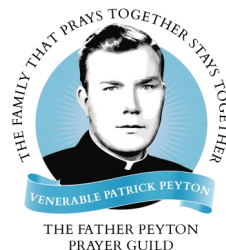


For Members of the Worldwide Father Peyton Prayer Guild

United in Prayer for a Spiritual Cause



Feast Days:

- Saint Katharine Drexel, **Mar. 3**
- Saint Perpetua and Saint Felicity, **Mar. 7**
- Saint Patrick, **Mar. 17**
- Saint Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary, **Mar. 19**
- The Annunciation of the Lord, **Mar. 25**



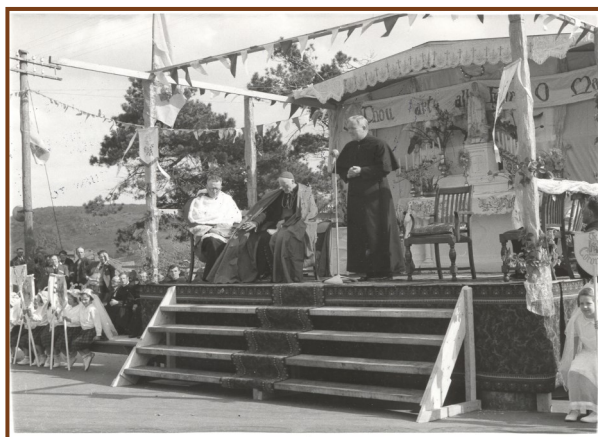
From the Vice Postulator/Guild Director

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In this month's letter, I asked Father Steve Gibson, C.S.C., Spiritual Director at the Father Peyton Memorial Centre in Attymass, County Mayo, Ireland, to share what it's like to visit Father Peyton's homeland and the Centre dedicated to his life and ministry.

"When it comes to prayer and devotion to Father Patrick Peyton, C.S.C., the people of Attymass, County Mayo, Ireland, feel that they are privileged to live in a special and holy place. There is local pride in knowing that this is where Father Peyton's love for Our Lady and dedication to family prayer began."

"The stories of "personal" experiences with Father Peyton abound with almost everyone who comes through our door at the Father Peyton Memorial Centre. For the older generations, it may be the story of meeting him as a young child and attending one of his Rosary rallies. Many spend time looking through our photo selections in hopes of seeing themselves, a family member or friend in the crowds that gathered. For the younger generations, it may be a story that was passed on to them about seeing Father Peyton, or an old Rosary or picture that their parents and grandparents treasure from the past."



Many people enjoy looking through old pictures at the Father Peyton Memorial Centre, such as this one taken on April 29, 1954 at a Rosary Rally in Clifden, Ireland.

"The Father Peyton Prayer Guild has had a presence here from the very foundation of the Father Peyton Memorial Centre. Not everyone who comes here is a "card-bearing" member of the Father Peyton Prayer Guild. Still, everyone is treated to the same hospitality and spirituality, and displays a devotion to Father Peyton."

"Our most consistent activity would be the gathering every Tuesday of the Senior Citizens and Active Retired groups. They are here for Mass, dinner and a social event: Bingo, or music and dancing. A few times each year, that activity consists of a presentation on our spiritual life and ministry to one another."

Continued on next page

"The Rosary, by its very essence, tells a person who uses it wisely and well who is Christ, what He has done for me, what He has a right to expect from me."

- Venerable Patrick Peyton -

"In the local parish church where Father Peyton was baptized, the prayer for his beatification is prayed after every Mass. The baptismal font where his journey of faith began is still there in the church next to a display celebrating his life and ministry."

"The phrase *"The family that prays together stays together"* was penned by one of Father Peyton's business associates, but the root meaning of that phrase is well imbedded in Father Peyton's own experience."

"He has often said that the most powerful words that he ever heard spoken were words that his father spoke every night while on his knees in a little cottage not far from here, 'I believe in God.' Family prayer, especially prayer for those who have gone before us, is deeply rooted in the Irish way of life."

"Over the years, thousands of young people have come here for a day of retreat in preparation for First Holy Communion or Confirmation or a day of fellowship and renewal for secondary schools. They are all greeted with countless signs, symbols and informative presentations about Father Peyton and his worldwide ministry, Holy Cross Family Ministries."

Additionally, I had the opportunity to ask Father Gibson about his own experiences:

1. How did Father Peyton influence your priestly ministry?

"Thirty-five years ago Father Peyton encouraged me to get involved in media production. It has been one of the more rewarding aspects of my ministry and has taken me to many parts of the world that I would never have had the chance to see otherwise. I am forever grateful that this part of my ministry continues to be something that enhances what we are able to do here at the Father Peyton Memorial Centre for the Guild and for all of the programs that we offer."

2. What does the phrase: "The Family That Prays Together Stays Together" mean to you?

"This phrase is one that Father Peyton adopted because it resonated with his own nightly Family Rosary experience. I too was blessed to share in my own family praying the Rosary each day. From my experience and others, I realize that prayer can have a powerful bonding effect in any family. Some families begin with saying grace before meals or simply lighting a candle and sitting quietly in prayer before mentioning their daily needs." What brings many to the Father Peyton Centre are the Masses and prayers we say for family members who have gone home to God."

3. What most impresses you about the members of the Father Peyton Prayer Guild and Centre visitors?

"One of the things that I find most interesting when talking to Guild members and Centre visitors is their genuine concern about the process of Beatification and Sainthood of Father Peyton. From their perspective, there is no doubt that he is a saint. The question is, what could be taking them so long to tell everyone else what we already know."

4. Lastly, how can we pray for your community?

"When someone asks, "How can we pray for your community?" we assume that the prayer will be one of petition for some need. We all have needs and we pray that they will be met. But today, join us in a prayer of Thanksgiving for the blessings that come being here in such a beautiful place of peace. May the world at prayer come to share in this world of peace."



The baptismal font in which Father Peyton began his journey of faith is still present in the local parish along with a display celebrating his life and ministry.

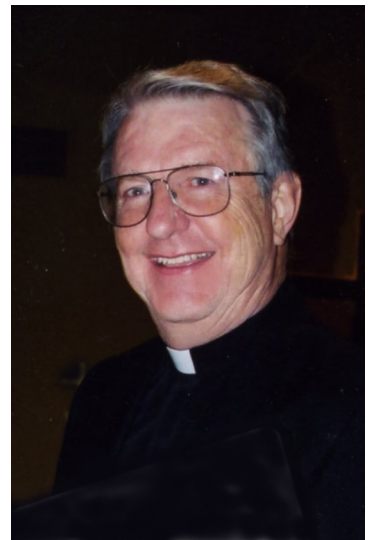
My thanks to Father Steve Gibson, C.S.C., a priest of the Congregation of Holy Cross, ordained in Uganda in July of 1970. Father Gibson began his ministry with Holy Cross Family Ministries in August of 2000. In March of 2009 he came to Ireland to server as Spiritual Director of the Father Peyton Memorial Centre and we are very grateful for his faith-filled service!

In Jesus and Mary,

Father David S. Marcham

Father David S. Marcham
Vice Postulator/Guild Director

PS: To “visit” the Father Peyton Memorial Centre in Ireland, view the photo gallery on their website at www.FatherPeytonCentre.ie



Father Steve Gibson, C.S.C.

This Prayer Hero Has a Comic Book!

A unique gift for young and old alike!

The Tale of Patrick Peyton Comic Book shares Father Peyton’s amazing story from growing up in a large poor family in Ireland to becoming one of the most recognized priests in the world, committed to promoting his simple message, **“The family that prays together stays together.”**



Order at: www.HCFMstore.org

Let’s Keep Each Other Inspired

Would you and your chapter or family like to be interviewed for an upcoming issue? Please share blessings and ideas that have come about from being part of the Father Peyton Prayer Guild. If so, please contact me at VicePostulator@hcfm.org, call 508-238-4095, or write to us at the address below.

Father Peyton Prayer Guild
The Father Peyton Center
518 Washington St.
North Easton, MA 02356
United States

You are Part of the Sainthood Process

People often ask how they can help Father Peyton become a Saint. One of the most fruitful means is to pray! I invite you to say this prayer daily with your family and friends.

Prayer for the Beatification of Venerable Patrick Peyton

Dear Jesus,

Father Peyton devoted his priestly life to strengthening the families of the world by calling them to pray together every day, especially the Rosary.

His message is as important for us now as it was during his life on earth.

We beg you, therefore, to hasten the day of his beatification so that your faithful people everywhere will remember his message that The Family That Prays Together Stays Together, will imitate him in his devotion to your Mother and ours, and will be inspired by his holy life to draw ever closer to you with childlike confidence and love.

Amen.

Coming Up in Next Month’s Issue

We speak with members our Guild chapters in Brazil and learn about how they are spreading the message of Father Peyton throughout their country.

Tips For a Prayerful Lenten Journey

Lent is a beautiful season in the Church calendar during which we can be intentional about drawing closer to God through many of our daily habits. Many of us choose to fast from something for these forty days, and while there is certainly value in that, it is just as valuable to *add* something, whether that be more time spent with family and friends, making a second attempt at our new year's resolutions, learning a new skill, developing a good habit, or something else. However we choose to spend our Lent, let us try to be closer to God and know Him better this season.

Prayerfully consider trying one (or more!) of these suggestions this Lent:

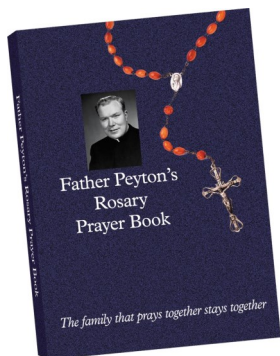
Prayer:

- Check out the Lent series on Family Rosary's blog:

A Careful Lent: A weekly series of reflections on how Lent can transform us to be more careful—of our families, of other people, and of God's Creation.



New posts each Tuesday during Lent at <http://blog.FamilyRosary.org>



- **Father Peyton's Rosary Prayer Book - a special prayer companion!** This prayer book provides reflections for the Mysteries of the Rosary on many themes to help individuals and groups reflect on the lives of Christ and His Mother Mary and come to a deeper understanding of how to apply the lessons learned in daily life.

Purchase at www.hcfmstore.org

Fasting:

- Consider fasting from technology and using that time to pray instead.
- Consider fasting from a negative habit and replace it with one that will bring you closer to God.

Almsgiving:

- Be a blessing to others this Lent! Make a list of forty family members, friends, or acquaintances and write a short, positive note to one person each day.
- Spend more time volunteering and giving to those in need.
- Donate to a particular charity and encourage others to do the same!

If you know of a Guild member who did not receive this communication,
we do not have their contact information. Please forward the contact information to us by
phone, email or through the online membership form at:

www.FatherPeyton.org/chapters/chapter-8

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