

Pope John Paul II Award



Award Handbook

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Message from the Bishop

The Pope John Paul II Award initiative offers young people a setting in which to practise their faith and get involved in their parish community. It helps them to shape their own lives. "To a large extent, from the time of our youth, we are whatever we want to be. We are, so to speak, the work of our own hands." - Pope Benedict XVI.

People do want the youth of their parish to be involved. Our Diocesan Pastoral Team has heard this request repeated many times as they listened to people throughout the Diocese.

Nowadays it is not easy for young people. A lot of the goodness and religious sentiment in their hearts is stifled by pressure from their peers. The support offered by the Pope John Paul II Award structure provides an opportunity where young people can get involved in the life of the parish and the Church. The young, as much as grown-ups and the elderly have a lot to offer, and oftentimes with more enthusiasm and energy. I encourage them not to miss this opportunity and I thank all who have made it possible.

Beannacht Dé oraibh

+ Philip Boyce
Bishop of Raphoe



Pope John Paul II Award

The Award was created to commemorate the late Pope John Paul II who was so committed to young people and who had such belief and confidence in them.

Through the Pope John Paul II Award, young people in the Raphoe Diocese will be enabled to take an active part in the life of their Church, in the life of their community and society, and also become more aware of the teaching and role of the Catholic Church in the world. This will enable young people to engage at a deep level with Christ, whose body the Church is.

It will allow young people to understand that religion and faith are not just for learning, nor are they a list of rules, but that they are for living.



Who is the Award for?

Who is the Award for?

- Students in full-time education who have completed Junior Certificate
- Anyone between the ages 16 and 18, who is not in post-primary education
- The award is non-competitive, flexible and voluntary and requires an ongoing commitment

The people involved?

- Award Patron - The Bishop of Raphoe
- Award Making Body - Pope John Paul II Award Committee
- Award Leaders - Teachers, Parish Representatives, Clergy
- Facilitators - Those persons who will facilitate the candidates to fulfil individual tasks/activities
- Administrative Centre - Raphoe Diocesan Pastoral Centre



How does the Award work?

How many Awards are there?

There are four Awards: The Papal Cross, Gold, Silver and Bronze.

What is the completion time?

16 months beginning in September.

How do I earn an Award?

You earn your Award by taking part in activities through Parish Involvement and Social Awareness, and preparation of a Presentation. For the Papal Cross Award, which only begins after completing the Gold Award, the presentation is replaced by a project.

Each Award requires the following:



The Papal Cross Award

Gold Award

Parish Involvement: 1 hr per week for 26 weeks

Social Awareness: 1 hr per week for 26 weeks

Project



Gold Award

Parish Involvement: 1 hr per week for 20 weeks

Social Awareness: 1 hr per week for 20 weeks

Presentation



Silver Award

Parish Involvement: 1 hr per week for 14 weeks

Social Awareness: 1 hr per week for 14 weeks

Presentation



Bronze Award

Parish Involvement: 1 hr per week for 8 weeks

Social Awareness: 1 hr per week for 8 weeks

Presentation

How does the Award work?

How do I enrol in the Award?

Visit www.thepopejohnpauliiaward.com to download the application form and parental consent form (for those who are under 18 years of age). You should then return the completed forms with the enrolment fee to your Award Leader in your school/parish.

What happens next?

When your enrolment is processed you will receive your Record Card from your Award Leader. You will decide with your Award Leader what activity or activities you intend to carry out under the sections 'Parish Involvement' and 'Social Awareness'. Please be sure that the named facilitator signs your Record Card each time. The presentation is to be completed at the end of the tasks.

Is there an enrolment fee?

Yes, to enrol in the Award it costs €15. The Award Leader will collect all money. A cheque will then be sent/made payable to the Raphoe Diocesan Pastoral Centre.

How do I claim my Award?

On completion of the hours and the presentation, you should return your Record Card and presentation to the Award Leader. These are ratified by the appropriate person(s) e.g. School Principal, and forwarded to the Pope John Paul II Award Committee at the Raphoe Diocesan Pastoral Centre, Monastery Avenue, Letterkenny.



Parish Involvement

Encouraging Parish Involvement

When we are baptised we become members of the Body of Christ. This means that we are called to be the presence of Christ in the world. As the Body of Christ, we belong to the community of the Church. We live out this belonging in our parish. For the Church, for the Body of Christ to be fully alive everybody needs to be actively involved. There are many things we can do in our parish.

Examples of activities that can be done for the Award in the parish are:

- Reading at Mass
- Altar Server
- Minister of Holy Communion
- Member of choir/folk group
- Children's Liturgy of the Word
- Involvement with "You Shall Be My Witnesses" confirmation programme
- Church Decoration/Cleaning
- Collector
- Usher/Ministry of Welcome
- Composing Prayers of the Faithful
- Preparing articles for the parish bulletin



There may be other activities that you are involved in that are not included here but may be relevant, if so please contact the Pope John Paul II Award Committee for approval.

Social Awareness

Encouraging Social Awareness

As members of the Body of Christ, through baptism, we make Christ present by the way we treat others. Our faith is lived out most fully in our actions, that is why it is important to be aware of the needs of others and to minister to their needs. That is why 'Social Awareness' is such an important aspect of this Award.

Examples of activities in the area of Social Awareness that you could do for your Award are:

- Active community involvement through St. Vincent de Paul or Legion of Mary
- Volunteering in charity shop/ongoing fundraising
- Parish based community building activities
- Acting as mentor/coach for younger people in sporting organisations
- Leadership training through local youth group or council
- Justice/environmental awareness activity
- Regular visitation of residential homes
- Faith Friends



There may be other activities that you are involved in that are not included here but may be relevant, if so please contact the Pope John Paul II Award Committee for approval.

Presentation

Preparing the Presentation

When the participant completes the Parish Involvement and the Social Awareness sections of the Award he/she prepares a presentation. This presentation may be written (approx 1500 words). On request it can take the form of an oral presentation which will be recorded and then transcribed.

The Presentation is to include:

- A personal reflection and evaluation on any one activity carried out for the Award
- The teaching of the Church that is relevant to the activity (e.g. visiting a residential home - teaching of the Church in relation to the care of the elderly and vulnerable. Reading at Mass - teaching of the Church in relation to the Word of God).
- An answer to the question - What does it mean to be a baptised member of the Church?

Through the Presentation, the participant will show a knowledge and understanding of what they did within the context of the Church. Their role within the Church will become more apparent.



Award Top-Ups

Award Top-Ups

Award Top-Ups are given in recognition of the extra activities that young people are already involved in. Top-Ups will go towards the total number of hours an individual has to complete.

Top-Ups can be achieved in a number of ways - see below:

Top-Ups:

Papal Cross	7.5 hours
Gold	6 hours
Silver	4.5 hours
Bronze	3 hours

Pilgrimage

Many parishes and some schools organise pilgrimages, either specifically for young people, or for the wider parish community, but open to young people. Participation in this type of activity can be part of the Pope John Paul II Award. Being part of the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes can also count towards the Pope John Paul II Award.

Diocesan Youth Activities

Taking part in the Diocesan Youth Day, attending festivals such as the Knock Youth Festival or the Clonmacnois Youth Festival can be part of the Pope John Paul II Award.

Retreats

Retreats lasting at least two days count towards the Pope John Paul II Award. These can be arranged privately or through involvement with other groups and organisations.

Humanitarian Trips

Trips lasting four days or more to work on specific projects, such as orphanages in Romania or home building in Africa.

There may be other activities that you are involved in that are not included here but may be relevant, if so please contact the Pope John Paul II Award Committee for approval.

Code of Ethics

Participants Code of Ethics

The Pope John Paul II Award values and encourages the participation of young people in activities which allow them to live their faith in Jesus Christ in the community of the Church. The Award is committed to helping young people enhance their spiritual, physical, emotional and social development through participation in school, parish and community activities.

In keeping with this ethos, the Award has drawn up a Code of Ethics for all participants.

Participants will:

- Abide by the policies and procedures already in place in their schools, parishes and community groups where the Award activities will take place
- Seek signed consent from parents/guardians to participate in activities and events associated with the Award, where participants are under 18 years of age
- Treat people with courtesy, dignity and respect
- Avoid inappropriate language and/or sexually suggestive comments/jokes
- Not engage in any behaviour that could be construed as bullying or abusive
- Not engage in any inappropriate physical contact

Code of Ethics

Participants will:

- Respect a person's right to privacy
- Act with particular care if visiting residential homes
- Abide by arrangements and procedures for participating in and leaving activities, events and venues
- Act according to directions and regulations when carrying out fundraising activities for charities
- Report immediately to the Parish Representative, the School Principal or designated Child Protection Person for the Raphoe Diocese if they have any concerns about their own safety and well-being, or that of another participant
- Sign up to the Code of Behaviour before beginning the Award
- Not be permitted to smoke whilst engaged in activities associated with the Pope John Paul II Award
- Refrain from alcohol or illegal substances.



Participants found to be under the influence of alcohol or illegal substances during activities will be asked to withdraw immediately from the Award and their continued participation will be reviewed in consultation with the Parish Representative, School Principal or the Award Committee.

Offices

Raphoe Diocese

The Pope John Paul II Award Committee
Raphoe Diocesan Pastoral Centre
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Co. Donegal

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*Trust Christ; listen attentively to his teachings, fix your eyes on his face,
persevere in listening to His word.*

*Allow Him to focus your search and aspirations,
all your ideals and the desires of your heart.*

Pope John Paul II.