

# IRISH AUGUSTINIAN NEWS

## ON-GOING FORMATION

### 'Church – Staying with it' at Horse & Jockey



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About 36 people (friars and laity) gathered at the Horse & Jockey hotel for a further phase of the province on-going formation programme, held on October 21-23. The theme of this session focused on the present reality of the 'being church' – where are we now in relation to it and how do we 'stay with it'. John Byrne led the opening session on the evening of October 21 which was about 'Contextualising Prayer: How do we find ourselves?' Sarah Barry, our facilitator, then led the gathering in an exercise on 'the shape of our world' focusing on what is happening in the world in which we are living and in which we are trying to 'be church'.

For the following two days, we had two speakers: Pat Claffey, SVD, a lecturer in Milltown Institute and TCD and a specialist in Mission Theology and on issues in Faith and Culture; and from our General House in Rome we had Michael Di Gregorio, currently a member of the General Council where he is also Vicar General of the Order. It was his first visit to Ireland. Pat Claffey spoke on the topic, 'From Babylon to Zion and Back! A Church in Exile'. This was a stimulating and refreshing overview of the highs and lows of the Irish Church in recent history, emerging from the 'exile' of the penal laws into a return to a dominant position in society after Catholic Emancipation and now in our own time finding ourselves back in 'exile' as it were. Following questions and coffee-break, Pat gave us a second presentation on the topic, 'Where to from here? The Search for a Credible and Authentic Witness'. This talk explored the creative possibilities of being 'in exile', seeing it as an opportunity rather than a fate and challenging the privatisation arguments of the secularists, urging us as church to speak our faith openly in the public spaces of our society.

In the afternoon, Michael Di Gregorio spoke on the topic, 'What Will the Church become? What can become of the Church?' Michael drew mainly on recent Augustinian Order documents – General Chapters, letters from Prior Generals and so forth in his presentation. After coffee, Sarah introduced us to a practical session involving us all in the preparation of our Eucharist. We divided up into groups and prepared our contributions to different parts of the celebration. The experience both of the preparation and the Eucharist itself was a very positive one. The day closed with a fine evening meal and then a short session in which Kieran O'Mahony outlined the proposed trip to the Holy Land scheduled for April 28-May 9, 2011. This trip is offered as a climax to our on-going formation sessions but it is not limited to participants in that programme. Kieran has since circulated our houses with further information about it.

Our closing day featured Michael's second presentation, 'Will Augustinians have anything to say to tomorrow's Church?' Again Michael drew on Augustinian Order sources in his presentation. Sarah then led us in a final session asking us, 'what have we learnt? how can this matter?' Overall, the reaction to the event was positive and stimulating, if also challenging – it is *our* Church; what can we do to stay with it? The questions raised could be fruitfully discussed at our forthcoming Mid-Chapter, perhaps! The next and final session is scheduled for February 24-26, 2011. Details will be sent nearer the time.

*David Kelly osa, Ballyboden.*



**Michael DiGregorio OSA and Pat Claffey SVD**



**Celebrated their 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination  
Front: Brendan McDonnell and Pat Moran  
Back: Michael Brennock and Padraig Daly.**

**PROFILE No 8**  
**TIMOTHY AUGUSTINE WALSH OSA**



Timothy Augustine Walsh, is one of the four sons Michael and Bridie Walsh of Main St, Ballylanders (Limerick). Born on 10 February 1931, when his Inter Cert schooldays were over, Tim or Timmy (as he is still affectionately known), was exiled from his beloved Ballylanders and sent off to St Augustine's Boarding College in Dungarvan. Next stop was in the Dublin mountains and

the Orlagh Novitiate (where he added Augustine to his name). There followed the customary years in St Patrick's Rome, for his studies in Philosophy and Theology. There in the Eternal City Tim was ordained a priest on 16 March 1957.

Briefly, before that year was out, the young Fr Tim Augustine had got his pilgrim cross from Fr Duffner, and come September (1957) he was on his way to the Missions in Nigeria, accompanied by Sean Dowling. Ten years later he was posted to Bueno Park in the USA for a four year stint, and then (in 1981) it was back to Nigeria again. The folklore of the Province tells that around this time, Fr Timmy was asked by an eminent American Augustinian what difference did he find between the two places, only to hear answer: 'very little difference, Father, sure people are the same all over.' Yes, Timmy was that kind of man, he ministered to his flock and was content. But he had his own special gifts too, not least an appreciating memory for people's names and faces, which cherished each as special.

In 1960, Monsignor Cotter sent Timmy to open the first mission in a closed territory, far south of Maiduguri, bordering the Cameroon. I joined him as assistant priest in 1968. Meanwhile, Fr Tim had learned the Mandara language (the first European ever to do so) and had given the people their own little catechism. Besides, he built a church, a residence and a primary school. So, people were baptised, and a Catholic/Christian village grew up in the Church compound. As I write, the people are planning a jubilee celebration to mark the foundation of their church.

I must add that Tim was not only a writer of the good news and a missionary, but like St Luke was a medical man as well. I saw this in the case of young Philip, on whose skin Timmy had spotted what he thought was a first sign of Leprosy. His guess was confirmed by a doctor who treated the young boy successfully. Today, thanks to Father's foresight, Philip is a grateful married man, practising law. Had we the space, there is very much more indeed that could be related about our popular Fr Timmy, about his quiet dedication to the GAA scene, and his endearment to the people of Dungarvan and Ballyhaunis and now Fethard. So with this meagre etching, this profile salutes our small Ballylander's man, who walked tall wherever he pitched his tent (and who on 10 February 2011 will mark his 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday).

Martin Crean OSA, Fethard.

**SOME READERS' COMMENTS:**

Pat, Thank you for including the Province anniversaries in IAN each month. I copy, paste and print them and leave them on the oratory altar as a reminder for those celebrating Mass. We all appreciate the reminder. Kieran O'Brien, OSA, Abbeyside, Dungarvan.

Hi Pat. From the mists: I thank you for sending on IAN each month and especially that of October with Michael Walsh's account of the great work by Colin Fives OSA in Yakoko Mission.

In 1966/67, after 8/9 years teaching in Bazza TTC and Villanova Sec School, I was posted to the Mumuye tribal area where there were two mission stations, Yakoko and Zing. On the first vespers of the Feast of all Saints Frs Hugh Garman and Jim Martin took me to Lamma to set up the third station and we stalked out the mission site there. (I called the Station All Saints and I heard it was later called St Pauls). A week later I went out and arranged accommodation in the compound of one of the villagers and set up my camp-bed etc.. in one of his huts. Later I had a larger round-house built in the mission-site.

It strikes me that a History of the Mumuye Mission would make an interesting/ informative example of Missionary Endeavour and Grace. From an early (early forties) illegal entry to a the Restricted area by Frs Garman and Broder who were hauled before the District Officer, through the eventual permission for the Yakoko Mission, then Zing, then Lamma, then Fives with whom it thrives. House-books were well kept by all who worked there and would be good sources for that History.

Frs Garman and Broder (2 English OSA's) were the first to venture there – both died tragically there. Frs Garman/Martin brought me to Lamma, I moved back to Yakoko on Fr Garman's death, inducted Fr Chris Bowlby to Yakoko and had the sad task, with the FMDM Sisters, of taking him alive but unconscious, to a hospital 60 miles away, making the arrangements on his death there to take him to Yola for funeral and burial.

All followed by the return to a desolate Yakoko and dealing with JUJU stories that were abundant among and frightening the people. Seared in memory!

But my memory is blessed with many memories of the Fathers who worked there and of the people among whom and with whom we worked. Their prayers surround us all. In the Mumuye tongue I say MO WA TONA. (Go well). And again, my heartfelt thanks for the IAN. Keep up the good work. The Brennan IPSE. (Dick).



## Good Counsel College

-extracts from SCHOOL NEWSLETTERS

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

### School Newsletter: September 3rd, 2010

The weather certainly did its best to banish any 'back to school' blues as the new academic year got off to a sunshine bathed start this week. The new cohort of 150 first years were in on Monday with all year groups up and running by Wednesday. The weeks will as ever, roll on relentlessly now and it is important that all students get on board right from the start.

#### Sept 10th

Congratulations to Colm Foran, 6th year and to Ger Aylward who has completed his Leaving Cert. on winning All-Ireland minor hurling honours with Kilkenny at the weekend. While Colm didn't see any action on Sunday last, Ger certainly made his presence felt with some telling contributions in the second half especially.

#### Sept. 24 2010

Many students took the opportunity to attend the National Ploughing Championships in Athy on Wednesday while staff had a planning day at the school. The ploughing event, which comes to the New Ross area in 2012, always generates great interest among the students who clearly appreciate agricultural pursuits.

#### Oct. 8, 2010

The 6th year students had their annual retreat this week, hosted by The Mustard Seed Retreat Group, using the church and pastoral care centre for the various elements of the programme. 6th years are reminded that open days for universities and third level institutes are taking place around this time and if interested should seek further information from career guidance counsellors.

#### Oct 15, 2010

An information night was held for the parents of current first years on Thursday night in the school church with refreshments afterwards in the dining room. A large crowd attended and heard presentations from the Principal, Deputy Principal, Year Head and Guidance Counsellor in addition to a talk on a Homework Club initiative by Mr Walker. Mr Michael Byrne Chairperson of the Parents' Council, also addressed the gathering.

#### Oct 22, 2010

The beautiful crisp autumnal weather of recent weeks has contributed in no small way to the apparent haste with which mid-term has arrived. Hopefully the week of mid-term will itself bring more pleasant conditions and staff and students alike will have a refreshing break.



**John Walsh, Leinster 60 x 30 Handball champion.**

A very busy week on the sports front where pride of place must go this week to John Walsh from Mullinavat who claimed the Leinster U-16 Handball title in 60 x 30 on Wednesday last. In the game played in Carlow, John defeated Brendan Hyland of St. Kierans College. He now goes on to play in the All Ireland Semi Final this Saturday in Roscommon where he will face the Ulster champion. Many thanks to John's parents for their help with getting John to the venues and to Mr Leigh O'Brien for his work with all the handballers in the school. Congratulations to John on his achievement and best wishes for further success.

### **GALWAY**

November 2nd. We will hold our annual Ecumenical Service in St. Nicholas' that night at 7.30. It will consist of scripture readings and hymns, together with a 'Procession of Light', and a Blessing of the Tree of Life.



People from both our Churches came together to create a Liturgy that has drawn upon the riches of our respective traditions. Our people who died during the last 12 months will have a candle lighted in their memory in the course of the Service. We will use the little white crosses as we did last year. On these crosses will be inscribed the names of our parishioners from both churches who died this year. So, if you lost a family member this year, leave the name at the Church Office in good time for us to have it inscribed on the cross. The families of the parishioners who were buried from our respective Churches during the year will be informed by post, and a family member will be invited to bring the cross and a candle forward to the altar in the course of the Service. Take the candle home at the end of the Service.



## WE NEVER KNOW!

The Professorium, or theology house, in Nairobi is not directly under the Delegation of Kenya but is an international house, at present catering for students from Kenya and DR Congo. Consequently every year there is a meeting of the Board to review policy and set a budget for the coming year. This meeting is usually presided over by the Prior General, or his assistant for Africa. This year he was there in person, fresh from the Intermediate Chapter in Manila.

While reviewing the Minutes of the meeting for 2009 it was rather poignant to read in the report of the then Prior of the Community, Denis Mason, o.s.a., that he would accept the job only for one more year. Now we know how that year of service was cut short, rather dramatically, after Christmas and Denis is now with the Lord. As we prayed for him it was a stark reminder to us that we do not know either the day or the hour.

Incidentally, Denis' passing left gaps in many areas in Kenya, particularly in the intellectual field, which have not been easy to fill. Some of them remain empty of an Augustinian presence, such as Chairman of the Board of Tangaza College (Theology institute), as we do not have men with suitable qualifications. People, especially the many Sisters who benefited from his ministry, still fondly remember him and pray for him.

*May he rest in peace. AMEN.*

Tom Sexton, OSA, Nairobi.

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## DURING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER

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

03 1985 Br J Hodson  
03 1971 Fr EC Madden  
04 1979 Fr P Cummins  
05 1991 Fr A Berrill  
06 1990 Fr J Buckley  
08 1978 Fr P Foley  
13 1991 Fr TA McCarthy  
15 1977 Fr T Conlon  
19 2003 Fr PA O'Mahony  
20 2002 Fr J Cosgrave  
26 1976 Fr D Geary  
27 1992 Fr F Leddin  
27 1978 Fr W Wallace  
29 1969 Bp P Dalton  
29 1995 Fr D Whelton  
30 1984 Fr D Loughran

Please remember in your prayers Maura Goode, mother of Fr Richie Goode OSA who was buried in Ballinroad, Dungarvan on 27.10.2010. R.I.P.

Please note omission to "The Way of the Cross." When putting them in the IAN Supplement, I forgot to mention the author Fr Kieran O'Brien OSA, Duckspool, Dungarvan. -Editor.

## Winter Funeral

The funeral was in Winter,  
Without chant or music.  
Afterwards, we walked into the frost.  
Our footsteps crunched on gravel.  
Trees were white and gaunt.  
A hapless pheasant crossed our path.  
Prayers accomplished, we moved away,  
Brushing death from our coats.



-from 'Afterlife' by **Padraig J. Daly, OSA.**  
( - idea borrowed from Galway Bulletin. Ed.)

## JOHN'S LANE DUBLIN



Back Row: Nicholas Kearney, Bishop James Damon, John Lyng, Bishop John Niyiring and Sylvanus Saba.  
Front Row: Joe Pius Kirwan, Giles O'Halloran, Michael DiGregorio and Tony Egan.

## ASSOCIATION OF CATHOLIC PRIESTS

A meeting of the Munster area of the Association will be held in the Charleville Park Hotel on Tues. Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> at 2.30pm. All Augustinians in that region are welcome.

## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK.

Welcome to Vol. 4 No 5. Thanks to all who have contributed to this November edition of IAN. Special thanks to David Moran, Francis Aherne, John O'Connor and Peter Galus for their invaluable help, and John Byrne for photographs. All past editions of IAN available on:

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

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