

IRISH AUGUSTINIAN NEWS

OUR LADY OF FETHARD



Recently, Fr Martin Crean, OSA, prior, travelled with a pilgrim group to the National Museum, to see the venerable statue of Our Lady that had been treasured in the Abbey in Fethard (Tipperary), up to some years ago when it was taken for assessment to Dublin. Sadly it was never returned. Personally, I was taken by its grace back in the fifties and sixties, when it stood by the sanctuary window beside the sacristy door. Augustinian writers have witnessed to its presence and to the veneration that surrounded it, and marvelled at its loveliness. In the 1903 account of the Abbey we read: "In the Convent [Friary] of the Augustinian Fathers, here, a beautiful statue in oak of the Mother of God holding the Infant lovingly in her arms, may be seen.... The face of the Virgin is beautifully executed."

The 1976 story of the Abbey gives a detailed professional evaluation of the little statue (67 centimetres in height), and

elsewhere it is mentioned in association with the comparable BVM statues in Youghal, Limerick, Kilkenny and Kilcorban (Portumna). From his own meticulous research, our late, lamented, Fr Hackett wrote lovingly: "At that time [1640s] the friars returned and occupied what they could of their former home. They brought with them a most precious, unique small statue of Our Blessed Lady, carrying the Child Jesus on her left arm. Apparently, it was carved before the year 1607. The statue was the object of special devotion at Fethard under the title of Annunciation..... The statue is at present in the National Museum in Dublin, but it is a great shame that this historic, holy image should be left hidden in the museum without the people of Fethard being allowed to venerate it, in the place where it belongs by every right, namely the Augustinian church in Fethard."

John O'Connor OSA, Abbeyside.



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Yesterday, August 16, I was called down to meet two young men at the door. One of them was Tomás Gillespie O'Dwyer from Argentina whose great-great-grandfather was Joseph Gillespie O'Dwyer, one of two brothers from whom the Augustinians bought Orlagh in 1872. He was on a visit to Ireland and wanted to see the place where his ancestors had lived. We spent a very pleasant hour together sharing information about the O'Dwyer family. I was able to give him some information about Joseph's father, Andrew Carew O'Dwyer, who had extended the original house and built the present conference and dining rooms. From him I learned that there is now a large extended family of O'Dwyers in Argentina and there is a keen interest and pride in their Irish roots. The name causes him some problems as the letter 'y' is a consonant in South American Spanish and the name is pronounced something like O'Dusher.

John Byrne OSA, Orlagh.



Bishop Paul Colton and Tony Finn at wedding of Pat Nash's son, in St Fin Barre's Cathedral, Cork.



On December 8 Colin will be 63. He was ordained in 1972 but since 1974 the Dioceses of Yola and Jalingo have been home. Each week the son of Michael and Maureen Fives of Abbeyside and

Dungarvan reads both the Dungarvan Leader and the Dungarvan Observer, being careful to write notes of condolence to the families of his many friends and acquaintances. Colin is faithful to all things Waterford.

He finished secondary school in the Friary, proceeded to Orlagh and Ballyboden where a year in UCD was enough to derail a career in education. In Rome he earned his BD and STL at the Greg, being among the first to specialise in Missiology.

Colin is well pleased to have had a guiding hand in the life of many young priests, among them Archbishops Kaigama and Ndagoso, and Bishop Hammawa. Several others, baptised by him as infants or young adults, are priests as well as those assigned to him in their student years. As Bishop of Jalingo, Ignatius Kaigama chose Colin as his VG. For over 30 years he served on the boards of consultants of both Yola and Jalingo where his detailed memory often proved essential. With the aid of the Holy Spirit, the missionary's duty is to pass on faith, hope and love. Colin is extremely generous where charity is required. However, he is also keenly aware that building up the Body of Christ is not always achieved by playing Santy. Profound respect is required, not condescension. Authentic development also comes from teaching, persuading and inspiring the local community and individuals to be generous with their time, talents and resources. So, when a new church is required the faithful must first see the need for it themselves. Then they will muster resources and begin the building. With genuine "ownership" and a real need for the project, outside assistance is sought. Sometimes it is found. Colin's priority is the sacramental development of those entrusted to him. Even in the simplest village he arrives on time, 7.00 AM. If there is another nearby church he will arrive there by 10.00 AM. This is respect. As a result the people will be waiting. More distant outstations mean a departure before the early morning Angelus bell. The menu always is the same: Confessions and Mass. There may also be catechumens preparing for baptism, children or adults for First Communion, problems to discuss and, occasionally, a wedding. All are nourished. Colin will be back home for mid-day chop. First he relaxes over a beer. On days beginning before 6.00 AM, an extra scoop is well earned.

Day in, day out Colin visits the outstations. In

Wukari parish it meant running a gauntlet with warring tribes where, ironically, it was the so called "Protestant" tribe who showed more respect. In Yakoko it required climbing in mountains where no wheeled vehicle can pass. Even today, each week involves hours of walking. Little wonder that at 63 Colin is still young.

Michael Walsh OSA

MEMORIES OF MENTORELLA

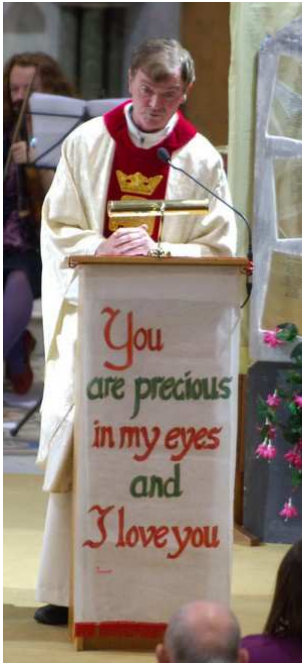
The lights of Capronica sparkled in the clear night air and beckoned us to visit the small town, which carried on its daily life so near and yet so far from San Pio. A hike was soon organised and, taking the direct route from the valley, we attacked the slopes of the Capronica sugar loaf. Some hours later, suitably rested and refreshed, we set off on the second stretch of the hike, along the ridge from Capronica to Guadagnolo. That was much easier, the air was fresher, the terrain level, and the going somewhat tedious and predictable after the initial assault. Having reached the plinth and stump of the town's statue, visible from the Via Prenestina, and after visiting the small church, we skipped down to the monastery of Mentorella, perched on the ridge overlooking Pisoniano. The panorama that opened up to us was spectacular, with Monte Scalambra protecting the sanctuary of San Michael to the east and the valley of Sarracinesco leading to Tivoli in the north.

Such memories flooded my mind as I read the account of the 15th centenary of the monastery in Mentorella and the visit of Cardinal Giovanni Battista Re to mark the occasion on 29th August this year. I read of its links with Subiaco and its chequered history over the centuries (220 saints lie buried there!). At much the same time as Prior Glynn acquired San Pio for the Irish Province the Resurrectionist Fathers bought back Mentorella – at an auction - from the new Italian state. Few Catholics had heard of this sanctuary, tended by a community of Polish monks, until Pope John Paul II made it the goal of his first visit outside of Rome shortly after his election in 1978. This was recalled by Cardinal Re in his homily, as was the subsequent visit by Pope Benedict XVI. Re also blessed a statue of Our Lady of Grace, which was to be taken to all parishes of the diocese (Palestrina?).

If my first visit to Mentorella was in 1957, then my last visit there must have been twenty years later, in 1977, during a sabbatical leave in Rome. Accompanied by Padraig Tuohig, we took a bus to Pisoniano and soon located the steep path which passed through the forested slopes of Mentorella peak. It was an easier and more leisurely visit this time and I had the privilege of celebrating Mass in the sanctuary. It was a great day out; and Padraig, I was as grateful for your company that day as I was pleased to meet you again this summer. Was it Frank Sinatra or Perry Como who sang, 'Memories are made of this ...'

Raymond Hickey OSA, Abuja, Nigeria.

DROGHEDA: WOMEN PLAYED a leading role in at least one Mass yesterday.



At the Augustinian Church in Drogheda, businesswoman and Senator Mary White was invited to speak to the congregation at 1.15pm Mass, while the Communion reflection was written by a young woman parishioner.

They took part at the instigation of Fr Iggy O'Donovan who told the congregation he could not ignore "the elephant in the room" – that it was "women's boycott Sunday" – and he was welcoming all genders "as we try to be as inclusive as possible".

He believed there is "nothing in our tradition that excludes women from the fullness of priestly ministry forever". It was "appropriate that Senator White who is not only a strong advocate of the rights of our senior citizens but is moreover an avid supporter of the rights of women", should speak, he said.

In her presentation, she said it was time for society to change its outlook towards older people because it has "great difficulty in adapting to the reality of more older and active people. Marketing and consumer advertising is predominantly aimed at the young."

Fr O'Donovan said he wanted "to give women as prominent a part in our liturgy as is possible" and the Communion reflection was written by Muireann McGinty (24) who works in independent media. She said the boycott of Mass yesterday was suggested to highlight inequality and injustice in the church but "I fail to see how an antiquated action such as a boycott can achieve a desired impact. It is regressive in terms of dialogue and adversely advocates a bitter debate as opposed to actively engaging in it . . ."

Fr O'Donovan said the fact that the Catholic Church did not ordain women 2,000 years ago is still "a milestone round our necks", and he acknowledged that "full recognition of the equality of women in our church will not come about anytime soon".

In Killarney, Co Kerry, another priest told Mass goers that the treatment of women in the church needed urgent discussion. At the Church of the Resurrection in Killarney, Fr Kevin McNamara, said he disagreed with calls for a protest or a boycott of the Mass.

However, he said the treatment of women was "a very serious topic" and it needed urgent attention, especially given the crisis in ordinations.

THE IRISH AUGUSTINIAN ONGOING FORMATION COMMISSION PRESENTS:

CHURCH – STAYING WITH IT

Phase Five of Hearing the Gospel for the first time

with

Dr Patrick Claffey AVD

and

Fr Michael di Gregorio OSA

This phase of the Ongoing Formation Programme will be held in the Horse and Jockey Hotel, Oct. 21-23, 2010.

The programme is also open to lay people who are working with our communities. It is up to the communities to extend an invitation and to arrange for their costs. Please note that for a place to be guaranteed on this course payment in full before October 9th.

Flor O'Callaghan OSA, Dungarvan.

WELCOME HOME

Welcome Home raises money to support Fr. Peter McVerry in his work with young homeless people in Dublin. Money is generated through a number of organised events, the Wexford Cycle in September, Golf Classic in May, Christmas Appeal in December and donations all year round. Welcome Home has been supporting Peter McVerry since 1990.



Kieran O'Mahony OSA took part in recent cycle from Dublin to Wexford. At the time of going to press, he has reached just over 80% of his target of €3,000. Donations are still welcome and can be made in cash or cheque or by credit card through Kieran's charity web:

www.mycharity.ie/event/kieranwexfordcycle.

Congratulations to Fr Kieran O'Brien who recently forwarded copy of his Stations of the Cross. You will find same in IAN Supplement on our website:

www.staugustinescork.ie

DURING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

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

05 1975 Fr J Dullea
11 1961 Fr LA Doyle
16 1988 Fr J Keane
17 1989 Br P O'Connell
17 1999 Br C Counihan
22 2002 Fr T Mescall
24 1997 Fr P Ryan
27 1961 Fr BM O'Sullivan
28 1974 Fr GB Redmond
30 1987 Fr S Renehan
30 1992 Fr M Duggan

Please remember in your prayers Theresa Blake, sister of Fr Jackie Power OSA who was buried in Dublin on 13.09.2010

Also pray for Deacon Nigel Bavidge who died 17.08.2010

Nigel went to school in Austin Friars, Carlisle, joined the Order for a short while and left, but remained an Augustinian at heart all his life. He worked as religious education advisor to the diocese of Leeds and, as an Order affiliate, he proudly wore the habit.

Having attended a conference for laity of the Order, he was inspired to establish Friends of Augustine, which he led for several years, organising conferences each year to reflect on Augustine and his spiritual teachings.

He was diagnosed with terminal cancer last year. He was totally up-front about it, announced it at school, determined to enjoy his already arranged holidays, including scuba-diving in Egypt. He had organised his funeral, the booklet was prepared in the school, awaiting only the date of his death. He was not dying of cancer, he was living with cancer.

His funeral Mass was celebrated in Halifax by the Provincial, David Middleton. Paul Graham delivered the homily. May he rest in peace. Amen,

- with thanks to Fr Bernard O'Connor,
Editor "Newsangle" September 2010.

Dear Bernard, I was shocked to see in the Newsangle that Deacon Nigel Bavidge has died. May he rest in peace. I had the privilege of being a student with some of his time in the Order. Even then he was a gentleman. I offer my sincere sympathy to you all in the Anglo-Scottish Province. I also wish you to convey my sympathy to the members of his family, if that is possible. With gratitude to God for having known Nigel. I remain. Matt Cooney OSA.

Matt, Thanks you for your message. Nigel will be a great loss to the school in Carlisle, where he was energetic in keeping the Augustinian spirit alive. He wore the habit as an Augustinian affiliate, and was known as 'Brother Nigel'. He had remained an Augustinian at heart all his life, and following a conference of the Order for laity in Rome, he developed a knowledge of and enthusiasm for Augustine's spirituality that put us all to shame. In recent chapters he organised our liturgies, especially the music. We shall all miss him, Bernard O'Connor OSA.

DROGHEDA

FROM THE ARCHIVES

(Fr Iggy O'Donovan)

(As we mark the 150th anniversary of the building of the Augustinian Church we continue our series of snippets from the archives. Here we have an account from the Drogheda Argus newspaper, dated June 1869.)

LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE OF THE NEW AUGUSTINIAN CONVENT, DROGHEDA.

The imposing ceremony of laying the foundation stone, of the new convent, in Bachelors Lane, will take place, on Wednesday next, 28th June. We have seen and examined the design for the new structure, and we consider it both suitable and ornamental. Much credit is due to the architect, G. H. Ashlin, for the manner in which he has made use of the space at his disposal. The site is not what we would desire for such a magnificent structure; however the Augustinian Fathers had no option in the matter, as their rule compels them to reside adjoining their church. The superstructure is to be of best English red bricks, relieved by coloured ones, with bands of cut limestone. E McDonagh, Esq., Mayor will lay the foundation stone.

A splendid silver trowel, with chased silver handle, has been prepared by the Augustinian Fathers, for presentation to him on the occasion. It is expected that there will be a large attendance. From the success the Augustinian Fathers experienced on many like occasions, they need not fear that the general public will stand aloof during this, their last, appeal to the charity of the faithful.



Bishop Paul Colton, St Fin Barre's and Tony Finn OSA

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK.

Welcome to Vol. 4 No 4. Thanks to all who have contributed to this 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.

Enclosed with hard copies which we mail each month, you will find copy of photo taken at the Nigerian Mid Chapter. Many thanks to Michael Walsh OSA for same.

All past editions of IAN available on:

Web page: www.staugustinescork.ie

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