



John of God Lived and Spread the Joy of the Gospel

Much of what is told of John of God's life suggests he was serious, even dour and not exactly the life and soul of the party. Yet John's sense of fun and joyous personality can be glimpsed in his letters and in some of the stories that have come down to us. John had a mission to children and there is no way that the face we see on our statues and pictures of him could have been what the children he brought to new life were faced with. No they had to have seen a joyous John, a smiling John, and a laughing John! That is what the children needed most and John would no

doubt have met their needs. The Chinese Proverb "Don't open a shop if you can't smile" would have been very applicable to John and his followers in all his ministries particularly with the sick poor and children. We read in Jose Maria Javierres "*John of God Loco in Granada*" and I quote:

John visited Salamanca fundraising for the hospital in Granada A sieve maker, named Jeronimo, gives us significant details expressly put forward, but rarely mentioned in other documents. (Sieves were made from horse hair and were used for sifting flour) My perception is that it is typical of John of God's good humour and cheerfulness. Senor Jeronimo relates that John seemed quite jovial as "laughingly he went among the patients taking care of them, dressing them

in their clothes, massaging them and turning them in their beds to make them comfortable and finishing by saying "Laughingly and with extraordinary love and charity, it seemed that he did not desire anything more than that the patients be cheered up"

To give hope to people you have to be joyous, to trust people and for them to trust you, you have to be joyous. Joyousness only comes from people who have a sense of selflessness where they firstly see the good in others as opposed to themselves and the good in the world. The joyous person has a great respect for life and nature that he/she believes is God's greatest gifts to us to cherish and safeguard. The best way to experience Joy and happiness is to express it. It is not something that we gather; rather it is something that we spread. This sense of Joy and fun is not something that comes to us; it's something that comes through us. John of God spread joy wherever he went by helping people to help themselves and when they couldn't he was there for them. A leader without joy has forgotten what his/her mission is. So if the joy is lessening equal to the apparent reorganisation and improvement in an organisation we need to be very careful. "*Great organisation become great not because they have great structures but because they have great values*"

I hope you had a Happy John of God Feast-Day and may we celebrate John everyday by bringing joy to everyone we meet!

Bro. Gregory



St. Patrick brought Christianity to Ireland and is our Patron Saint. The significant and the origin of the 'Shamrock' as a symbol of Ireland is as follows. Patrick was preaching to the Irish and trying to explain to them the Blessed Trinity and he didn't seem to be getting through to them. Patrick bent down and plucked a tiny plant, which was a *shamrock* and it had 3 leaves. His listeners couldn't get the concept of Three Gods in One. It probably sounded to them like polytheism at best and nonsense at worst. Patrick was obviously a great preacher and he relied on a simple illustration - he compared the Trinity to the Shamrock which had 3 leaves, to explain the nature of the Triune God. Each leaf is separate and distinct, yet part of a whole. It's just one shamrock, yet with three individual leaves.

By making that simple comparison, countless Irish men and women and eventually people all over the world, were able to accept the basic concept of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and the rest is history and we must continue to live this history and bring it into the future!



Foundation Programme for Remainder of the Year

- April 4 -5 (Mon-Tue)
- May 16-17 (Mon-Tue)
- June 13-14 (Mon-Tue)
- July 11-12 (Mon-Tue)
- August 31-September 1 (Wed-Thu)
- October 26-27 (Wed-Thu)
- November 14-15 (Mon-Tue)
- December 5-6 (Mon-Tue)

One Day Workshop 2016 "Revisiting the Values"

- June 22 (Wednesday)
- October 6 (Thursday)

Please contact your Supervisor if you haven't attended the Foundation Programme for permission to attend. If you have already attended the Foundation Programme, we welcome you to the Workshop "Revisiting the Values" on any of the above dates.

St. Patrick's Prayer

As I arise today, may the strength of God pilot me,
the power of God uphold me,
the wisdom of God guide me.
May the eye of God look before me,
the ear of God hear me, the word of God speak for me.
May the hand of God protect me,
the way of God lie before me, the shield of God defend me,
the host of God save me.
May Christ shield me today.
Christ with me,
Christ before me,
Christ behind me,
Christ in me,
Christ beneath me,
Christ above me, Christ on my right, Christ on my left,
Christ when I lie down,
Christ when I sit,
Christ when I stand,
Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,
Christ in every eye that sees me,
Christ in every ear that hears me.
Amen.


Happy
St. Patrick's Day!



Hospitallers on Foundation Programme

February



Front left: Muireann O'Regan, Christina Dempsey, Mary Hogan, Bro. Kilian Keaney
Back left: Clinton Quinless, Tony Kinsella, Wheran Kee, Maeve Madden, Gillian Tynan, Arlene Gaye, Paula Lai Cheong, Sherin Baby, Maria Grazia Calza, Bro. Gregory McCrory,

March



Front left: Bro. Kilian Keaney, Conor Coppinger, Donna Ross, Alina Popescu, Cait Garvin, John Kingston
Back left: Peter Gallagher, Wheran Kee, Lisa Fox, Eimear O'Hagan, Geraldine Gibbons, Lynn Harnedy, Sinead Gernon, Anne Walsh, Madeleine Connolly, Jill Turner, Helen Ruane, Bro. Gregory McCrory,