

-Vocations Chalice-

Celebrating the 'Year for Priests'

19th June 2009—19th June 2010



**TO OBTAIN THE
CHALICE FOR ONE
WEEK PLEASE FILL
OUT THE REPLY SLIP
AND RETURN IT TO
THE VOCATIONS
OFFICE
C/O ARCHBISHOP'S
HOUSE,
DRUMCONDRA,
DUBLIN 9**

The only condition attached to taking the chalice is that your parish will be expected to have one public Mass (hopefully more) offered for vocations to the priesthood.

E-mail:
vocations@dublindiocese.ie
www.priest.ie

History of the Chalice belonging to

Rev. Fr Donal O'Sullivan, Killarney, Co. Kerry

The Bishop of Kerry asked for volunteer priests and medical doctors to serve the many Irish soldiers who were in the forces in France during the first world war.

Rev. Fr Donal volunteered.

Fr Donal O'Sullivan was a intelligent gifted and popular young priest. He was appointed by the bishop as a professor to teach in St Brendan's Seminary in Killarney. This was only two years after his ordination in Maynooth in 1914. He taught there for only a year before going to the battle front in France to serve as Chaplain to the 7th Brigade.

One of the soldiers there asked Fr O'Sullivan would he hear his confession, because the following morning (7th July, 1916) they were going over the top of the trench to attack the German lines. Fr O'Sullivan asked him to collect as many of the Catholic soldiers as he could and he would meet them in the chapel. There he prepared them for general confession, gave them general absolution and offered the Sacrifice of the Mass for them.

They went to battle, the battle of the Somme, with greater courage and lighter hearts. Half of the communicants were fated not to return, including Fr Donal O'Sullivan. He was buried in the Valley of the Somme.

A Rev, C.T. McGuinness of the 76th Ambulance Brigade wrote that Fr O'Sullivan was quite fearless and would face any danger to give the sacraments to the wounded and dying.

His chalice was returned to his family. It has stayed in possession of his family who had hoped that a vocation would arise from among them. Alas this was not to be and just this month the family gave the Chalice into the care of the Vocations office for the 'Year of Priests' to be used to encourage vocations. The Chalice will then be taken into the possession of St Joseph's Young Priests Society.

It is providential that the Chalice came into our care at this time. We trust and believe that Masses offered for Vocations in the parishes that take the Chalice for one week will bear much fruit. St John Vianney fully believed the power of the Eucharist. For him the Eucharist was everything and the power of the priesthood made the Eucharist possible. *'All Good Works together are not of equal value with the sacrifice of the Mass, because they are the works of men, and the holy Mass is the work of God. Martyrdom is nothing in comparison; it is the sacrifice that man makes of his life to God; the Mass is the sacrifice that God makes to man of His Body and of His Blood. Oh, how great is a priest! if he understood himself he would die. . . . God obeys him; he speaks two words, and Our Lord comes down from Heaven at his voice, and shuts Himself up in a little Host. God looks upon the altar. "That is My well-beloved Son, " He says, "in whom I am well-pleased. " He can refuse nothing to the merits of the offering of this Victim. If we had faith, we should see God hidden in the priest like a light behind a glass, like wine mingled with water. (St John Vianney, On the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.)*