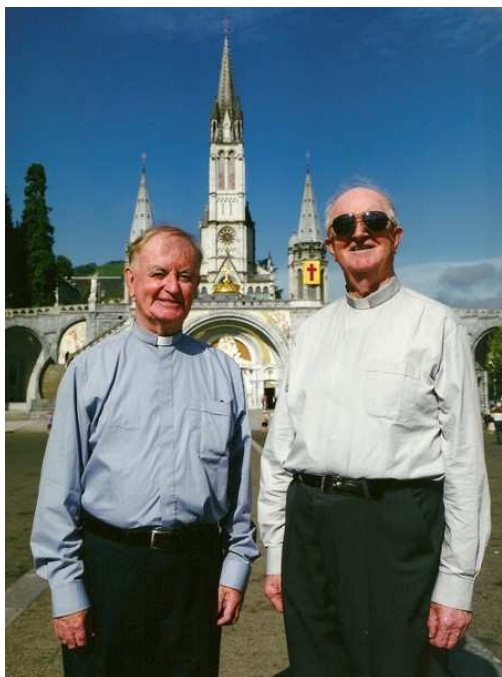


IRISH AUGUSTINIAN NEWS

ST AUGUSTINE'S CORK



The annual pilgrimage to Lourdes took place from 11th to 17th August. It was ably led by Fr Sean Dowling. We had thirty-nine people in all from various parts of the city and county.

Sean Dowling & Michael Leahy OSA

The various devotional exercises were well catered for. The highlight of the pilgrimage was the English Mass at the Grotto at 7.30 am on the Feast of the Assumption. This is arguably the greatest occasion for the pilgrimage season when the French themselves take over for their National Pilgrimage. The Liturgy for the day is normally guided by the Augustinians of the Assumption. This year unfortunately the occasion was upset by a bomb scare which turned out to be a hoax. It had little effect on our group as most had taken up positions around the television to view the match between Tipperary and Waterford.

Masses were arranged for the group at the Grotto, Upper Basilica, outdoor Shrine of St Bernadette, Bartres, Church of the Poor Clares, and the City of the Poor where we also had the Anointing of the Sick. A Holy Hour arranged for the final Monday evening met with a little hiatus as there was double booking for the church. An unyielding French official was eventually overcome by the combined efforts of Sean and the group leader Eileen. We wound up in a much nicer setting in a side chapel. Afterwards the group candle was blessed and lit at the usual setting.

We took part as a group in the Torchlight Procession and in the Blessed Sacrament Procession for the sick. A feature of the Vigil of the Assumption was the Torchlight Procession from the Parish Church through the streets to the Grotto. The Stations of the Cross formed our group exercise on Friday afternoon, and individuals themselves availed of the visits to the baths. All in all the pilgrimage was a great success. Most of the pilgrims though not drawn from the congregation of St Augustine's, were soon gelled together by Fr Sean in his own inimitable way. M Leahy OSA.



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GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

On Wednesday 18 August a group of Augustinians travelled to Orlagh for the purpose of celebrating the Golden Jubilee of their Ordination to the Priesthood.

To honour the occasion they participated in a concelebrated Mass. The Chief Concelebrant was the Provincial, Gerry Horan. The main theme of the liturgy was gratitude to God for the grace of their Priesthood and Ministeries.

23 young men entered the Novitate in Orlagh in 1954. This was the biggest number of entrants into Orlagh up to that year. 15 of those were ordained to the Priesthood in Rome in 1960. On the occasion of the Golden Jubilee celebrations, eight of these were still alive, but three were unable to be present in Orlagh. Fr Michael O'Sullivan was ill, Fr Paul O'Connor was in Ecuador and Fr Johnny Murphy who is in London was unable to be present.

Those present in Orlagh were Frs Jimmy Maguire, Pat Farrell, Frank Sexton, Joe Walsh and Michael O'Regan. Those who had died were remembered and a candle lit for each one on the Altar: Tom Lyons, Billy Baldwin, John F O'Shea, Declan Brosnan, Vincent Hickey, Damian Loughran, and Killian Corcoran.

The occasion was a joyful and memorable experience for all, and a great opportunity to meet up and share our experiences together. It was also an occasion to look back in time and relive some of the memories of our early days together in Orlagh, Raheny and Rome. We thank God for the many blessings and we are grateful to the many Augustinians who have helped us along the way.

Michael O'Regan OSA.



Back row: Frank Sexton, Joe Walsh and Pat Farrell
Front Michael O'Regan, Gerry Horan and Jimmy Maguire



**Michael Christopher
Fitzgerald OSA**

Ships from all parts put in to Ballyboden for maintenance or major re-fit. The latest to dock is the *Miguel Cristoforo Fitzcarraldo*, listing a little but still serenely afloat.

Nearly sixty years ago Michael Fitzgerald left Ballylanders for the Friary in Dungarvan. Ever since, he's been with, for and of the friars. Newly-professed,

he went from Orlagh in 1958 to a new Ballyboden. Two years later, Philosophy bundled and bagged, he turned to Kevin St to complete his mastery of the empirical sciences. Then to Rome where he was ordained in February 1965. Post-graduate study at San Anselmo kept him there for another two years and he built an apostolate with FAO personnel and other expatriates, its focus the First Friday gathering at St Patrick's.

New year '68, mid-Civil War, saw Michael joining the itinerant Major Seminary of Northern Nigeria, then encamped at Sabon Gwong, after retreating north from its cradle at Keffi. Tom Flynn and Ben O'Brien were there. They kept it going and growing in stormy times. Two years later the permanent site of St Augustine's Seminary at Laranto was ready for occupation and the caravan settled there. Nolan, Mason and Downey joined the trio from Sabon Gwong, and a spurt of growth that was to last for years took off. St Augustine's was home to all students of all the dioceses of Northern Nigeria— plus not a few from the south —and was watched by an equal number of bishops. In January 1974 Fitz was officially appointed Rector of St Augustine's. The number of seminarians grew in a few years from dozens to hundreds. The outreach of staff gave the place what would now be called a high profile. Fitzgerald and his crew ran a lively ship. The comings and goings fitted well into the exuberant, optimistic Nigeria that with great grace had put a bad war behind it. As a sideline, the residence below the Timber Market was centre of hospitality for a great spectrum of humanity from friars to freeloaders, "though sometimes the two types existed in the one man." For another four and a half years Fitz led the seminary and it prospered.

Mark made, he resigned as Rector in 1978 and in the next year appeared in Ecuador, joining Declan Deasy, Tom Tuomey and Paul O'Connor, to start all over again. This time the emphasis was first on formation of catechists: the doctoral thesis he had quickly completed in Rome in the early seventies was tugged and tweaked for the new cause. Lay workers from Ireland were imported in response to a pastoral situation different from that of other continents. Michael was betimes Superior of Chone. And just as the Rockefellers and the Gateses continue to exercise their philanthropy through Foundations, so with our man: *Fundación Padre Fitzgerald* is there to support the social work of the territory.

He's here now, after a life's work in Africa and South America, marked by the heat of the day and the height of the hills. He has condensed his philosophy - maybe even his theology—and certainly his health difficulties, down to a trusted formula: "No Problem." No problem for anybody.

Unsigned.

P.S. Extract from National Paper, *LaHora*, as Chone celebrates 117 years as a County. Michael Christopher arrived in Chone in Dec 1979 as co-parish priest. The community says he gave everything without asking for anything. The article talks of the building of the Health Clinic and Community centre and also notes that Chris was the prime mover in the Santa Fe 2000 project which built over 2,00 apartments in the parish of St Rita.

-thanks to Paul O'Connor OSA for above info!

AYE LONDON



Francis Aherne OSA with some Irish Youth

As many of you know, this year's Augustinian Youth Encounter (AYE) took place in London from Aug 9 to 15 at the spectacular location of St Albans. There were close to 250 in attendance from all over the world. Participants came from as far afield as China, Indonesia, Australia, Canada, USA, Poland, Spain, Italy, Nigeria and Kenya, just to name a few. The Irish Province brought seven young people from New Ross, Ballyboden and Drogheda, as well as four friars, Bro Colm O Mahony, Frs Francis Aherne, Noel Hession and Niall Coughlan. The theme for this year's encounter was "*I call you friends*", taken from the Gospel of St John. The atmosphere of fun, excitement and total commitment to their faith among the youth attending was infectious. While most opted for rooms on site some groups namely the Polish, Italian and Czech braved the English summer and decided to camp instead. Highlights of the week included a visit to Clare Priory and Cambridge and the attendance of the Prior General for the last few days. The Festival of Nations also provided much fun as each country or province took the opportunity to display their talents in front of the whole assembly – "*Ireland's Call*" never sounded so good! Other notable events included the "*Theatre of the Oppressed*" and in particular the "*Via Lucis*" which was extremely well done. Each morning all of us celebrated Mass together led by a different group each day and both morning and evening prayer were also prayed to help remind us that we all came with the hope of deepening our friendship with God as well. The week ended with a Hog Roast and a dance and on the following morning we ended with the announcement that the next youth encounter will be in Argentina in 2013. It was an action packed event filled week of sharing, searching and making new friends and one which I found extremely rewarding and encouraging. So now we have time to do some serious work and bring as many young people as we can to Argentina 2013. It is an experience not to be missed! Colm O'Mahoney. OSA.

CHANGED TIMES

A simple though significant event occurred in Ireland in recent weeks. The President, Mrs McAleese signed into law the Civil Partnership Bill giving full legal recognition to same-sex partnerships and granting them many rights normally reserved for heterosexual couples. No great news there one might say. I hold that if ever we wanted evidence of the changed political, social, and moral revolution which has taken place in our country in recent years this is it. By modern standards the change in the law here is not breathtaking. After all, many “progressive” Western democracies have similar if not more liberal legislation on the statute books.

What struck me as the legislation made its way through Dail and Seanad Eireann was the near unanimity with which it was approved by almost all members of the Houses of the Oireachtas.

It is just sixty years ago this year when a Minister for Health Dr Noel Browne was forced to resign for the very modest proposals he advocated in the Mother and Child Scheme. In short he wanted to grant free maternity care for mothers, and free health care for children up to sixteen years of age. Some in the medical profession opposed him as they regarded it as “socialised medicine”, and the Roman Catholic Church came out against him as they felt the State should in no way be involved in anything touching sex and sexuality. The Ireland of the time was so different. There existed an atmosphere of anti-sexual terrorism which permeated just about every aspect of life. This was characterised by censorship, stifled debate and a cultural incestuousness. Politicians listened closely to the bishops and by and large went along with them. In the words of an *Irish Times* editorial at the time “The Roman Catholic Church would appear to be the effective government of this country.” An exaggeration perhaps but not by much.

How we have moved on. When the Civil Partnership Bill passed recently there was barely a whisper. Dermot Ahern’s legislation went so much beyond Dr Browne’s but few noticed or cared.

The Bishops issued a statement expressing concern and the Government ignored them. Minister Gormley could barely conceal his contempt. A few journalists such as David Quinn and the *Alive* paper were forlorn voices in the wilderness. Whether it is for better or worse who knows. But Ireland is changed. changed utterly.

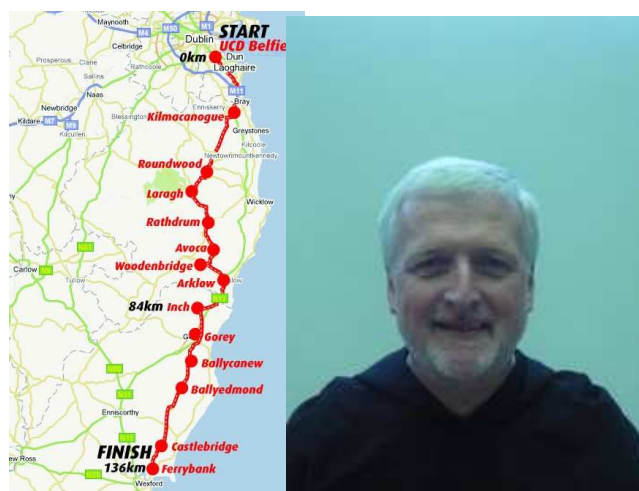
Fr Iggy O Donovan OSA

REMINISCING by Francis Aherne

It was around 1985. The Marriage Tribunal for Northern Nigeria used to meet in Jos on a regular basis. Some of those involved used to stay in the Monastery. One was Fr Sean Rafferty. He was one of many African Missionaries (SMA) that we got on very well with. He called me aside. “There is a very good young Northern man in the University of Zaria who is thinking of joining the Dominicans. I’d prefer if it was the Augustinians. His name is John. See what you can do.” A day or two later I headed down to Zonkwa, where I was told that John was from. The St Louis Sisters had a big clinic there. Yes, they knew him and even more so his mother, who lived close by.

- continued across the page

THE WEXFORD CYCLE



Kieran O'Mahony OSA

The cycle is an annual event which raises money for **Welcome Home**, a charity set up in 1990 by Peter McVerry SJ. The charity provides services for young homeless people in Dublin. Even in the times of the Celtic Tiger, homelessness was always a problem and even more so now, in 2010. The cycle is the major fund-raiser for Peter, bringing in close to €500,000. See www.welcomehome.ie.

The cycle starts at UCD and goes on to White’s Hotel in Wexford, lasting 136 km or 86 miles. Kieran O Mahony began taking part in 2001 and has continued, with one interruption, ever since. To help people donate, he has his own mycharity.ie web page which facilitates donation through him. In 2008, his target was €2,000 and the donations came to €5,000. In 2009, the target was €3,000 and the donations came to €4,000, reflecting the downturn in the economy. The target this year remains at €3000 but donations are very slow so far. Any donation at all is welcome and it can be made in cash or cheque or by credit card through Kieran’s charity web page: www.mycharity.ie/event/kieranwexfordcycle.

The cause is very worthy and Peter McVerry does wonderful work, in an effective and understated way. The event itself is just great fun, depending a bit on the weather, and the “buzz” on the day is terrific. One year, it just rained consistently throughout. Last year was more or less ideal – some sunshine, with little wind. Last year was also the first time for a new route, heading up into Laragh, so as to avoid the new motorway stretches. It is a beautiful route, even though the uphill bit at Kilmacanogue is an extra challenge. Everyone gets a medal and, as Kieran wasn’t interested in organised sports as a kid, those are his only sports “trophy”. This year the cycle takes place on 18th September, starting at 8.00 a.m. All are welcome to the off at UCD.

A very pious woman. I met her. I got a bit of the family background from the Sisters and when I met John I was more knowledgeable about him than he expected. He asked to join the Augustinians the following year. We accepted and it was up to Michael John O’Sullivan and Johnny Lyng, who were fellow formators, to hone him into the Augustinian way of life. Some years later he, John Niyiring, became Provincial and is now the Bishop of Kano, taking over from + Patrick Sheehan OSA.

Dear Pat, Thanks for IAN for August. As usual, it is very welcome. Francis Aherne's "Reminiscing" about the Simple Prayer Book caught my eye. The gentleman he met at the CTS in London was Brendan Walsh, from Yorkshire. Brendan's parents came from Youghal, Co Cork, and each September Brendan returned to school in Carlisle with a delightful blend of Cork and Yorkshire accents! After his schooldays were over, he worked for the CTS, during which he published pamphlets on Sts Augustine, Monica and Rita of Cascia. Brendan was in school in Carlisle in the 1960s. Later he worked for Darton, Longman and Todd, but now, I think, is freelance. He reviews at times in The Tablet. A Simple Prayer Book is still on the go, as good value for money. I find it helpful here for some people have little experience of everyday prayers.

Gabriel McDonagh OSA



Francis Aherne takes Vinny Lyons Cup from Ben O'Brien

DURING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER

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

02 1990 Br E Wade
03 1967 Fr J O'Donoghue
09 1968 Fr S Breen
09 1996 Fr J Curtis
10 2003 Fr B Beary
12 1996 Br J O'Sullivan
15 1991 Br P Quinn
16 1990 Fr G O'Leary
16 2000 Fr JF O'Shea
17 2000 Fr V Lyons
20 1996 Fr B Sinnott
21 1995 Fr G Cunnane
30 1962 Fr F Larkin

Pray for Amby Carrejo RIP of Buena Park who died on August 5th. Amby and his wife Mary were very active in St. Pius V Parish. In recent years they were mostly involved as wedding coordinators, both in English and Spanish. May he rest in peace.

ST AUGUSTINE'S DUNGARVAN

On Sat. 21 August at the inaugural Youth Olympic Games in Singapore there was an outstanding performance by 16 year old Kate Veale, 5th year student in St Augustine's College, coached by Bro Paddy Lennon. Competing against 15 of the best young athletes in the world, in race walking, she finished a very close-up fourth, only missed out on a bronze medal by just over one second. Kate also smashed her own Irish Junior record by a massive 15.3 seconds with a time of 22:36.97 for 5K. race walk.

ORLAGH SAT. 25 SEPTEMBER 2010

SPIRITUALITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE

Where do I want to go in life? How will I get there? These are questions we all ask and have been asked by countless people in the past. The restless heart of St. Augustine led him to explore many roads in his search for happiness. In his writing he shares with us the lessons he learned, the insights experience taught him, and the questions he wrestled with—which are as relevant in the 21st century as they were in his day. In the workshop/retreat **FROM RESTLESS HEART TO MINDFULNESS** Fr. John Byrne will lead participants to explore their own search for happiness using quotations from St. Augustine. The day runs from 10.00am to 4.30pm. Overnight accommodation is available in Orlagh. To book, contact John in Orlagh: Tel. (01) 495 8193; Email: john@orlagh.ie

AS I WAS SAYING...

Five (very) loosely connected events caught my eye recently. On Sunday last, 20,000 people visited Knock Shrine. On the same day, 1,000 young people gathered for a Catholic Festival at Clonmacnois, while 700 people attended the opening of a new Sister Consilio treatment centre in Monaghan. In the meantime, 4 people protested outside the Papal Nunciature in Dublin, while one 80-year-old called on the women of Ireland to boycott Mass on a particular Sunday.

Which event attracted the greater publicity? The eighty year old calling for the Mass boycott, of course. She won the publicity race by a clear Irish mile! Why was this? After all, she made no pretence to represent any group or community, nor did she claim an extraordinary level of expertise, or even a recognised competence, on the topic under discussion. It is of course 'the silly season'. The politicians and the power-brokers are all on holidays, so the news has to be manufactured. A contrived 'Mass Boycott' will do fine! But 'the silly season' may not be the sole factor behind this jaundiced view of the Catholic Church. Quite a few journalists seem to be working to a particular agenda. When specific 'news items', no matter how trivial, are judged to be supportive of that agenda, is it possible that they are afforded disproportionate prominence? Would this explain why Knock was ignored and the 'Mass boycott' so hyped up?

Dick Lyng OSA - Galway Newsletter 22.8.2010

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK.

Welcome to Vol. 4 No 3. 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 to Colm O'Mahoney and John Byrne for photographs.

All past editions of IAN available on:

Web page: www.staugustinescork.ie

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