

# IRISH AUGUSTINIAN NEWS



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## **St Augustine's College, New Karu, Abuja, Nigeria.**

The Nigerian Augustinian Province is certainly following in the traditions of its Irish mother Province with the opening of a new secondary boarding school for boys and girls near Abuja.

It is a major project: a school for 600 students with all the facilities needed for such a venture.

Richie Hughes has been responsible for the building so far and - as we have come to expect from him - he has done a truly magnificent job.

The first year of students, just over 100, began in Sept 2009, and as these go on to second year the second group will be accepted, and so on until the six year cycle is completed.

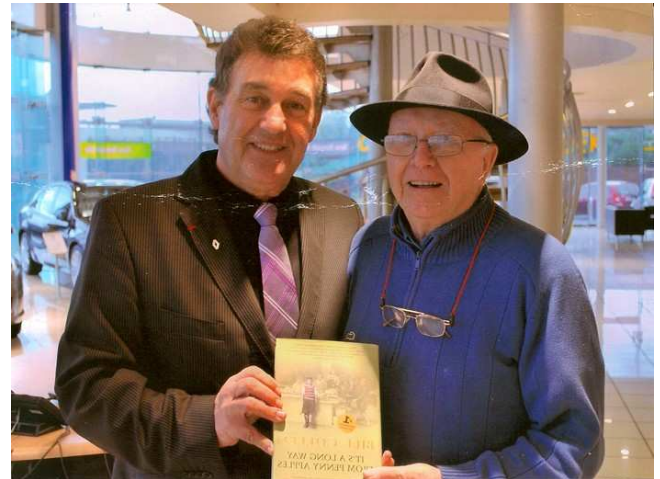
So far about one million euro has been spent on the Project. This has been contributed by Apurimac (the Non Governmental Organisation of the Italian Augustinian Province and the Italian Government), the General Council of the Order (with the Prior General showing great interest), and the Nigerian Province itself. It will be necessary to spend about another nine hundred thousand euro to complete the school and work should continue for about another two years. In the meantime the school can continue to function.

There is a great need for quality education in Nigeria and it is great to see the Nigerian Province making its contribution to this.

Fr Joel Anwayi, who was in John's Lane last year, is Rector and he says that they are already being inundated with requests for places at the school!

We have every reason to hope that St Augustine's College, Abuja, will continue what has been achieved by Augustinians in New Ross and Dungarvan/Abbeyside.

Brendan McDonnell OSA, Jos.



## **Bill Cullen, The Apprentice and Bro Nicholas Kearney OSA ON – GOING FORMATION**

Pat, our book for January is Joseph Ratzinger's Theological Ideas: Wise Cautions and Legitimate Hopes by James Corkery, S.J. 2009, Dublin, Dominican Publications €14.99 With this comes a reminder that our next meeting of the on-going Formation course will be in Horse and Jockey on February 25th, 26th and 27th of February. Mark it in your diaries!

As it so happens, James Corkery is one of the speakers we have booked for that session, as well as Cathy Molloy. This book is reviewed, in the January 2010 edition of Doctrine and Life, by James Kelly from Trinity College. I quote "Corkery presents such a clear and comprehensive picture of Ratzinger's theology that his insights will prompt his readers into incisive reflections on that same theology. This is testimony to the excellence of the theological task he has accomplished. For anyone looking to understand the theology which underpins the present pontificate this is essential reading."

This edition of Doctrine and Life also contains a very useful and clearly written article by Kieran O'Mahony, entitled "Where to - From Here?" Kieran, relying on his friend St. Paul, gives a scriptural response to the situation in Ireland today following the Murphy report. Prosit Kieran. Happy Christmas to you Pat and prosit again, and may the Lord touch us all with healing and peace as we look to 2010.

Flor O'Callaghan OSA, Dungarvan.



Photo supplied by Joel Anawayi OSA, Nigeria

Ed. News has just reached the editors desk that St Augustine's Priory was broken into on Christmas day and that Flor's laptop was stolen.

## SOME READERS' COMMENTS'

Hello Pat. Greetings from Tanzania. I arrived this week on invitation by the Delegate Superior for Xmas and new year celebrations and to attempt to learn some Kiswahili words. Presently, I am visiting their few communities. I am confronted by this question: How many OSA bishops do you have in Nigeria? According to IAN, we have four (2 OSA's). Please could you send me some copies so that I could show them. Thanks for your kindness. Wishing you a grace-filled Xmas and new year celebrations. Fraternally, Felix, Usman OSA, Kenya.

Pat, Thank you for the "Holly Bough". I am very glad to have the e-mail addresses. I think Brian O'Sullivan's should be: [brianosa@gmail.com](mailto:brianosa@gmail.com)

I noticed the invitation to send greetings to the Pope. I used the address and I got a reply from Paolo Patrini!

Kieran O'Brien OSA, Duckspool, Abbeyside.

Hi, thanks again for the updates and email addresses. I'm really glad to be included in the circulation. Have the most pleasant Christmas possible and the happiest new year. Kindest regards, Paddy Lane, Ennis.

Dear Pat, Many thanks for sending Ian in 2009. I appreciate it very much. Best Wishes at Christmas and New Year.

Jerry Hackett, USA.

Dear Pat, Thanks so much for the IAN! Will be in touch in January for the next WOW presentation. I hope the Augustinian family in Cork has a very blessed and peaceful Christmas!! Take care, Bernie Baker, Office of Dublin Arch Diocese.

Hello Fr. Pat, Compliments of the season. Its been a long, long, long time. Hope the season finds you in good health. I thought the IAN has stopped since I didn't get any from you. I am happy to hear from you again. And hope you hear from Fr Crean too. Happy Christmas and prosperous new year ahead. Kind Regards. Evelyn, London.

Hi Pat, While you were Principal at St. Augustine College, Abbeyside, you always talked about St. Augustine's College catering for the whole person. Well one of our students here at St. Augustine's, Kate Veale, an athlete with great promise for the future, entered and won a competition for the privilege to report on the recent European Cross Country which was held in Santry, Dublin, on the 13th December 2009. For the competition each competitor was asked to write an essay on their favourite sports person. I am forwarding a copy of her report, which I don't expect you to put in IAN because it is too long. But perhaps you will comment on the quality of the report from a 15 year old student. Happy Christmas, Pat and all your helpers at IAN. Keep up the good work. Paddy Lennon OSA, St. Augustine's.

Excellent piece of writing, see IAN Supplement on website. Ed.

Pat Hello, I really enjoyed last night's party in Cork for Michael O'Regan and Jimmy Maguire (both 49 years ordained 17.12.09). Prosit again on IAN (Holly Bough edition). Was delighted to get it last night literally hot off the press. Gerry Horan OSA, Provincial.

Thanks a mil, Pat. You succeed in condensing so much in such a small space. Well done and Season's Greetings to all Augustinian Friars. Regards Tony Jordan, Dublin.

**Merry Christmas from the AYE London 2010 Team!**

**We hope that you have a peaceful Christmas and joyful New Year.**

**May it be a blessed time for us all!**

**After the New Year we hope that many of you register via [www.ave10.org](http://www.ave10.org) to come and share in AYE London 2010 with 350 other young people from all across the globe!**

### **Theme song**

**Let us also remind you that we need an AYE theme song based on this year's theme 'I Call You Friends'. If you want to enter your song into the competition please get in touch with Claire at [avelondon2010@hotmail.com](mailto:avelondon2010@hotmail.com)**

*His mother bore him in her womb; let us bear him in our hearts.*

*St. Augustine sermon 189, 3*

Christmas greetings from the youth commission. I hope that by now you will have heard about our retreat which is planned for the end of January and will take place in Cork. I really do need to know about numbers as soon as possible so please get in touch with your core team representative (if you don't know who they are get in touch with me and I'll tell you).

Also - and very importantly - I am pleased to be able to tell you that the new website for the youth ministry went live last Wednesday, 16th of December. The address is

[www.augustinianyouthireland.com](http://www.augustinianyouthireland.com)

Please check it out - suggestions are welcome.

It would be really great if people engaged with the forum. Also I am looking for volunteers to review things (books, albums, concerts, websites etc). If you would like to choose something yourself go ahead and send it to me. If you would like to help and don't have something already in mind get in touch and I will get back to you.

Hoping to hear from you all soon. Noel Hession OSA



## Mapeo, November 14, 2009

Mapeo is 56 miles from Zing and 38 miles from Yola, but only as the crow flies. By Toyota Hilux 4x4, three-and-a-half hours and two-and-a-half hours respectively. To shorten the day Colin Fives and I went to Yola the night before and hit out for Mapeo early the next morning. We arrived at 9.30, half-an-hour early for the day's main event.

Forty years years ago the first set of the newly formed secular Third Order of St Augustine made their profession. This was after a year's novitiate and another year or so inviting candidates. A letter from the Prior General of the day, Fr Trapé, authorised the establishment of the Third Order by the then Parish Priest of Mapeo: Fr Patrick Francis Sheehan O.S.A.

In this part of the world many Catholics begin married life in their teens - perfectly legal in Native Law and Custom. Some of these marriages break up before long, others survive. Sacramental marriage may not take place for ten, fifteen or more years. At one point in the history of the Augustinians in Nigeria some poured scorn on the Third Order suggesting that members of the Third Order included people far from being fully committed Catholics, even a few polygamists.

Nothing could be further from the truth.

Men and women may enter the Third Order. Before they do so each must show that they are stable in their commitment to Catholic life and values: By the time a prospective member considers applying to the Third Order, he or she must be sacramentally married for a decade or more.

The men wear the same white habit as the Friars. The women are dressed in white, like nuns: thigh length skirt, cincture and veil. To the uninitiated this causes confusion - at Mass it is possible to see such a "nun" breast-feeding her youngest.

As with the Friars, they too have their community life and apostolate. Community life involves meeting to pray together at least once a week. If one of the members is sick they visit. Apostolate may involve some work in the local parish like preparing children or adults for sacraments, marriage guidance, supervising and fostering the faith in outstations - in whatever need they have the ability to serve.

The celebration in Mapeo was notable in that pretty well everyone had grey hair in abundance. These were Catholics who have given decades to the faith. (This is noteworthy in Nigeria where so many young people give the Church great zest.) On November 14 there were 301 of these habits to be seen. Five first Order friars were also present: Frs David Jakos, Silvanus Tagisa, Nicholas Bariki, Colin Fives and Michael Walsh. About a dozen secular priests also attended, all Yola Diocese with family connections in Mapeo. Bishop Charles Hammawa was the principal celebrant. His parents, sadly both now deceased, were members of the Third Order. He noted that as a boy he had often washed his father's habit. "And," he added, "do you really think I never tried it on a few times?"

Colin Fives is himself a former Parish Priest of Mapeo so he met many old friends and acquaintances. The Fathers adjourned to the Parish House for sustenance, mainly liquid. Suitably refreshed Colin and I set out for Zing and Pupule.

Michael Walsh OSA



Michael Walsh, Franz Klein and Colin Fives

## ECUADOR



Ted McCarthy OSA



Sr Margaret

Today's note is just to say to you that you need not have a guilty conscience thinking of poor missionaries when you tuck in to your turkey and ham. Sister Margaret of the Presentation assures that we did too. Last night she rang to ask me to collect her and the food at about two thirty and was emphatic that she was not going to bring any drinks. So I had to tour Chone at one this afternoon trying to find a licorería open. I found one in front of the market that had one bottle of red and some dusty white bottles with fading labels: Argentinian wines. Bought a bottle of each and then went to collect Margaret and the food in her house to bring her to the Augustinian house in Macheve. Meals on Wheels, if you like.

We had a delightful meal because Margaret is a cordon bleu cook. She explained that the turkey was not totally turkey, but rather a cross between turkey and chicken. Now will any of you tell me if that be possible: Ted, our scientist, has his doubts. It carried us on to a discussion on the difference between mules and jinnets, but did not solve the problem of turkey/chicken, which was actually delicious, far beyond your plain turkey. I'll have to go to google. Anyway we ranged over all kinds of themes from the rolling of bishops' heads to the exaggerated insistence of our local archbishop on canon law requirements. Margaret lauded Padre Cristobal, her Polish PP, with whom she has not had one fight during his first year: he is actually a glorious young fellow always willing for more work. We expected him for his meal but some visitors from his previous parish decided to visit him, so he could not come.

Ted and Margaret did the wash up while I took the pictures. Then I left her home and came back to my 'security blanket' of keyboard and screen.

Paul O'Connor OSA.



## PROVINCE ASSEMBLY



On Thursday the 10th of December the members of the Irish Province of Augustinians were invited to participate in an assembly of the Friars in the Red Cow Inn on the Naas Road. This assembly marked the conclusion of the Year of the Chapter and was hosted by the Provincial and the members of the Provincial Council.



The theme of the day was "Giftedness" - appreciating our own gifts; acknowledging the gifts we have received; naming the gifts we need; identifying the gifts we should be for others.

The day began with prayer which was focused on a reflection around the theme of one Spirit and many gifts.

Then we listened to three of the friars - one of the younger ones (John Hennebry from New Ross), one of the older ones (Bill Prendiville from Limerick) and one of the in-between ones (Padraig Daly from Ballyboden).

This was followed by a long reflection which was given to us by Andrew O'Connell. Having achieved his PhD in Chemistry, Andrew went to work with INTEL and then to work with the Presentation Brothers in the capacity of PR and Vocations Director.

His reflection focused on how the Church can engage with modern Ireland - especially young modern Ireland.

All in all a very worthwhile day - and as always - the opportunity to meet up with the friars was very important.  
Noel Hession OSA. (website [augustinianyouthireland.com](http://augustinianyouthireland.com))

### DURING THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

**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  
25 1981 Fr. J Hanrahan  
28 1999 Fr P A Brennan

Please pray for Noel Hession's uncle who died recently.

## TURKEY IN THE TROPICS

Many of the Irish letters and cards this Christmas told of the dramatic change to cold weather in Ireland that had followed the incessant rains of previous months. The usual comment was *'I am sure this is much different to what you are experiencing'*. Being just a degree or so south of the equator, most presumed that we were being scorched from morning till night. That was not quite the case. Our rains were irregular and poor during the expected wet season from mid-October onwards, resulting in poor predictions for the harvest and possible famine in the new year. Our temperatures here in Nairobi were pleasantly in the high 20s most of the time till the rains arrived in the days before Christmas. On the evening of 23<sup>rd</sup> we had our seasonal Penitential Service but the skies opened that evening, reducing the number of penitents and making travel very difficult for our helpers, like Denis Mason, from the formation houses at the other side of the city. It took them more than an hour to get here, where they calmly shrived and dined with us, but on the way home they suffered. A journey that normally should take about half an hour took them two and a half hours, due to traffic congestion with the rains.

No such problems on Christmas day when Joseph Oduor, our parish priest, and I did the same journey to our professorium for Christmas dinner, hosted by Denis and his community. We gathered from the three communities in the city for the occasion. This year Bob Karanja, our vocations man, had made long range preparations by raising some turkeys behind that house. One of these graced our Christmas table to be washed down with a little white wine. Perhaps not cooked to the same standards as that of Paul O'Connor in Flavio, but tasty and welcome to all who had gathered. Through such occasions is community built among us. Our rains have continued intermittently, again reducing our crowds for the Masses of Holy Family. It is like dull summer weather in Ireland - in the days when we did have summers!! Tom Sexton OSA



Tom Sexton OSA and Denis Mason OSA

### FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK.

Welcome to Vol. 3 No 7. Thanks to all who have contributed to this edition. Special thanks to Peter Galus, Francis Aherne, John O'Connor for their invaluable help, and to Tom Sexton, Paul O'Connor, Brendan McDonnell, Michael Walsh, Noel Hession and Joel for photographs.

All past editions of IAN available on:

Web page: [www.staugustinescork.ie](http://www.staugustinescork.ie)

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