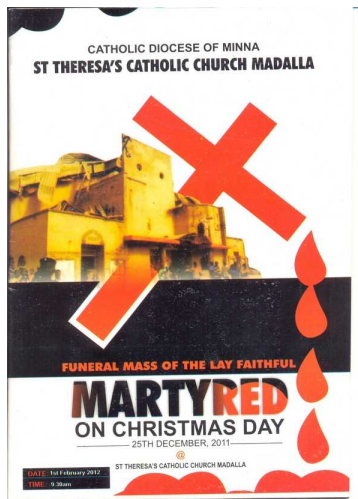


IRISH AUGUSTINIAN NEWS

UPDATE FROM NIGERIA

Nigeria has been much in the world news in recent times, and for all the wrong reasons! The 'Boko Haram' bomb attack on **St Therese's Catholic Church in Madalla**, a suburb of Abuja, on Christmas morning was an abomination that horrified the world – and the repercussions are still being felt. It made the headlines again on 1st February, Lá Féile Bríde, when the funeral Mass for twenty of the 42 victims was held there. The attached photo of the brochure cover, which shows the damaged church and drops of blood from a cross, captures the depth of feeling aroused among all men and women of goodwill, Christian and Muslim alike.



Kano had been attacked by scores of Boko Haram militants a few days earlier and an estimated 200 people were killed there. The danger of another such atrocity in Madalla did not deter the very many who felt they had to come, to express both outrage and solidarity with the local community, and I felt that nothing would have kept them at home. There were ten bishops present, as was the Papal Nuncio, the President of the Senate and the Chairman of Suleja Local Government, a Muslim. The graves had been dug in the church compound, and after the Mass – under a burning midday sun -- the remains of the dead were laid to rest.

Next day, there was an even larger congregation for the Episcopal ordination of the Superior General of the Missionaries of St Paul (MSP) as **Auxiliary Bishop of Abuja**. He is Anselm Umoren, from Akwa Ibom State, who has served in Sierra Leone, Cameroon and South Sudan and has a Masters degree in Peace Studies from Kimmage. Aged 50 (almost!) he is the third MSP to be appointed bishop in Nigeria. At the end of the Liturgy another bishop was announced, this time for the **Apostolic Vicariate of Kontagora**, vacant since Tim Carroll SMA resigned in April 2010. The new Vicar/Bishop is a local, of the Kambarri ethnic group, named **Bulus Dauwa Yohanna**. Aged 41 and ordained priest in January 1998, he has served in the 'bush' of Kontagora for most of the time



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since then and will certainly understand the challenges of this area, which lies to the south of Sokoto.

Fr Dan McCauley SMA had looked after Kontagora as Apostolic Administrator for the past twenty one months. He will be glad to hand over to a son of the soil in this large mission territory, bisected by the River Niger, where four Irish SMAs still serve. Can it be that he will go down as the last of the Irish SMA Ordinaries in Nigeria? If so, it will be the end of an unbroken and noble tradition for the SMA which goes back to the ordination of **Bishop Thomas Broderick** (grand uncle of our Sean Dowling) as Vicar Apostolic of Western Nigeria (Asaba) in Killarney in December 1918. Ní bheidh a leithéid ann arís.

Raymond Hickey, OSA (10 Feb. 2012.)



Cardinal Prospero Grech with Iggy O'Donovan OSA.

Many members of the Province will be familiar with Prospero Grech. He has been a member of the Augustinian family in Rome for some sixty five years. A respected biblical scholar, a noted linguist he has served the Church in various capacities. A founding father of the Augustinian Patristic Institute, he was president of the said academy for many years. All who know him will also be familiar with his roguish sense of humour. He certainly has enjoyed a long distinguished and very varied career. Anyhow, in recent days, Prospero has received a major honour. At the Consistory held in Rome on February 18th he was appointed a cardinal by Pope Benedict. He is the first Augustinian to have this title bestowed on him in more than a century. He was one of twenty two new "porporati" to receive the red biretta. So, Prospero has joined a very select club. Still hail and hearty at the age of eighty five he is disenfranchised from voting in the next conclave, the cut off point being eighty. Senior friars remember Prospero from their San Pio days in the 1940s and of course we were delighted to welcome him to our chapter in 2009. I was thrilled to join him at the recent celebrations in Rome and I am sure all members of the province send him their best wishes.

Iggy O'Donovan OSA.

As I Was Saying...

So Ms. Joan Burton has cut back the First Holy Communion grant from €220 to €100 (and from €300 in Dublin). These cut-backs drew fire on Joe Duffy's Liveline and other 'electronic scratching posts' this week.

Even our debt-ridden Dail took up the chant. The reactions fell into four broad categories: (1) Disgraceful that underprivileged children are being victimised by these cuts; (2) Disgraceful that taxpayers' money should sponsor Church activities; (3) Give vouchers, rather than straight cash. This should ensure that the grants will find their intended target, rather than transformed into 'liquid assets!' (4) There is now too much social fuss surrounding this sacrament (I suspect that this is 'the elephant in the room'). The 'bouncy castle' is all but mandatory now. Not to mention the 'fake tans'! First Holy Communion is now commercialised to an unholy degree by both parents and children (How much did you get for your First Holy Communion?)

In my experience, this commercialisation reached its zenith in my own native place, at Kilkenny's Market Cross shopping centre in May 2010. (The Celtic Tiger was well and truly dead by then). "Complementary curling", "colour confidence consultations" and "goody bags" filled with "pampering treats" were among the attractions at what is believed to be Ireland's first Holy Communion expo. Stallholders offered a panoply of accoutrements and services, from personalised mini-candles with photo (10 for €30) to a magician-for-hire (€150 for 90 minutes). Staff from local hotels handed out flyers for lunch "packages" and home catering services. The "Communion menu" offered by the Club House Hotel featured "jalapeño stuffed chicken with whiskey sauce" and "peach and brandy Charlotte".

Superquinn had laid out a table groaning beneath quantities of sample party food. Their pièce de résistance, a green-and-yellow Communion cake, was decorated with a gold chalice, a Host imprinted with IHS, the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove and a rosary beads which an assistant pointed out was "not edible!"

This then is the social context of the Dail debate on First Communion grants this week. It was ironic that it fell to Eamon Gilmore to defend these cuts and, by extension, the grants themselves. You would expect a sensitive issue such as this to send our principled Tánaiste into a paroxysm of atheistic rage! But he behaved like a well trained altar boy! But then Eamon represents a constituency that is more familiar than most with Communion grants! You don't cut the branch on which you sit.

First Communion is now a charade for many, and, like Halloween, an opportunity to give your kids the thrill of donning exotic costumes. For many, its spiritual significance has long gone. But bishops are afraid to say this too loudly or too robustly, lest they be accused of 'insulting the poor and the marginalised.' Consequently, bishops' statements on the matter tend to be bland and toothless. Let the Cadillacs roll on!

-Dick Lyng OSA, Galway.

DROGHEDA

SUICIDE SUPPORT MASS



Members of Drogheda Corporation and invited guests

On Sunday, February 5th we celebrated our annual Mass for all those touched by suicide. This commemorative event commenced in 2007 and is organised in conjunction with the local suicide support group SOSAD (Save Our Sons and Daughters). Some other Augustinian communities across the province now join in this commemoration. On the day the church was thronged, possibly an indication of the extent of the problem in our society. Very many of those present have been touched, directly or indirectly, by suicide. The SOSAD organisation exists to save people from suicide and help those already bereaved. They also work to raise awareness of suicide and break the stigma surrounding it. Contact details. www.sosadireland.ie and info@sosadireland.ie

Iggy O'Donovan OSA, Drogheda.



Iggy O'Donovan with Pat Moroney founder of SOCAD

HARTY CUP FINAL

Coláisti na nDéise 2-14 Nenagh CBS 1-10

Made up of players from Dungarvan CBS and St Augustine's College, Abbeyside, the Dungarvan combination swept to glory in sparkling fashion in Cashel.

Fr Lazarus OSA, Nigeria, who is taking a Hospital Chaplain's course in CUH Cork was present at his first live hurling match, and enjoyed it immensely.



Fr Lazarus Barkind OSA with Harty Cup.

GOOD COUNSEL COLLEGE



YSI (Young Social Innovators) is an initiative which encourages Transition Year students from all over Ireland to raise awareness of an issue they feel is important.

Good Counsel College has been partaking in YSI for 6 years and has been successful on 3 occasions. This year TY2 have decided to base their project on "Diet and Exercise in sport".

Good Counsel College is a very successful sporting school. However few students are aware of how their diet affects their performance. The first part of our project was to invite some of the elite sportsmen who studied in Good Counsel to come in to talk to us about the importance of diet and exercise in their respective fields of expertise. These included:

1. Tom Doyle, winner of the 2011 Galway Hurdle on board Moon Dice.
2. Joe Lyng and Matthew O'Hanlon, inter county hurlers with Kilkenny and Wexford, respectively.
3. Nicky Whelan, ranked second strongest man in Ireland.
4. Shane Roche, Wexford Senior Footballer.



After the guest speakers came in we asked them questions. One of the points that they all agreed on was that after training or a match it is hugely important that you re-fuel sufficiently.



First year students were treated to a reading and a visit from novelist Dermot Bolger on Friday 27th Jan. The boys are studying the novel in their English class. This is Dermot's first novel for teenagers. He said he wanted to write a novel for his sons before they got too old. The novel is set in Dublin and it features teenage struggles, challenges and strange happenings in the Hell Fire Club.

ST AUGUSTINE'S CORK 2012 Remembrance Mass for the Suicide Bereaved

A large gathering of people who had lost a loved one through suicide attended the Annual Remembrance Mass at St Augustine's on Sunday February 5th. This initiative was introduced by a group Save Our Sons and Daughters (SOCAD) in Drogheda in 2006, and was commemorated in Cork and other Augustinian communities across Ireland in 2011.

The compassionate advocacy by the Augustinian community countrywide of those afflicted by the unexpected and unforeseen death of a loved one has been a source of great consolation and comfort to families and friends.

Support Groups: Aware, The Samaritans, SOCAD, and kindred groups; co-operate and participate in the organising of this annual commemorative ceremony and acknowledge that it brings healing and balm to lives that have journeyed through the trauma and desolation of the loss of a cherished one by suicide.

The ritual of lighting a remembrance candle, an assurance that Christ the Light of the World, accompanied the lost one to a room in His Father's house, invokes tears of unanticipated comfort and hope in the participants.

Padraig McCarthy, addressed a hushed and appreciative congregation on the centrality of a non – judgemental and Christ-like disposition in seeking to come to terms with the unknown and unanswered questions that beset us on the occasion of a death by suicide. "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me." Few of us will ever have endured such utter desolation, but there may have been moments when we feared we would be engulfed by the raging tide, when our lives seemed to be without sense or meaning, because God had hidden his face, disappeared. Padraig invoked the Scripture passages that informed the day's liturgy. "I have gone to prepare a place for you... trust in God and trust in me...."

The ceremony was enhanced by the sensitive and reverent rendition of the hymns by Tommy McManus OSA, Maureen Murphy and Jason Cassells, local organist.

Pat Doyle, Cork. noticed ho

ORLAGH

SCRIPTURE COURSES

Sunday, March 11th (10.00-5.00, including Mass)

Sean Goan will conduct his Lenten **SCRIPTURE DAY** on the theme

Eucharistic Community in John—

"I am the vine, you are the branches".

The theme is a very appropriate one as we prepare for the International Eucharistic Congress later this year. €55.

Tuesday evenings, March 13, 20, 27
(7.30-9.30 pm)

THE PSALMS—Poetry of the Heart.

Sr. Carmel McCarthy RSM will share her knowledge and love of the psalms over three Tuesday evenings.

€10 each evening.

ST AUGUSTINE'S COLLEGE DUNGARVAN

"Oliver" a smash hit with the audiences!

OLIVER the musical had it's final performance last night 28.01.2012 and once again the students rocked the hall! Another full house was generously entertained and the feedback from our audience members was truly fantastic. The students gave it everything and literally played like it was their last....which unfortunately it was! All good things come to an end however and now it's on to "work experience" which will be their next big adventure. Well done all and enjoy all the great things to come from the rest of TY.

MUNSTER FINAL SUCCESS

What a performance from the Friary Girls in the Munster Final Football at St. Molleran's in Carrick on Suir. The girls had a good start in the first half but found themselves trailing by a point at half time. After a good pep talk from mentors Angela Walsh, Marianne Ryan and Bro. Lennon the girls stormed out on fire! The girls in red and black made sure the Presentation girls stayed blue as they cruised to a comfortable eight point win. Well done girls and best of luck when you take on the Leinster champions in a few weeks.

KATE WINS SUPREME TITLE !

Kate Veale was selected as the Park Hotel, Co Waterford, Supreme Sports Star for 2011. Kate had amazing accomplishments during 2011 in race walking, culminating, of course, with her Junior World Title. Multi-international record holder Kate Veale more than deserves the honour and the future is really bright for this young star!

KATE WINS NOCTOR SPORTS AWARD FOR 4th TIME

Kate Veale has won the Pat Noctor Award for the fourth consecutive year. What a superstar our Kate is. Kate received the Award from the Noctor family with grace and modesty. We are so proud of Kate at the Friary and she is a wonderful role model for all of our students. Well done Kate and all the best from all of us in your Leaving Cert and your busy competitive year ahead.

FRIARY COLLEGE LADIES SECURE SECOND MUNSTER TITLE

St Augustine's 4 – 9 St Flannan's Ennis 2 – 9.

The Junior "B" Munster final was played in wet and windy conditions in Tipperary Town. This was a much anticipated final as both schools had victories in the Senior competitions and it certainly lived up to this expectation.

The West Waterford school got off to a flying start, but the Clare school led at half-time 1 – 5 to 1 – 3.

The Friary team had a brilliant second half and finished comfortable winners at the end.

The Senior and Junior teams are now qualified for All-Ireland semi-final slots. These games are due to be played in March.

Congratulations to team coaches Br Paddy Lennon OSA, Ms Angela Walsh and Ms Marianne Ryan.

ST PATRICK'S ROME

Archbishop Charles Brown, the newly appointed papal Nuncio to Ireland, preached in St. Patrick's Augustinian church before his departure for Dublin. He spoke about the enduring impact of Irish missionaries around the world. Re-building bridges between the Vatican and the Irish state is going to be a delicate and difficult undertaking for him!

JOHN'S LANE DUBLIN

This year, John's Lane Church will celebrate the 150th anniversary of the laying of it's foundation stone. To mark this auspicious occasion, solemn high mass will be celebrated here in the Lane on Saturday, 21st April at 11.00am. Invitation cards will be winging there way to some lucky friars in the near future. Please keep our preparatory work in your prayers.

Tony Egan OSA, Prior.

DURING THE MONTH OF MARCH

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

02 1962 Fr L Griffin
02 2001 Fr J Murphy
03 1992 Fr P Mullery
05 1970 Fr T White
09 2003 Fr J Gough
10 2007 Fr P Crilly
11 1992 Fr O O'Keeffe
11 2001 Fr B Hannon
13 1994 Fr B Carolan
15 1988 Bp. T Cotter
17 1967 Fr K Galway
17 1968 Fr N McCoy
25 1996 Fr T Hunt
25 2003 Fr R Fitzpatrick
26 1990 Fr G Roche
28 2005 Fr B Hackett
29 1967 Fr M Curley
30 1965 Fr L Maddock

Fr Michael Roche was buried in Birmingham on Monday 20 February 2012, also pray for John Roche, Fr Michael's brother who died recently.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK.

Welcome to Vol. 5 No. 9. 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 Ray Hickey, Good Counsel College and Iggy O'Donovan for photos.

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

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