

# IRISH AUGUSTINIAN NEWS



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## JOHN'S LANE JUBILEE MASS



Colm O'Mahoney, Michael Collender and Sean MacGearailt OSA

The Third Annual Meeting of the two Augustinian schools in Ireland took place in Waterford on November 1. The staffs and management of both schools met for the day and considered the values which we want to espouse as Augustinian schools. As this was a Holy Day the morning began with Mass celebrated by Fr Gerry Horan OSA, Provincial. His homily really began the reflection process as he invited the teachers to reflect whether they were parrots, sign-posts or leaders? We really needed the cup of coffee after that one! Fr Mike Brennock OSA then took up the baton with a very challenging and relevant presentation on St Augustine and poverty. The main input for the day was given by Fr Noel Hession OSA on the Augustinian understanding of the value, Truth. We are taking three years to look at the values Unity, Truth and Love. Once Noel's presentation concluded the remaining time was devoted to developing practical applications for the year ahead. Both schools are committed to continuing this discussion on the ground at home. The day concluded with a lovely meal which is better reflected in the photos than the actual content of the day! John Hennebery OSA.



Noel Hession OSA.



Gerry Horan, Peter Haughey, Michael O'Sullivan and Tommy McManus OSA

One hundred and fifty years is a mighty long time. Fr Peter Haughey was ordained a priest sixty years ago, Fr Michael O'Sullivan fifty, and Fr Kevin Mc Manus forty years, a mere altar boy. According to the experts that makes one hundred and fifty. All three are now part of the John's Lane community: and the Prior, Fr Tony Egan and community decided to celebrate the three jubilees, diamond, golden and ruby in one fell swoop. This was with a Mass followed by a meal. The Mass was in John's Lane with family, friends and Augustinians on November 12th.

Fr Gerry Horan, our Provincial was the principal celebrant. He mentioned that at various times he had been stationed with the jubilarians and he noted some of their foibles. All three had been involved in the training of future Augustinians, in Dublin, Rome and Nigeria. All three had served on the missions, and it was fitting that a Nigerian Augustinian, Fr Lazarus, read the gospel. The lay people liked the part of the Mass where they prayed thanking the celebrants for their ministry and asking God's blessings on them. The meal was excellent and sufficient to last for another fifty years. There was a cake with three candles. The jubilarians took the precaution to blow out the candles before eating the cake. Then everybody said Ad Multos Annos. Some even said it in English. Bail O Dhia ar an obair.

Tommy McManus OSA, John's Lane.

## PROFILE No 9.

### JOHN ALOYSIUS MEAGHER OSA



Mention his name and someone is sure to say: "He's amazing!" And they go on to mention that at 94 he is still reading without glasses, genuflects knee to floor without leaning on anything, still drives the car, commuting to South Kerry on holidays. Which is amazing.

Apart from a spell in Limerick and Ballyhaunis in the 80's John has been in Fethard since 1975. There he is still active in ministry, especially attentive to people in hospital in Clonmel. He takes his part in preaching, confessions and Masses. He is very supportive to families at times of bereavement, finds time for a good walk every day, plays a bit of bridge, and enjoys football on TV.

His early life was in Limerick city. Educated by the CBS and later at the Friary in Dungarvan. Orlagh and Rome followed. He escaped the Nazis in Rome, via Lisbon and a coalboat, of Staffords from Wexford.

His greatest work was surely in Ross. 1942, not long ordained, young looking. During the war years, the oppressive regime presided over by "The Father", he was dean of discipline - an awesome title, but not an awesome presence. His, along with the other young friars, was the humane face of the Order. And it was surely that humanity that attracted vocations in droves to the Order in those years.

He toggled out for football with us, played handball with allcomers. And he took us on interminable walks out the Rower on Sunday afternoons. Many people over the years have said that their years in Ross were made bearable by his kindness.

Rome, and master of students in 1948. Asked by an elderly Franciscan if he was a student, he said "No, I'm ordained". 'So, are you a post-graduate?'. 'No, I am master of students'. Then, said the friar, 'Tu es damnatus ad bestias!'.

The presiding presence at St. Pat's for most of those nine years was the 'Bars', and there was need for humanity again. Not easy being a kind of buffer a second time. Later, you wondered how John survived the long summer months in San Pio, doomed to coping with 30-40 fairly lively young minds.

Memory supplies pictures of 'Padre Luigi' conducting the choir of students, hidden behind the old high altar at St. Pat's. Three or four polyphonic Masses sung round Christmas. Memories too of his good voice singing, accompanied by the young Bars, at 'nights' and memories of his skill at 'boccia' in San Pio.

He was to return to the job of master of students in St. Monica's in the late 50's. And he is remembered with affection by his students from those years.

A spell as Prior in Orlagh and St. Pat's, from 1963 - '66 was followed by three years in Clare Priory, and five years in Hoxton. Then to Fethard in 1975,

where he has spent 30 or so years with that break in the 1980's when he served as sacristan in Ballyhaunis and in Limerick.

In all of these places he had a very warm relationship with the local people. He adapted to folk as diverse as those in Clare, Hoxton, Rome as well as the many places in Ireland. He was popular everywhere. He tells the story of trying to establish good relations with the locals in Clare. One day, on his way to town, he saluted a tall lady with a "good morning!". She looked down imperiously and said "do I know you?" John replied "no". She stalked off with a snort and a scornful 'eoh!'.

On the facade of the church in Genazzano is a mosaic depicting the donating of the San Pio altar rails to the Shrine. On his knees before the Madonna is the unmistakable figure of 'Padre Luigi'. The 'Bars' is there too. So John is likely to remain in marble for millenia to come. His record of long service to the Church and the Order will, we hope, be recorded in heaven for longer than that. His work continues. His only concession to age is that he is 'a bit bothered', which is his way of admitting to a little trouble with hearing.

A recent memory of him is of his being in Rome with family for the 70th anniversary of ordination. They 'did' the sights every day. They were exhausted at the end. He was as fresh as a daisy! An amazing life indeed! And all that service has been 'ad majoram Dei gloriam'.

Ben O'Rourke OSA.

### SOME READERS' COMMENTS:

Dear Pat, Greetings and many congratulations on the your 40th priestly anniversary. I was born the same year of your ordination. I am inspired by your commitment to duty as editor and your warm character as a prior. May God keep you safe. I am back to Nigeria after I bagged a licentiate degree at the Catholic University of Eastern Africa. Thanks for your prayers. My regards to all the friars in Cork.

Felix Usman, OSA Nigeria

Hi Pat Just back from London where we had been for the memorial service of Hubert Richards. Many Bishops, the Arch, the Cardinal Murphy-O'Connor and many priests, past pupils of his. Great tributes to him. Making up for his treatment under Card Heenan? On return got your IAN on our replacement computer. Again all thanks for forwarding same.

In the stuff by me, I note a misplaced piece where it says after Fr Garman and Broder that they died tragically in YAKOKO. This should have appeared later in reference to Bowlby and Garman. As we have lost all our word docs (AND EMAIL ADDRESSES!) on our previous computer I am not sure where that misplaced piece drifted from. Please apologise to anyone who spots it. Also enjoyed the tribute to Tim A Walsh with whom I was ordained. A well-deserved tribute

Keep up the good work. Greet the brethern. Congrats on the fortieth anniversary, go serenely to the 50th and more and keep us in the odd prayer. Brennan Ipse (Dick)

Please remember in your prayers Andy Hickey, brother of Fr Jerry OSA, who died Nov. 27. 2010 in Knocknagree.



Greetings Pat and I hope you are well. I was also hoping you might get the job with the Tipperary team; maybe next time. I'm forwarding you an email I got yesterday. When I was in California in June doing the fundraising for Concern America, I was outside a parish church tidying up to go and prepare for the following Mass. I dropped some literature and a young man helped pick it up. We got talking and he mentioned that he had become a Catholic recently and his journey began in Dublin. It began in a church near Guinnesses. From the little he said it sounded like John's Lane. As I was in a hurry for the Mass, I gave him my email address. That is why he emailed yesterday. Tommy Kevin McManus OSA

Greetings Fr. Kevin, Fr. Jim forwarded me an email from you to him then over to me, yes I am the person you spoke to. I am sorry but I did some how manage to misplace your email address.

Back in March 2001, I was in Dublin and touring around. It was a bit more than a vacation. You see my dad passed away in Jan 2001 so I wanted to just get away and clear my head a bit. I didn't grow up Catholic, my parents were Jehovah's Witnesses. However I never joined that organization and by the time I was 15 I didn't want anything to do with them. For about 10 years of my life I didn't want to have anything to do with church, I believed in God just not their teachings and for many years of my life I had to deal with a lot of issues due to that organization.

The last words my dad told me before he died was that he would die not forgiving me for turning my back on Jehovah, and that I was a disappointment to him, and to leave as he didn't want to see me. So I left the hospital room and just said to my self well that is just the cult talking not my real dad.

When I arrived in Ireland I fell in love with the sites, I love history and old buildings so naturally I wanted to visit nearly every church. I went to the usual places like Christ Church as my hotel was across the street. However one day I was making my way over to Guinness brewery and walked by a Catholic church. Well my grandparents were Catholic and I had taken my grandma to church here in California whenever she wanted a ride. I walked inside and a priest saw that I was a tourist and invited me in and was very nice. He said that they would be starting services shortly and welcomed me to stay, and I did. It wasn't really anything that the priest said or did, although he was very nice and welcoming, it just felt like this is where God really is, something inside of me felt it. The priest probably didn't realize at the time that he did change my life by walking up to me and welcoming me. For all the years from birth till I left the cult, I never had that feeling inside the hall, where my parents would take me. I wasn't out looking for this, and it's kind of hard to explain what I felt but I continued on with my trip and then I decided that when I returned home to Fullerton, that I would take my grandma to church and then I decided to see what RCIA was about. In 2002 I was baptized, had my first Communion and Confirmation and my grandmother was my sponsor.

Later I joined an on-line group that helps support ex-Jehovah's witnesses who are shunned by their families and later joined another on-line group called Catholic ex-Jehovah's Witnesses, then I wanted to do more in the parish

so I asked to be an Usher at my parish, then I joined Knights of Columbus and now here I am. The church that I visited was on the way to Guinness if you were walking from Fishamble street and up past Dublin? I think there was something green on the roof not really sure. If my memory serves me right also there were stone columns that came down by the rows of pews, and honestly I couldn't really describe the priest other than he wasn't too old and not too young and about 5' 9" maybe a bit of dark hair with some gray on the sides.

A couple years ago I took my wife on a belated Honeymoon to Europe and we spent a few days in Dublin, I went back to the church and we met a priest who served in Ecuador, my wife is from Ecuador so they were talking about Quito, Ecuador. I don't think this was the same priest that I met back in 2001.

Well that is my story. It was a pleasure meeting you, and I might come for another visit next year if our plans allow.

Sincerely, Andr © R. Vasquez Grand Knight  
Fullerton Council 4018

## CONGRATULATIONS

### TOP COLLEGE FEEDER SCHOOLS REVEALED

Newly released figures reveal the number of students from the Leaving Certificate year 2010 in each school across the country **that entered third level education.**

The compilation was sourced from the administrative offices of third level institutions and was published in the national newspapers 18.11.2010.

In New Ross, Good Counsel College had a 94 per cent rate; Holy Faith Secondary School 91 per cent; Scoil Mhuire 76 per cent; CBS 55per cent; Ramsgrange Community School 63 per cent.

In Dungarvan, St Augustine's College sent 92 per cent; CBS 79 per cent; Ard Scoil na nDeise 73 per cent; Colaiste Cathail Naofa 37 per cent.



Some staff from Good Counsel with Bro Colm O'Mahoney



Robert Marsh and Michael Collender OSA

The few of us who were in Orlagh together, from both the Irish Province and the Anglo Scottish Province, made a commitment to meet each other formally twice a year, every year. While there was some negative reaction to this at the time, we were blessed with the support of our Provincials then and all subsequent holders of that onerous office! Our meetings are simple and life-giving. We pray with each other, we share with each other and we celebrate with each other. The community in Saint Pat's was so welcoming to us recently when we went there and we are grateful to James, Tony and Brian for the warmth of their hospitality. While the pressures of the job called some away as soon as the meeting was over others remained behind for a few more days. John Hennebry OSA



John Hennebry and Nial Coghlan OSA

#### **DURING THE MONTH OF DECEMBER**

**Please remember in your prayers the following members of the Irish Province who have gone home to God.**

- 01 1991 Fr EN McGrath
- 02 1997 Fr JA Ryan
- 05 1972 Fr A Bell
- 08 1983 Fr P O'Shea
- 08 2004 Fr T Tevington
- 10 2004 Fr B Dunne
- 11 1974 Fr T Flynn
- 11 1998 Fr F Twomey
- 12 1969 Fr P Bowlby
- 14 1993 Fr T Hartnett
- 15 1996 Fr B O'Donnell
- 20 1985 Fr S Flanagan
- 20 1997 Fr J O'Connor
- 22 1970 Fr JB O'Flynn
- 22 1972 Fr PA Doyle
- 24 1989 Fr E Clifford
- 25 1973 Fr S Roche
- 31 1963 Fr PA Stokes
- 31 2004 Fr T Tuomey



Photo taken at Horse and Jockey including Paddy O'Reilly OSA and Bro Colm O'Mahoney OSA

#### **ASSOCIATION OF CATHOLIC PRIESTS**

Thirty seven priests gathered at the Charleville Park Hotel for the Munster meeting of the Association of Catholic Priests (ACP). Seán McDonagh opened the meeting at 2.40pm. He asked Brendan Hoban to give the background to the formation of the ACP. Brendan spoke about the meeting in Athlone in June 2010, and the decision that was made there to try to set up an association of Catholic priests. He pointed out that the ACP does not set out to represent every priest in Ireland, which would be impossible, given the diversity of views among priests on theological and pastoral issues. The ACP does, however, espouse a reforming agenda for the Irish Church. Most of all, it was set up to give a voice to priests, something which has been lacking for the past number of years. Brendan mentioned that the ACP is not anti-anyone, bishops or others, nor was it a trade-union. It is concerned for the welfare of priests particularly when the civil and canonical rights of priests' are violated. He highlighted the fact that there are major differences among Irish dioceses in the way priests, against whom allegations have been made, are treated. In some diocese they are given a salary, a place to live and the dioceses pays for the costs for lawyers – civil and canonical. In other diocese such priests are left to fend for themselves. This is unjust and therefore unacceptable to the ACP. Brendan said that the ACP had written to the Nuncio and the Cardinal requesting a meeting with the Visitors who are being sent from Rome to the Irish Church.

Full information about the association, including Fr Brendan Hoban's address at the launch, are to be found on the association's website:

[www.associationofcatholicpriests.ie](http://www.associationofcatholicpriests.ie)

#### **FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK.**

Welcome to Vol. 4 No 6. Thanks to all who have contributed to this December edition of IAN. Special thanks to David Moran, Francis Aherne, John O'Connor and Peter Galus for their invaluable help, and to Bro Giles and John Hennebry for photographs. All past editions of IAN available on:

Cork Web page: [www.staugustinescork.ie](http://www.staugustinescork.ie)

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