

IRISH AUGUSTINIAN NEWS



Annual Triduum to Our Lady of Good Counsel at John's Lane, Dublin

This great triduum has just ended, and what a reminder of the huge devotion to Our Lady of Good Counsel. We enjoyed three homilists. Fr. Des Doyle chaplain at Dublin Airport opened the four days. He reminded us of God the Giver and Mary the Counsellor, together with some suitable amusing jokes. Day two Fr. John Harris O. P. was superb, delivering a well prepared homily. Taking the scriptural verses from the Marriage Feast at Cana with Mary's response to the "wine waiters" who were running out of wine, she referred the problem to her son, and Fr. John exhorted us to do likewise. On day three, Fr. Brian Shorthall, OFM Cap. endeared himself to the "Dubs" while warming up by sharing the information that he was familiar with John's Lane because his Nana often took him to pray here as a child. But his message was clear: we are all called to sanctity, and while we light candles in honour of saints, maybe we could light one for ourselves, or our neighbour!

Just like Cana, the best wine was kept for last. On the feast day the principal celebrant was none other than the Papal Nuncio His Excellency Most Rev. Charles J Brown now resident in Ireland for the past fourteen months. Boy, is he good looking; slim and elegantly groomed, he was gracious and personable. This is his second visit to our beautiful church, having attended on the occasion of the funeral of Bishop Francis Sheehan, when the Bishop's remains were received into the Church.

On this joyful occasion, for his homily he was well informed on Mary Mother of Good Counsel, and again taking the message from Cana he emphasised Mary's words: DO WHATEVER HE TELLS YOU. But his very clear message in real time came after, when he issued an appeal to the congregation to support our Bishops, and to take a bus to Knock Shrine on the 4th May, in order to support the Rally which was being organised in response to the ongoing discussions concerning abortion, and eventual legislation.



His Excellency Archbishop Charles John Brown,
Titular Archbishop of Aquileia,
Appointed Apostolic Nuncio to Ireland 26 Nov. 2011.

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Bishop Louis O'Donnell OSA and Tony Egan OSA, Prior.

A presentation was made to John Kirwan a Knight of the Good Counsel Shrine for 75 years. John looks about 65, and the gift was blessed by His Excellency who made the presentation. To the hymn to the Mother of Good Counsel the recessional procession took place and His Excellency mingled with the huge crowd of people who wanted to greet him. He spoke with them, blessed individuals, blessed religious objects and was the star turn of the 2013 Triduum.



John Kirwan receiving his presentation

Our Prior in his usual ebullient manner, is now assuring everyone that he can find to listen to him, that this was the best triduum ever; a small exaggeration, but it was very good. The attendance for the morning Mass was good, and the evening Mass at 8 p.m brought a significant crowd. However on the Feast Day the church was filled to capacity. The Church choir sang and also the Dublin City Council Choir, on alternate occasions adding to the whole devotional experience.
- Maire Hyland.

ANNUAL NOVENA TO MOTHER OF GOOD COUNSEL at CORK

The large congregation that attends the weekly devotion to Our Mother of Good Counsel culminates annually in an overflowing participation throughout the nine days of the novena. The fertility and fecundity of this outpouring of love and devotion to Mary is, in essence, a manifestation and celebration of the intimate and mutually enriching bonds that have been forged over the decades by the Augustinian community, the multiple lay ministries, and the worshippers at St. Augustine's.



Fr. Gerry Horan, Provincial, in a heartening and enlivening address on the final day of the novena, extolled the manifold graces and blessings that had enriched and nourished his Augustinian confreres by the unbroken and unstinting support and encouragement extended to them by the people of Cork over the years. *Ni neart go cur le cheile.*

The linking of the congregation with fellow worshippers in seventeen different countries worldwide deepened and enhanced the faith dimension of all present, and messages of joy and gratitude poured in daily from emigrants and petition seekers from many lands.

Bishop Willie Walsh, in his homilies, struck a resonant chord with the congregation, as he shared his life's pilgrimage from his initial fear and unworthiness in the presence of God to his discovery, in joy and jubilation, of the God who is a gift-bearing Father, who came as a child in the wintertime, washes feet, whose face is the face of a forgiving Father, with arms tirelessly outstretched in forgiveness and inexhaustible love.

Fr. Gerry Horan, in a moving presentation of the return of the prodigal son, deepened and fortified Bishop Walsh's theme.



We hear of the younger son's progressive degradation, and his winding up in disaster. He starts trudging back home in his rags, smelling to high heaven of his charges in the pig sty, to his

father's house without any hope of forgiveness or to be restored to the status he once knew. But his father scans the road tirelessly and patiently in the longing for his son's return. And on sighting this chastened son, the father is overwhelmed with boundless joy and dashes out and covers him with affectionate embraces and kisses. The human being can cease to be a child of God, but God cannot cease to be our Father, who exists only by love and for love.

Fr. Gerry led us on an excursion into the life and heart of Mary: the mother of a missing child, an asylum seeker, a refugee mother, the mother of a condemned criminal, a confused and bewildered mother ("Son why have you treated us so?") who continued to utter her *Fiat* through all the vicissitudes in her life. A disciple is one who trusts in God. Mary teaches us how to be a disciple of a God who breaks ceaselessly into our lives. Fr. Tom Sexton invited the participants to emulate Mary's unwavering fidelity and trust in God's providence and fathomless love.



A special anointing of the sick was conducted during the course of the novena and priests from neighbouring parishes assisted the Augustinian community in a ceremony that was received as profoundly consoling and restorative. "It transformed St. Augustine's," noted several women at the conclusion of this ceremony, "into an oasis and haven of peace and tranquillity that surpassed anything we had ever experienced at Lourdes. God had truly visited his people and we knew it."

"The planning, orchestrating and conduct of the Annual Novena were in the capable hands of our Prior, Fr. Pat, who presided over the events of the nine days with his customary aplomb and good humour. Fr. Pat has worked tirelessly in enriching the novena liturgies, and his innovation this year of projecting the hymns on to the altar wall, was greatly appreciated and added a new fervour to the praise of God and Our Lady of Good Counsel." Pat Doyle, Cork.



ECUADOR

Greetings from a sombre Flavio.

Since yesterday afternoon we waited to celebrate the funeral of nine people, all of the one family, who had been buried by a terrible landslide together with another four from a family nearby. The tragedy occurred in the middle of the night in the province of Esmeraldas far to the north of us, so communication was difficult.

The family had gone up to the northern province, from the village of Guillermo, two years ago to look for work, but agricultural labour is rather precarious and workers depend on getting two or three days 'machete work' from one farmer and maybe a day from another. This family had not had great success.

The landslide came with little warning, just a bit of a tremble in the afternoon of which no one took any notice. In the night, by the strange ways that natural disasters have, the landslide divided in two, taking a family to the left and to the right, leaving another house in the middle untouched. The second family has not yet been found, so our poor family feel somewhat relieved that they were able to bury all their dead with dignity.

All told there were nine deaths in the one Alcivar Mecias family; the father off fifty five, the mother fifty, two sons in their twenties, a daughter, two little boys of 3 and four, a daughter in law of fifteen with her six month old baby. Since the daughter in law was from Esmeraldas, she and her baby went to their home place and we had seven coffins arrive at ten o'clock tonight -- two little white ones in the middle.



Paul O'Connor OSA

Reflection on Cork Novena to Our Lady of Good Counsel (Fr. Tom Sexton o.s.a.) - from Irish Augustinian Youth Webpage

Each year in Cork, when April comes round, the crowds come out and head for St. Augustine's in Washington St., for the annual novena. It is the only Augustinian church in Ireland, and one of the few throughout the world, where the traditional nine day novena still takes place. Each year the community wonder if the people will come, especially in these days of churches that are less than full. But the fears were unfounded and the crowds came three times each day at 11.00, 4.00, and 8.00.

The morning session at 11.00 is always the most popular but the others were also well attended. In recent years there is an added advantage in that the church can be seen via the internet so people are able to follow the Mass and devotions around the world. Comments and requests for prayers came in from the UK, USA, Switzerland, Australia, and various other places. Some of these have been following the novena for years and looked forward to tuning in once more. Others had been part of the church congregation in previous times but now relish the fact that they can link in though far removed from Cork.

The preaching was split between different men. For the first two days we had the retired bishop of Killaloe, Bishop Willie Walsh, giving his input on cherishing and deepening our Faith in this Year of Faith. On the third day an in-house preacher, Tom Sexton, o.s.a., challenged us to be inspired by our dreams and inspirations to follow the way of the Lord, as Joseph and Mary did. For the other six days we were led by our Provincial, Fr. Gerry Horan, o.s.a., who reflected on various scriptural themes and reminded us of Mary's role as mother, model, and intercessor in her life on earth, a role that she continues now for us in heaven. On one of the days there was a special anointing of the sick during the Mass, where we were assisted by priests from the other religious houses in the inner city.

The atmosphere was vibrant each day with the congregations in a good singing mood at every session led by different cantors. They were helped by hymns projected on the church wall through the technology operated by our Prior, Fr. Pat Moran, o.s.a. Most people know the first few lines, maybe even the first verse, of many hymns, but get stuck beyond that. With the words on the wall they were able to join lovingly and lustily to the very end, and relished the opportunity to praise Mary, especially with the special Good Counsel hymns. Experienced members said it was the best novena in years. While many of the congregation were in the Free Travel category we were also happy to see some of the younger faces among them. We trust that Mary will keep them linked to her Son in the days and years to come.



The Doyle Clan with friends

EASTER VIGIL CORK

On Holy Saturday night we were joined by the Polish community for our Vigil celebrations. Our OSA community of six were joined by the Polish Chaplain Fr Peter Galus and three visiting Polish priests.

We shared the ceremony alternatively in English and Polish – Blessing of Fire in English - Exultet sung in Polish and then continued the readings again alternatively in English and Polish. We had two choirs, local and Polish who again shared the singing. It was a beautiful Celebration to a full Church, that included about 50 Polish Navy Officers who had been on “training operations” off the Irish Coast and spent the Easter weekend docked in the Port of Cork. At the end of the ceremony, Bro Michael Boyle OSA had Easter Eggs for all the “small people.”



Polish Navy Officers and Concelebrants.

ALL – IRELAND COLLEGES SAHC final

Dungarvan Colleges (Waterford) 1 – 12

Kilkenny CBS (Kilkenny) 1 – 7

Dungarvan Colleges, the amalgamation of Dungarvan CBS and St Augustine's, crowned their final year in existence with their first All – Ireland SAHC title at Semple Stadium Thurles. The 2012 and 2013 Harty Cup winners inflicted a second All-Ireland final defeat on Kilkenny CBS who finished the game with 14 players.



Editor with Croke Cup and staff from St Augustine's College. L. to R. Ailbhe Ni Nechtain Principal, Liam O'Mahony, Paddy Lennon OSA, John O'Connor OSA, Jonathan O'Donovan, Jim Power Deputy Principal, Siobhan O'Sullivan and Pdraig MacCraith.

DURING THE MONTH OF MAY

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

- 01 1978 Fr C O'Driscoll
- 10 2002 Fr M O'Connor
- 10 2011 Br C Higgins
- 11 1980 Fr D Daly
- 19 2008 Fr Ml Sexton
- 20 1974 Fr O Hartnett
- 20 1974 Fr N McFadden
- 22 1968 Fr J Chawke
- 23 1990 Fr M O'Donovan
- 24 1983 Br C O'Connell
- 25 1976 Fr C Delaney
- 26 2007 Fr M.O'Flynn
- 27 2003 Fr P Kehoe
- 30 2002 Fr A Hourihane

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK.

Welcome to Vol. 6 No. 11. Thanks to all who have contributed to this edition of IAN. Special thanks to David Moran, Francis Aherne, John O'Connor, Maire Hyland, Pat Doyle, Peter Galus for their invaluable help, and to Noel Hession – Augustinian Youth Webpage - Tony Egan and Paul O'Connor for photographs.

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

Note new e-mail address: pmoran404@gmail.com

Pat Moran OSA, Editor, St Augustine's Priory, Washington St, Cork. Old E-mail: sacw@iol.ie

Tel. 021 427 04 10. 087 235 25 82