

# IRISH AUGUSTINIAN NEWS

## Province Assembly (May 25, 2010):

About 40 friars assembled for the recent Province Assembly held at the Ashling Hotel in Dublin. The main purpose of our gathering was to share our reactions and reflections mainly on the Ryan and Murphy Reports on the abuse of children in the care of Church institutions and at the hands of religious and clergy. John Byrne was moderator for the day. Our gathering happened in Pentecost week and so appropriately we began with prayer under the theme *Come, Holy Spirit*.

We were asked for our reactions to the reports when they were first published. How had they affected our lives and ministry? What were our feelings about this now? We were also asked about the Pope's recent letter and how we felt about that? We shared our reactions and reflections in plenary format and in small groups of 3-4. Typical reactions included 'anger', 'betrayal', 'shame', 'helplessness', 'hopelessness', 'pain' and so forth. We also reflected on what we could do to help bring about healing and hope for our Church. In this context, an interesting response suggested that we should 'stay with the pain' and not be too quick to rush towards resolving it, but instead work our way through the pain more gradually and therefore, hopefully more effectively in the longer term. There was an honesty in the sharing offered on such a difficult and painful topic.

After lunch, Tony Bolger, addressed us on the benefits of getting our places and ministries on to the internet and the various ways that this can be done. Our province website has been updated and Giles O'Halloran launched it on Friday 28th May. David Kelly OSA

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



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## JOHN'S LANE - ST RITA OF CASCIA

I'm happy to report a very successful St. Rita's Triduum once again here at John's Lane Church this year. This was due in large part to our two 'guest speakers', Frs. Sean Dowling and David Kelly, OSA. We simply had Devotions etc. and Benediction each evening at 8pm, culminating with our concelebrated Feastday Mass at 11.00am on the day. The Triduum was very well attended and the Mass was full to capacity – or as Fr. Frank, of fond memory, was known to say somewhat too often, 'standing room only'. Once again, the congregation were put into a suitably prayerful mood each evening with the violin music of Geraldine O'Grady and the equally beautiful soprano singing of Niamh Murray, each well-known on the national stage and beyond. Both have had association with St. Rita and John's Lane over the years. Bro. Joe and his loyal sacristy staff beavered away busily during the few days. It all concluded with lunch on the Feastday for the faithful band of helpers each Saturday morning throughout the year. This took place in the community dining room. And so, the message from the Lane is that, for the people here at least, St. Rita is as strong and as well as ever!

Pat Gayer OSA



### SOME READERS' COMMENTS:

Ben O'Brien writes, Pat my new e-mail address:  
[benobrienosa@gmail.com](mailto:benobrienosa@gmail.com)

### ECUADOR



Ted McCarthy OSA with Parish Council.  
Thurs 20<sup>th</sup> May.

Hi Pat, On Monday, Ted leaves for Ireland so I've to look after the farm. The Ecuadorian Augustinians in Santa Rita promise to help out in Convento.

Here in Flavio we are coming into the final stretch of the Novena of the Holy Spirit, a novena which has slowly developed over the years. This year, instead of the priest preaching, we have been trying to use the Lectio Divina, giving a hand out of a selected reading with a "Reflection" to each person. People like it. During the week we have had about two hundred people each night and it will build up at the weekend. Today was the Day of the Sick where about a hundred people came to be anointed. We went cosmic, praying for the sick all over the world!

The ninety year old, Señora Dolores, was a catechist here before I ever arrived and, as a Legionary, she has conducted the Rosary before Mass all these years. Everyone calls on her to visit and pray for their sick and dying and, when she comes up to say a spontaneous prayer of the faithful, she gives an impressive little sermon. It is amazing how she is so open to new insights, even though she won't budge far from her traditions. Paul O'Connor OSA, Ecuador.



St Rita gets a new outfit for Feastday.

### PROFILE No 3



As you read this IAN Billy Deasy is in Havana coping with the twin challenge of every missionary in a pioneering situation: itching to get on with things while realizing that patient waiting has to be the best step forward at least for now.

Born in Ardmore (14/11/30) Declan's youth was in Dungarvan, from where he entered Orlagh in 1949, with fellow novices John Butler and Francis Sheehan. After ordination in '56, T.B. prevented his going to Nigeria (which later was to claim the life of John Butler and see Francis Sheehan a bishop).

So after that it was Plan B. Declan spent a year as a very successful geography teacher in New Ross. Soon his skills were transferred to Austin Friars (Carlisle), where he went on to spend eighteen years.

Already as a youth in Dungarvan, Declan had taken to learning Spanish on his own. Before the end of his time in Carlisle he was proficient enough in Spanish to teach adult night classes in the town for the University of Durham and Newcastle.

In the early seventies Declan was called to play a pioneering role in Chone Ecuador before being joined by Tom Twomey and Paul O'Connor in 1977. As Declan himself puts it "I had five more exciting years in the development of the vast territory."

Around 1982 Declan was appointed to St Pius V Parish in Buena Park where there was a large Spanish speaking community. "I really enjoyed working with them," he says, "not only in church/pastoral activities but in finding them work, getting them residency papers, being a go-between with the police, and so on". In this connection it is worth noting that some time after Declan had left Buena Park, he was invited back by the Buena Park City Council, and at a dinner to honour his "contribution to the community", was presented with gifts, including **the keys of the city**.

On his return from the States Declan was appointed to St Patrick's College in Rome, the city he loves so much.. He had already volunteered for Cuba and his sojourn in Rome was simply meant to be a waiting exercise for the visa to be processed. In the event he spent ten years in Rome where he not only honed his linguistic skills in Italian but also became an expert guide on all facets of Rome's heritage as many a visitor to Rome could testify over the years.

So ten years later, it happened that one day (3<sup>rd</sup> May 2009) the Father General innocently asked Declan if he was still interested in **Cuba**. Declan declared that he was. The Father General himself procured the precious visa. Soon Declan was on his way and once again, the first Spanish grammar he got "from Miss Clancy's small library at the top of Friary Street" is bearing fruit. God rest her and God bless him. Bail o Dhia ar on obair, Deaglain!" Vaya con Dios y con la Virgen Maria!

John O'Connor OSA, Abbeyside.





### A PILGRIMAGE TO REMEMBER

It was advertised as an “elder friendly pilgrimage” – (5-12 May). Highly organized with great attention to detail and to elderly needs, it was for all that exceptionally relaxed. For the 18 who were in Italy for the first time it was the best 800 euros they ever spent.

But it was a pilgrimage. And the journey that took in Monte Casino, Assisi, Genazzano, Cascia, Roccaporena and of course Rome itself can be best described as an experience of various peak moments that captured different people along the way. In Rome itself the visit to the Vatican Gardens was something of a scoop made all the more significant as we discovered the picture of Our Lady of Good Counsel recently erected close by the Millennium bell.

As different pilgrims expressed their joy caution was thrown to the winds. Michael Morey, tireless treasurer on board, said to me after the Mass in Genazzano “Father, I could die now.” Then there was Mairead O’Connor who recalled “I found Monte Casino enchanting – the scenery, the peaceful atmosphere, I could stay there forever.

For many the visit to St Patrick’s Rome was an event apart. This was something that just could not be organized, much less contrived. The event in question was the participation at the 10’o clock Mass on Sunday morning. What made it special was not only the warm hospitality of the Prior Jim Downey OSA and Tony Finn OSA, not only the lovely Irish flavour given to the Mass itself as we sang “Hail Glorious Saint Patrick” with commendable gusto under the lively leadership of Tommy McManus OSA. Rather it was the presence of 3 young Augustinian Nigerian priests: Fr Edward Daleng, Fr John Ugbomah and Fr Augustine Aikomu, each studying in Rome, who participated as concelebrants. As the main celebrant of the day I was very happy to remind the people of the fruits of their own generosity as they supported the missionary effort over so many years. As it happened each of them were students I had taught in the past. It was indeed my peak moment too.

The choice of Fiuggi as our place of residence for most of the time was a stroke of genius. The sing song at night time, sometimes hilarious, was a most relaxing way of bringing us all together at the end of the day. Finally, top marks to Mario and Una our wonderful guides throughout and of course to Pat Moran OSA himself who set it all in motion and benignly presided over proceedings as one peak followed another. Denis Mason OSA.



Pat Moran, Augustine Aikomu, John Ugbomah, Denis Mason, Edward Daleng and Tommy Wade SMA.



Mike Brennock, Michael Morey and Denis Mason OSA

## DURING THE MONTH OF JUNE

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

03 1995 Fr D Kelleher  
04 2000 Fr D Coleman  
06 1979 Fr J Hogan  
07 1997 Fr K Moylan  
09 1969 Fr H Garman  
10 1962 Fr N Magee  
13 1973 F G Moran  
15 1999 Fr D Hegarty  
15 2006 Fr C Mansfield  
16 1995 Fr J Kiely  
20 1992 Fr J Martin  
23 1999 Fr. M Donnelly  
28 1998 Fr P Browne  
28 2002 Fr J Kavanagh

Also pray for the repose of the soul of Andy Humphreys, brother of Fr Seamus OSA who died after a long illness, and was buried in Dublin on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> May.

"Thanks to all the brethern who offered their condolences and prayers on the occasion of my brother's death. A special thank you to the John's Lane community for their generous hospitality to me during the weeks of Andy's illness. A grief shared is a grief lessened."

Seamus Humphreys OSA.

Death Notice from Irish Examiner 27.05.2010  
COFFEY BRENDAN, of Abbeycourt, Monkstown, Co Dublin, formerly of Retreat Park Athlone, Ferbane, Co Offaly and Portlaw, Co Waterford, who died peacefully on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2010, on his return journey from Japan, having visited his first grandson Dean. Brendan, formerly OSA, lecturer at Athlone Institute of Technology and Principal of International School, Tripoli, Libya. Removal from Walsh's Funeral Home, Carrick-on-Suir at 7.00pm tomorrow (Friday) evening, May 28, to St Patrick's Church Portlaw. Requiem Mass at 11.00am on Saturday. Burial immediately afterwards in Clonegam Cemetery, Portlaw. Brendan is survived by his wife Zohra, sons Austin and Sean, daughters Amina and Miriam and grandson Dean. He will be sorely missed by his nephews, nieces, daughters-in-law, sisters-in-law and friends. Brendan was predeceased by his first wife Marese (nee Lynch) deceased 1977. Son of Ireland, will be missed by all. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to The Martin Hospital, Portlaw, Co Waterford.

*Ni bheidh a leithead ann aris  
Ar dheis De go raibh a anam.*

## GOING FORWARD TOGETHER

The third and final session of the GOING FORWARD TOGETHER series of meetings took place in Orlagh on Sunday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, from noon to 4 pm. The overall aim of the sessions was to provide people with an opportunity to come together and talk about what it is like to be in the Church in Dublin at this time. The theme of this final session was BELONGING and 36 people attended. It was facilitated by Kieran O'Mahony and Bryan and Irene Maguire. John Byrne OSA, Orlagh.

## NEW HORIZONS FOR KATE VEALE

- coached by Bro Paddy Lennon OSA

On Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> May St. Augustine College were in C.I.T. giving their all at the Munster Schools TrackField Championships and many were asking, "any news about Kate?" Well as soon as we did get the news, it went around the athletic arena like wild fire. YES! Kate Veale (St. Augustine's College and West Waterford A/C Athlete), "has qualified" in the 5k Race Walk with a new personal best time of 23.01.03, finishing 4<sup>th</sup> at the inaugural European Youth Olympic Trials in Moscow. One could feel that sense of pride that each and every one of the Friary students felt on receiving the news. Kate will now take her place among the World's best for the first ever Summer Youth Olympics Games to be held in Singapore next August.

Kate is a transition year student at St. Augustine's College and is an excellent role model for her fellow students. She is a well balanced and highly focused young lady who prepares meticulously for her study and her chosen discipline (Race Walking). We at the Friary College are very proud of her achievements in academics and athletics. We know that there is a lot more to come.

Of course great praise is due to the expertise of twice Olympian, Jamie Costin and her proud parents James and Brid for the wonderful support they have been to Kate. (St Augustine's won the overall Boy's Cup at the Munster Schools Athletics championships for the 20<sup>th</sup> successive year at the above meeting).

## MARIAN YEAR NOVICES (1954-55)

The following will be ordained 50 years this year and are planning to get together to celebrate: Pat Farrell, John Murphy, Michael John O'Sullivan, Joe Walsh, Frank Sexton, Jimmy Maguire, Michael O'Regan and Paul O'Connor.

What would be a suitable date for such a gathering? Joe Walsh will be home from Australia, for June, July and August. Ideas or suggestions to Jimmy Maguire or Pat Moran, Cork. Tel: 021 4270410.

We will also remember those of our class who have gone before us marked with the sign of Faith.

(Damien Loughran, Tom Lyons, Philip Corcoran, John F O'Shea, Declan Brosnan, Vincent Hickey, Billy Baldwin).

## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK.

Welcome to Vol. 3 No 12. Thanks to all who have contributed to this edition. Special thanks to David Moran, Francis Aherne, John O'Connor and Peter Galus for their invaluable help, and to Kitty Bennett and Paul O'Connor for photographs.

Would like to hear who you would like to be profiled? Better still, why not write a profile yourself of any colleague you admire or feel should be profiled !

All past editions of IAN available on:

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

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