

The Irish Committee for the UN #EndPoverty Day and ATD Ireland  
invite you to join them and mark the

## Centenary of the Birth of Joseph Wresinski

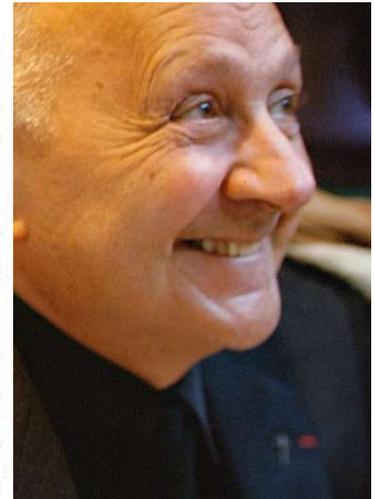
On Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2017

Joseph Wresinski was born in France on the 12<sup>th</sup> February 1917. He grew up in a poor neighbourhood, where his family experienced extreme poverty and social exclusion. He became a priest in 1946, at the age of 29. In 1956, Wresinski's bishop suggested that he become the chaplain of a camp for the homeless on the outskirts of Paris. Here Wresinski was struck by the terrible poverty faced by the families. Having never forgotten the feeling of shame and exclusion experienced during his own childhood, Wresinski vowed to make his life one with the families of the homeless camp. He passed away the 14<sup>th</sup> February 1988. A formal Church Inquiry into the cause for Wresinski's beatification started in 1997.

Joseph Wresinski (1917-1988) is the **initiator of the United Nations' Day for the Eradication of Poverty** (each 17 October) and the **inspirational figure behind the development of the UN Guiding Principles on Human Rights and Extreme Poverty** (adopted in 2012).

In 1965, together with French sociologist Jules Klanfer, he first introduced and developed the **concept of "social exclusion"**, now broadly used worldwide to describe the social impact of poverty.

All his life, he was a strong advocate of people trapped in chronic poverty across different generations. The **"Wresinski approach"** inspires new ways to fight poverty worldwide. It recognises people with experience of poverty as partners in designing, implementing, monitoring and assessing public policies. In 1957, Wresinski founded **ATD** in a slum near Paris, which is now **All Together in Dignity** with over 100 projects in 40 countries.



More about Wresinski at: [www.joseph-wresinski.org](http://www.joseph-wresinski.org)

**Come and join us to mark the centenary of Wresinski's birth  
and launch of the international call to action "STOP POVERTY"!**

**From 3pm to 3.30pm-** Symbolic **gathering at the Human Rights and Poverty Stone** on Custom House Quay to pay homage to Wresinski as initiator of the UN Day for the Eradication of Poverty and to launch of the international call to action **"STOP POVERTY"!**

[www.poverty-stop.org](http://www.poverty-stop.org)

**From 4pm to 7pm - "Open House"** at **ATD Ireland's** office (26, Mountjoy Square) with first presentation of the "Wresinski Legacy" travelling exhibition. The Wresinski Legacy Project is supported by the French Parliament and French MP Christophe Premat

**At 7.30pm - Catholic Mass** paying homage to Wresinski at **Saint Francis Xavier Church** in Gardiner Street celebrated by **Father Peter McVerry sj** with special guests and with the **Gardiner Street Gospel Choir**.

After Mass, informal presentation of Joseph Wresinski (life, approach, vision).