



SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

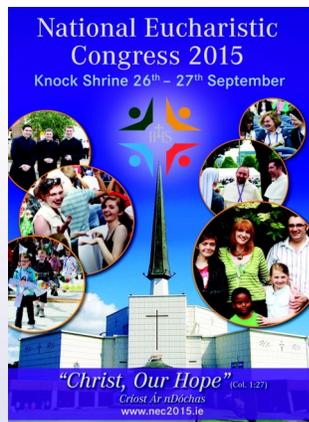
Monthly newsletter for dioceses & parishes. Issue 21 - September 2015

Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference

Columba Centre, Saint Patrick's College, Maynooth, Co Kildare

National Eucharistic Congress 2015 on 26 and 27 September

Parishioners from around the country are invited to participate in a National Eucharistic Congress which will take place at the National Marian Shrine in Knock on Saturday 26 and Sunday 27 September on the theme 'Christ, Our Hope'. The theme chosen echoes that of the 51st International Eucharistic Congress which will take place in Cebu in the Philippines from 24 – 31 January 2016. The National Eucharistic Congress will serve as spiritual preparation for the 51st International Eucharistic Congress and will have a particular focus on Marriage and the Family.



The Congress programme is now available and includes over 40 workshops, a children's and youth programme, perpetual adoration, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Liturgy of the Hours and a concert of praise and worship. There is no need to pre-book for the Congress. For more information on the programme please see catholicbishops.ie and nec2015.ie. All are welcome.

Trócaire calls for urgent response to migration crisis

Trócaire, the overseas development agency of the Catholic Church in Ireland, has called on the EU to treat the unprecedented European migration crisis as a humanitarian emergency and commit to providing an urgent response that is legal, dignified and compassionate.

Éamonn Meehan, Executive Director of Trócaire, said: "The failure to adequately respond to the current mass movement of people into Europe represents the most serious displacement crisis the European Union has faced in recent times. If this crisis was happening in another part of the world, it would have been officially declared a humanitarian emergency by the UN, ensuring that humanitarian standards to save lives, protect those most vulnerable and reduce suffering were applied and resources made available to meet their needs."

To read the full statement please see www.trocaire.org.

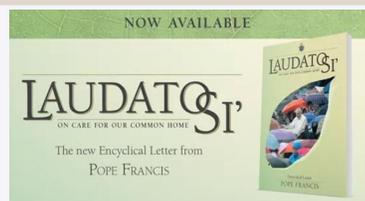


Seventeen students commence priesthood studies in Maynooth

Welcoming seventeen new seminarians to Maynooth on Sunday 23 August, Monsignor Hugh Connolly, President of Saint Patrick's College, said: "Our thoughts and prayers accompany these seventeen men who have taken the first step along the road to ordained ministry and to placing their lives at the service of Christ and of His people. Let us pray that others will hear the voice of the Holy Spirit and that they may also consider a vocation to the priesthood."

A breakdown by diocese of the first year seminarians is: Armagh (1), Cork & Ross (1), Derry (1), Down & Connor (3), Dublin (3), Galway (1), Kerry (1), Killaloe (2), Ossory (1), Raphoe (1), Tuam (1) and Waterford & Lismore (1).

To find out more about vocations to the priesthood please see www.vocations.ie.



NEWS SNIPPETS

- Welcoming the first World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation on 1 September, Bishop John McAreavey, said: "With this new World Day of Prayer, the Holy Father reminds us that this work connects us both to God and to all people throughout the world. This moment of global solidarity is in stark contrast to the destructive individualism which was highlighted by Pope Francis in his encyclical letter *Laudato Si'* (*Praise Be*), published in June, and which appeals to every person living on our planet to take care of our common home." See catholicbishops.ie for text and for creation time resources.
- Bishop Brendan Leahy of Limerick will be principal celebrant and homilist at the Catholic Grandparents pilgrimage to Knock Shrine on Sunday 13 September.
- Bishop Liam MacDaid of Clogher will lead a delegation to the World Meeting of Families 2015 in Philadelphia from 22– 27 September. The Irish delegation will include representatives of Accord Catholic Marriage Care Service and a married couple from Dublin. Pope Francis will also attend this World Meeting of Families.



Produced by the Catholic Communications Office. See www.catholicbishops.ie.



Pope Francis Tweet of the Month: "We learn many virtues in our Christian families. Above all, we learn to love, asking nothing in return." Follow Pope Francis on Twitter @Pontifex & @news_va.