

IRISH AUGUSTINIAN NEWS

PASSING THE BATON

In mid-October the Delegation of Kenya had its Assembly, presided over by the Prior General, Fr. Robert Prevost, and his assistant for Africa, Fr. Franz Klein. The fifteen solemnly professed members of the delegation gathered at the Friary in Nairobi, the international house for theology students. An assembly for a delegation is the equivalent of a chapter for a province. As they gathered Tom Sexton, who was the delegate of the Prior General since Easter of 2007, relinquished the position and David FitzGerald was nominated and sworn in as the new delegate. He is the sole remaining Irish member of the delegation.



David FitzGerald and Tom Sexton OSA.

David was ordained in 1969 with Tom, though he is a couple of years younger. Having spent his early years teaching in Austin Friars in Carlisle, he volunteered for Africa and spent many years in Nigeria, mainly involved in education.

Because he has the French language among his abilities, he was sent to the Benin Republic to open a new mission there on behalf of the Nigerian province. When this mission was closed he transferred to Kenya in 2004, spending his early days in the formation house before his posting to the rural parish of Ishiara, our first house in Kenya. There he was responsible for initiating the development projects funded by Trocaire, which have greatly expanded since then. He also continued his great interest in education, being responsible for the building of secondary schools in the parish. Since his appointment as Superior of the Delegation he has transferred to Baba Dogo in Nairobi to the place vacated by Tom. We wish him well in his new and challenging task.



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DROGHEDA



UNITED NATIONS DAY OF COMMEMORATION FOR ROAD TRAFFIC VICTIMS

In 2006 the United Nations voted unanimously to declare the third Sunday of November as international day of commemoration for road traffic victims. When we first celebrated that day in Drogheda in 2006 it was the only such ceremony in Ireland. Now the idea has "taken off" and this year numerous events were held all over the country. Here in Drogheda the event is organised by the Gardai, the fire service, medical personnel. A key component in the operation is the presence of families and friends who have been touched by road traffic tragedies. On a positive note the figures are improving. Fatalities on Irish roads are now lower than at any time in the past fifty years. Forty years ago in the 1970s the statistics were frightening. It is hard to believe that they were three times greater than present day figures. Yes roads are better and cars are better. The biggest factor in the equation however is that attitudes and behaviour have changed. We are moving in the right direction. Iggy O Donovan OSA.



Martin Crean OSA, welcomes the Eucharistic Congress Bell to Fethard.

ECUADOR

Evening time on the First Sunday of Advent

Everything went without a hitch at Confirmation here today. The Pastoral Vicar did a solo flight with the two PP's of Flavio and Novillo as sidekicks. A lovely friendly man, Fr. Manuel is also the most dedicated priest in the Archdiocese. We lunched out with the two parish secretaries who were ever so pleased to be included. They had every right to come along as they have worked like slaves to get the whole celebration under way -- and had a complete success. I think they were the ones who urged the youth to collect for the children in Africa.

Tomorrow I'll sleep in the Seminary in Portoviejo and be ready to give a talk to the young priests on 'Mission' the following morning. It means that I'll miss out on the weekly encounter with Ted, but that's the way the ball bounces.

Just now I've to continue a translation of an article which may be a discussion point with the Young Priests, so excuse the brevity. Paul O'Connor OSA.



MISSAL RESOURCE FOR CELEBRANTS

Brothers, The introduction of the new missal has taken place. For me, it is not a welcome development. It is not just the words, it is the manner in which our relationship with God is portrayed, as this morning "we humbly entreat your majesty..." The language seems to encourage a picture of God as distant.

I know some priests have decided to stay with the old missal. Most reluctantly accept the new one. Another possibility is to use the 1998 translation by ICEL which is available on the net, but not in a very user-friendly form.

Attached to this email is a Word version of a section of that missal including a part of the Ordinary of the Mass, Eucharistic Prayers, Prefaces, and some Prayers over the Gifts. It can be prepared for use in church by printing it off and putting it in a 60-pocket display folder. That gives you all you need at the altar for most days.

The contents of the extract can be viewed in the last two pages.

This has been prepared for use here in Orlagh, but in case it might be of interest to others I am making it available.

Best wishes, John Byrne OSA, Orlagh.

Contact: john@orlagh.ie for ICEL.doc etc.

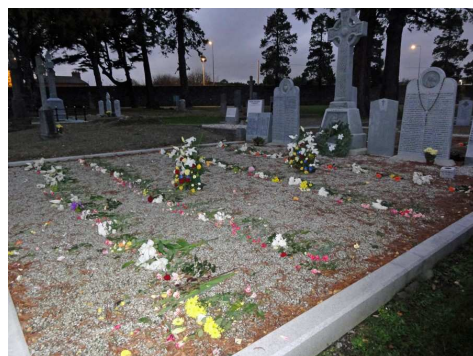
GOOD COUNSEL COLLEGE NEW ROSS

14 Good Counsel College students received awards in Waterford Institute of Technology recently for achieving 'A' grade in higher level Junior Certificate Business Studies. The awards, made by the Business Studies Teachers Association are a mark of outstanding academic achievement and we congratulate each of the students and thank their teachers for their continued good work.



Ben Curran, Leinster Schools, Individual Medley Swimming Champion, with Fr John Hennebery OSA.

GLASNEVIN



Last Sunday the annual Remembrance Mass for our deceased Augustinian Friars was held in Glasnevin Cemetery. The main celebrant was Gerry Horan with Tony Egan and Colm O' Mahony assisting on the altar. A number of friars attended from John's Lane, Finglas and Orlagh along with family members of the friars who had died during the year and some loyal friends of the Augustinians. The bright sunny evening helped in encouraging people to attend and after the Mass the Augustinian graves were blessed by Gerry Horan and the Salve Regina sung; a fitting tribute to our deceased friars. Thanks must be extended to all who helped organise the event especially the volunteers who cleaned the graves and prepared the wreaths. Bro Colm O'Mahony OSA.



NIGERIA



Monsignor Matthew Hassan Kukah with the Pope

The ordination of Mgr Matthew Hassan Kukah as Catholic Bishop of Sokoto, held in Sokoto on 8th September, was no ordinary event. It is the historic seat of the Fulani Caliphate in Northern Nigeria and it was from here that the great reformer, Usman dan Fodio, launched his jihad against the old Hausa chiefdoms in Kano, Katsina and Zaria more than 200 years ago. He was spectacularly successful and Sokoto rather than Borno was accorded pre-eminent status under British colonial rule in the North. The Sultan is still the acknowledged leader of the *umma* in Nigeria.

Kukah is the best-known priest in Nigeria and his ordination, held in an open-air site lent by the Sokoto State government, was attended by a host of dignitaries of Church and State. Among them were former Presidents Yakubu Gowon, Ernest Shonekan and Olusegun Obasanjo and almost all of the country's bishops, who travelled there in a chartered flight from Abuja. The ceremony took all of four and a half hours, but that is not unusual in this country. Kukah himself, now in his 60th year, was unfazed by the event and at the end of the Mass he jokingly referred to the many people who had asked him why his appointment had been so long delayed!

This was followed two days later by the Installation of a new bishop in Awka – next door to Onitsha – and then the second Plenary Assembly of the Bishops' Conference, held down the road from Enugu in Abakaliki, capital of Ebonyi State. Hitherto it was the only one of Nigeria's 36 states that I had not visited, so it brought a sense of completion – but no, not a *Nunc Dimittis*! Three weeks later, there was the Silver Jubilee celebration of Archbishop Matthew Ndagoso's priestly ordination, held in Kaduna. Having been ordained priest by our (*namu*) Bishop Sheehan for Yola Diocese, and having served as Bishop of Maiduguri for nearly five years, he has a strong Augustinian allegiance and I was mightily glad to be there.

For an Augustinian, the weekend spent in the Monastery in Jos some days later was enormously significant. Ten novices made their First Profession of Vows, seventeen Simply Professed renewed their vows for another year, and four – in their final year of theology – made Solemn Profession on 10th October. Among them was Kolawole Chabi, from near Dassa-Zoumé in Benin Republic, the first fruit to be harvested from our abortive Augustinian presence in that country. Fr David Fitzgerald (ex Nigeria,

ex Benin and now Delegation leader in Kenya) can fill in the details. It is a long story!

Ray Hickey OSA, Abuja.



Hi Pat, To thank you for the monthly IAN that reconnects me and enlivens the many memories. I was especially glad to read TK McManus's piece on the audio interviews for Irish Missionaries. I had just finished *A Road Less Travelled* (Tales of Irish Missionaries], about 250 individual stories from various societies, in various countries. And not an OSA in sight! Sr Mairead Foley, a Mercy Sister, who had worked in Bare Mission was the only story from the Yola Diocese. Oc Ochone! Dick Brennan.

Tom Dick and Harry were in a pub having a quiet drink, when they decided to buy tickets for the Xmas raffle. The following week Tom won first prize, a turkey. Dick won a huge jar of Bolognese sauce and Harry won 6th prize – a toilet brush. When they met later Harry asked them how they were enjoying their prizes. "Great" said Tom "the turkey was delicious." "I love spaghetti" said Dick, "the Bolognese was fantastic." "And how's the toilet brush, Harry?" "Not so good," Harry said. "I reckon I'll go back to paper."

David McCarthy qualifies for All American!

David McCarthy formerly of St. Augustine's College and now in his final year in Providence University, Rhode Island, won a silver medal in the Northern Territory Athletics Event. This qualifies David for the All American which is a great achievement and an opportunity to further showcase his talent.

National Awards for Kate and David!

Kate Veale was honoured in the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Dublin on Saturday November 12th. Kate was nominated for Best Emerging Irish Athlete and Best Schools Athlete. She won both categories and was most deserving of both, based on her incredible performances in the past year. David McCarthy now in his final year in Providence University, Rhode Island, was also recognised for his performance in the European Team Cross Country event. Another fantastic achievement.

Ger Crowley qualifies for South Africa Science Olympiad!

Ger Crowley (TY) took part in a science contest in DCU. 180 of Ireland's top students got together to participate in the Junior Science Olympiad. The top three were awarded gold medals and our own Ger Crowley was in that line up! This is an outstanding achievement and Ger now travels to Durban in South Africa for the International leg of the competition involving further written and practical tests. Best of luck Ger!

DURING THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

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

01 1991 Fr EN McGrath
 02 1997 Fr JA Ryan
 05 1972 Fr A Bell
 08 1983 Fr P O'Shea
 08 2004 Fr T Tevington
 10 2004 Fr B Dunne
 11 1974 Fr T Flynn
 11 1998 Fr F Twomey
 12 1969 Fr P Bowlby
 14 1993 Fr T Hartnett
 15 1996 Fr B O'Donnell
 20 1985 Fr S Flanagan
 20 1997 Fr J O'Connor
 22 1970 Fr JB O'Flynn
 22 1972 Fr PA Doyle
 24 1989 Fr E Clifford
 25 1973 Fr S Roche
 31 1963 Fr PA Stokes
 31 2004 Fr T Tuomey

Please remember in your prayers Fr Columba Heffernan and Fr John Walsh OSA, who died on 30.11.2011

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS MASS:

We will continue our recruitment for the Children's Christmas Mass this morning. This will be celebrated on Sunday December 18th, when the Liturgy of the Word will be presented by the children in pageant form. We need as many children as possible to get involved. Preparations will begin today with auditions conducted by Pat Lally. So the small children are again asked to remain back after the Mass for a brief period and give your names to Ms. Pat Lally.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11th: MASS OF GIVING:

Given our present dire economic circumstance, we expect a much greater demand on the 'fruits' of the Giving Tree this year. We will have the tree in place from Sunday next, the First Sunday of Advent. We will already have collected 'wish lists' from a number of needy individuals and some charitable groups. We will have written out these 'requirements' on little labels and placed them on the 'Giving Tree'. The idea is, of course, that you should take one of the labels away with you and purchase the item specified. You would take that gift to the Mass of Giving on Sunday, December 11th at 11.00. Otherwise, you would hand it in at the Priory Office at your leisure (but before that date!). Among items requested in years gone by were Vouchers for various local stores, a €50 note, a couple of duvets, and so on. So we have plenty of notice to get our act together on this one. Our organising committee will then ensure that your gift reaches its destination in good time for the Christmas. This normally works very well and the needy are deeply appreciative of the gifts given.



President Michael D Higgins visits Drogheda

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK.

Welcome to Vol. 5 No. 6. Thanks to all who have contributed to this edition of IAN. Special thanks to Peter Galus, David Moran, Francis Aherne, John O'Connor, for their invaluable help, to John Byrne, Martin Crean and Ray Hickey for photos. Lots of material arrived late. Will use it in the Holly Bough Edition which will be out before Xmas.

All past editions of IAN available on: Cork Web page: www.staugustinescork.ie

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