

Newsletter March 2012

Sowing Seeds

As we welcome the season of new life, of new hope and of new possibilities let us also take stock on this, the third month of the New Year, and ask ourselves the question: **what have I done so far this year to actively promote religious life?** Have I sought out opportunities to meet with people who are considering their future paths? Recent surveys as well as testimonies from younger religious bear witness to the power of the personal invitation. Never underestimate the effectiveness of this time-honoured method of communication! For any of you slow starters there is still time to 'get your act together' as Vocations Sunday approaches. "If the religious life to which you are called is for you a genuine treasure, you will find that keeping silent about it is not a manageable option!" (Fr. Jim Corkery sj. See reference below.)



Explore A Way

Our first group of discerners will complete their five live-in-weekends programme at the end of this month. We are grateful to

all who have facilitated these weekends in any way. As we continue to hold this pioneering group in our prayer we look forward to welcoming the next group of interested searchers. We depend on you to spread the word about our ExploreAway programme. Brochures and posters are available from the office.

Spring Seminar

Thank you for returning your booking forms for our seminar in Emmaus on **24th March**. We look forward to meeting you and some of our recently entered religious at this gathering. We also look forward to Colette's opening up of the theme and spirit of the Eucharistic Congress for us.



Vocations Sunday

"It is in the soil of self-offering and openness to the love of God that vocations are born." Pope Benedict. A great opportunity awaits us all to on the upcoming **2012 World Day of Prayer for**

Vocations (29th April) to share our gift of religious life with others. We have set up a new blog to enable you to inform members of creative ways of celebrating this day as well as inviting others to share in your local event. Please visit us on www.vocationsireland.com/vocsun.php and keep us informed of what will be happening in your area.

Knock Vocations Office

We welcome your assistance again this year in staffing the office at weekends from **late June to late August**. Child Safeguarding forms will need to be signed only by new helpers to the office. To book your dates and/or obtain the Safeguarding forms please phone or email the office.



International Eucharistic Congress

Thank you for your generous response to our request for staffing in the RDS during the congress. The 28 places were filled in less than 24 hours! You are very welcome to visit us at **Stand 69** – towards the centre of the Main Hall, RDS. We are also collaborating with CORI to offer a presentation entitled: *Consecrated Life: Life Joyfully Shared* on Wednesday June 13th at 11.30am, and we will host a Vocations Evening on Thursday June 14th in the University Church, St. Stephen's Green. Details of these events to follow. May the Congress be a time of renewal, recommitment and fresh hope for us all.

Reflection

“If you have a treasure you want to spread it; and to do this credibly, you need to be able to say *what* it is and *why* you embrace it.

What is the treasure that you have discovered and would wish to be able to give a convincing account of, so that others might be captivated too?

Religious life is not worth living if the giving of your heart does not lie at its centre...Religious life grows cold if it is all about action, all about duty, all about achievement. It is first and foremost the heart given, the heart engaged.

Religious position themselves on that knife-edge path between the visible and the invisible...What is involved is a vulnerable living – living in the taking your chance on the invisible, trusting that the unseen Mystery bears you up.”

(Excerpts from *Jim Corkery SJ 'Accounting for Hope – Religious Life in the Twenty-First Century' in Religious Life Review Jan/Feb 2012*.)”

As we approach the feastday of our national Saint we are indebted to Patrick and his early followers for not keeping silent about the treasure they had discovered. May we always cherish what we have received and offer it in humility and love to our world today.

*With best wishes to each one for a
hope-filled spring and a Happy St.
Patrick's Day!*

Eileen