

Press Release from the Fr. Peyton Centre Attymass Ballina Co. Mayo
NB. See also attached Press Release from the Holy Cross Family Ministries.

Today, we have received news that our Holy Father, Pope Francis, on December 18, 2017 declared Father Patrick Peyton, C.S.C. "Venerable."

Venerable Patrick Peyton was born on 9th January 1909, in Carracastle, Attymass, Ballina, Co. Mayo. He was baptised in Attymass Parish Church. At the age of nineteen he emigrated to the United States. His wish from boyhood was to be ordained a priest. He was educated at Notre Dame University Indiana and was ordained a member of the Holy Cross Order in 1941

Fr. Patrick Peyton was one of Irelands most famous priests and was internationally known as the Rosary Priest.

Over the years, Father Peyton advocated for families by preaching two powerful and memorable messages, "The Family That Prays Together Stays Together" and "A World at Prayer is a World at Peace."

Known the world over as "The Rosary Priest," he began Family Rosary, in Albany, N.Y. in 1942, more than 75 years ago with the goal of building family unity through daily praying of the Rosary. He went on to lead millions in prayer at 40 *Family Rosary* Rallies that drew 28 million people, including 2 million each at events in Sao Paulo, Brazil and Manila, Philippines.

Father Peyton, a Catholic media pioneer, spent the 51 years of his priesthood serving the spiritual needs of families. In 1947, he founded *Family Theater Productions* in Hollywood. *Family Theater Productions* produced 900 radio and TV programmes that featured hundreds of star actors and other celebrities and had more than 10,000 broadcasts.

Fr. Steve Gibson CSC Spiritual Director of the Fr. Peyton Centre said *"I am delighted to hear the news that Fr. Peyton has progressed on the road to Sainthood. Those of us who knew him are not surprised at all. In 1986 he came into my office where I was working at the university of Notre Dame in Indiana and told me he wanted me to come and work for him. I am proud to say I am working for a saint for thirty one years"*.

Fr. John Maloney, Administrator, Attymass Parish said *"it's a great privilege for the Parish that Fr. Peyton has gone to the next stage, moving on from Servant of God to Venerable and that the cause now will be open towards beatification and canonisation"*.

Padraic Walsh Manager of the Fr. Peyton Centre said *"it is a great day for the Centre and for Attymass. We are so proud here in the Centre and look forward to more people visiting from all over Ireland. Our village has recently won the Pride of Place Award as well, all good things are happening for Attymass at the moment"*.

The Fr. Peyton Memorial Centre Attymass, Ballina, Co. Mayo commemorates the life and apostolic work of Venerable Patrick Peyton and is a place of respite, prayer and peace. It is highly respected by pilgrims and is a popular tourist attraction.

The Memorial Centre was officially opened and dedicated on 10th October 1998.

The Fr. Peyton Memorial Centre welcomes visitors to experience our Audio Visual Presentation on the life of Venerable Patrick Peyton, also photographs, books, manuscripts and letters relating to his life are also available to view as are an extensive collection of images of his Rosary Rallies which 28 million people attended.

Reflect and pray in our rosary gardens and chapel, spiritual direction and counselling available. Craft, Souvenir Shop and Tea Rooms/Restaurant are on site, enjoy some of our renowned home baking. Coach Tours are welcome. www.fatherpeytoncentre.ie

Pictures - Link to Pictures of Venerable Patrick Peyton
at: <https://hcfm.cantoflight.com/s/VUS2N>

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