

IRISH AUGUSTINIAN NEWS

JOHN'S LANE

On Saturday 21st of April, the Augustinian community St. John's Lane Church celebrated 150th anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone. The celebration attracted many people within Dublin, from all over Ireland and even outside Ireland. Archbishop Diarmuid Martin, whose parents were members of the church about 50 years ago was the principal celebrant. Retired Augustinian bishops Rt. Rev. Patrick F. Sheehan and Rt. Rev. Louis O'Donnell from Kano and Maiduguri respectively in Nigeria were also present.

The worshipping members of John's Lane Church and the parishioners of St Catherine's Meath St., were wonderfully present and fabulous.

Fr. John Hughes OSA, the vicar of priests in the Archdiocese of Dublin, gave a powerful and historical reflection. Fr. Gerry Horan, the Prior Provincial, was full of appreciation to all for gracing the occasion.

Fr. Tony Egan Prior of John's Lane Church, welcomed all to the church within the heart of the city and in the hearts of the people. All those who contributed to the colour of the ceremony, from the sacristy to the choir pews, were described in one word FANTASTIC. Maybe to keep to the spirit of 150 years anniversary, the Eucharistic celebration lasted about 150 minutes. Two facts: Certainly I was not there when the foundation stone of John's Lane Church was laid 150 years ago. But another fact, I was there when the 150th anniversary was celebrated on the 21st of April 2012. Thanks be to God. Lazarus Barkindo OSA, John's Lane Church, Dublin.



Gerry Horan, Archbishop Martin and Tony Egan Prior



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Bishop Sheehan, Archbishop Martin, Bishop O'Donnell and Gerry Horan OSA, Provincial



John Hughes OSA



Some readers' comments:

Dear Pat,

Many thanks to you, your contributors and helpers for my monthly injection! I look forward to each edition of IAN and read with pride and nostalgia. Sadness too, as when I read of the death of a good friend and mentor - Father O'Donnell. Remembering his infectious laughter, after 43 years, still lifts my spirits. He taught me much in the year I spent in Dungarvan - not least that a sense of humour lightened the burden of school management and created a good spirit in the staff. But my urge to write now comes from the account of the ordination of Colm O'Mahony. It was a joy to read and I salute him and congratulate you all. My fervent hope is that the enquiries mentioned will result in more Augustinian vocations. Can't be leaving them all to the Dominicans! 'Twould be great to keep Bishop Campbell busy - (Hi Greg!) - and give him excuses to take time off from his onerous episcopal duties for a trip to Ireland.

My on-going thought, in some instances, sporadic contact with Tom Sexton, Michael O'Sullivan, Paul O'Connor, Liam Ryan, Fitz, Tom Cooney et alii is valued and enriching for me. But, on the invitation of James Downey, the week I spent as a guest in St. Patrick's, (Via Piemonte 60 - I won't try the postal code!) and as a welcome participant in community life there was a most wonderful experience, making real again, in some measure, the life I lived there from 1965 to 68. Thanks to James, Frs O'Sullivan and Egan as well as Frs Farrell and Crean, who were tremendously supportive when I was a victim of light fingers on the metro. Finally, I must put it on the record that Father Jackie Power called me aside on the first day of the school year 1958/59 to tell me that he had banned corporal punishment by teachers in Good Counsel and that I, as Head Prefect, (I had to get that in!) was obliged to inform him of any breaches of his directive. The edict from Minister John Boland came over 20 years later.

Regards Pat, Padraig Feehan.

Hi Pat, Thanks very much for your wonderful production of the post-ordination copy. I must say that the ordination service and Mass was one of the best renewal ceremonies for me since 14th March 1970 when I was ordained myself. Well done.

I happened to be going through Teletext recently when I came across the following:

"The Services to Football Award went to Brother Bernard Twomey. Brother Bernard is synonymous with the famous St. Catherine's Club having been a founder member of the current National Senior Cup Championship 32 years ago. Bro Bernard has dedicated his life to giving children the opportunity to play football at any level and has played an important role in the development of the women's game in this Country." Well done again and keep up the good work. Matt Cooney OSA, Dungarvan.

Dear Pat. Greetings and thanks for the May edition of IAN, congratulations on keeping the flow of news going the rounds. Keep up the good work. God bless, Tom Cooney

Hey Pat, thanks for the updates, it keeps me feeling closer to things back home. Can you please update my email address to boughtonreynolds@gmail.com

-thanks Patrick Boughton-Reynolds

Dear Pat, Thank you so much for your great kindness, welcome and hospitality in Cork last week – all deeply appreciated.

I really enjoyed being with you and the brethren. Cork and the Ordination was a real boost for everyone and thank you for making everything possible practically.

All good wishes and prayers,

+Michael Campbell OSA

p.s. the photos look great

Thank you very much Pat - a lovely write up and photos.

Hope you are recovering from the Ordination celebrations and Novena I would certainly hope to come over –again.

God bless, Robert

The Rev Robert Billing

Bishop's Secretary

robertbilling@yahoo.co.uk

Dear Pat,

Thank you and your community for the all-embracing and relaxed hospitality that Aidan Power and I received during our few days in Cork.

Colm's ordination was a great occasion, drawing on the rich heritage of the past and giving a spark of promise for the future. The gathering of friars spanned the generations and it was great to see the pleasure of the grandfathers of the Province as they witnessed this new commissioning.

So thank you for the occasion and for the opportunity to renew acquaintance with so many.

I am sorry to say that my words on Sunday did not give an opening to the shepherd/butcher saga that you recounted, but it will keep.

With good wishes and a prayer for more such occasions.

David Middleton, Provincial, England and Scotland.

Hello Pat

Congratulations on the ordination of Colm O'Mahony O.S.A. today. Praying that a floodgate has opened for some more vocations. Thanks for the free copy always of the IAN. Well done and keep up the good works.

Happy Easter.

+ Charles Hammawa, Jalingo - Nigeria

FINGLAS WAS BLESSED IN OUR VISITORS

The final session of Bringing Faith to Life (in Finglas) concluded on the May Bank holiday weekend. That holiday affected our numbers. We had 66 present. There were some technical problems (and it wasn't the fault of the sun!) in the morning session and the material was more demanding than usual (Social Teaching of the Church). After lunch – those technical problems were solved and we focused on the Mission we have and are given. But it is the package that matters – the coffee/tea; the chat; the podcast; the group work; the plenary session; the lunch; the friars (without a pulpit) reflecting, sharing with the different people from various communities.

What was the value of those get togethers? People met. People came from different communities. People shared their experiences. Friars searched together with their communities for God in today's world. The Eucharist was very real and not a detached performance done by someone up there. This was a model of how we could or maybe should be working. There was a depth of scholarship in the presentations and something profound happened. Shoes needed to be removed! These presentations invited us into a reflection on our own experiences. We couldn't sit as critical observers. It was all about us! There was such respect for every person. It was quite inspirational. And we were all in-spirited. The sharing in the different groups was generally excellent. (It was a little difficult to get the reporters to present the group view rather than the personal view!) The respect and listening involved in how the reports and questions from the floor were answered, was very precious.

Every gathering was good. In fact, each session got better and better. We had begun with 118 and concluded with 66. We never asked people not to come. We did prefer if people who had come from the start continued to come and that was how we worked locally. We had to keep our own numbers down because we didn't want to overwhelm the meeting. We were utterly amazed and astonished (Acts!) how people with different accents and different experiences – could understand each other! We were thrilled too with our own local team. How was it possible to feed 118 + - in half an hour? In an ordinary house? It only goes to show... whatever you want to show... it can be done. So much can be done.

In conclusion: It was an excellent learning opportunity. The method was brilliant. The Orlagh team did a wonderful job. Each of us took in what they said as best we could and then had the gumption to respond in our own way. People here are used to talking. They have found their Voices which is at the heart of what we do and what we believe in. I am certain that everyone who entered into the process learned so much. We can be so pleased with what has been achieved and what this challenges us to do in the future.

It was interesting to watch our own Assemblies at work. We are a highly educated group with great experience of talking in public. Yet I believe there was a much deeper and more reflective participation at those days in Finglas than at the Aisling. We definitely broke and shared Bread at the Table. Thanks to all concerned. There is much for us Friars to learn from the experience. Seamus Ahearne OSA.

ECUADOR

Andrew Paul O'Connor poconnor@ecua.net.ec

to undisclosed recipients !!

Hi to All,

I'm forwarding you the letter below from Trocaire about the Campaign for Africa, which should be well dead and buried by now. Though, for some impentetrable reason, it was not deemed worthy of a note in IAN (Irish Augustinian News), Trocaire have sent four letters of thanks and now have it on their blog. I've no idea what a blog is but I did find the site - and was surprised that they had put two African ladies among our photos. Anyway they did explain it.

Dear Father O'Connor,

Greetings from Cork. I hope this email finds you well.

I would like to let you know that the generosity expressed by The Faithful of Flavio Alfaro to Trocaire's famine relief work in East Africa now appears on the blog section of our website. Please see the following link to read the blog which was posted by Trocaire's Director, Justin Kilcullen.

<http://www.trocaire.org/blog>

May I take this opportunity to thank you and your parishioners for your overwhelming support of 10,000 euro for our humanitarian efforts in Somalia, Kenya and Ethiopia. I would also like to sincerely thank Father Aherne of St. Augustine's Priory in Washington Street for delivering the Parish's donation safely to us here in Cook Street.

With every blessing for the continuation of your wonderful work in Flavio Alfaro.

Janet Twomey, Regional Development Office, Trocaire,
9 Cook Street, Cork.

Editor – Pat Moran, writes:

Hi to all. One of the reasons we did not feature the above item of news in IAN, was that we have been running a Lenten Mission Box appeal, that has been quite successful. We promised the people that every cent collected would go to our Missions in Ecuador, Kenya and Nigeria.

We are also planning our Annual Mission Sunday collection in June and will continue to take up envelopes at every Mass for the following week.. We normally collect about €10,000 each year and this year all proceeds go to Declan Brennan's new mission in Ecuador.

How do we explain to our congregation the need for help for Ecuador if Paul O'Connor can raise with gratitude to God €10,000 locally for Trocaire !!

It surely weakens our appeal.

EARTHING THE MESSAGE

The omens were not great. The arrival of real summer weather, coupled with a last Saturday of the month, seemed to cause a big drop in those promising attendance from Cork and Limerick at our final session of the FAITH2LIFE programme. However, those who came felt rewarded and enthralled with what turned out to be the most interesting of the four sessions so far. This one focussed on MISSION – in essence, how to send out our worshippers with a sense of commitment and mission at the end of our celebrations. At first sight it seemed a difficult aspect of the Mass to tackle but in fact, it proved to be very enriching. The Orlagh team had put together some very interesting podcasts to capture the enthusiasm of those in attendance. By a blend of story, practical examples, and good illustration from the world around us they managed to help us understand how to Act Justly, Be a Blessing to those around us, and Go in Peace to Love and serve the Lord in one another after our Church celebrations. The venue was The Flying Enterprise at South Gate Bridge in Cork, which includes the premises of the former Sullivan's Quay school. This meant that the group discussions took place out in the yard, taking advantage of the picnic tables and the brilliant summer sun.

With a blend of Liberation Theology, the Social Teaching of the Church, and Scripture illustrations, the message was admirably blended to fit the experiences and the thinking of most of those present. Even the friars present were amazed to discover what Paul had said about lay people, particularly women, as deacons and in other roles in the early Church. Another plus for the occasion was how Sean Goan, the presenter, was able to illustrate many points with experiences from his own life as a married man, particularly in the open forum. In the hall there was a great buzz of enthusiasm as the day progressed, causing us to run overtime. The general opinion was "We wish to hear more". No doubt they will.

Tom Sexton, OSA.



Gearoid O' Tiarnaigh, Sr Maura and Tom Sexton OSA



Pat Doyle, Liam Ryan OSA, Sr Helena

AUGUSTINIAN PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK

The Annual Augustinian Pilgrimage to our Lady's Shrine at Knock in Co Mayo, takes place this year on Saturday 21st July, 2012 (3rd Saturday in July).

The Augustinians will again share the pilgrimage in conjunction with the Family Prayer Day at the Shrine.

I appeal to all Houses to make a special effort this year and to send me the name of the local organiser, so that we can co-ordinate the arrangements for the Pilgrimage as requested by the new Shrine Director Fr Gibbons.

-Tom Cooney OSA, Pilgrimage Director

P.S. The preacher at this year's Pilgrimage to Knock is recently ordained Fr Colm O'Mahony OSA.

DURING THE MONTH OF JUNE

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

03 1995 Fr D Kelleher
04 2000 Fr D Coleman
06 1979 Fr J Hogan
07 1997 Fr K Moylan
09 1969 Fr H Garman
10 1962 Fr N Magee
13 1973 Fr G Moran
15 1999 Fr D Hegarty
15 2006 Fr C Mansfield
16 1995 Fr J Kiely
20 1992 Fr J Martin
23 1999 Fr M Donnelly
26 2011 Fr N O'Brien
28 1998 Fr P Browne
28 2002 Fr J Kavanagh

Also remember Sr Francisca Leahy, FMDM, a sister of Fr Michael Leahy OSA, who died recently. Sr Francisca was buried in Ballinasloe on Sunday 27th May 2012.

A note of thanks on behalf of the Leahy family and relatives to Fr Gerry Horan, Provincial and the many Friars who attended the removal on Saturday and Funeral Mass in Ballinasloe on Sunday last. Fr Michael Leahy OSA, Cork.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK.

Welcome to Vol. 5 No. 12. 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 and, and Tony Egan for photos.

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

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