pope John Paul II said, “do not be afraid to welcome Christ and accept his power. Do not be afraid. Open wide the doors for Christ. So often today man does not know what is within him, in the depths of his mind and heart. So often he is uncertain about the meaning of his life on this earth. He is assailed by doubt, a doubt which turns into despair. We ask you therefore, let Christ speak to man. He alone has words of life, yes, of eternal life.”

Our world today has an enormous need to know Christ. One need only open the newspapers to see that the hearts of men have strayed from God. Happiness is sought in the wrong places. The unrest in man's hearts leads to fear, sadness, anxiety and despair. How great is the need for our world to know Christ.

And yet it was for this very reason that Our Lord instituted the Catholic priesthood – so that all of mankind would come to know He who is “the Way, the Truth and the Life” (Jn 14, 6). After His Resurrection, and His triumph over sin and death, He gathered His Apostles to Himself, and, throwing His arms out to the world, He bade them spread the message of His Saving grace to all. He said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And look, I am with you always; yes, to the end of time” (Mt. 28, 18-20).

Christ urged His Apostles to go into the four corners of the world and to preach His Gospel – to work incessantly for the glory of God and for the salvation of souls, to spend themselves tirelessly in order to bring



Frs. Kennedy, Spaine and McEntee at the annual Mass in thanksgiving for the gift of Priesthood.

His Precious Body and Blood to others in the Holy Mass, to spend long hours preaching to others and administering the sacraments of baptism and Anointing of the Sick, to seek out everywhere the lost sheep so that they could experience the overflowing joy of the consoling words of the Sacrament of Confession: “Your sins are forgiven.”

And just as Christ called the Twelve Apostles to follow Him many years ago – so He calls new soldiers to the battleground even today. He says, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give it to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me” (Mt. 19, 21).

The Sacred Heart of Jesus is calling new men to the priesthood, even today. He calls them, just as He called St. Peter, to “cast out into the deep” (Lk. 5, 4). He places in their hearts a profound longing to do something extraordinary with their lives. He grants them a fervent love for prayer and solitude. He gives them a longing to sacrifice themselves for something greater, and He calls them persistently to abandon all, as He gently but firmly repeats: “Follow me.” He shows them His Blessed Mother and places them under her protection. He gives them St. Joseph as a faithful companion and guide.

On this day of great celebration for St. Joseph's Young Priest's Society, we give thanks to God for the precious gift of the priesthood. We give thanks for all of those priests who have touched us with the

sweet balm of Christ throughout our lives. And we pray that new men will come forward and answer the call to leave everything and follow Him.

May this feast of Christ the King be a reminder to us all that we share a precious jewel in the Catholic priesthood – and like all jewels, it must be protected, loved and cherished. May Our Lady, Queen of Heaven, intercede before Almighty God, and send numerous and holy vocations to our Church, so that we may all work together to bring about the reign of Her Son in this world – the reign of Jesus Christ, our one and only Sovereign High Priest and true King.

*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.*

Remember Skibbereen!

We in the Skibbereen Branch of St. Joseph's Young Priests Society have had our ups and downs. The Skibbereen Branch was re-launched during 1974. The people involved were Michael Waugh, President, Mary McCarthy, Secretary (still an officer) and the late Barney O'Connor, Treasurer and promoter for St. Joseph's in West Cork. I joined the Skibbereen Branch in March, 1993. The early 1990s were the glory years, with branches being formed and financial contributions to head office in Dublin. With the turn of the Century, big changes were being seen. Attendance at Mass was falling. The numbers attending St. Joseph's monthly meetings began to dwindle.

During 2012, the Skibbereen Branch of St. Joseph's had a President, a Secretary and one member. Donations to head office were very small. We were considering closing as a Branch in Skibbereen. We appointed a new President for our Branch. Changes were slow but we were determined to survive. After some time we had a committee of twelve. We have our monthly meetings in Skibbereen on the 4th Tuesday of each month.

The first change was to make our meetings more prayerful. We now recite the Rosary at the start of every meeting, then the opening prayers. It takes only half an hour to get through the remainder of our meeting with a prepared agenda. This is followed by light refreshments.

Regarding raising finance, over the years we held Church-gate collections (until permits were stopped). This was followed by coffee mornings with some success. During July, 2019, we got a permit to hold a flag day collection at four points in Skibbereen Town. During November, 2019, we held our Christmas appeal for St. Joseph's. We ceased as a working branch from February, 2020, to February, 2022, due to COVID-19. We are back better and stronger than ever. We had our second flag day in Skibbereen last July. We also had a great response to our Christmas appeal.

In closing, we hope that the rules our foundress Olivia Mary Taaffe introduced will never change. We must introduce a new way to promote St. Joseph's Young Priests Society.

Dear

My name is John Deasy. I am involved in the local branch of St. Joseph's Young Priests Society. We are a small group of about fourteen people. Our meeting venue is in St. Vincent de Paul rooms off Market St. We meet on a monthly basis for about one hour with light refreshments afterwards

What is the purpose of St. Joseph's Young Priests Society? It is twofold:

1. We pray for vocations to the Priesthood.
2. We help financially in the education of students for the Priesthood.

You are invited to attend at any of our monthly meetings. We all need a Priest to comfort us at some time in our lives. If you subscribe annually to this charity you will know that you are supporting young men as students for the Priesthood in Ireland and in different parts of the World. You or any member of your family may subscribe to this charity. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. I will call for your response in a week's time.

Yours sincerely,

John Deasy

St. Joseph's Young Priests Society

1. More prayer at the start of the meeting (Rosary before opening prayers)
2. Two promotional officers in each Province
3. Invite members of other religious groups to our monthly meetings
4. Be determined to succeed.

John Deasy

President, Skibbereen Branch,
St. Joseph's Young Priests Society

ALL NIGHT ADORATION

Every first Wednesday of the month, an all-night adoration vigil open to all, is held in the Chapel of Adoration, Divine Master Centre, Newtownpark Avenue, White's Cross, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, to pray for vocations to the priesthood, for seminarians, for priests and Bishops.

Please contact the Sister Disciples of the Divine Master on 01 2886414 or check www.pddm.ie for more information.

Evangelisation & Vocation Conference Diocesan Priesthood in a Synodal Church

One Day Conference
April 25th 2023 - Renehan Hall, Maynooth 10 am – 4 pm

Keynote Speaker

Archbishop Rino Fisichella

Pro-Prefect of the Vatican
Dicastery for Evangelization

(with a panel of expert speakers)



Further Information & Registration visit the Vocations Website

vocations.ie

Conference Free of Charge

Please register as soon as possible as spaces limited.



There was a great sense of joy and love in St Eugene's Cathedral, Derry, on Sunday, 31st January, 2023, when Bishop Donal McKeown ordained Fr. Michael McCaul to the Priesthood. Following Fr. Michael's first Mass, Christina McLaren, Derry Diocesan President, SJYPS, presented him with a stole on behalf of the Society. Included in the picture are Fr. Patrick Lagan, who assisted at the ordination ceremony, and SJYP members Margaret Curry, Celine McDaid, Anna Peake and Marian Tosh.



On Sunday, 6th November, 2022, recently ordained Fr. Stephen Wilson celebrated Mass in St. Patrick's Church, Dundalk, for members of St. Joseph's Young Priests Society. Maura Murphy, Armagh Diocesan President, presented Fr. Wilson with a stole embroidered with the logo of St. Joseph's Young Priests Society on behalf of the members in the Diocese.

Africa

The April, 2023, issue of Africa magazine, published by St. Patrick's Missionary Society, the Kiltegan Fathers, includes a two-page article on St. Joseph's Young Priests Society. Get your copy today!

PROVINCIAL CONGRESSES

Metropole Hotel,
MacCurtain Street,
Cork City: **Saturday 1st April**

**St. John's Rest &
Day Care Centre,**
Knock, Co. Mayo: **Saturday 15th April**

Armagh City Hotel: Saturday 22nd April

**St. Patrick's
Seminary,**
Maynooth, Co. Kildare: **Saturday 13th May**

RADIO MARIA IRELAND

The Sheaf on Radio Maria Ireland

Every last Friday of the month at 7 p.m. a programme by (and about) St. Joseph's Young Priests Society is broadcast on Radio Maria Ireland. Guests in the first few months have included: John Murphy (Past National President), Fr. Joseph Keegan (Newly Ordained Priest), Marian Fennelly (National President), Pauline McHugh (Dublin Provincial President), Fr. Séamus McEntee (Chief Chaplain). We'd like to hear from you! Send in news about your events and Branch meetings. This is your hour!

Write to: St. Joseph's Sheaf, c/o Radio Maria Ireland, St. Anthony's Business Park, Ballymount Road, Dublin 22.

Call: (01) 4123456

Email: info@radiomaria.ie

Send a text or WhatsApp message to: (089) 4672000

Radio Maria Ireland is not on 'the wireless' but you can listen on SAORVIEW Channel 210, on a Smartphone App, on Facebook or on www.radiomaria.ie.

Please listen in and encourage others to listen in, especially members and benefactors who can't attend meetings.

Recently Deceased & Acknowledgements

Ardlea (St. John Vianney) Liz Ryan.

Armagh Anne Brannigan.

Ballymun (Our Lady of Victories) Phil McCarrick, Eamonn D'arcy.

Ballyphehane Tony Soden.

Ballinahinch / Killoscully Kathleen Finn, Biddy Healy.

Blackrock, Cork Denis Kelly

Cashel and Golden Maura Shanahan.

Clontarf (St. John the Baptist) Christy Shanahan.

Coleraine (St. John's) Sr. Brigid Agnes Devine.

Derry (Three Patrons) Brian O'Reilly

Ennis Fintan Lynch, John Cahir.

Enniskeane Tom O'Dwyer, T.J. Cullinan

Enniskillen Jim Shannon, Dolores McManus, Nora McGowan, Margaret (Peggy) Miller

Faughanvale (St Mary's) Leo Gallagher, Gerard O'Donnell, Norah Kirby.

Foxrock Tim Lane.

Irvinestown Michael McGrath, Philomena McMahon, Maureen Maguire, Joan Breen, Mary and Joe McGirr, Brian Wilson, Dymna Grainger, John McFadden, Eugene McDonagh, Frank Kane, Lilly Keown, Daniel McKevey, Fr. Seamus Reihill, Michael Kelly, Declan Collins, Celia McGuinness, Maureen Cardwell, Kevin Cassidy, Liam Farry, Ciaran McBride, Michael McCaffrey, Moira Leonard, Carmel Finch, Eileen Kearney, Frank Spratt, Agnes Grainger, Dominic Almond, Peter Ruddy, Margaret Maguire.

Keady Patrick McKenna

Kilclief Teresa McMorro

Kilkenny (St. Patrick's) Paddy Ward, Angela Kearney, Annie Saunders

Knockinny Seamus Gunn, Peggy Gunn, Vera Maguire, Lorraine Cox-Connolly, Aidan Maguire, Eamon Lynam, Jim Shannon, Mickey Doonan, Kevin Timmons, Carmel Gill, Vincent Devine, Teresa Maguire, Geraldine Cumiskey, Saorla O'Reilly, Frances Martin, Eddie Reilly, Felix McGill.

Limerick (St. Munchin's) Eileen Sparling – Former National President.

Maghera John Warnock, Joe Convery, Paddy Joe O'Kane, Bridget Flanagan, Pat McKenna, Mary Smyth, Brian Merron Bernadette McCusker, Andrew McLaughlin.

Mayfield (St. Joseph's) Pat Sheehan.

Navan Road Michael Conway.

Portadown Liam Donaghy, Tony O'Neill, Rose Murphy.

Templemore Patricia McCafferty.

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

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