

IRISH AUGUSTINIAN NEWS



SUICIDE MEMORIAL SUNDAY



Fr Iggy O'Donovan OSA

All of us are aware that suicide is a huge issue in modern Irish society. A few years ago an organisation SOSAD (Save our sons and daughters) was established in Drogheda. It had two aims. Firstly to provide support to bereaved families and secondly to note warning signs in people who might be potential victims.

In 2007 SOSAD approached the Augustinians and asked us to organise a memorial service for families who had in any way been touched by suicide. We chose the first Sunday of February and this has now become an annual event. It is the biggest liturgical event in the Augustinian Church in Drogheda. The 2011 service takes place on Sunday February 6th and will be broadcast live on RTE.

At our last chapter a very worthwhile seminar was held dealing with suicide. I am proposing that all our communities should avail of this opportunity on February 6th to organise a similar service to the one we are holding in Drogheda. We will be posting details on our website so the template will be available to everybody. I am hoping it might be a type of "Augustinian Solidarity Sunday" and I feel it would be very worthwhile.

Iggy O'Donovan OSA, Drogheda.

CORK

Following a phone call from Iggy O'Donovan and subsequent contact with John Mansworth of SOSAD (save our sons and daughters) and his group Breaking the Silence, Cobh, it has been decided to hold a 1.00 o'clock Mass in St Augustine's Church Washington St, Cork on Sunday 6th February 2011.

The Cork Garda Male Choir have offered their services for the Mass and Justice Michael Patwell (who was married to the late Paddy Ryan OSA's sister, Carmel), will also participate in the Mass.

This Mass will be broadcast on internet:

www.staugustinescork.ie

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Fr Brendan McDonnell and Michael Walsh OSA



FORTY BY EIGHT IS 320

That is the arithmetic of a mass Ruby Anniversary of Ordination of seven Irish SMA missionaries plus our own Brendan McDonnell, held in the new SMA regional headquarters in Abuja on 13th December. 320 years of service as missionary priests is no small achievement, and yet it was a modest and low-key celebration. It also marked the opening – but not the 'official' opening! – of the new SMA House, not far from Holy Family Parish which Fr Tomas Walsh and others have built up over the past twenty years in the sprawl of Abuja.

The principle celebrant was the Papal Nuncio, Augustine Kasujja, a Ugandan and the first African to be entrusted with such a position. He arrived here earlier this year from Madagascar, but he also spent many years in Algeria and speaks glowingly of our confreres in Hippo/Annaba. Fr John O'Keeffe preached the few words and after the Mass we all gathered in the patio for the annual SMA Irish missionary party. Go beirimid beo ar an am seo aris!

For the record, six of the SMA priests have spent all their priestly lives in Nigeria and there is no sign of anyone throwing in the towel. They are as follows: Maurice Henry, Regional Superior based in Abuja; Dan McCauley, Apostolic Administrator of Kontagora Vicariate, Tom Treacy, still in Kano; Dave O'Brien, in Kaduna; Val Hynes, from Ondo and now Lagos; and Frank McGrath, now in Kontagora. The other two, Colm O'Shea (who returned from Ireland) and our own Brendan Mac, have also spent most of their priesthood in Nigeria.

The Irish Ambassador, Paddy Fay (newly arrived from Lesotho) was a very welcome guest and during the reception he had some very gracious words for missionaries. Next day he would host all of us in the Embassy, ach sin ceist eile. And someone, at some stage, captured him with youthful Brendan. Ray Hickey, OSA.

PROFILE No 10.

Bro Michael Aloysius Danaher. OSA.



It was the 13th of May 1944 that Michael Danaher was born in his beloved Limerick. He was born just across the street from the Franciscans but threw in his lot with the Augustinians. He did his schooling in Sexton St CBS and had many distinguished Limerickmen as schoolmates.

Following his Oblature and Novitiate in Orlagh he made his simple profession in September 1964. He made his Solemn Profession in 1967. During his student days Michael was no mean hurler and was a great man for the tap on the ankle. He is known to have knocked over a few much bigger men in his day and he was fast, which meant he always got away.

He has maintained his interest in sport and is a keen follower of any Limerick team that takes the field. He is also an avid Munster Rugby fan and though he does not go to Thomond Park anymore you would not want to sit next to him watching a Munster game on television.

After Simple Profession in 1964 Michael was appointed to John's Lane where he did sterling work in the Sacristy under the inimitable tutelage of Bro. Joe O'Sullivan. He then returned to work in the kitchen in Orlagh in 1967 and then it was back to John's Lane again for another 5 year stint. It was during this time and later on again that Michael grew to know and love the people of the Liberties, a love that still exists but not as ardent as his love for the people of the Treaty Stone.

After spending a year in Ballyboden, Michael spent a very fruitful 10 years in the Drogheda Community, where he looked after the Church and Sacristy as well as getting involved in many local community efforts such as playing his part in a Ballad group that reportedly did a gig on RTE.

Between 1985 and 1993 Michael did stints in New Ross and John's Lane. In 1993 Michael launched out into the deep and went to work on the Missions in Ecuador where he spent 7 fruitful years. Once again, he made many dear friends in Chone and has paid a few return visits since his return to Ireland.

The year 2000 was a momentous year for Michael as he was appointed back to his beloved Limerick where he is stationed today. His care of the Church and Sacristy; his knowledge of everyone who comes into the church; his passion for his native city and his abhorrence of negative media reports on his native city are his trademarks. It is reported that when he reads in private in his room that he wears green tinted glasses. For those of us who have worked with Michael, all we can say is Muchos Gracias.

Michael Brennock OSA, Ballyboden.

SOME READERS' COMMENTS:

Thanks Pat for the Holly Bough edition. It always makes lively reading. Please put a note for me in the next edition.: I wish to thank Johnny Lyng for presiding at the Funeral Mass of my sister, Mary Fitzpatrick.

The family was honoured by the presence also of : Peter Haughey, John Hughes, Tommy McManus, Martin Nolan. The following were also present and I am most grateful to them: Seamus Ahearne, Bernard Twomey and Paddy O'Reilly. May she rest in peace.

I am much better now but still attending a Clinic. Happy New Year to you and all the Community.

Declan Fogarty OSA, California.

Pat, it may be my mistake but the woman in the photo with me (in Holly Bough edition) is Mary Kearney and not Bernadette! John Byrne OSA, Orlagh.

Pat, I found a mistake in Ted McCarthy's e-mail address, it should be: michaelmc@easynet.net.ec

As you will note there are two 'nets' in it: the address given for him in the lists has only one.

PS. Declan Brennan is: declanosa@hotmail.co.uk

Paul O'Connor OSA, Ecuador

Dear Pat: Warmest wishes for a very happy Christmas, and for peace and prosperity in the New Year.

The contrast between Jerusalem and Europe right now could not be greater. They have ice, snow and floods, whereas here I am still in sandals and my window stays open night and day. There is, of course, a downside. We have had no rain yet, and according to the forecast we shall get very little this winter. How dry everything is was graphically illustrated by the huge forest fire on Mount Carmel. Firefighters and their equipment had to be flown in from many of our neighbours in the eastern Mediterranean before they were able to get it under control.

The dryness of the atmosphere exacerbates the problem of my oxygen, which I now need 24 hrs per day. Fortunately the day and night machines both have built-in humidifiers, and they go through sterile water at an extraordinary rate.

My general health has deteriorated since this time last year. The amount of physical effort necessary to make me very breathless has decreased. Even moving around my room is enough. This past summer I was due to teach at Loyola University in Chicago and at the University of Notre Dame. In June the doctors here decided that it was too big a risk. Not only might I have an oxygen problem in flight, but I would be completely on my own if anything happened, particularly at Notre Dame. I had had a couple of fainting episodes here, fortunately when I was in sight of others. Apparently my heart occasionally beats too slowly and sufficient blood does not get to the brain. A change in my medication seems to have fixed this problem.

When I returned in October I found that the stairs up to my old room were impossible, so I moved down to a room on the ground-floor, on which the dining room and the recreation room are located. Neither is a great distance away, but unless I am prepared to be very distressed in front of a crowd, I am fortunate that colleagues are willing to push me to meals in a wheel chair.

Jerome Murphy O'Connor, Ecole Biblique
POB 19053, Jerusalem 91190



St Augustine's College Abuja, Nigeria.

All of the €250,000 promised by the Irish Province to the building the new school near Abuja has now been put into our accounts. The money came from the following communities: John's Lane 10,000; Drogheda 16,000; Dungarvan 1,000; Cork 10,000; Fethard 500; Limerick 10,000; Galway 5,000; Rome 10,000. (62,000)

The Mission Office gave 100,000 and the Irish Province Central Fund 87,500. This is an enormously generous contribution from our Irish brothers to our work in this Province and we are truly grateful. Although Nigeria is now an independent Province this is striking evidence of the continued concern of its mother Province for what happens here and we are greatly encouraged by it.

Brendan Mc Donnell, OSA Nigerian Province Bursar.

Pat, greetings . Keep up the good work.

Still no word on the IDs?

My correct [email:frpaulobrien@yahoo.com](mailto:frpaulobrien@yahoo.com)

Paul O'Brien OSA, Canada.

Dear Pat, Thanks to you and your staff for taking the trouble to send me a copy of IAN every month. I do appreciate your kindness. It's good to hear of the Brethren and what is going on in the Irish Province.

I pass on the copies of IAN to Nora Muldoon (she worked in the FAO during our time in Rome and used come to First Friday Masses). She in turn is a friend of Paul O'Brien, and so the links go on. Best of luck for 2011.

Fr Brendan Carrick, Wolverhampton, England.

**ST AUGUSTINE'S COLLEGE DUNGARVAN
Congratulations to the following students who recently
received scholarships.**

Aaron Meehan: J.P McManus All Ireland Scholarship Award 2010

Niamh Bergin: Trinity College Entrance Exhibition Award 2010

Ailís Pollock: UCC Entrance Scholarship Award 2010

Thomas Houlihan: CIT Sports Bursary 2010



The death of Martin Daly (Marian Park) has deprived the Augustinians of one of their greatest friends and supporters. Indeed Martin has been a stalwart of the Order for some fifty years. He first came in contact with the Augustinians when he worked in England in the 1950s. By the 1970s he moved to Drogheda and has been intimately associated with "Shop St" ever since. Martin was in fact born in French Park, Co Roscommon in 1937 and was always proud of the fact that he shared the same birthplace as Dr Douglas Hyde.

He had a keen sense of history and worshipped Michael Collins. His involvement with the Augustinians in Drogheda was multifaceted. Early on he became a lay minister of the Eucharist. He also organised a programme to train readers in the art of communication. This he took deadly seriously as anyone who ever heard him read at Mass could testify.

Martin was also to play a major role in setting up and managing the "Penny Bank". He freely gave of his time and talents to this venture for more than twenty-five years, and can claim much credit for keeping the Augustinians solvent in difficult times. In this he was supported by a remarkable committee including his dearest friend in life Ann Russell.

It is difficult to convey in words the innate decency and generosity of Martin Daly. In whatever venture he became involved he "gave it his all", whether it was his work, the Church and above all his family. He had one daughter Colette, and he adored his grandchildren, the McDonnell's of Beaubec. They were his pride and joy and that family reciprocated his generosity and affection. A man of "old world" values Martin could be remarkably "modern" too. For example he was a regular at the Slane rock concerts.

In recent years Martin had been in poor health but his sudden demise came as a shock to his family and friends, above all to his dearest soulmate Anne.

The Augustinians will be forever indebted to this great and good man.

Martin may you rest in peace.

Maureen Morgan, Drogheda.

DUNGARVAN SALE OF WORK



Sean Murphy, Matt Cooney, Francis Aherne, and
Seamus Humphreys OSA

The annual Sale of Work here in Dungarvan was at one stage in doubt as Fr Seamus Humphreys was going to hospital for surgery. Having informed the Mission Workers, they decided they would run it. Preparations got under way and they were delighted when Fr Seamus was able to help them (His surgeon died suddenly in Cork aged 49).

Both the Mission Worker's and our sponsors made it a very special occasion and a very successful one at that. Francis Aherne the new Mission Director, opened it and brought along some visitors from Cork.

The Sale of Work was held in Lawlor's Hotel and we were very well treated and welcomed by the proprietor Michael Burke and his staff. The Augustinian Missions are still very important to the people around Dungarvan. Maybe that is because so many of our missionaries came from this area. Matt Cooney's card friends raised over €1,000 and the total takings came to €10,000. Well done to all concerned. Fr Seamus will now go for his operation later in January. We wish him all the best. Matt Cooney OSA.

P.S. Have a look at St Augustine's Dungarvan, new website: www.the.friarydungarvan.ie



Celebrating 165 years of Ordination at Barn Restaurant.

DURING THE MONTH OF JANUARY

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

01 1998 Fr R. O'Keeffe	09 1991 Fr T Woods
10 1991 Fr J Hanly	14 1995 Fr H Jordan
16 1985 Fr N Toner	18 1981 Fr F O'Mahony
18 2000 Fr P Duggan	19 1979 Fr R Hickey
25 1981 Fr J Hanrahan	28 1999 Fr P A Brennan

VOCATION DRIVE 2011



At the Vocation Promotion Team Meeting; Bro Colm O'Mahony, Francis Aherne, Gerry Horan, Pat Moran, Niall Coghlan and Noel Hession

As a response to issues raised in the concerns raised during the recent Survey and the Community visitation a meeting of those who are interested in Vocations promotion was held this morning, Jan.4th in the Ashling Hotel, Dublin. Nineteen members of the Province, representing 7 Communities were in attendance.

Following an opening prayer which was prepared by Sean Dowling, Gerry Horan opened up the meeting with his opening remarks. He stressed that what we were all called to was to live the Gospel, and Preach the Gospel to the best of our abilities as individuals, as communities and as a Province.

Niall Coghlan, gave us a page regarding vocations which was circulated at a Vocations meeting in Racine in May 2010. This page contained salient points about vocations to the Religious Life as proposed by the main speaker at the meeting, and will be distributed to each Community. A good discussion followed with nearly everyone present contributing.

Practical conclusions which were reached were; a) that a two person team in collaboration with Niall Coghlan, Vocations Director, would be appointed to research Vocations promotion and would report on a regular basis. b) That the Vocations Web-site should be updated and refreshed. c) There should be a more visible presence of Augustinians in our Churches. d) A Polish priest should be invited to Cork to learn English and prepare for Peter Galus' departure.

A further meeting on Vocations will be held before the end of February. Michael Brennock OSA, Ballyboden.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK.

Welcome to Vol. 4 No 7. Thanks to all who have contributed to this January edition of IAN. Special thanks to David Moran, Francis Aherne, John O'Connor and Peter Galus for their invaluable help, and to Ray Hickey and Iggy O'Donovan for photographs.

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

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