

The Sheaf



1917 100th Anniversary of the Fatima Apparitions

ST. JOSEPH'S YOUNG PRIESTS SOCIETY

www.stjosephsyoungpriestssociety.com



23 MERRION SQUARE, DUBLIN 2, IRELAND, D02 XE02. TELEPHONE: (00 353 1 676 2593)

SPRING 2017



Pictured L-R Matthew McFadden (2nd yr Communications DCU), Fr. Mike Schmitz (Catholic Priest of the Diocese of Duluth, well known speaker on Catholic programming incl. FOCUS, Ascension Press, Stubenville Conferences, Lighthouse Catholic Media), Mark Caffrey (1st Yr Business and Languages), Fr. Séamus McEntee (Chaplain DCU and Chief Chaplain SJYPS)

I had been ordained a little over a year and a half and was just settling into ministry as a priest in the Combined Catholic Parishes of Clondalkin, Dublin, when out of the blue, one day in early February 2016, I received a phone call from my Archbishop, Diarmuid Martin, who asked me if I would like to take up ministry as a Chaplain at DCU (Dublin City University). It was a bit of a sudden appointment, but I thought it would be a challenge working with young students of all faiths and none in a university setting and although a little apprehensive, I accepted.

Then last October, I received a brochure from the Archbishop about a lay Catholic organisation working and ministering on 125 College and University Campuses across the USA. The organisation is called FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students). Having read the brochure and contacted them, I was invited along to a conference they were organising in San Antonio, Texas in January 2017. The conference was called SEEK2017 where 13,000 students along with 400 Chaplains and Campus ministers gathered for 5 days to explore their faith, listen to talks and engage in a variety of workshops on numerous subjects. I was excited about the way they carried out ministry on university campuses where college graduates commit two years of their time to befriend and minister to other college and university students and so I decided, along with two DCU students, Mark Caffrey and Matthew McFadden, to head over to Texas to explore what FOCUS was about, with the possibility of perhaps one day having a FOCUS team working in DCU.

In less than 20 years since its foundation, FOCUS say that over 600 Campus Missionaries have gone on to become priests with thousands more joining religious life and becoming committed married couples involved in their local parishes. I see FOCUS as a real way to engage with the thousands of young men and women in our Colleges and Universities here in Ireland and so would like to share with you a little of what they are about.

According to recent studies, almost 80% of those who leave the Catholic faith do so by the age 23. Today I believe so many people in Ireland — especially young people — do not know their true worth or purpose in life. So many never know what it is to have an authentic relationship with someone. So many are starving for hope, peace, joy and love. FOCUS exists to lead starving souls to the One who satisfies every need: Jesus Christ.

FOCUS is a national campus outreach that meets college students where they are and invites them to examine the meaning and purpose of their lives. Through large-group outreach, Bible studies and one-on-one mentoring, FOCUS staff are equipped to introduce college students to the Person of Jesus Christ and the Catholic faith, empowering them to share His love with the world.

FOCUS missionaries share with others the joy and happiness they have received through their personal relationship with Jesus Christ and their participation in His Catholic Church. To keep their spiritual vessels overflowing with God's life, missionaries sustain and grow in their relationship with the Lord through daily prayer and a rich sacramental life. The main thing is to invite college students into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church; inspiring and equipping them for a lifetime of Christ-centered evangelization, discipleship and friendships in which they lead others to do the same.

After FOCUS begins serving on a campus, there are many ways in which numbers tend to increase. Increases in Mass attendance, Bible study/small group participation, or RCIA candidates may all be great signs that the missionaries are helping bear fruit. While we celebrate and work towards many different areas of growth in a local campus ministry, our greatest measure of success on a campus is the number of students that take the step into discipleship with the goal of intentionally raising up more disciples of Christ. They often look to 2 Timothy 2:2, "...and what you have heard from me before many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also", and note that Paul emphasizes not just raising up one generation of disciples, but generations who have the vision to teach others how to raise up disciples. By raising up students who make a commitment to intentional discipleship and relational evangelization, their work together will impact the campus and the world.

This Summer I will attend a conference called "The Summit '17" (thesummit17.com). It's organised in partnership with FOCUS and will be held in Dublin from July 13th-15th 2017. The Summit '17, invites YOU to the Croke Park Conference Centre, Dublin where we will be joined by Archbishop Eamon Martin, also by the founder of FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students), Curtis Martin; Vice President of the Augustine Institute, Dr Edward Sri; director for Evangelisation for the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception, Fr Michael Gaitely and a Focus Mission team. Perhaps I will see you there???

By Fr. Séamus McEntee

See page 3 for reports by Matthew and Mark



We send our best wishes to the founding members of the Society's newest branch seen here with Fr Seamus McEntee, Chief Chaplain, following celebration of their inaugural Mass. The branch is established in Ashbourne Co Meath, in the parish of Ashbourne Donaghmore. Rose Donegal (extreme right) is President of the Branch



Photographed at the meeting of the Cashel Provincial Council on 25 March with Guest Speaker Fr Vincent Stapleton CC Thurles were (L to R) Mary Kelly diocesan president of SJYPS in Cashel & Emly, Marie Morkan vice-president of Cashel Provincial Council, Una Nunan president of the Provincial Council and Breda Daly diocesan president of SJYPS in Cloyne.

Letters



St Patrick's Maynooth.
23rd February 2017

Dear St Joseph's Young Priests Society,
I am writing in reply to your letter that I received a few weeks past regarding your support towards my formation. Thank you very much. Please God, thanks to your support, I will fulfil what it is that the Lord is calling me to do.

I am a second year philosophy student and from the Diocese of Waterford & Lismore. Life can be very busy and challenging here at times, but also very blessed. Journeying with our Lord and Mary can be so blessed, as long as we keep our eyes fixed on them. Thank you for your prayers and your very generous financial support. I think of all your members in my prayers. May our Lord Bless your work, and you and your families, always.
John McEneaney



To: St. Joseph's Young Priests Society.
From: Mark O'Brien in Rome
Thank you kindly for your generous donation towards my formation.
It is reassuring to know that I have such support during my studies. I will keep you in my prayers.
Mark O'Brien.



Maynooth, January '17

Dear Ms. Condron,
I received with gratitude your letter detailing the monies SJYPS pays towards my education here at the National Seminary, Maynooth.
Be assured of my prayers and future Mass intentions.
Yours faithfully,
Ronan M. Sheehan.



Derry Diocese
Pontificio Collegio Irlandese,
Via dei Santi Quattro, L, 00184, Roma.

Dear Anne,
I wish to thank you for the very generous contribution which the Society made recently towards my formation. The spiritual and financial support of the Society is greatly appreciated by seminarians; it is a great source of inspiration and encouragement for us to know that so many people throughout the country are praying for us everyday and are making very generous contributions towards our education.
Please pass on my heartfelt thanks to the members of the Society. I will keep the society in my prayers, and please God, one day I will offer the Holy sacrifice of the Mass for your intentions.
In Christ,
Declan McGeehan.



Mary Dempsey, treasurer Cork and Ross diocesan committee, supervised the arrangements at the Anner Hotel Thurles on 25 March



Fr Eamonn Bourke UCD Chaplaincy, celebrated the opening Mass in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel at Knock for the meeting of the Tuam Provincial Council on 22 April. He concelebrated Mass with Fr Ruairi O Domhnaill. Fr Eamon was the Guest Speaker afterwards and spoke to the theme of 'Our Lady's Role in fostering Vocations to Priesthood and Religious Life'. Fr Yesudas Kodiveetil CC Tuam, from Alleppy in Kerala, (left) developed this theme speaking from his own tradition and personal experiences in India.



Following the ordination to the priesthood of Evin O'Brien by Bishop John Buckley on 10 June at Mahon, Brigid Forde secretary of the SJYPS Cork & Ross diocesan committee, presented Fr Evin with a stole following the celebration of his first Mass at Mahon. We wish him every happiness and success in his future ministry.

Vocations Sunday Message

from Fr Willie Purcell, National Coordinator of Diocesan Vocations.

We are all aware that we are living in a country and world of many problems, war, violence, terror, homelessness, human trafficking, famine, hurt, abuse, pain, depression. There are many false shepherds who desire to lead us away from God, but in the midst of all this God is still calling men and women to live the joy of the gospel, men and women who give their lives to Him in the service of their brothers and sisters as priests, religious sisters and brothers.

Despite the distractions, noise and clamour of the world the Word of God is still being heard as a voice of hope, encouragement, love and friendship. The world cannot silence the call of God.

Jesus the Good Shepherd is leading His people to pastures of peace and safety. To do this Jesus the Good Shepherd needs men and women of prayer and courage to leave their familiar lives and give themselves in love to proclaim the Gospel with their lives. In his message for Vocations Sunday or Good Shepherd Sunday which we are celebrating today, Pope Francis tells us that:

“Commitment to mission is not something added on to the Christian life as a kind of decoration, but is instead an essential element of faith itself”. He adds, “It entails being sent out into the world

as prophets of his word and witnesses of his love.”

It’s not easy to be a prophet of His word and a witness of His love in the world we are living in, there are many obstacles, much criticism, condemnations on every side and still there are priests, sisters, brothers, seminarians, novices and contemplatives who in unity with their married and single family members and friends are living courageously and selflessly in bringing the Word of healing, reconciliation, compassion and care to others.

These men and women of our families, our parishes, our dioceses, our communities, our schools, our colleges, our hospitals, our prisons, and our missionaries are true witnesses of His love and prophets of His Word.

Jesus the Good Shepherd never abandons his flock, never leaves his people unattended, and never walks away even when they walk away from Him. Jesus the Good Shepherd will always take care of his flock, will always call and send other shepherds to look after His flock.

This Vocations Sunday has a twofold prayer request:

Firstly, it is an invitation to pray in thanksgiving for all those who

generously have answered the call to serve in ministry in the Church;

Secondly, it is a request to ask the Lord of the Harvest to send more labourers into His harvest which as the prayer of the St Josephs Young Priests Society prays - for saintly priests, heroic missionaries and dedicated sisters and brothers.

All of us need your prayers to support us in the vocation we are called to live; we need your prayers for the men and women who are being called to priesthood and religious life that like Mary the Mother of God they too will say Yes with trust and confidence in God. We need you to pray with us that Christian families will give to the Church helpers in the work of tomorrow.

In concluding his message for Vocations Sunday Pope Francis says:

“I wish heartily to encourage this kind of profound friendship with the Lord, above all for the sake of imploring from on high new vocations to the priesthood and the consecrated life. I ask parish communities, associations and the many prayer groups present in the Church, not to yield to discouragement but to continue praying that the Lord will send workers to his harvest”.

nationalvocations@gmail.com

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For so many reasons, I struggle to put my Faith experience from SEEK into just a few words, as it was unlike any other that I’ve ever had. It was an amazing adventure, a bold encounter with the Lord, where I was seeking out my calling in life. We arrived in S. Antonio, just in time for the conference and settled into bed for the night, when I quietly recalled, following my previous 4 hours travel (flying south from Illinois / Missouri), why I was really there.

The opportunity afforded to us, to join 13,000 other young Catholic students in the praise of God, was something incredible. The sheer noise within the arena at the opening event was somewhat deafening, excited friends seeing each other for the first time after their Christmas holidays (having spent the previous 18 hours holed up in an unreclined bus seat), hundreds of priests & seminarians gathering together in preparation for the Sacraments of the Eucharist and Reconciliation and of course the enthusiastic young people acting as our hosts.

Activities ranged from morning talks, to afternoon digests, followed by evening entertainment e.g. Catholic comedy [it’s a thing!] to Worship groups singing their praises to God. The talks were captivating,

the digests were hard-hitting and candid, while the effort put into the entertainment of so many young people, was expertly implemented to the highest degree. My advice to all would be to visit focus.org and see the sheer impact they have in the makeup of the future of God’s Great Church. Godspeed them in the Good work!

By Matthew McFadden (2nd Year Student of Communications, DCU)



The SEEK conference was a unique experience for me as a first year student in DCU. For people who have participated in World Youth Day or indeed Youth 2000 or another youth ministry event and who have come away nourished or ‘on fire’ then count SEEK right up there with these other great initiatives.

One highlight of the SEEK experience would have to be the morning Masses. In some respects, the liturgies that took place in the Henry B Gonzalez Convention Center were unlike anything I had previously encountered. Despite the crowd of nearly 15,000 young people there was nonetheless a remarkable intimacy to the whole affair – the same applies to the Eucharistic Adoration. The reverence of all in attendance was highly apparent. The choir led us through wonderful traditional hymns and the psalms were the most

beautiful I’ve heard. Now, one of my roommates was a non-denominational Christian and this was his first experience of the Catholic Church. What an encounter it was! You couldn’t be there and not be moved.

Needless to say, the speakers were of great calibre. Some I would have been familiar with having followed them online whilst others were totally new to me. Fr Mike Schmitz as a keynote speaker along with Dr Ted Sri and Sister Bethany Madonna left the crowd waiting for an encore!

Two of my roommates and I attended Dr Denis McNamara’s talk on “The Bible and Church Architecture”. He presented quality information in a highly engaging way which has me tempted to sign up for one of his classes at the Liturgical Institute of Mundelein Seminary! We were enthralled by it and came away with an even greater appreciation of those churches that ontologically displayed “church-ness” in all its poetic beauty. My notebook was packed with wisdom afterwards.

I’ll take many things home with me including some great merchandise and even greater memories: meals with new friends and the heroic witness of young seminarians.

By Mark Caffrey (1st Year Student of Business and Languages, DCU)

Report from the Dublin Congress:

8 April 2017 Ashling Hotel

Theme: 'Our Lady's Role in fostering Vocations to Priesthood and Religious Life'



*At the Dublin Provincial Congress in the Ashling Hotel:
Fr Seamus McEntee Chief Chaplain, Matthew McFadden DCU,
Fr John Hogan PP Multifarnham, and Fr Pat O'Brien SPS Kiltegan*

Another successful Dublin Congress took place at the Ashling Hotel on what was a glorious sunny April Day with the best attendance to date. For those of us lucky enough to be there the day's programme was both inspiring and uplifting.

Fr Seamus McEntee, our Spiritual Director began the day with Mass remembering priests and deceased members of our Society. He reminded us that Mary has a special relationship with priests, her Motherhood and Jesus' priesthood are inseparable in their self offering to the Father: Mary said 'Let it be done unto me' Jesus said 'I come to do Your will'. Both John Paul II by his document Totus Tuus (All Yours) and Paul VI by dedicating his priesthood to the Immaculate Heart of Mary showed their devotion to her.

Following John Murphy's welcome address Dominic Dowling introduced the first Speaker: Fr John Hogan PP, Multyfarnham, Co Westmeath. In his address often interspersed with humorous quips, Fr John put it up to us by announcing that Olivia Taafe is 'a saint not yet recognised', and Ireland needs priests and saints. Jesus on the Cross gave the gift of his Mother to the Church when he said: 'woman, behold thy son' and to John the Apostle 'son, behold thy Mother'. John took Mary into his home, priests must do the same as she is Mother of all that they do.

Then Fr Hogan took us through the journey of discerning a Vocation: meditation, am I called? Mary teaches us by her example how to deal with this by listening, praying and asking God. Discerning a vocation requires trust, it is a call to a radical way of being, at a time when grace is airbrushed out and the commandments are changed to suit today. If God wants you, He will call you and give you the grace and strength to say 'yes'.

Pope Benedict XVI said 'if we let God in, He gives us everything and takes nothing away'. Mary's vocation and mission is to intercede for us with Jesus. Her last image in the Bible is in the Acts of the Apostles where she tells them to wait for the Spirit.

There was a short discussion/question time before a very enjoyable lunch.

Back in the afternoon, President John Murphy introduced our second Speaker Fr Ruairi O Domhnaill, Vocations Director for the Diocese of Kildare & Leighlin. Fr Ruairi shared with us his very personal and emotional journey of Faith and devotion to Medjugorje. We were honoured and humbled to be part of that. He mentioned the 610 written Testimonies of Vocation to Priesthood at Medjugorje, there are no unbelievers only those who do not know God's Love. Vocations are referred to twice in the Bible: Pray the Lord of the Harvest...and 'Come follow Me'. Vocation as priest is a unique intimacy with Christ, putting Jesus first, both beautiful and difficult.

At 3pm the Chaplet of Divine Mercy was led by John Murphy. This was followed by Adoration, Rosary and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament with Fr Seamus, some of which was streamed 'live' on our website, a first thanks to Matthew from DCU. It was a wonderful day thanks also to John Murphy, Kieran Hickey and the office staff.

Marian Fennelly
Vice-president SJYPS



Also at the Ashling Hotel on 8 April, Fr Ruairi O Domhnaill spoke on his work as director of vocations in the Kildare & Leighlin diocese. With Fr Ruairi is Marian Fennelly, Ossory diocese, vice-president of the Society.

Recently Deceased

PARISH BRANCHES

Abbeyfeale Patrick Flynn, Liam Flynn

Ardfield / Rathbarry Conor Collins, Anne Spillane

Armagh Paddy Donnelly

Ballinahinch / Killoscully Nora Flynn, Bridie Seymour, Helen Buckley (Donoughmore)

Ballinteer Kathleen Kinch

Ballyphehane Betty O'Brien, Eileen Buckley, Caitlín MacAmhlaoibh, Denis Joseph (Joe) Crowley (Former Vice President of the Society), Francis Buckley

Bohermeen Seamus Boylan, Peter Kavanagh, John O'Reilly, Saoirse McMullan

Boosterstown Beatrice Ryan

Boyle Michael Carty

Clonduff / Hilltown Anna Grant

Derrygonnelly / Botha Michael Duffy, Joe Corrigan, Betty Quinn, Josie McGuinness, Eamonn Hoy, Joe McManus, Eamonn McGowan

Dundalk Una O'Hagan, Derry O'Riordan, Dr Tom Kellaghan

Dundrum Brigid Looby, Joe Lynch

Ennis John McCabe

Faughanvale, St Mary's Bernadette Gillespie

Frankfield / Grange Lily Carroll, Maura O'Sullivan,

Teresa McGrath

Holy Family, Ballymagroarty Annie Kerr

Loughrea Aggie Moran, Sara Kelly

Lordship/Ballymacscanlan Hanna Johnston

Maghera Jim Convery, James McCusker, Sarah McCusker Rose O'Neill, Fr Bernard Bryson, Nora Johnston, Christopher Chambers

Mallow Mary Murphy

Mountnugent / Balinacree Eugene Blake, Dominic Conaty, Christy Garry, Patricia Farrelly, Norbert Smith, Tommy Coyle, Bennie Briody, Bernadette Flynn

Mourne Road Eyelyn Owens

Moycarkey / Borris James Gleeson

Oranmore Joan Hehir

Our Lady of the Rosary, Limerick Tom Fox

Portadown Rosaleen McKeever, Bernadette Lavery, Sean Litter

St John the Baptist, Clontarf Margaret McKinley, Lucy Geraghty

St Kevin's, Harrington Street Doreen Kingsbury

St Peter & Paul, Athlone Teresa Keogh, Mary Furey

Scotshouse / Currin Mary McCabe

Skerries Joe Dowling

Terenure Nuala Brehony

General Francis Brady, John Lambe, Maureen Sloane, Mona McDonald, John Byrne, Oliver McClean, Mattie Merrick.

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£200 H. Johnston