

Pope John Paul II Award



Award Handbook

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Message from the Bishop

Recently, a book has been published with the title "When a Pope asks Forgiveness - The Mea Culpa's of John Paul II". The book is dedicated to the emphasis Pope John Paul II gave during his many pastoral visits, all over the world, to the need of apology in the face of historical and contemporary injustices and abuse of all sorts. The book catalogues 95 issues that merited an apology during his many pastoral visits. In the face of social brokenness and cruel injustice and abuse, apology is always part of the mending. I do believe that the introduction of the Pope John Paul II Award to the Diocese of Ossory by the Knights of St. Columbanus will help to regenerate the sense of the Christian need to reach out to the many needs of our neighbours. A great example of this missionary initiative is the 40 to 50 young boys and girls who volunteer to travel on the Lourdes Pilgrimage to help with the care of the sick and infirm pilgrims. This has been a wonderful experience for young students of Transition Year. In fact, for many of the students this pilgrimage experience has been one of the highlights of their time in secondary school. They experience an essential aspect of being a Christian, namely, laying down some time of one's life for the care of the neighbour.

I believe that the introduction of the Pope John Paul II Award to the Diocese of Ossory will be a similar experience for the many young people who will participate in this initiative. It is very heartening to see such a great interest of people in this apostolic project. This initiative will encourage and foster the participation of young people in the life of our parishes, inviting them to express their Christian faith, hope and love and to build up the missionary life of the Church.

I commend this project to the youth of the Diocese, and I pray that all involved with be greatly blessed by God.

+ Séamus Freeman, SAC
Bishop of Ossory



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 Diocese of Ossory 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

Who are the people involved?

- Award Patron - The Bishop of Ossory
- Award Making Body - Pope John Paul II Award Committee
- Award Leaders - Teachers, School Chaplains, Parish Youth Representatives, Clergy
- Facilitators - Those persons who will facilitate the candidates to fulfil individual tasks/activities
- Administrative Centre - Pope John Paul II Office, St. Kieran's College, Kilkenny



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 the 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 €10. The Award Leader will collect all money. A cheque will then be sent to the Pope John Paul II Award Office, St. Kieran's College, Kilkenny and made payable to the Pope John Paul II Award.

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. Parish Youth Representative, School Principal, and forwarded to the Pope John Paul II Award Committee at the Pope John Paul II Award Office, St. Kieran's College, Kilkenny.



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
- Eucharistic Minister
- Member of choir/folk group
- Leadership in First Communion or Confirmation Preparation Programmes
- Children's Liturgy of the Word
- Church Decoration
- Collector
- 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:

- Member of St. Vincent de Paul
- Acting as a mentor/coach for younger people in sporting organisations
- Participation in or leadership training for local youth group
- Ongoing fundraising
- 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 in which young people are already involved. 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

Parish & Diocesan Pilgrimages

Many parishes 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.

Training for Ministry

During the year, the Diocesan Youth Ministry Team will extend an invitation for young people to participate in training programmes. These training events can also be part of the Pope John Paul II Award.

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

Code of Ethics

Participants will:

- Not engage in any inappropriate physical contact
- 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 Youth Representative, the School Principal or designated Child Protection Person for the Diocese of Ossory 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 Youth Representatives, School Principal or the Award Committee.

Offices

Diocese of Ossory:

The Pope John Paul II Award Office
St. Kieran's College
Kilkenny

Tel: 056 777 0261

Email: ossoryjpii@gmail.com
www.ossory.ie

Central Office:

Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre
The Gate Lodge
2 Francis Street
Derry
BT48 7DS

Tel: 048 7126 4087
Fax: 048 7126 9090

Email: admin@thepopejohnpauliiaward.com
www.thepopejohnpauliiaward.com

*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.