

IRISH AUGUSTINIAN NEWS

ECUADOR



*Wishing you a Happy Christmas
a New Year of Peace and Tranquillity*

*Deseandole una Feliz Navidad
y un Año Nuevo lleno de Paz y Tranquilidad*

From Ted, Declan and Paul in Ecuador



Oh My Dog!
Declan and his addition to Novillo community



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David Fitzgerald

The year 2012 has been a hectic one for David Fitzgerald of Nairobi. Having been appointed as the Delegation Superior for Kenya in the Assembly of 2011 it has been his duty to be present at other gatherings of men in Africa.

As a result of this he has become President of UAFA, the newly formed Union of Augustinian Friars of Africa. This adds another feather to a cap that he has worn through appointments in Carlisle, Nigeria, Benin Republic, and Kenya. We wish him well in being adorned with another title to add to his previous laurels.



Some People's Comments:

Greetings Pat and all the best for 2013 - to you, the OSA and Ireland. Have you the news of Makurdi -- which, like Caesar's Gaul -- has been divided into 3 parts. The Diocese of Katsina Ala, bordering on Jalingo, was announced on 29 Dec., with a Fr Peter Adoboh as Bishop. The Diocese of Gboko, the largest of the 3 goes to Auxiliary Bishop William Avenya. Bishop Usuh, who is very ill, remains in the much smaller Makurdi. His VG is still Fr Mike Murphy CSSp (Limerick) whom you will remember from Yola. He is now over 80 -- a youngster compared to Pa Foley CSSp, still here and over 90.

The SMA in Jos and the CSSP in Makurdi were our nearest neighbours in the early days. Yola then incorporated a 'scelp' of Makurdi Diocese and many CSSp worked in southern Yola Diocese (now Jalingo) -- including the said Mike Murphy. Yola itself was looked after from Makurdi before the Irish OSA arrived there in 1940, so there is a long association. Yola was then placed under the SMA Prefect of Jos.

Sin a bhfuil for now, Ray Hickey OSA, Abuja, Nigeria.

Dear friends,

Survey on the new Roman Missal

The *Tablet* is conducting a survey about the new Roman Missal which only takes a minute or two to complete and is open until the 9th January. The survey can be found at the following link <http://www.thetablet.co.uk/survey> and we would encourage everyone to complete it and to pass on details to friends. Paul O'Connor OSA, Ecuador.

Hi Pat

Happy New Year, to you and the team. I've spent the last 4 days in bed with flu! Pre Christmas. I made my usual contact with Pepe and Luis who worked with us in Nigeria. Sean Dowling would be able to tell you about them. I told them about Frankie and then emailed IAN to Pepe to give him the full picture. Luis de Sande does not have email. I'm wondering would you be able to put Pepe on your email list? And perhaps post it to Luis. If the latter, I will give you his address. Greet Sean and the brethren for me and I hope the New Year will bring peace and joy and a huge general boost to the morale of the general public and especially all OSAs, I particularly liked Pepe's 'Brotherhood remains along the years' in his email. Keep up the good work.
Dick Brennan, Derry.

Will be delighted to send IAN to Pepe and Luis when I receive contact addresses. Ed.

Dear Dick ,

Thank you for sending the IAN. I would really be very happy to receive it monthly, so I can remember my old times when I worked with the Irish Augustinians in Nigeria.

Brotherhood remains along the years.

I wish you both a very happy celebration of the coming of God into human history.

God bless you.

Pepe.

Dear Pat,

Greetings for Christmas and the New Year. Thanks again for IAN, keep up the good work in line with the Drogheda Augustinian Fr. Anderson who was the co-founder of the Drogheda Independent newspaper. Keep the people informed and up to date. Take care.

Tom Cooney OSA, John's Lane, Dublin.

Dear Pat, Thank you for the Holly Bough Edition 2012 and for the email addresses. Here, we are all reeling from the murders in Newtown, CT. I have never seen a massacre during the past few years move people as did this terrible act. I pray and hope that something big and positive will result. Happy Christmas and a Good New Year!

Jerry Hackett, USA.

Pat, Many thanks for the regular copies of IAN. Great work by yourself and team! Best wishes for the blessings of Christmas on you and all. Tom Greally, Campbelltown, NSW, Australia.

Thank you very much Father!

I'm very glad to receive your news and "English lessons". My best wishes to you and to your community from Viterbo!

God bless you everybody!

Giuseppe Cacciotti, Viterbo, Italy.

Hi Pat

To wish you and the team a Happy Christmas and New Year. And to thank you all for the monthly IANs which trigger for me so many memories of 'varied hue and colour'. Recent ones covering the death of Bishop Senan/Louis (which so gently and aptly caught the style of Frankie's reign) were especially thought provoking of my 15 happy years in Nigeria. Keep up the good work. My thanks to you all and a Happy and Holy Christmas and a fruitful New Year. Fraternally, Dick Brennan.

Hello Pat

Just to say thank you very much for the last edition of IAN and for the graduation ceremony from Maynooth.

I wish you a Happy Christmas and a Good New Year.

God bless. Lazarus Barkindo OSA.

FINGLAS - DROPPINGS

Mary Oliver is an American poet. She wrote a book called 'Thirst' after the death of her partner. She was shattered and poetically describes how she found faith. Her faith woke up when she walked in the woods; when she smelt the air; when she saw the birds and the insects; when she saw a child; when the very smile of a passerby was the kiss of life; when the sun & moon nodded at her; when she celebrated Eucharist. In her poem called *Messenger*, she said: Are my boots old? Is my coat torn? Am I no longer young? Let me keep my mind on what matters, which is mostly STANDING STILL and learning to be ASTONISHED..

1. I was astonished when – 'Curiosity' landed on Mars and began sending back messages. I liked the idea of Curiosity (as a metaphor for us) and the wonderment of it all.

2. I was astonished when Munch's – 'The Scream' sold for \$120m and I wanted a copy for everyone to give vent to the screams within.

3. I was astonished when the whingers were proved wrong on the Olympics and Paralympics. Katie Taylor won us over with her personality and her effusive faith. But it was the Paralympians who surprised everyone. Who ever can say: 'I can't' - after that.

4. I was astonished with Mulala Yousafraï and her powerful scream for the education of young girls – and the utter depravity of the Taliban as they tried to eliminate her.

5. I was astonished with the success of the Eucharistic Congress and how inspirational it was without the expected rigid and static theology or triumphalism.

6. I was astonished when the gentle voice of ACP was feared; and some religious priests were 'silenced.' How can anyone involved with the Gospel of Christ be 'shut up'? Is it the sickness of Paranoia – or an absence of real faith?

7. I was astonished when Barack Obama won the Election despite the ridiculous efforts of the official church in USA and he then spoke of grace. The ability to see grace is everything.

8. I was astonished that it took an official Report to say that the Frontline programme which destroyed Sean Gallagher, was flawed. Even the dogs on the street could see that.

9. I was astonished when the BBC claimed to know nothing about Savile and I recalled how the Media savaged the Church for its lack of awareness in similar situations. Kettle-pot! And Leveson was needed to see the obvious on the problems of the Media.

10. I was astonished that it took twenty three years (96 dead) at Hillsborough – for the Establishment to accept their stupidity and a cover up; and what about Armstrong?

11. I was astonished that no-one (Re the New Missal) had the guts to do what John Healy wrote years ago: 'No one shouted stop.' Bad English, very bad theology and an embarrassment is the effect of what has been foisted on us. The Word made Flesh???

12. I was astonished at the shenanigans of our politicians on Austerity; on Abortion; on Pensions; on Primary care Centres; on Referenda. I wonder how do they keep going?

13. I was astonished at what happens in Syria; in Gaza and Israel; in Afghanistan; in the madness of the IRA whatever hue it has; in the drug and criminal culture-whoever kills and destroys our beautiful world and especially its people.

14. I was astonished when the House of Laity voted down the House of the Bishops and the House of the Clergy to ensure that women didn't become bishops (C of E). And the Catholic Church can't even discuss women priests or married clergy. The Living Word?

15. I was astonished at how Camelot & Frankel performed; when Donegal won the All Ireland; when Galway almost did; when McIlroy took over the world; when Man City scraped home over Man United! When Fabrice Muamba spoke with such faith.

But I am more astonished at the Aurora Borealis lighting up Donegal; by the delights of our local Community each morning at Mass breaking the Word and sharing their own lives; by the privilege of being in the heart of homes and listening to the stories of life at the precious moment of birth, marriage, sickness and death. I am astonished with people here in their honesty, banter, hospitality and spontaneity: Christ walks among us. The 'Godliness' is found each day as we meet, talk, laugh, tease, joke & cry. God is found in Church but often outside Church. God lives and dances among us.

Christmas stirs us into astonishment as we sift through our memories. Mary Oliver spoke of old boots and how far we have walked; or what our clothes are like – old & worn; she spoke of being jaded. She then suggested that we learn to Stand Still and be Astonished – which is essential. This Feast demands stillness and astonishment. God bothers with us. God drops into our lives. The feast is the feast of Curiosity – and reflection; collecting moments, people, places. It is easy to be ashamed, embarrassed and weary with the bigger Church but the birth of Christ drags us out of ourselves into utter Astonishment. We are always 'more' than now because of that child. - Seamus Ahearne.

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BEGINNING A NEW YEAR WITH OUR LADY

On the threshold of a new year.
Draw us into the joyful, sorrowful and glorious
moments of our life.
Help us to draw hope from the mysteries of light.
Lift our hearts in thanksgiving for the great things
of last year,
For the small things scarcely noticed.
Nurture us with a Mother's care.
Cradle our worries in the womb of your peace.
Keep watch with us through nights of grief and
pain.
Hold us through the fear of tomorrow.
Let the Word of God become flesh in our loving,
our forgiving, our healing.
Liam Ryan OSA, Limerick.

WHAT DID POPE BENEDICT SAY?

In recent weeks the papers have reported Pope Benedict as saying in his new book, *THE INFANCY NARRATIVES*, that there were no animals in the stable at Bethlehem. This news has upset many people, both young and old, but, as is often the case, he has been taken out of context.

At the top of p.69 of his little book he says: "*The manger... indicates animals who come to it for their food. In the Gospel there is no reference to animals at this point...*" He then goes on to point out how scholars have interpreted the presence of the ox and the ass from texts in the Old Testament and sees these as representing the Jews and Gentiles in acknowledging Christ.

At the bottom of that same page 69 he writes: "*No representation of the crib is complete without the ox and the ass.*" So much for the scare-mongering by the media. Some saints, particularly Saint **Augustine**, see a great symbolism in Jesus being laid in a manger. The manger is the place where animals find their food. Now we find the one who is the true bread come down from heaven lying in a manger, the place of nourishment.

Tom Sexton OSA, Cork.

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
19 2011 Fr C O'Reilly
25 1981 Fr J Hanrahan
28 1999 Fr P A Brennan



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK.

Welcome to Vol. 6 No. 7. 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 to Paul O'Connor and Tom Sexton for photos.

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

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