

IRISH AUGUSTINIAN NEWS

SR FINBARR FMDM



This February Sr Finbarr FMDM will leave Nigeria for good. She first arrived at the end of 1953, and then spent all of her religious and apostolic life in Yola, Sugu and Yakoko. The FMDMs themselves only arrived in Yola in 1950 so the Finbarr story is their story in Nigeria.

At a meeting in December 1953 Bishop Dalton and the priests of Yola wrote: It is the earnest desire of the Ordinary and Fathers in Council that the Sisters should care for and organise the Christian life of the women and girls in the mission stations where they reside, with a view to their future emancipation. From our experience, no real progress can be made in the work of evangelization without the full co-operation of the women folk. Remarkable words a decade before Leonardo Boff was ordained!

A few days later Finbarr arrived in Yola. She worked as headmistress under Basil Hannon in the primary school in Jimeta, Yola. Then to the Teachers' Training College in Sugu. One daring story concerns Finbarr and the late Sr Bernard at the beginning of the war in 1966. In a pick-up truck late at night they took the girls from the wrong side of the war safely home by taking a detour through Cameroon. Finally Finbarr settled in Yakoko.

In her many years in Nigeria her most outstanding contribution is a little school for disabled children, principally those paralysed by polio but also the blind and deaf. In the quarter-century since St Francis Polio School was started a steady trickle now accounts for 400 children. They were discarded, treated as refuse by their own families and communities, (but) found love, found care, and were given the opportunity to become active, productive members of their families and communities. Thanks to the co-operation of orthopaedic centres in Mkar, Jos and Kano many people were enabled to use their limbs in a manner thought impossible before Sr Finbarr's arrival in Yakoko. (from Colin Fives homily on the day).

Here in Jalingo Diocese we usually celebrate Consecrated life on February 2, by all religious coming together to celebrate with the Eucharist and refreshments. This year the celebration honoured Sr Finbarr. People and priests from all over the diocese and from Yola joined us to say Goodbye to the Bars. MI. Walsh OSA.



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**ONGOING FORMATION AT HORSE & JOCKEY
(February 25-27, 2010)**



Tom Cooney OSA, Des Foley OSA and Sr Carmel

The programme entered its fourth phase on February 25, in the comfortable surroundings of the Horse & Jockey hotel. We had a good turn-out with about 40 participants altogether, 13 friars, about 25 lay people and 2 female religious. Within the overall theme, the specific topic this time was "Salvation Revisited". Our guest speakers were Cathy Molloy (Jesuit Centre for Faith and Justice, Dublin) and Jim Corkery SJ, lecturer in systematic theology at Milltown Institute. Sarah Barry was our facilitator. Cathy Molloy opened proceedings on Thursday evening on the topic of 'Original Sin: Problems and Possibilities'. Jim Corkery gave three lectures the following day on the large topic of salvation/redemption – 'the way it was'; 'the way it is'; and 'the way it could be'. Both Cathy and Jim's talks provoked lively and interesting discussions. There was general agreement that the three days had gone well and so now we look to the next session scheduled for next November DV. David Kelly OSA, Ballyboden.



S Humphreys, M Crean, T McManus, D Kelly

SOME READERS' COMMENTS

Hi Pat, The hard copy of the IAN arrived to Chone this week -- the one with the list of OSA e-mail addresses included. It's good to have it. Now I might even annoy more people with FAN (Flavio Augustinian News)!. I did note however that Ted's address was incorrect. There are two "net's" in the correct one which is michaelmc@easynet.net.ec I printed out Tim O'Donovan's childhood memories for Ted and he was delighted, recognising all the familiar name places of his own childhood. Ted is in very good form. He must be, because he told me he had walked, in all the mud, to a village called Cometierra, (which means 'Eat the dust') during the week. It's a two and a half hour trudge! Catch me doing that! Paul O'Connor OSA, Ecuador.

The World of AYE London 2010

Do you want to see the many countries that AYE participants will be travelling from this summer?

Then check out the website at www.aye10.org and click on 'The World of AYE' for a closer look!

We cannot wait to welcome you all to London!

Thanks! Claire Webster. ayelondon2010@hotmail.com

Tel. 0208 748 3254 www.aye10.org

Greetings Pat and prosit on all the IANs. I was chuffed when friends from Las Vegas told me how much they enjoy your website. They watch it on You Tube also, and identified with the premature twins, because they recently knew of a premature baby, possibly a grandchild, who is doing well.

Tommy McManus OSA, John's Lane.

Evening Pat, thanks for recent newsletter. I see in it that Michael Danaher asks if the Paddy Lane is the Brother Francis in Ballyboden in the 60's. If you have any contact info for him would you please pass it to me and I will get in touch. Kindest, Paddy Lane, Ennis.

Dear Pat, Greetings, congratulations again on IAN, you are providing a great service. May I ask you to please include in the next edition of IAN my apology to Tony Egan and Tom Foley for omitting their names from the list of Friars at Gabriel McDonagh's Golden Jubilee celebrations. Thanks, keep up the good work, God bless. Tom Cooney OSA, John's Lane.

Dear Pat, I would appreciate it very much if you found a slot for the following: I wish to thank all the friars who in any way are supporting me during my current illness, especially the Ballyboden community and Healthcare team, with whom I stayed for some days.

To Tom Sexton, Nairobi, who left no stone unturned in implementing the directives of the doctors and ensuring that all preparations were in place for the journey to Ireland. By the same token, I recall with gratitude the caring support of my own community at the Friary. Lucien Gumesa, Felix Usman, Bob Karanja and student Boniface could not have done more for me despite their busy schedules.

This testimony of gratitude would be hopelessly incomplete without thanking both Francis Aherne and his sister-in-law, Clare O'Donoghue. Francis saw to it that everything went smooth at the airports, including the wheel chairs, while negotiating every twist and turn with customary aplomb. It was Clare who turned a potentially stressful night into a totally stress-free experience. Apart from her professional experience, which was most assuring she anticipated my every need. Indeed, memories forever.

Faternally, Denis Mason OSA

Dear Pat, The funeral of Bishop Christopher Abba took place on Jan. 28. Over 6,000 faithful attended from Yola, nearby dioceses, Bishop Abba's former diocese Minna and his home diocese Kaduna. About two dozen bishops and over 200 priests participated in the funeral ceremony. Bishop Abba was buried in the Cathedral, which seems to be customary here. RIP. Fr Boniface Dadah has been chosen as Diocesan Administrator. Michael Walsh OSA.

Martin Crean writes, my new e-mail address is:

martincreanosa@gmail.com.

Pat, Thanks again for your informative bulletin. May the Lord reward you & your team's dedication.

Here's a little quiz for your readers: What being can take thousands of people for a ride all at one time?

Bill Prendiville, OSA, Limerick.

P.S. I'm not giving the answer. Some may know it. If you prefer to stay in the dark (if you are), so be it. If you don't know & wish to just let me know. B.

DROGHEDA SUICIDE SUPPORT SERVICE



Iggy O'Donovan OSA and Mayor of Drogheda

One of the challenges we face in our increasingly secularised society is how to make our liturgies even remotely relevant to the events of everyday life. Personally I often feel the battle is lost but we traipse on. A few years ago I was approached by members of an organisation SOSAD (Save our Sons and Daughters). They were set up as a group to lend support to the increasing number of families who are bereaved by suicide. The Augustinians had come to their attention through comment in the media on the "Road Traffic Victims" liturgy which is celebrated here in Drogheda on the third Sunday of November. We agreed to organise a similar liturgy along with SOSAD and settled upon the first Sunday of February as a suitable date. This is the third year the event has taken place. Most of the planning is done by SOSAD themselves. Music, readings, homily and so forth is all organised by them. Local secondary school students also have an input. Members of the Garda, the emergency services, the coast guard, the medical services, public representatives etc all play their part. The main participants are the families who have been touched in some way by suicide. They turn up in big numbers and their overwhelming opinion is that it is a worthwhile occasion. All of them bring a candle to the altar in memory of their loved ones along with other mementos. The initiative has certainly "worked" in Drogheda and perhaps it might be a good idea if a similar event were to be organised in every Augustinian church. Just an idea!

Book for this month, *Consider Jesus: Waves of Renewal in Christology* (New York: Crossroad, 1990).

See review in IAN Supplement - Main Menu of Cork webpage.

GOLDEN JUBILEE IN JALINGO

An extra box must be ticked for Golden Jubilees on this side of the world. The couple must both live to a ripe old age and remain faithful. The extra box is resisting the temptation to polygamy. Both couples have fulfilled all three. Ad multos annos.

CHRISTOPHER AND MARY YARO

Christopher Yaro is well known to all who served in Yola and Jalingo Dioceses and maybe even to a few in the Maiduguri area. He was Mission Cook from the early or mid-'fifties until the early 'nineties. Christopher and his wife Mary were married in Yakoko before Jim Martin OSA on Christmas Day 1959. Thanks to Brian O'Sullivan OSA, in Santa Monica, we were able to get a papal blessing to celebrate their golden jubilee.

Both are well. Mary spoke of her married life: there was a time she said when she was ready to walk out the door and never come back again when Sr Finbarr FMDM was able to bring peace. Finbarr herself says an important role was played by Larry Brassil OSA, who was here briefly around 25 years ago. According to Finbarr, Christy made peace by buying Mary some yards of cloth and they celebrated the reconciliation with a small bottle of Guinness between them. It's not a secret, Mary said. Just be sure to make peace every time you have a disagreement.

After Communion on Christmas Day I invited Christopher and Mary to the front of the Church to receive the parchment. Both were delighted and everyone else highly impressed. After Mass a Youth Corper doing his national service in Zing insisted on a photo to send back to his people in eastern Nigeria.

Michael Walsh OSA.



Christopher and Mary Yaro

EMMANUEL AND AGNES BABALE

(Picture courtesy of their son Fr Nereus Ganumbeni OSA)

My parents renewed their marriage vows at a Eucharistic celebration officiated by Bishop Charles Hammawa of Jalingo diocese and concelebrated by 22 priests; (5 Augustinians and 17 others) from the dioceses of Yola and Maiduguri. Rev. Fr. Boniface Dada the current Parish Priest of Sugu received the consent. This took place on the 29th of December 2009 at St. Augustine's Catholic Church Sugu in the presence of their

children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, relatives, friends and well wishers.

Mr. Emmanuel G. Babale worked with the Franciscan sisters at the time of his marriage. In collaboration with the Sisters he got a job with the General Hospital Ganye as their chief tailor. He retired in 1979 having been appointed the Mai Jimilla of Sugu. Fr. Martin an Augustinian (then the parish priest of St. Martin's Parish Ganye) had entertained the fears that Mr. Emmanuel would become a muslim because of Mr. Emmanuel's appointment as Mai Jimilla but a firm assurance from Mr. Emmanuel that he will remain a Catholic assured Fr. Martin to let him go to Sugu and to take up the responsibility of Mai Jimilla. As Mr. Emmanuel and his wife Agnes celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary, Mr. Emmanuel also marked his 30th anniversary since his appointment as the Mai Jimilla of Sugu.



Emmanuel and Agnes Babale

NEW BOOK BY BERNARD O'CONNOR OSA

During my convalescence last year, I started to write a book. I managed to persevere with it and it is now at the printer. The publisher is a small one-man operator called UKUnpublished. Books are difficult to sell and so publishers are slow to accept copy especially from an unknown writer.

It would help enormously if the publisher had an initial order. Apart from an individual copy, if your church has a repository or some outlet for sale of books, you might think of ordering some for the sale.

The title of the book is *The Gospel Makes Sense*

How to Order:

Recommended Retail Price: £8.99 per copy.

Available to you if ordered direct at £8.49 per copy, including packing and postage,

10 copies or more at £5.00 per copy plus £20 for p&p. Please make the cheque payable to UKUnpublished and send the order directly to:

UKBookland, 23 Mapledene Avenue, Hullbridge, Hockley, Essex, SS5 6JB

or online: www.ukunpublished.co.uk

Wish me luck!

Bernard O'Connor OSA.

NIGERIA



A truly fitting celebration for Ray Hickey's Golden Jubilee was held at St John's Parish, Mararaba, Abuja, 22nd Feb 2010, when Ray himself presided. To Ray's right in the photo is Msgr. Jean Silvan, charge d'affaires, Apostolic Nunciature, Nigeria, and to his left Hyacinth Kangyep, Augustinian Nigerian Provincial. Richie Hughes can be seen farther to Ray's right. He was 45 years ordained the same day!

Brendan McDonnell OSA, Jos.

23rd Feb. Michael Walsh OSA writes, "More religious trouble two days ago in Jigawa, far from here, between Kano and Maiduguri. The story was on BBC. A truck driver refused to stop at checkpoint and police beat him to death. The mob attacked a police station without success, so instead they burnt down 7 churches. Maybe the police were Christian. I don't know!"

24 Feb. the trouble in Jigawa was in the town of Kazaure. Bishop John Niyiring says one Catholic Church was lost, St Peter's. Others were Protestant. No loss of life. DG.

Michael Walsh OSA.

DURING THE MONTH OF MARCH

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

02 1962 Fr L Griffin
02 2001 Fr J Murphy
03 1992 Fr P Mullery
05 1970 Fr T White
09 2003 Fr J Gough
10 2007 Fr P. Crilly
11 1992 Fr O O'Keeffe
11 2001 Fr B Hannon
13 1994 Fr B Carolan
15 1988 Bp T Cotter
17 1967 Fr K Galway
17 1968 Fr N McCoy
25 1996 Fr T Hunt
25 2003 Fr R Fitzpatrick
26 1990 Fr G Roche
28 2005 Fr B Hackett
29 1967 Fr M Curley
30 1965 Fr L Maddock

Please remember in your prayers, John Kelleher, brother of the late Dan Kelleher OSA, who died Sunday 28.02. 2010 in Cork.

MONTHS MIND MASS FOR CAHAL CARDINAL DALY. RIP.

The Months Mind Mass for Cahal Cardinal Daly was celebrated in his Titular Church, St. Patrick's, Rome on Sunday evening February 14th at 6:00pm.

The Chief Celebrant was Sean Cardinal Brady, assisted by Cardinals Levada Re and Foley; as well as 14 members of the Irish Episcopal conference and a large number of Irish priests living in Rome. Bishop Colm O'Reilly of Ardagh and Clonmacnoise was the homilist. Many of the Irish Religious Orders who have houses in Rome were officially represented, including the Irish Augustinian Province.

Ambassador Fahy, the Irish Ambassador to the Holy See and his wife were in attendance, along with members of the late Cardinal Daly's family, who did the readings and Prayers of the Faithful. There was practically a full church of Irish folk who are living in Rome and some who were visiting Rome.

The Organist and choir were supplied by the Irish College.

As the late Tom Tuomey would say, the sanctuary in St. Patrick's looked resplendent, thanks to Trojan work by Tony Finn and his helpers. Following the liturgy, refreshments, in abundance, were served to all present.

Michael Brennock OSA, Ballyboden.

Greetings Pat, As usual, a very fine production to keep us up with events around the Province and elsewhere. I got on the Cork website but when I tried to open the IAN Supplement to read Tim O'Donovan's account of a Childhood in Courtmacsherry all I got was a note saying that the file was damaged and could not be repaired. So I will have to rely on my own memories of a Childhood in Courtmacsherry. Well done again. Here in Nairobi, as can be imagined, the departure of Denis Mason has left a lot of gaps. He was a Philosophy lecturer at the Consolata Philosophicum, attended by our own students, was Chairman of the Board of Governors of Tangaza College, where our men go for theology, and was the spiritual guru for many Sisters and other groups around the place and as far as Ishiara. Many are praying for him.

Tom Sexton, OSA, Nairobi.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK.

Welcome to Vol. 3 No 9. Thanks to all who have contributed to this edition. Special thanks to Peter Galus, David Moran, Francis Aherne, John O'Connor for their invaluable help, and to Michael Walsh, Brendan McDonnell and John Byrne for photographs.

Please note that we have started up the promised IAN Supplement. Go to our webpage and scroll down Main Menu and you will find IAN Supplement. It has a nice article on Courtmacsherry by Tim O'Donovan, and also two works by John O'Connor OSA.

I recently found a Fund Raising Brochure produced when they were extending the Church here in 1938. See IAN Supplement. It has a well written brief history of the Augustinians in Cork and makes a link with the Red Abbey. Articles, poetry and photographs are most welcome. All past editions of IAN available on:

Web page: www.staugustinescork.ie

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