

# St. Nicholas News

Francis Street Parish, Dublin 8. ---- 01-4530387, 01-5611390



12 February 2017

## POPE FRANCIS DENOUNCES 'RESTORATIONIST' ORDERS



Pope Francis has stated that the rise of new religious institutes that attract numerous religious vocations "worries" him because they often promote "rigidity." Francis denounced new traditional religious orders as "Pelagians," who want a return to asceticism and penance. In an obvious reference to the Legionaries of Christ, he called young people in traditional orders "soldiers who seem ready to do anything for the defense of faith and morality, and then some

scandal emerges involving the founder [male or female]." "So, do not put hope in the sudden, mass blooming of these Institutes," he added. "When they tell me that there is a congregation that draws so many vocations, I must confess that I worry," he said during the closed-door meeting with 140 Superiors General of male religious orders and congregations that took place November 25. The transcript of the unscheduled Q&A was published this week by the leading Italian newspaper Corriere della Sera.

Asked about how to fire the hearts of young people for the cause of the Gospel, the pope turned his focus to the training of "seminarians and future priests." Francis said that in priests' training the "logic of black and white" that "can lead to abstract casuistry" must be avoided. "Discernment, meanwhile, means moving forward through the gray of life according to the will of God. And the will of God is to be sought according to the true doctrine of the Gospel and not in the rigidity of an abstract doctrine," he said.

Asked what should be done about the plummeting number of vocations to the priesthood, the pope said that while the decline "worries me" he is also worried about the rise of new traditional religious orders. "Some are, I might say, 'restorationist': they seem to offer security but instead give only rigidity," he said. "When they tell me that there is a Congregation that draws so many vocations, I must confess that I worry. The Spirit does not follow the logic of human success: it works in another way. But they tell me that there are so many young people prepared to do anything, who pray a great deal, who are truly faithful. And I say to myself: 'Wonderful: we will see if it is the Lord!'"

Traditional orders do not simply worry Pope Francis. Within months of becoming pope in March 2013, Francis moved quickly to utterly dismantle the flourishing Franciscan Friars of the Immaculate. The order, which encouraged the Latin Mass, was one of the most faithful of all of the new Catholic religious orders, especially in regard to their pro-life commitment. The move stunned faithful Catholics.

In 2015 the pope warned bishops against ordaining "traditionalist" seminarians, stating that doing so was like placing a "mortgage on the Church."

In 2012 under Benedict XVI, the Vatican was in the process of reforming the umbrella group of American nuns and sisters for their "secularist mentality [and] 'feminist' spirit." After Francis took over the reigns of the Church, that process concluded by offering the nuns' group a "positive message."

During the November Q&A Francis also admitted that there is "corruption in the Vatican" but he is nevertheless "at peace" by the "grace of God."

## JOY OF BELLS

Former president Mary McAleese is to launch a 'Joy of Bells' initiative at Waterford's Church of Ireland Christ Church Cathedral on March 19th in protest at anti-immigrant sentiment sweeping the western world. Responding to an idea by Dean of Waterford Maria Jansson, Ms McAleese will speak at the 10am Eucharist service and launch a ringing of the Cathedral bells at 11am in opposition to what Dean Jansson has described as "the incredible fear out there" being generated towards immigrants.

## THE AWARE RESILIENCE SERIES 2017



This year's fundraising Talk takes place on Thursday, 16th February 2017 in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin 8. The speaker will Archbishop Diarmuid Martin. Reception at 7.00pm followed by resilience lecture at 7.30pm and Q&A. Tickets cost (€25) and all funds raised go to Aware Nationwide Support. For more information contact Mr. Drew Flood, Aware Fundraising Department on Tel: 01 086-6069736 or 01 2374919 or [www.aware.ie](http://www.aware.ie)

## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"What is love?" "The total absence of fear", said the Master. "What is it we fear?" "Love", said the Master.

*From "One Minute Wisdom" by Anthony de Mello*

## NOTICES

### Money Matters

Sunday 05 February 2017

Thank you for your contributions.

1st Collection: p170

2nd Collection: p221

Share: p25

Family Offering: p352



### Remembered at Mass

Sat 6pm: Stephen Devlin, Barbara & David Reck, Tommy Butler Birthday Remembrance, Breda Nolan, Bridget Delaney.

Sun 11.30: Kay O'Brien Months Mind, Tom Whelan Ann & Birthday Remembrance, Sylvia Holmes 9th Ann, Jimmy Geoghegan, Mary Ennis Birthday Remembrance, Babs Boyle, Lily Higginbottom.

Tues 10am: Joe O'Connor, Birthday Remembrance.



### World Day of the Sick

Mass of Healing and Anointing of the Sick takes place on the Sunday 12th February at 3.00pm in St. Gabriel's Parish Church (Dollymount), 3 St. Gabriel's Road, Dublin 3. For more information contact: Trish Conway - [trish37@gmail.com](mailto:trish37@gmail.com) or call 087 6220349.



### Mass of Thanksgiving

Join Archbishop Martin as the Principal Celebrant to celebrate and mark the Annual Thanksgiving Mass for the life and work of Blessed-Elect John Sullivan SJ. The Mass will take place on Saturday 18th February at 11.00am in St. Francis Xavier's Church, Gardiner Street, Dublin 1. All Welcome.



### Awake My Soul

Awake My Soul Retreat: Join other young adults (20's & 30's) for some time out to reflect, pray and grow deeper in your faith on our weekend retreat this. Friday evening 24th to Sunday afternoon 26th of February at Mount St. Anne's Retreat Centre, Killenard, Co. Laois (1 hour from Dublin; carpooling available). Cost, all inclusive, p120. Subsidised as an initiative of the Archdiocese of Dublin. Contact for more info & to secure a place:

[michelle.manley@dublindiocese.ie](mailto:michelle.manley@dublindiocese.ie)/

[siobhan.tighe@dublindiocese.ie](mailto:siobhan.tighe@dublindiocese.ie)

*We are always looking for help. Give us a buzz on 01-5611390 at any time.*

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