

IRISH AUGUSTINIAN NEWS

DROGHEDA

JOHN BOYLE O'REILLY LITERARY AWARD

At a ceremony in Dublin recently President Michael D Higgins was presented with the John Boyle O'Reilly Literary Award. Born in Drogheda in 1844 O'Reilly was a leading Fenian, poet and publisher. He had a close connection with the Augustinians and was particularly friendly with a certain Fr James Anderson, a man whose social and political views coincided largely with his own.

Convicted and sentenced to deportation for life, O'Reilly made a spectacular escape from a penal colony in western Australia and made his way to America. There he worked with and eventually became editor of ***The Boston Pilot*** (now ***The Globe***).

He could never return to Ireland but kept in close touch. Particularly he kept up contact with his fellow Droghedean Fr Anderson who visited him in Boston in 1884.

A few years ago a "Boyle O'Reilly Society" was established in Drogheda. Its mission is to promote greater awareness and appreciation of the life and work of this great poet and patriot. This year President Higgins was honoured by the society in recognition of his contribution to the political, social and cultural life of the nation. Iggy O'Donovan OSA.



Iggy O'Donovan and President Michael D Higgins



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VOCATION CONFERENCE ROME



Francis Aherne, Henry Sunguti, Edward Daleng,

Joseph Oduor and Colm O'Mahony OSA.

The Augustinian Conference on Vocations took place in the first week of June and was attended by Colm O Mahony osa, Francis Aherne osa and Noel Hession osa. (Noel is one of the organising committee members.)

It was an informative and well organised week with a lot of discussion taking place around the problems associated with attracting men to the Order as well as how we keep them once they have entered.

Difficulties in vocation promotion and in attracting men to join us seems to be a problem that almost all circumscriptions have; with a few notable exceptions, namely Cebu Province and the Colombian Province.

What makes a good vocation director was also discussed at length as well as the changing needs of the Church in various circumscriptions. It was broadly felt that we are good at what we do, be it parish administration, schools, missions, social action etc., but at times all these are done at the expense of our real charism and reason for being - community.

Young people are first of all attracted to community life, to a quality prayer experience and to the charism of the particular congregation or Order. They assume that a public ministry in some shape will be part of this but it is not always the public ministry that attracts them.

The challenge was put to all circumscriptions, asking are we living an authentic Augustinian spirituality and way of life, and if not, why not? An interesting question for us all to ponder on perhaps. Colm O'Mahony OSA, John's Lane.

FETHARD

Interesting Fethard Abbey treasures
at the National Museum.



A delegation of three, Fr Martin Crean OSA, Prior of the Augustinian Abbey, Fethard, Gus Fitzgerald and Liam Cloonan, travelled to Dublin on Thursday July 5, and visited two museums holding important liturgical items from the Augustinian Abbey. Their main objective was to view the statue of Our Lady of Fethard. The statue is of oak and measures 67 centimetres in height. It is carved in the round and consists of a standing figure of Blessed Virgin Mother supporting the child Jesus on her left hand.

From the fine skirt of the Mother and the tunic worn by the Child, it is estimated to be of Flemish origin and dated 17th Century. The statue was venerated in the Abbey. Then, as Cromwell and his soldiers were coming to town, the statue was hidden in the secret tunnel going from the Abbey to the Holy Trinity Church of Ireland, dated 1208. It was only found in the tunnel around 1900 and for seventy years it was again venerated in the Abbey Church.

In the early 1970s the then Prior, Fr Anthony Leddin OSA, sent the statue to the National Museum in Dublin to assess the origin and age. There it continues to rest – out of sight of the public – not on display.

In a letter from Ragnall O Floinn, Head of Collections, National Museum, he referred to another item that may be of interest to me and that they recently acquired, a chalice from the Augustinian Abbey, Fethard, commissioned by Edward Sauce in 1623, and which also bears the name of Fr David O'Meagher and the date 1671. This is on display in the reserve collection of silver in the "What's in Store Gallery" in Collins Barracks. It has a very distinctive identity mark on the base, a small cross with the unusual Christ crucified.



Another item of interest we came across in the Franciscan Faith Room in Collins Barracks was a small monstrance (used for exposition of Blessed Sacrament). This was converted from a chalice in 17th century. Its roots was also the Abbey, Fethard. Martin Crean OSA.

KENYA



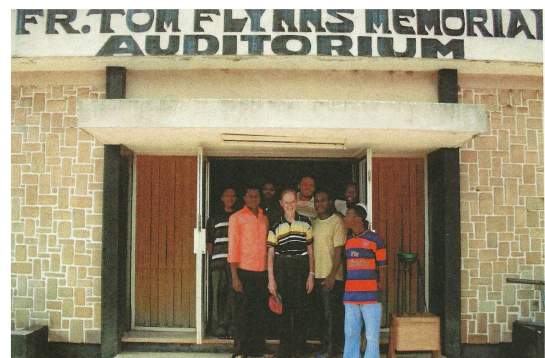
Fr David Fitzgerald OSA and Polish retreat master, at the Augustinian Professions in Mwanza 30 June 2012. Three Kenyans and two Tanzanians.

NIGERIA - New Traditional Title

At the First Mass of Thanksgiving of newly ordained Fr Augustine Chifu, Gembu Parish honoured Colin Fives with a traditional title. He is now Shey Colin Fives OSA. 'Shey' means 'Messenger of Good Tidings'. Colin was PP when the new Fr Augustine first heard the call to the priesthood and on July 8 last he preached at Fr Augustine's First Mass. The title is itself an acknowledgement and an encouragement. Michael Walsh OSA.



Colin in the traditional headgear.



Entrance to the main Auditorium.

St Augustine's Major Seminary, Jos.

Fr Tom Flynn OSA (from Ring, Co Waterford) was the first Rector of S.A.M.S. He, with Fr Ben Ger O'Brien, founded the Seminary in temporary accommodation in Keffi, in 1967.

Frs Michael Chris Fitzgerald and Jim Downey OSA also served terms as Rectors.

AUGUSTINIAN PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK 2012



Dear Friends in Augustine,

Greetings from John's Lane. As organiser of our annual Augustinian Pilgrimage to our Lady's Shrine at Knock in Co Mayo, I wish to express thanks and appreciation once again to all the communities and local directors who contributed their time and energy in making our Pilgrimage to the Shrine on Saturday last possible and a prayerful occasion.

Being part of a united Pilgrimage with the Family Prayer Day Pilgrims was again this year a good experience, another opportunity for Augustinians to show their willingness to co-operate with others who share in our Vision and Mission.

It was great to see our people there from New Ross, Drogheda, Fethard, Cork, Grantstown, Abbeyside and Dungarvan, Galway, John's Lane, Ballyboden, Limerick. Some people reminded me again they would never get to Knock except we Augustinians provided the opportunity for them, even if they have free travel. The Pilgrimage responds to a real need for some of our people.

Thanks to our Provincial, Gerry Horan for his support and being chief celebrant at the Eucharist, Colm O'Mahony for his relevant and integrated homily, our readers from Cork and Grantstown, and choir from John's Lane.

I have expressed our thanks to Fr Richard Gibbons and ministers for their hospitality and kindness to us all on the day. Again to all, who through their co-operation and assistance made this year's Augustinian Pilgrimage to Knock possible for so many people, thanks.

The date is already set for next year Augustinian day at Knock Shrine, Saturday July 20th 2013.

With every good wish, Yours sincerely in Augustine
Tom Cooney OSA, Pilgrimage Director.



Br Giuseppe Cacciotti, Gerry Horan,
Margaret and Colm O'Mahony OSA.

Vincent Lyons Golf Trophy.



Just a reminder. This annual trophy will again be played for this month. On Friday August 24th, just a few days before the feast of St. Augustine. The venue is Rahdowney golf club, Co. Laois and the tee off time is midday to 12.30 p.m.

I have won this for the past two years. If I win it again this year does it mean it is mine perpetually and I can take it with me to the crematorium? Please God I won't win it and face such a dilemma.

Also to be won is the Declan Brosnan cup, for associates of the O.S.A. Come one, come all! Francis Aherne o.s.a.

ECUADOR



Dear Fr. Pat,

Greetings from the mother house in Ballyboden where I am making final arrangements to return to Ecuador. I wish to express my thanks to yourself, the community, and all of the people who ensured that my visit to Cork was a very pleasant and wonderful experience.

First of all with regards to the Augustinian community, my deep appreciation for the thoughtfulness and kindness of the members who looked after my every need and who were generous with their time and kindness. It was very relaxing to spend time with you all.

Secondly, with regards to the professional way in which the mission appeal was conducted, this was the cause of a massive response to the needs of my Parish in Novillo. The generosity of the Cork people surpassed even my own expectations of their great compassion for the missions. Please assure the people of my gratitude and guarantee that every last cent will be used for the purpose for which it was collected, and no single cent will be used towards administration. I will certainly keep the good people of Cork in my prayers and Mass.

With best wishes and gratitude to all concerned

Fr. Declan Brennan o.s.a

(The total amount collected during this year's weekend mission appeal and subsequent envelope donations, was an unbelievable €8,066.69).

DURING THE MONTH OF AUGUST

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

04 1988 Br A Murphy
06 1971 Fr JV Byrne
08 2008 Fr K O'Shea
13 2005 Fr J Callaghan
14 1986 Fr C Hussey
16 1965 Fr P Doyle
18 1987 Fr TA Daly
19 1973 Fr J Phelan
19 1980 Fr T Hand
19 2003 Fr J Sheehan
22 2002 Fr M Cullen
24 1997 Fr C Ahern
26 1992 Fr J Grace
29 1997 Fr S Coffey
31 1965 Fr L Cotter
31 2003 Fr M Twomey

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK.

Welcome to Vol. 6 No. 2. Thanks to all who have contributed to this edition. Special thanks to Peter Galus, David Moran, Francis Aherne, John O'Connor, for their invaluable help with this issue, and to Matt Cooney, Iggy O'Donovan, Michael Walsh and Ray Hickey for photos.

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

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IAN'S BIRTHDAY PARTY



Good to have all the brains behind IAN, together for a celebration. Front Row: Editor, Susu and David Moran. Back Row: Gerry Horan, John O'Connor, Peter Galus and Francis Aherne.

Mary Power - R.I.P.



On the evening of 24 July, when the remains of Mary Power were brought from Kiely's Funeral Home, a guard of honour (of women and men) lined up at the church door of St Mary's in Dungarvan. I thought it might be kindly neighbours paying their last respects, but more fittingly still, on inquiry, I learned that these were Mary's co-workers for the annual Sale of Work in aid of the Augustinian Missions in Nigeria, Ecuador and Kenya. I should have known, for even in this sophisticated I.Pod age, this Sale of Work is still an unmistakable institution in Dungarvan, as, for instance, the Mother of Good Counsel Novena used to be in Galway, before the Redemptorist Novena stole a march on it, and sadly (from the Augustinian point of view) chose for the event the early part of the year (February) rather than the fall.

Our sincere sympathy goes to Mary's brother Fr Jackie Power, OSA, and Rita her sister, and to the extended family, but with it goes our Augustinian gratitude, which was highlighted by the number of Friars present at the Removal and the Funeral Mass on 25 July, and by Fr Pdraig Daly's admirable vignette of Mary's life, I suppose one could say as an Augustinian handmaid. Successions of Friars down the years (and indeed the professed students when they holidayed in Dungarvan) knew the hospitality of Mary's home, when Mary and her mother, Ellie, catered for the sweet tooth (and maybe sometimes the thirsty throat – in moderation of course).

But that is only a footnote. Mary's principal inheritance (when her day's work in the Post Office was over) was the Friary Sanctuary and Shrines, and the annual Sale of Work for the Missions. The Guard of Honour at the church door was a fitting tribute to one, and a single bunch of flowers (the only gift brought to the altar with the Bread and Wine), was a poignant reminder of the other. So, if there are little selected welcoming parties in heaven, on the night of the 22nd July, when Mary arrived, no doubt Bishop Anthony Dalton, OSA would have been there, and Ellie Sheehan-Power, and missionaries like: Tom Flynn OSA, John Butler OSA, John O'Connor OSA (the other); and Colman Butler OSA representing the Friary, and Jimmy Chawke and so many others who, like Mary, graced Dungarvan down the years. Mary Power, past the age of ninety, now rests in the lower cemetery looking out to sea beside St Mary's Church in Dungarvan. May she rest in peace.

John O'Connor OSA, Abbeyside.