

The Sheaf

St. Joseph's Young Priests Society
A Lay Organisation Fostering Vocations



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CELEBRATING 800 YEARS OF IRISH DOMINICANS

At the time of writing this article, the Irish Dominicans have seventeen young men in training for the priesthood. All of these will, it is hoped, work in Ireland in the long term, doing what St. Dominic founded us for, namely 'the salvation of souls.' Some few might work alongside the brothers of the wider Dominican Order in Rome or might spend a few years in our missions in Trinidad in the Caribbean or in Iran, but all are training for the new evangelisation of the Land of Saints and Scholars. We are very grateful to St. Joseph's Young Priests' Society who have generously supported some of these financially each year, for the last number of years.

Many people look on the vocations in the Dominicans in Ireland as a miracle and wonder, what the secret of success is. We Dominicans, on the other hand, are not boasting, but praying, because the situation is always delicate. We depend entirely on the grace of God. We have, very painfully had to withdraw from some churches which we ran for centuries, for lack of brothers to serve them. Therefore, we can never be complacent, but prayer and good Vocations Directors have been key for us. This is another reason to thank St. Joseph's Young Priests' Society, as well as our own lay Dominican Fraternities, who pray alongside us that the Lord of the Harvest will send labourers into his fields here in Ireland. We also work hard at their training. We run our own school of theology in St. Saviour's Priory in Dublin, where we invest heavily in terms of our own manpower and finances, to give the brothers the best we can in terms of academic formation in the tradition of St. Thomas Aquinas. St. Thomas highlights the coherence and harmony of the different aspects of the Catholic Faith, encompassing the Bible, the life, death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus, the Church's moral teaching and so on. This will in turn enable future preachers to explain it well to those who hear them. But if we older Dominicans

put great effort into this, we are more than rewarded by these young men who have bucked the trend of society to give their lives to Christ with such goodness, commitment, seriousness and humour.

The Dominicans arrived in Ireland in 1224 and so we are celebrating our 800 years this year with various events. You can find them online at www.dominicans.ie. We began with Mass on February 11th, the Sunday closest to the feast of Blessed Jordan of Saxony, who was the Master of the Order when the first Dominicans arrived. It was attended by many friends from around the country. A recital of Handel's Messiah in April was a great success, thanks to the Tallaght Choral Society. It contains the biblical line, "O Thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, get thee up onto a high mountain", which has been the motto of the Irish Dominican province for centuries now. Pilgrimages to Lough Derg, to Lourdes, various talks, commissioned works of art and a conference on the Eucharist in Knock this coming October, are some of the events which mark our gratitude to God, for 800 years of his providential kindness to us and our forefathers.

In 1224 the sons of St. Dominic (c. 1172-1221), were unfurling the banners of the Gospel across Europe and the Mediterranean world. They were part of a larger movement in the Catholic Church where there was a real concern that the knowledge of the 'unsearchable mysteries of Christ,' (as St. Paul called them) should no longer be confined to monks and nuns in their monasteries but was something in which the people of both town and countryside



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should share. A recent major author has written that the 'friars, who lived among the people, brought about a revolution in popular piety' in Ireland. Ruined Dominican churches and priories from this period, grace the Irish countryside and evoke art and architecture that is only a shadow of the colourful religion of the time.

For three hundred years after the Reformation, Dominicans (like all Irish Catholics), chafed under persecution and deprivation of religious freedom. And yet 'this was their finest hour,' as the martyrs came marching in, each giving their lives for Christ and for his Church. Beautiful works of art survive from this time, chalices and monstrances made in secret and used in secret by a people unwilling to be defeated.

The advent of religious liberty saw a new flourishing, initially timid. A Dominican Archbishop of Dublin, John Troy O.P., built the Pro-Cathedral in Marlborough Street, a worthy cathedral for Dublin, but hidden down a back laneway. Two years after Emancipation, Fr. Bartholomew Russell, (the man more responsible than anyone else, for the reconstruction of the

Dominican Order in Ireland), built an even larger classical church in Cork, on a bend in the river, visible for half a mile on either side, its fine colonnade up a tall flight of steps. The statement was clear: the Catholics are back! And so we built again.

In the period after Vatican II, we Dominicans have continued to contribute to writing, to pro-life politics, to broadcasting, to preaching and to forming an educated Catholic laity. This now includes distance education through the Priory Institute. Several of Ireland's Catholic youth movements also kindly involve us, including Youth 2000, Pure in Heart and the Legion of Mary. In these endeavours we are very grateful partners. Still today we Dominicans try constantly to return to our original calling in announcing the Good News of Jesus Christ and, as God has graced us with many new members in recent years, we hope to use this grace to return to Him, some little for what we have received over 800 years.

Fr Terence Crotty, O.P.

God's Influencer – Blessed Carlo Acutis, 1991-2006

Pope Francis has attributed a second miracle to an Italian teenager, now deceased, who used his computer skills to spread the Catholic faith. Carlo Acutis, died of Leukaemia aged 15 years. An only child, born in London, he moved back to Italy with his parents as an infant. He loved football, action films, computer games and animals. From early childhood, his first love was Our Lord in the Eucharist.

His parents were not religious. However, as a small child he regularly visited churches and soon attended daily Mass. His mother and father gradually came back to their faith. A 'computer genius' and possible future patron saint of the internet, at 14 years, he had created a Eucharistic Miracle display that would tour the world, along with a website. He felt that if people knew that Jesus was truly in the Eucharist, they would turn to God.

He gave of his time to good works - helping vulnerable children, migrants, the elderly and the poor. At 11 years of age, he was confirmed and became a catechist. He would defend his Catholic faith, including his pro-life views, fearlessly at school. He died on 12 October 2006, following a short illness. Blessed Carlo Acutis will one day be St. Carlo.

A Brazilian boy fully recovered from a birth defect after touching Carlo's relic. This led to his beatification in 2020. A second miracle occurred, after a Costa Rican mother prayed at his tomb after her daughter had a bicycle accident. Valeria Valverde, 21 years, almost died after suffering a severe head injury. She made a miraculous recovery. The Pope has accepted these miracles and Carlo now qualifies for Sainthood, it is expected that he will be the first Millennial Saint.

Exactly four years after his death, his mother gave birth to twin daughters having been told she wouldn't have any more children after Carlo was born. She is said to attribute this event to her son's intercession.

He was beatified on 10 October 2020, at the Basilica of St Francis of Assisi, (Assisi, his favourite town), by Cardinal Agostino Vallini (on behalf of Pope Francis). His Feast day is 12 October. www.carloacutis.com



Prayer for Favourable Weather

God our Father, we turn to you, the source of all goodness and grace. We come before you with humble hearts, seeking your divine intervention in the rhythm of the seasons. Bless us with the favourable weather which we so badly need at this time, especially for our farming community and all others whose livelihoods depend on it. Grant them strength and perseverance in their work. In their labour, may they find solace and fulfilment, knowing that their efforts contribute to the well-being

of our communities. Bless them with resilience in the face of challenges and grant them moments of peace amidst the storms of life. Help us, as faith communities, to support and uplift them, recognising the vital role they play in sustaining life. Guide us, Lord, to be mindful stewards of the earth and compassionate neighbours to those who cultivate it. May your loving presence be a beacon of hope and strength for all.

We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Quote Pope Francis – *What are my Eyes Really Seeing?*

How do I look at things? Do I look at things carefully, or do I glance at them the way I scroll rapidly through the thousands of photos on my phone or on social media? These days we often witness events first-hand without truly living them! Sometimes our initial reaction is to film them without even bothering to look into the eyes of the people involved.



Pope's Intentions for July:

Let us pray that the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, bestowing the Lord's strength to those who receive it and to their loved ones, may become for everyone an ever more visible sign of compassion and hope.



Group at Recent Tuam Congress
With Provincial President Marie Dempsey



Cashel Congress Committee
L-R: Redempta Furney, Bridget Forde, Mary Dempsey, With President Marian Fennelly
Missing from the photo, Joan O'Brien

Dates for Your Diary 2024

Sunday, 28 July – Pilgrimage to Our Lady's Island, Co Wexford. *Contact the office for more information.*
Sat/Sun., 10 & 11 August – National Congress, St Patricks College, Maynooth. *(Free Parking).*
Sunday, 6 October – Ballapousta – Anniversary Mass to mark the death of Mrs Olivia Mary Taaffe.
Sunday, 24 November – Feast of Christ the King – Mass of Thanksgiving for the gift of Priesthood at St. Andrew's Church, Westland Row, Dublin at 3.30 p.m.

Last Will and Testament

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



Hugh and the Late Anna Roddy, Limavady

Hugh and Anna Roddy have been long standing members of the St. Joseph's Young Priests Society. Hugh was President of Limavady branch from 2004-2009. His devoted wife, Anna, joined as a member, supporting her husband's work from the outset. Hugh was outspoken in his support of the Society and ardently fundraised on behalf of seminarians. Sadly, Anna recently departed this life to go on to her heavenly reward on 29 February and her family generously designated the Society for private donations, in lieu of flowers.

A local parishioner decided to follow the call to priesthood 10 years ago. Hugh advocated for him. His journey to priesthood has had many obstacles but thankfully, this young man will become a deacon next year. We are all so proud of him but none more so than Hugh, who is now in his nineties.

Upon hearing the sad news of Anna's passing, this seminarian, shared these words:

"Hugh and Anna have both been absolutely dedicated to the Saint Joseph's Young Priests Society for as long as I've known them. For me, they have been like grandparents and true benefactors. Their dedication to the church and to the clergy, poor earthen vessels as they are, has been an inspiration and a challenge to me. Their work for the church and her priests, has

been imbued with faith, hope and love with an unassuming air that makes them, for me, models of the Little Way of St. Therese. They have been, in their prayers, works, joys and sufferings, a fine example of the lay apostolate in the Church, offering everything in union with Our Lord's sacrifice on the altar. Only God will fully grasp all the good they have done and I pray that we will all share in the good harvest which they have reaped."

Brigitte S Gallocker, Limavady.



Hugh Roddy, Past President - Limavady Branch, along with his late wife, Anna Roddy.

Recently Deceased and Acknowledgments

Ballyfermot: Nuala Flood

Ballymena - All Saints: Margaret McLaughlin, Cecilia Lyness.

Bohermeen: Dermot English, Betty Williams, Jonathan Tormey, Brian Brady, Peter King, Christy & Eileen Travers, Benny Dolan, Ann McManus, Jim Conway.

Castlereagh: Mary Doyle, Billy Doyle.

Cleenish: Dan McGovern, Frank Timoney, Noel Parker, Annie McManus, Brenda Higgins, Packie Kearney, Valerie McDonnell, Thomas Corrigan, Ellen (Nellie) Rasdale, Mary Cosgrove, Tommy McDermott, Eithne Bartley, Maureen Howe, Gerard Corrigan, James Montgomery.

Drogheda: Marion Moore. Gerry Cluskey.

Enniskillen: Mary McCaffrey, Brigid Henderson, Alice Campbell.

Faughanvale (St Mary's): Christy Proctor, Leo Gallagher, Philomena Raddie, Mick Lynch, Celine Harty.

Ferns: Kitt Killeen.

General: Martin Wall.

Graigueamanagh: May Quinn.

Limavady: Anna Roddy.

Maghera: Donal Convery, Gerard Lagan, Johanna Lagan, Danny Dinsmore, Eileen Deery, Mary Stewart, Philomena O'Connor, Carmel Molloy, Francis Lagan, Chloe Gallagher, Bridget Hegarty.

Newcastle, Dublin: Gerald O'Reilly.

Our Lady Crowned (Mayfield): Jerry Healy

Portadown: Rosaleen Donnelly, Dolores Hollywood, Pat Toland, Mona McGuigan, Eamon Leonard, Ann McVeigh.

Saval: Mary Cull.

St. John the Baptist - Clontarf: Shona Murphy

St. John Vianney, Ardlea: Carmel O'Byrne, Evelyn Devlin.

Trillick: Rosemary McNabb, Kate Tolan, Jason Magerr, Stephen Green.

Anonymous Donations: €80

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

Tel: + 353 (1) 676 2593.

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