

IRISH AUGUSTINIAN NEWS



ON-GOING FORMATION "BOOK OF THE MONTH".

Pat, this book is our suggestion for the month of November. I have read various reviews of the book on the internet, and from them I include this brief review. Flor O'Callaghan OSA.

Linden, Ian, **Global Catholicism: Diversity and Change since Vatican II**, London: Hurst & Company, 2009

Ian Linden has written an excellent history of the diversity and change in the contemporary Roman Catholic Church since Vatican II. He brings alive the stirrings in the Catholic community worldwide just before the Council was convened and he documents the changes that took place around the world following the Council. His documentation and explanation of Liberation Theology - its development and implementation - in Latin America is thorough and unbiased. Likewise, his exploration of the development of the Church in Africa as it developed in tandem with nationalism and the break down of colonialism is excellent. The final two chapters deal with inculturation and dialogue with Islam and how the Church needs to adapt and develop as it moves forward into the 21st century.

Linden ends his book pointing out that our European church is in culture shock. Postmodernity does not want to listen to meta-narratives and regards truth as relative and individualist. We are on a desert of atheism and disbelief with no Moses to challenge or guide us. We are in an age of endings and new beginnings. Linden points out that the Church is out of its depth. It is unable to craft a message which can challenge our malaise and throw light on our perplexity. The Church must function as a global community. She must find ways of speaking in the 10,000 languages that convey the experience of her global congregation. Here in Europe the Catholic population has gone down by 400, 000 since 1900.

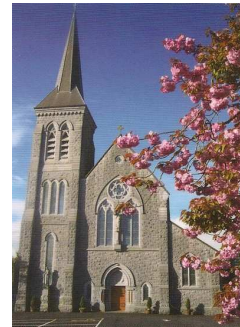
In Africa the Catholic population has ascended by 7,000%. One reviewer said "I found the author's chapter on Africa most enlightening. I had not been well informed on the struggles of the African church alongside and among the poor and oppressed of several countries of that afflicted continent. It was good to get to know the historical background of events that have made headlines recently."

The days of the Eurocentric Church are coming to an end. In future the voices of Latin Americans, Africans and Asians will preach, sanctify and rule. Anyone not alive during the Council years or those coming into the Church from another faith will gain an invaluable insight into how and why the Church is as it is today. And for those who thought they knew all that was needed to know about the Second Vatican Council, this book will open your eyes. Truly a worthwhile book for anyone serious about Roman Catholicism today.

In the photograph opposite are the "Dungarvan Trio," Michael Keane, Helen Hallahan and Seamus Humphreys OSA.

Vol. 3 No 5 NOVEMBER 2009

BALLYHAUNIS



On October 11th I returned to Ballyhaunis, along with Fr. John O'Connor. We were invited to the Centenary Celebrations of the dedication of the Parish Church. Fr. Vincent McCarthy was also present. The warm welcome, through applause, that we received in the church when Canon Joe Cooney, P.P. announced our presence spoke loudly of their appreciation of the Augustinians. The individual enthusiastic welcome afterwards in the church yard, especially for Fr. O'Connor, was very surprising to say the least.

Fr. O'Connor and I spent some time visiting St. Mary's Abbey, the former Augustinian foundation, and were pleased with the way it is being kept. The grounds are well kept with a tarmacadam walk all around the grounds. The house is now a haven of activity - adult education, meeting rooms, creche and other social activities.

My one annoyance is that the beautiful historic chalices, pixes, medals and other such items are locked up in the Church. They should be on public display somewhere. I also believe that the Dunmore Chalice, which is one of the oldest, should be given back to the Dunmore Community who have often had a loan of it for their special occasions.

Matt Cooney OSA, Dungarvan.



SOME READERS' COMMENTS:

Hello Pat, That hitch or glitch in the post was rectified, and I received the Sept. and October issues on the same day! Also, the new line out at home, which you had sent me. Thanks again. Ray Hickey OSA, Abuja, Nigeria.

Pat, On 10th Oct 2009 there were 4 new Solemnly professed added to the Nigerian Province. Attached is a photo of one of those, Christopher Patrick, as he makes his Profession to Hyacinth Kangyep, the Nigerian Provincial.

Best regards, Brendan Mc Donnell OSA, Jos.



Christopher Patrick

Dear Pat: Sorry for the long delay in writing to thank you for your hospitality, but I was on the road for some time after I left you, and have just managed to take care of all the bits and pieces that had accumulated during a three month absence. It is good to be back in my own room, and to have put away my suitcase for another year, but the vivid memories of Augustinian generosity and hospitality will always remain.

Fraternally. Jerry Murphy-O'Connor OP.

Pat, Thanks for the latest. Sorry to hear of the death of Gervase. Glad to see the know John Meagher is still so inspirational and that Tom McManus is looking so cheeky again. Best wishes. Tom Greally Australia.

Hello Pat, an excellent informative job as usual on the IAN. I would appreciate if possible to send me on Greg Howard's e-mail or postal address.

Thank you. Paul Flynn OSA, California.

Hello again Fr Pat and thanks for IAN. I am certainly pushing on when the only people I know were yourself Fr Meagher Pat Furness and of course that golfer Ben O, Brien. That is Ben's second cup this year. He won the Brosnan Cup in New Ross. I'm glad to see Fr Meagher looking so well. It is encouraging to hear that The Augustinian order is so active. Thanks for the e-mail. David Egan, Dublin.

Pat. A belated thanks for last (& all) IANs - up to usual standards. While the long wait for the Dublin Report continues, perhaps we might read the recently published "Responding to the Ryan Report" (ed Tony Flannery C Ss R, Columba Press). In the lingo of reviewers, it makes for "compulsive reading". The contributions by Frs Sean Fagan & T Flannery are strong & the final chapter by Dr Marie Keenan (I found) highly enlightening - a must for us to get a new perspective on the problem. Kind regards. Bill Prendiville OSA, Limerick.

Conference Report for IAN (November 1, 2009)

I arrived in Rome on October 18th and attended an international conference of the Augustinian Historical Institute at the Augustinianum. This conference takes place every three years and provides a platform for the historians of the Order in the various provinces to share the fruits of their research with one another. It was a five-day conference and the papers delivered were centred on the topic: 'The exclaustations of the 19th century and their impact on the life of the Order'. 'Exclaustation' is a term usually employed as a juridical designation for certain categories of religious from their institutes. In the overall context of the conference theme, however, 'exclaustation' referred to historical instances of civil legislation, which when implemented, resulted in the enforced closure of religious houses and the confiscation of religious property. Much of this happened in the aftermath of the French Revolution and during the Napoleonic years leading into the early decades of the 19th century.

Some thirty-one speakers were listed in the conference programme, although a few were unable to be present. Papers were of two kinds: a *comunicazione*, which was of 15-20 minutes duration and the longer *relazione* of 45 minutes or so. My own paper was of the shorter variety and in it I argued that the Irish province suffered its share of 'exclaustations' back in the time of Henry VIII with the dissolution of the monasteries, followed by the Cromwellian upheavals, and the Penal Laws. The 19th century was, as far as Ireland was concerned, a time of re-awakening and of 'resuscitation' of the Irish Church with the advent of Catholic Emancipation in 1929. Irish Augustinians were part of this new growth and looked beyond the immediate shores of Ireland for new missionary endeavours: to Australia with James Goold and others; to North America with Matthew Carr and John Rosseter; to India with Daniel O'Connor; and to England and Hoxton in 1864 with, among others, Michael Kelly, who became known as 'the saint' of Hoxton.

Karl Gersbach, who works at Villanova University, dealt with the arrival of the early friars in the USA in more detail and the Australian Mission for which eleven exclaustations or permissions for friars to live and work outside community life were granted, was dealt with in Michael Endicott's paper. Michael, however, was unable to be at the conference and so, at his request, I read the paper to the conference. The geographical focus of the conference was centred mainly in Europe and America for the first couple of days and then moved to Mexico and Latin America especially. Papers were delivered either in English, Spanish or Italian. One was delivered in French by a Dutch friar, Willem Schouten, via a DVD recording. He spoke of the Augustinians in France during the late 18th century.

Overall, the conference was interesting but at times it was 'heavy going' as there were a lot of papers to be presented. Miguel Angel Orcasitas, president of the Augustinian Historical Institute and the secretary, Mario Mattei, took turns in chairing the sessions. I stayed at St. Monica's throughout the time and was the recipient of gracious hospitality from Brian O'Sullivan and his 62-strong community. Thank you again, Brian! My thanks also to Jim Downey and Tony Finn for their kind invitation to lunch at St. Pat's on Sunday 25th. David Kelly OSA.

APPREHENSION AND HOPE IN DUBLIN

Whenever clergy in Dublin meet nowadays, the forthcoming publication of the "Dublin Report" inevitably surfaces. Priests ask: What will it say? Who will be criticised? How will it be handled – by bishops, by media, and by ourselves?

In the midst of the apprehension these questions give rise to, priests are struggling to attend to pastoral planning on their parishes. The Year for Evangelisation in Dublin has provided a spur and a hopeful focus. The Orlagh Team has been invited to take part in this venture, particularly through the WORDONWEB programme. The Archbishop invited the Team to make a presentation at a recent meeting of the Vicars Forane, and this led to invitations to repeat this presentation at nine deanery meetings. Six members of the Team managed to cover eight deanery meetings on October 5th and we will also make a presentation at a Regional Assembly for the clergy and parish councils of 39 parishes in North Dublin on November 17th.

Many parishes have indicated their intention to take part and registrations are now coming in for the three sessions in Advent that will be aimed at the general parish membership. These sessions will be presented by Sean Goan and Kieran O'Mahony.

The topics are:

1. What Is a Gospel? (November 25)
2. How Were the Gospels Written? (December 2)
3. How Do We Pray the Gospels? (December 9)

Participation is not limited to Dublin parishes. With modern technology, groups in any part of the country, or the world, can take part. Some of you have taken part in previous sessions. If you want more information about the programme and how to take part in it, log on to the Word on Web website at:

www.wordonweb.org

P. S. Kieran (O'Mahony OSA) continues writing and has just completed a two-volume textbook for the Dominican Priory Institute on the Letters of St Paul. John Byrne OSA, Orlagh.

THEOLOGY WITH HUMOUR AT HORSE AND JOCKEY

It is always a pleasure to listen to a speaker who is clearly on top of his material and can present it simply and with humour. The 40+ people who gathered at Horse and Jockey Hotel on October 29/30 had that pleasure. Dr. Michael Drumm used his considerable experience and broad reading background to open up refreshing perspectives on how to speak about Jesus Christ, grace and salvation in the culture of today. He had a great gift for presenting theological concepts without technical language, often illustrated by 'parables' from everyday life. In some ways he teased his audience because the subject matter was so wide and the time so limited that there was a general sense at the end of 'we need to hear more about this'. There just had not been time to explore to speak faith today. The difficulties women have with some Biblical things as fully as we would have liked.

Comments from participants also brought out the difficulties of finding appropriate language in which stories and theological language was noted. There may also have been an age barrier. One young male participant, when asked for his evaluation at the end of the day said 'I didn't get it'. The presentations which had excited and engaged many had not touched him.

The overall reaction was positive and the organising committee will try to build on the success of this session. There are some practical issues to be considered e.g., the most suitable dates, and finishing time.



Tom Sexton OSA and Francis Aherne OSA.

CHANGING TIMES

As the saying goes – "*Time and tide waits for no man...*" and we have to adjust to the changing times. Here in Kenya of late we have had changing times, some occasioned by our intermediate Assembly, presided over by our Prior General in October. All the solemnly professed were gathered together, some details of policy were hammered out, and some gaps were filled with new appointments.

A major gap was caused by the departure of Francis Aherne a few days after the closing of the Assembly. Having spent all of his priestly life in Africa, Francis finally bid farewell to the continent on Monday, October 26, 2009. Most of his years were in Nigeria but since 1995 he has been south of the equator with us here in Kenya. And what a presence! All our developments can be traced to his active pursuit of various goals in order to get things done. He came here for a short visit in Lent of 1995 and covered more ground in a week or two than the rest of us had done in five years. He even reached deep into Tanzania during that short stint. Appointed back here later in the year he based himself in various places in Nairobi and, through his golfing outings, made many valuable contacts. These resulted in him building and setting up the first house of formation in 1997 with an intake of postulants. Some of these men were ordained in 2005. His restless mind kept eyeing various sites and locations till he identified the owners of a plot adjacent to Tangaza Theology College and eventually acquired it, with the encouragement of Prior General Orcasitas.

Francis was always expert at acquiring financial aid and managing it well. He kept an eye on the papers and the exchange rates so that he squeezed the last shilling out of the foreign currency that we depend on so much. Being a good poker player he knew how to 'play the field' and work the best deal. With his careful management we were never short. He made many trips to places, such as Germany, to acquire funding for different projects, be they student support, vehicles, buildings, etc. We will very much miss this expertise as we now try to plug the gap left by him in running our financial affairs and in caring for the postulants. Our loss will be Cork's gain. His expertise may also shake up a few traditions there also as he nests into Washington Street. We wish him a smooth transition as we thank him for his great work in Africa on behalf of the Order.

Tom Sexton OSA, Kenya.

New e-mail; Martin Crean: martincreanosa@hotmail.com

Some graves in Nigeria.



Fr Teddy Hegarty OSA, died 16.06.1999



Cemetery in Maiduguri



Welcome, Lord, into your calm and peaceful kingdom those who out of this present life have departed to be with you; grant them rest and a place with the spirits of the just; and give them the life that knows not age, the reward that passes not away through Jesus Christ our Lord. (Ignatius Loyola, 1491 – 1556).



Father of all, we pray to you for those we love but see no longer. Grant them your peace; let light perpetual shine upon them; and in your loving wisdom and almighty power, work in them the good purpose of your perfect will, through Jesus Christ our Lord. (Anglican Church of Canada).

DURING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER

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

03 1985 Br. J. Hodson
03 1971 Fr E.C. Madden
04 1979 Fr. P. Cummins
05 1991 Fr. A. Berrill
06 1990 FR. J. Buckley
08 1978 Fr. P. Foley
13 1991 Fr. T.A. McCarthy
15 1977 Fr. T. Conlon
19 2003 Fr. P.A. O'Mahony
20 2002 Fr. J. Cosgrave
26 1976 Fr. D. Geary
27 1992 Fr. F. Leddin
27 1978 Fr. W. Wallace
29 1969 Bp. P. Dalton
29 1995 Fr. D. Whelton
30 1984 Fr. D. Loughran

Please remember in your prayers William Furlong, father of Fr Shem OSA, who died in Horeswood, Co Wexford in early October 2009. Also Norm La Bord, late of Buena Park, USA.

The annual Mass of Commemoration for the deceased Augustinians buried in Glasnevin cemetery will be celebrated on Sunday 15th November at 3.00pm in the Cemetery Chapel. All Friars and the family members, relatives and friends of Augustinian's buried in Glasnevin are very welcome to attend.

Tony Egan OSA Prior John's Lane.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK.

Welcome to Vol. 3 No 5. Thanks to all who have contributed to this edition. Special thanks to Peter Galus, who does all the photographic work, to David Moran, John O'Connor for their invaluable help, and to Michael Walsh, Paul O'Connor, Flor O'Callaghan, Brendan McDonnell, David Kelly, Tom Sexton and John Byrne for articles and photographs. Finally please note that I am setting up (soon) an IAN Supplement on the Cork webpage for some surplus and long articles and unused photographs.

All past editions of IAN available on:

Web page: www.staugustinescork.ie

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