

IRISH AUGUSTINIAN NEWS

Chairman's Award of New Ross Urban District Council Presented to Fr John Hennebry OSA



On the 6th of June, the Urban District Council of New Ross, Co. Wexford, honoured four people with the Chairman's Award. This is the highest honour that the town of New Ross can award to anybody and so it is with great pride that the Augustinians can now count among our number one of its recipients. The award recognises exceptional contribution to the life of the town as well as recognising significant achievements of people from the town.

Fr John Hennebry (incoming Provincial) has spent twenty years working in Good Counsel College, New Ross and, now that he will be leaving the town to take up his new role, the town decided to honour him with this civic award. An idea of the significance of this award can be gleaned from the fact that President John Fitzgerald Kennedy of the United States of America is a previous recipient.

Fr John was honoured for his services to the community and to education. In his address, Councillor Paul Crowdle (Cathaoirleach Comhairle Bhaile Ros Mhic Treoin) mentioned the thousands of boys who have been educated in Good Counsel College during John's tenure. Reference was also made to John's steady hand in guiding the College through many developments over this period.

John's mother and brothers were in attendance as were a number of Augustinians - Fr Philip Kelly, Fr Pat Codd, Fr Sean MacGearailt and Fr Noel Hession.

While this was an award made personally to John, councillors took the opportunity to express their appreciation for the work done by so many Augustinians in the town over many years.



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The annual Augustinian Conference for Vocation Directors/Formators took place in Racine, Wisconsin from Thursday 9 to Sunday 12 May and was attended by Francis Aherne and myself. Those in attendance were primarily from the three American Provinces and while open to Europeans as well there was no one in attendance from Malta, England or Poland.

Francis and I had the opportunity of spending our first night in the Novitiate itself where there are currently 8 men in formation from the three provinces in the US, Germany and Haiti. The age range among the students was from mid twenties to early fifties and a couple had spent some time in religious life before this. The conference itself focused on updating the various requirements and manuals for the various stages of formation. Each of the three American provinces have their own individual Pre - Novitiate/Discernment communities with the Novitiate and Theologate being common.

What was of great interest was the fact that Chicago in particular was in the same position as Ireland a few years back. They have not had an ordination in 15 years but will have one this year - in fact each of the 3 American provinces have at least one ordination this year. However with some work and a committed change in direction and focus Chicago now has students at all levels of formation. Change can happen, it may be slow and painful but it is possible.

Colm O'Mahony OSA.



ORLAGH



It is buttercup season in Orlagh. The field in front of the house is a mass of yellow flowers, quite spectacular. This is an annual event, not to the liking of the farmer who rents the fields and we expect him to appear any day to cut the offending blooms.

Another feature of the Orlagh landscape was felled, not by human hands, but by April storms. A massive beech tree in the garden at the side of the house came down one night, pulling down but not breaking the power cables. Happily no injuries and no serious damage was done.

After a quiet start to the year, Orlagh was busy in March and April and we are getting ready for the annual Bible Week later this month. Bookings are still coming in and we expect between 20 and 30 people for the week. Before that we have the annual celebration at St. Colmcille's Well.

An addition to our usual summer activities will be the presence of a group of about ten Dutch tourists on walking tours each week for ten weeks starting the last week in June. That will bring a welcome boost to our income for the year.

With the chapter coming up all plans for the future are tentative, but we are in the process of preparing an outline schedule for the coming year, for events here in the house as well as the Bringing Faith to Life series, and responding to requests to run courses in parishes around the city. Kieran is out most evenings, and more days, than he is at home conducting Scripture courses in parishes, and he continues to provide his weekly resource notes for the clergy of the diocese on his website. An introduction to theology course run over five weeks in Mount Merrion Parish last autumn (based on a course Bernadette Toal had given in Milltown) went down very well and has led to requests from three parishes to repeat it this coming autumn. John joins Bernadette in conducting these courses.



ANTI-SUICIDE TEENAGER PASSES AWAY

A young 16 year old who had urged his peers to value life, passed away peacefully at his family home in Blennerville, Co Kerry, on Sunday 12 May 2013, surrounded by his family, his dad Fionnbar, his mother Elma and sister Jemma. Donal Walsh, nephew of Fr Michael Walsh, OSA, Nigeria, who battled cancer three times before succumbing had appealed to other young people not to consider taking their own lives by suicide. In a moving letter published in the Irish Independent he wrote of how he was given only a few months to live.

“(I appeal to you) as a 16-year old who has no say in his death sentence, who has no choice in the pain he is about to cause (to his family) and who would take any chance at even a few more months on this planet, appreciate what you have, know that there are always other options and help is always there,” he wrote.

His concern for others extended to his family and beyond and when he was awarded more than €15,000 for injuries he sustained in a bicycle accident, he put the money away for his sister's education. He has helped raise €50,000 for Our Lady's Hospital in Crumlin where he received chemotherapy.



Donal Walsh with his family - his mother Elma, father Fionnbar and his sister Jemma.

Fr Robert F. Prevost
Prior General of the Order of St Augustine
to
Donal Maurice John Walsh
every blessing in the Lord.

In view of the love and dedication of your family to the Augustinians of the Provinces of Ireland and Nigeria of the Order of St Augustine, and in recognition of your courageous stand in promoting the value of life, in virtue of the faculty conferred on us by the Holt See and by the Constitutions of the Order

we affiliate you as a member of the Augustinian Order

By virtue of this affiliation, you are considered a member of the Augustinian Family united to us by bonds of communion and fraternity, in the same way as those who are members by profession of religious vows. In addition, you will share in all the same spiritual benefits.

From the General Curia of the Order, May 10, 2013.

Fr Robert F. Prevost
Prior General O.S.A.

NIGERIA

JUBILEES GALORE: DIAMOND, GOLD AND SILVER

The involvement of the Irish Province in Nigeria has reached the stage of looking back rather than forward; for, as the Good Book aptly says 'Your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men will have visions'. On that note let me recall the fact that Frs. PJ Dalton, Tom Gabriel Broder and D. B. Redmond arrived in Jos – en route for Yola -- on 2nd November 1938, nearly 75 years ago. This year, therefore, is a Diamond Jubilee year of our presence in this country.

It follows a Golden Jubilee year, that of the creation of the Diocese of Yola and the ordination of the first Augustinian bishop (there have now been six), one of the trio of pioneers, Rt. Rev. PJ 'Anto' Dalton, in 1962. The Grand Finale of that Jubilee was celebrated in style in Yola a year later, on Saturday the 11th May 2013. As for Silver and other lesser jubilees, one can always find convenient 'occasions' to mark a date and I do not want to enter that fray.

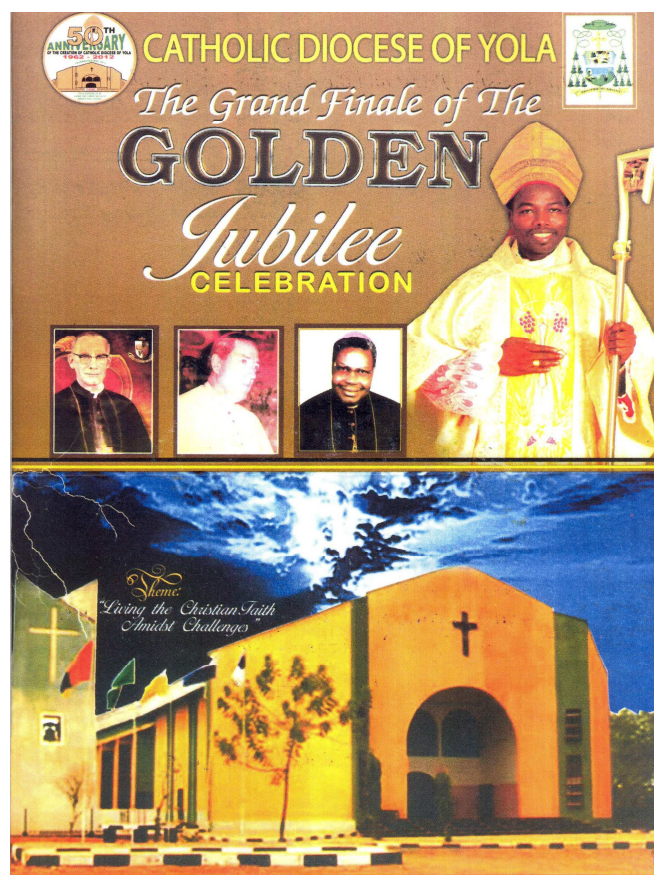
The cover of the brochure for Yola's Golden Jubilee includes the photos of the diocese's two Augustinian bishops as well as their Nigerian successors. It also has a photo of the main entrance to St Therese's Cathedral with, fittingly, storm clouds overhead. I say 'fittingly' because there were a number of violent attacks by Boko Haram extremists during the three days I spent in Yola, culminating in the declaration of a State of Emergency in Adamawa State on 13th May.

The Papal Nuncio and eight other bishops, all but one from the north of Nigeria, had gathered in Yola for the occasion. There were umpteen priests, mainly from the three core dioceses of the Adamawa mission (Yola, Maiduguri, Jalingo) as well as the CSSp Provincial. Colin Fives, who has spent all his priestly life between Yola and Jalingo dioceses, was of course there. The Sisters were there too, the FMDM (Helena is now Superior), the I.J.s, Sisters of Mercy, (but not the long-serving Sister Máire McGann, who had just left on leave, -- Sr Goretti received an award from Bishop Stephen Mamza on her behalf). There were also awards for the oldest catechist, and all those married couples – mainly from Mapeo and Sugu -- who had celebrated their own Golden Jubilees.

What a joyful celebration! The Irish Ambassador, Paddy Fay, had come from Abuja; and a woman, Iris Byrne, came from Ballinteer parish (where Bishop Mamza had served as a priest). The programme was full: blessing of the new Bishop's House (beside Bishop Namu Shehan's old UAC residence), the dedication of a new multi-purpose Assembly Hall/chapel in St Augustine's.

College, Mayo Belwa (where Boko Haram had struck recently), the dedication of and Sunday Mass in a new parish church (Jambutu, on the Numan Road, Jimeta – which also had a visit from Boko Haram). Old hands of Yola will recognise all of these names and have their own nostalgic memories. They will also be glad to know that the old cathedral is now the Bishop Dalton Memorial Hall. Yola means to the Augustinians in Nigeria what Onitsha means to the Spiritans, and Shendam to the SMA. It was a great privilege to be there. I was humming happily the old favourite, "Memories Are Made Of This" on my return journey to Abuja.

Raymond Hickey, OSA



ST AUGUSTINE'S GALWAY

The Late Clem Foley

Clem Foley and his wife Tess were regular attendees at Sunday morning 11.00 Mass here. In fact he usually helped out with the collection.

Clem a proud native of Dublin, worked in the GPO in Dublin all his working life. In those pre-scipe and pre-email days, Clem used his good offices to ensure that the Augustinians on the Missions in Nigeria were kept abreast with all that was happening at home, especially the outcome of important GAA matches. Clem ensured that Monday's edition of the Irish Independent or (if the exile was from Cork!) the Cork Examiner was dispatched first post to Nigeria. If requested he would go to hell and back in search of an All Ireland ticket. He was a tremendously kind man, unbelievably loyal to his many friends.

Clem's first wife Nell – the mother of their six children – died suddenly almost thirty years ago. So when Clem retired from the Post Office in 1995, he came west to Galway where he met and married Tess Dimarumbar, a native of the Philippines. They had almost twenty years of great contentment and happiness together.

Last week Tess's daughter was married in the Philippines.

Tess and Clem travelled out there for the wedding.

Unfortunately, Clem died suddenly there from an aneurysm. Clem was a staunch GAA supporter and he was perhaps the most prominent GAA referee in the country during the 1960's and throughout the 70's. When he celebrated his 80th birthday in the Galway Boat Club last August, the place resembled the Hogan Stand on an All Ireland day in the mid-1970's. GAA "Greats" from various counties showed up to pay tribute to Clem. His remains were brought from the Philippines to Dublin. Dick Lyng OSA Galway.



Irish Representation at General Chapter

The Ordinary General Chapter of the worldwide Augustinian Order will be held in Rome this year. The chapter which will begin on August 28th (feast of St. Augustine) will continue until its work is completed. This is expected to be approximately the third week of September. The General Chapter is the body that determines the direction the Order will take over the next six years. Another very important task entrusted to this body which represents friars from all over the Augustinian world is the election of the Prior General of the Order.

For the last twelve years this role has been carried out by Fr Robert Prevost OSA who has now completed two terms of six years and is not, therefore, eligible for re-election. The new Prior General can be elected from among the capitulars (those attending the chapter either as delegates or ex-ufficio) or from any solemnly professed friar who fulfills the necessary conditions.

The Irish Province has recently held an election process to determine who will represent it at this General Chapter. The number of delegates that may attend the chapter from each province is determined according to the number of members in solemn vows adscribed to it. In addition to these friars the current Prior Provincial attends the chapter ex officio. The two delegates elected by the Irish Province are Fr. Desmond Foley (Galway) and Fr. Brian O'Sullivan (Rome). They will be accompanied by Fr. John Hennebray who will take up his office as Prior Provincial at the Provincial Chapter of the Irish Province which is to be celebrated in Horse and Jockey, Co. Tipperary, beginning on the 23rd of June 2013.

This is an important time in the life of the Order and we ask you to keep us in your prayers as we celebrate both Provincial and General Chapters this year. - Augustinian Youth Webpage.



AUGUSTINIAN SEMINAR

Orlagh, Friday 14th June 10.00 – 13.00, including lunch

Government Proposals and Catholic Theology of Life

Why now?

The new government legislation on termination has given rise to lively controversy. What actually is being proposed? Do we really need this legislation? What are the arguments for and against?

For whom is this?

The half-day seminar is for members of our Order, and also for people who work with us and who come to our churches.

Format?

To inform our discussion, **THREE EXPERTS** have been invited to lead the conversation.

MEDICAL: Maeve Dwyer is a midwife and former Dean of Nursing and Midwifery, Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland.

THEOLOGICAL: Prof. Pat Hannon from Maynooth, a very well known moral theologian, with expertise in civil law.

POLITICAL: Shane Molloy was chairman of Unilever Ireland and has been a political strategist and marketing adviser with Fine Gael and the STLP.

Booking and cost?

Refreshments and lunch: €15.

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

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK.

Welcome to Vol. 6 No. 12. Thanks to all who have contributed to this edition of IAN. Special thanks to David Moran, Francis Aherne, John O'Connor, Peter Galus for their invaluable help, and to Noel Hession – Augustinian Youth Webpage – Ray Hickey and Colm O'Mahony for photographs.

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

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