

IRISH AUGUSTINIAN NEWS

DEEP IN THE VATICAN

Most will be aware of the Augustinian presence in St Anne's just off St Peter's Square in Rome, but few might recall that there is also a community of the Order deeper within the Vatican. This is now only a remnant, a pale shadow, of what it used to be in the days of the Augustinian episcopal Sacristan. That a nucleus still survives was brought to our notice in the recent issue of the beautifully produced **OSA INT**. It was the editor of **IAN** who called my attention to this (who himself, it has to be said, brings out no mean production either). As you will appreciate, ever vigilant, he had an ulterior motive.

In any case we read that this is the 657th year of Augustinian service in the Papal Sacristy. Pavel Benedik (a Slovak of It. Pr.) tells us this, and speaks of the daily routine of himself 'Prior and Custodian of the Vatican Treasury', and Einer Tocto Oblitas (Pr. of Peru) and Edward Daleng (Pr. of Nigeria). But it all began over six hundred and fifty years ago. "We have to go back to 1352, when Clement VI chose his Sacristan from within the Augustinian Order. In 1497, Alexander VI, with the Bull *Ad Sacram*, entrusted this responsibility exclusively to the Augustinians, and Clement VIII, in 1595, raised the Sacristan to the dignity of the episcopacy..... This office of several centuries' duration ended on 14 January 1991."

The last to grace the high office was the jovial Dutchman, Mgr Canisius Van Lierde (1951-91) (who certainly visited Ireland, and whom some of us elders knew as Roman students). Prior to Mgr Van Lierde, one remembers the saintly and learned and Marian Mgr Alfonso de Romanis (1937-50). Further back, of course, there was the Venerable Bartolomeo Menochio (1741-1823), whose beatification cause is being actively promoted. However, *tolle lege* the informative item in **OSA INT** (and the great studies of Augustinian history by David Gutierrez and John Gavigan - who gives a full list of the Papal Sacristans in his graceful volume). John O'Connor OSA, Abbeyside.



P.Oblitas, the Prior General, Benedict XVI, P. Benedik and Edward Daleng, Nigeria.



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Joel Anwayi OSA and Giles O'Halloran OSA, Croke Park.

The Irish Augustinian Ongoing Formation
Commission presents:

CHRIST AND CULTURE

Understanding salvation
and redemption today

Phase Three of
**HEARING THE GOSPEL AGAIN
FOR THE FIRST TIME**

in
**HORSE AND JOCKEY HOTEL
HORSE AND JOCKEY
THURLES
CO. TIPPERARY**

October 29-30 2009

**with
Dr. Michael Drumm**

The course is open to Augustinians and to lay people who work with Augustinians in their various ministries. Copies of above brochure will be going out to all OSA communities in the next few days, together with application forms. Completed forms should be returned to: Flor O'Callaghan OSA, Dungarvan, Co Waterford. E-mail: focal@eircom.net

MAIDUGURI ORDINATION



It was a nostalgic visit for me, one that haunted me with memories, those ghosts of the past! There was joy and gladness at the Ordination of Mgr Oliver Doeme as fourth bishop of Maiduguri; but also sorrow and dismay at the huge destruction in the Railway area -- where the 'Boko Haram' sect had their main base, and where the recently rebuild parish house was once again razed to the ground.

The Augustinian presence was not as pronounced as in 2003, when Bishop Senan O'Donnell passed on the baton to Bishop Ndagoso, but that is how things must be. Provincial Hyacinth Kangyep was there, Bishops James Daman and John Niyiring, the community of St Augustine's - Gwange, and the Sisters from Shuwa. Michael Walsh and I, both of us with dual Irish/Nigerian OSA allegiance, were also there.

As in 2003 the ceremony was held out in the open. A huge crowd, yes, coming from all over the diocese. Then the reception: greeting and shaking of many hands: many asking for O'Donnell, O'Reilly, Farrell, Lyng, Crean, many others who have gone to God -- none of them forgotten. Later on, when the crowd had dispersed, there was time for a visit to the well-kept graves of our dead: Dominic Daly, Kevin Hillary Sheehy, Colman O'Connell -- and Thomas Kambasaya, Isaac Gambo, Hilary Akpunku and the most recent of the diocesan clergy, Christian Mayi. May they all RIP.

The cathedral - St Patrick's -- looks a bit shabby and shoddy, almost forlorn. Can it be smaller than in the past almost a relic of those years, when we lived on the proverbial shoestring?. It is nothing like the temple of the Lord that has arisen on the plot in Gwange, and loses out in comparison. The carvings of the Crucified and the Risen Christ still adorn the sanctuary, and the Saturday devotions to Our Lady of Good Counsel continue after morning Mass.

I was able to get to some stations 'down the line' and to spend a glorious Sunday in Pulka. Timmy, many are asking for you there: would love to see you back for their Golden Jubilee in January 2012! You should see the crowds there now, in both the compound and new church on the main road.

How resilient the Catholics in Maiduguri are, and how determined to be true to their faith! I was taken to St Rita's parish in Bulunkuttu, where Fr Michael Gajere was butchered to death in 2006. A plaque now marks the spot, next to the rebuilt parish church. I also saw the new Pastoral Centre near Auno, beyond the airport: untouched by the latest troubles. As I said, it was a visit of contrasting joy and sorrow. It was good to be there.

Raymond Hickey, OSA, Abuja, Nigeria.
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Back row: Philip Kelly, Declan Deasy, Michael Danaher, and Noel Hession. Front row: John Grace, (Sr Margaret Pres. Sister), Tommy McManus, Dave Crean and Paul O'Connor. Photo taken at Irish Provincial chapter in Limerick June '09. All above served in Ecuador.

AYE E-Newsletter August 2009

Website

www.aye10.org The website has been launched so please check it out for all information about AYE London 2010. There are also lots of photos and info on the venue, previous Encounters, St. Augustine and how you can get involved in the action!

International Youth Commission Meeting in London

The International Youth Commission joined the UK Team in London for a 2 day meeting and a visit to the AYE site at the end of July to assist in the preparations. Decisions were made, direction was given and the preparations continue!

'Relate' - UK National Youth Gathering

The young people of the UK met at Clare Priory recently for a retreat on the theme of relationships. They looked at relationships with Jesus and with each other through talks and discussions. They had an outdoor mass, a barbeque and bonfire and they also made a promotional DVD for AYE London 2010, so watch this space!

Sarah Darcy who attended for the first time said,

"It always boosts me when I am with people who are willing to share their thoughts on faith and it gives me courage to continue to share my faith with other people."

Price of Attending AYE

The cost for indoor accommodation is £300 or £200 for camping. There are 40 camping spaces available and these will be offered on a first come, first serve basis for those who wish to camp. Check out the website for fund raising ideas or get in touch for more!

Claire Webster
ayelondon2010@hotmail.com
0208 748 3254
www.aye10.org

ST AUGUSTINE'S CORK PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

This was my third and final year as Spiritual Director of the Cork community's Annual Pilgrimage to Lourdes. I was assisted by Fr Michael Leahy OSA, and Joe Long, a faithful choir member came and led us in song at all the liturgical celebrations. We were 44 pilgrims – not bad in this year of cutbacks. The theme for this year was "In the footsteps of St Bernadette".



So on the first morning, we went on a walking tour of the town to the places associated with the girl-saint, her place of birth, the old prison where her misfortunate parents had to live when their business failed, a visit to the parish church which has the baptismal font from the burned out church.

The two highlights were the torch light procession on the eve of the Assumption, which started at the Parish Church and came down to the Grotto. What a sea of people of all nationalities.

Then we joined in the Mass at the Grotto on the Feast of the Assumption. Lourdes has its place in the hearts of the people. It was a privilege to be part of it.

Matrin Crean OSA, Fethard.

E-mail: martincrean.sa@hotmail.com



Martin Crean second from left, Michael Leahy on right.

Hi, Pat Rathnure GAA Club needs 10 seconds of your time to help us become the "Best Club Under The Sun 2009". This competition is sponsored by Etihad Airways in conjunction with TG4. The winning club gets the trip of a life time to Abu Dhabi for 4 days coaching with Nicky English. We are down to the last 4 clubs from over 80 clubs and are the only Wexford entrant remaining - We want to get 30,000 votes and we need your help. Use this link to vote: <http://www.etihadgaa.ie/entries.php> Choose Rathnure GAA Club, enter your email address and that's it! Pat Codd OSA, New Ross.

Augustinian Pilgrimages, July/ August 2009

Hi Pat. I was fortunate to be part of two Augustinian pilgrimages this summer, each lasting one week. The first was to Rome (3 nights) and Cascia (4 nights). This annual event had been formerly led by the venerable Fr. Jackie Power OSA and, not surprisingly, had proved very popular. It was soon booked up by over 30 devotees of Mother of Good Counsel and St. Rita, coming principally from John's Lane, but also from Galway, Finglas and Ballyboden.

The itinerary was quite full and very appealing. It included in Rome a coach and walking tour of the city, which took in many of the principal places of interest. We also celebrated Mass at St. Patrick's Church where we were warmly welcomed by Tony Finn OSA and his team of tea-makers (a token of hospitality which was very much appreciated by the Group). This was followed the next day by a visit to and Mass at Our Lady of Good Counsel shrine at Genazzano. On that same day we had lunch at a beautiful location in Castelgondolfo, overlooking the splendid Lake Albano.

Cascia also proved very popular, of course, with our Group. We had Mass each day in a chapel just off the Basilica, which formerly had been the Sisters' own chapel. In the town square we also enjoyed an outdoor local evening of music and dance. From our base at Cascia we spent most of a day at Assisi, benefitting from a guided tour, and visiting the Augustinian Sisters at Montefalco on our return journey. We also visited Roccapiorena and Norcia on other days – the birthplaces of St. Rita and Sts. Benedict and Scholastica respectively. All in all, the week's pilgrimage proved to be spiritually, socially and culturally enriching.



Pat Gayer OSA, at the rear left corner and Tony Finn OSA at the rear right corner of picture.

The second pilgrimage was to Lourdes, organized once again from John's Lane by Joe Kirwan OSA. This too proved popular and consisted of about 45 pilgrims. As we know, Lourdes provides for many different spiritual experiences and observances, so that no two days are ever quite the same. We were fortunate to be there again this year for the Feast of the Assumption, and our hotel was quite close to the Sanctuary. We also happened to be there with the annual pilgrimage from St. Augustine's, Cork, ably led by Martin Crean OSA and Michael Leahy OSA. In the John's Lane Group also were Declan Brennan OSA and his mother. Such were the number of friars and people at Lourdes this year that there was even talk of a more co-ordinated Augustinian Provincial Pilgrimage next year! Perhaps... Pat Gayer OSA, John's Lane, Dublin.

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Turlough Quinn (Irish Province) extreme left of picture, at reception ceremony as Novice in Racine, USA.

GOLF DAY AT NEW ROSS G.C.
 Monday 17th August 2009
The Declan Brosnan OSA Cup
 Open to all Augustinian Fathers & Brothers
 Past and Present



David Egan presenting the winners' trophy to Ben O'Brien OSA, while Dick Brennan presents Ben with the Declan Brosnan OSA Cup.

DURING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER

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

02 1990 Br E. Wade
 03 1967 Fr J. O'Donoghue
 09 1968 Fr S. Breen
 09 1996 Fr J. Curtis
 10 2003 Fr B. Beary
 12 1996 Br J. O'Sullivan
 15 1991 Br P. Quinn
 16 1990 Fr G. O'Leary
 16 2000 Fr J.F. O'Shea
 17 2000 Fr V. Lyons
 20 1996 Fr B. Sinnott
 21 1995 Fr G. Cunnane
 30 1962 Fr F. Larkin

SUMMER REFLECTIONS

In Mid-August I returned to a Nairobi beset with problems of water and power rationing, due to lack of rains. This was rather ironic on a return from an Ireland where it could not stop raining. The finest week of our summer seems to have been the Chapter Week in Limerick, when we could amble at leisure across the Living Bridge of the university and admire the wildlife on the river Shannon below us. Now that the "shuffling of the pack" is taking effect at home I look back on a good holiday, despite the weather. The Chapter experience was a pleasant reunion, especially for those of us still in the diaspora. We pray that some of its goodwill and enthusiasm may translate into action in the years ahead. The hospitality of the home communities is always welcome for those of us coming from foreign parts. Despite the economic downturn I found boundless generosity among the people, especially when I celebrated my jubilee of a first Mass in Ireland. I wish to thank all those who braved it to share the occasion with me in Courtmacsherry. It was an oasis of celebration in the desert of a Ryan Report and the impending Dublin Report. That generosity was also evident when I visited my old haunt in Limerick to make the annual Mission Appeal, even though Bill admitted that the actual collection was 'down a bit' on last year. Despite the omens and clouds of uncertainty we pray that a good future may be in store for each of us. It is not an easy time for ministry in Ireland yet, we journey in hope, confident that the Spirit is with us. Congrats again, Pat, on keeping **IAN** flourishing as a link between all the members and associates of the Province. *Tom Sexton, o.s.a*

E-mail: tomsexton2005@gmail.com

Dear Pat. Thanks for August copy of **IAN**. I also want to say thanks too to yourself, Fr Martin Crean and all the Cork community for making the collection for the Chone mission. Fr Paul O'Connor is back with about two weeks and has been praising your gracious welcome and collaboration. It is great to see that the people of Cork are still generous in the midst of their own needs and crises. Ted McCarthy OSA
 E-mail: michaelmc@easynet.ec

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK.

Welcome to Vol. 3 No 3. Thanks to all who have contributed to this edition. Special thanks as always to Peter Galus, who does all the photographic work, to David Moran, John O'Connor for their invaluable work with each issue, and to Martin Crean, Ray Hickey, Michael Walsh, Paul O'Connor, Pat Gayer, Kitty Bennett, Giles O'Halloran and **OSA INT** for articles and photographs.

All past editions of **IAN** available on:

Web page: www.staugustinescork.ie

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