



OFS: *Secular Franciscan Order (& YouFra)*

The Third Order of St. Francis in Ireland.

National Newsletter April 2025

“To follow Jesus in the footsteps of St. Francis”

Website: ofsireland.org



**Be not afraid.
Christ is risen
and is with us!**

Vocation & Mission of the Laity

Apostolic Exhortation of Pope St. John Paul II

“The lay faithful together with the clergy and women and men religious, make up the one People of God and the Body of Christ. Above all, each member of the lay faithful should always *be fully aware of being a “member of the Church”* yet entrusted with a unique task which cannot be done by another and which is to be fulfilled for the good of all.”

- *The Clergy and Religious (men and women) make up 0.1% of the 1.4 billion members of the Catholic Church.*
- *This means that 99.9% of the Church are laity!*



OFS Professions

in Knock

March 19th 2025

Feast of St Joseph



The Feast of St Joseph was a special OFS day in Knock when, husband and wife Colin and Debra Ahern, made their solemn Profession as members of the Achill/Knock Fraternity in the Apparition Chapel. Holy Mass was celebrated by Fr Matthew Clerkin OFM Cap, who guided Colin and Debra during their formation. Colin and Debra are seen above in the Apparition Chapel making their profession, and cutting a special “Franciscan” cake, complete with a Tau, at the celebration afterwards in St Mary’s Guest House. Kelley Rickard, OFS Minister Galway Fraternity, Gabriel Costello OFS National Minister, members of the Achill/Knock Fraternity, and friends joined with Colin and Debra on this blessed day. Rath Dé orthu!

The Chaplet of Divine Mercy and the Common Priesthood of the Faithful

A priest is an authorised mediator who offers sacrifice to God on behalf of others. The Catechism teaches that Christ is **the** high priest and unique mediator, and by virtue of baptism the faithful participate in the one priesthood of Christ (ref CCC 1546). However, this common priesthood of the faithful differs **in essence** from the ministerial or hierarchical priesthood that is conferred by Holy Orders. The laity: “For all their works, prayers and apostolic undertakings, family and married life, daily work, relaxation of mind and body, if they are accomplished in the Spirit – indeed, even the hardships of life if patiently borne – all these become spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ” (CCC 901). A central prayer of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, given by Jesus to St Faustina, implores God: “*For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.*” When praying the Chaplet, a lay person can exercise the common priesthood of the faithful by offering a spiritual sacrifice to God on behalf of others. The Divine Mercy novena starts on Good Friday until Divine Mercy Sunday.

April 2025 Prayer Intentions of the Pope and of OFS-YouFra

POPE: For the use of new technologies. Let us pray that the use of new technologies will not replace human relationships, respect the dignity of persons and help to face the crises of our time.

OFS: For the Second Latin-American Congress in Colombia.

Thanks to all contributors. Items ideally 50 to 100 words. Feedback welcome. Send items to irelandofs@gmail.com