

# IRISH AUGUSTINIAN NEWS

## PRE CHAPTER PREPARATION

An open meeting of the Friars took place in the Anner Hotel, Thurles on 21.01.2009. The meeting opened with an extended "Morning Prayer" - A Prayer as we prepare the ground for Our Chapter Year. "That they may have life"

We are at the tilling stage...preparing the ground for our Chapter. We are questioning, reflecting, opening ourselves to the promptings of the Spirit. Each community took garden pot and prepared it, using gravel and peat moss, for sowing later on. Friars were then invited to address the group, and quite a number of interesting topics were introduced to the floor. These will be collated and presented for further discussion at the next meeting. Below is a contribution from Flor O'Callaghan OSA, who studied Obama's eight page speech:

If Barak Obama was the new Irish Provincial:

(Based on his speech at his inauguration on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2009).

My brothers, I stand here today humbled by the task before us, grateful for the trust you have bestowed. The oath is taken amidst gathering clouds and raging storms. The province has carried on because we, the people, have remained faithful to the ideals of our forbearers, and true to our founding documents.

That we are in the midst of crisis is now well understood. Less measurable but no less profound is a sapping of confidence across our province - a nagging fear that the decline of the province is inevitable. Today I say to you that the challenge's we face are real. They will not be met easily or in a short span of time. But know this, - they will be met.

On this day, we gather because we have chosen hope over fear. The time has come to reaffirm our enduring spirit; to carry forward that God-given promise. It has been the risk takers, the doers, the makers of things - who have carried us in search of a new life.

Our time of standing pat, of protecting narrow interests and putting off unpleasant decisions - that time has surely passed. Starting today, we must pick ourselves up, dust ourselves off, and begin again the work of remaking the Province.

And we will act. This we can do. This we will do, when imagination is joined to common purpose, and necessity to courage. The question we ask today is whether it works. Where the answer is yes, we intend to move forward. Where the answer is no, programmes will end. And those of us who are in leadership will be held to account.

We are keepers of this legacy. We can meet those new treats that demand even greater effort - even greater cooperation and understanding between ourselves. We will not apologise for our way of life, nor will we waver in its defence. We say to you now that our spirit is stronger.



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For as much as leadership can do and must do, it is ultimately the faith and determination of the members of the Province upon which this Province relies. Those values upon which our success depends - honesty and hard work, courage and fair play, tolerance and curiosity, loyalty and patriotism - these things are old. These things are true. What is required of us now is a new era of responsibility - a recognition, on the part of every member of the Province, that we have duties to ourselves, our Province, and our Order, duties that we do not grudgingly accept but rather seize gladly, firm in the knowledge that there is nothing so satisfying to the spirit, so defining of our character, than giving our all to a difficult task. This is the source of our confidence - the knowledge that God calls on us to shape an uncertain destiny.

So let us mark this day with remembrance, of who we are and how far we have travelled. Let it be told to the future world...that in the depth of winter, members of the Province, alarmed at one common danger, came forth to meet [it]. With hope and virtue, let us brave once more the icy currents, and endure what storms may come. Let it be said by those who come after us, that when we were tested we refused to let this journey end, that we did not turn back nor did we falter; and with eyes fixed on the horizon and God's grace upon us, we carried forth that great gift of the Irish Province and delivered it safely to future generations. Thank you. God bless you. And God bless the Irish Augustinian Province.

Flor O'Callaghan OSA, Dungarvan.



Garden pot being prepared by Pat Codd, Philip Kelly and Michael Collender OSA, New Ross.

## SOME READERS' COMMENTS:

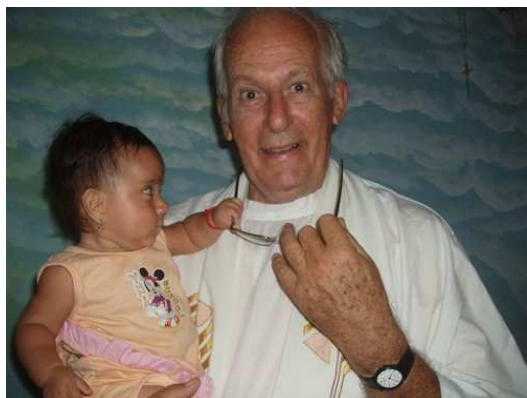
Hello Pat and greetings from Rome! Here are some photos of our Cena Internationale from last Saturday. All the friars from the various countries were invited to prepare something native...Americans made turkey, the Irish had smoked salmon and black pudding with some Guinness and Jameson of course. There was food, including deserts from Ireland, UK, Spain, Mexico, Columbia, Italy, Germany, Slovakia, Philipeans, Korea, Viet Nam, Haiti, Kenya, Nigeria.

Colm O'Mahony OSA (Rome).



Billy Deasy, Tony Finn, Jim Downey, Colm O'Mahony and Brian O'Sullivan.

Pat, I can't remember if I sent you this. I met up with Andrea, the first child born in the hospital, and had the temerity to ask to hold her for a photo. Just as it was being taken she made a dive for my specs, so we had a tug of war. Definitely a Specsavers -- they are the only ones I have between me and blindness. Paul O'Connor OSA (Ecuador)



Hi! Pat. Michael Barry here. I just received two issues of your IAN production. The reason for that being I screwed up my PO Box number. So the original number you had was correct and is PO Box AB 20487, Marsh Harbour, Island of Abaco, Bahamas. Sorry for the inconvenience but I now have two good reads. Thanks and much appreciated

## MICHAEL'S WALK

I first heard about Michael's walk by text from a friend who said she was reading the "Examiner" in Cork and there was an account of an Augustinian doing a protest walk. I checked it out on the "Examiner" and "Irish Times" web pages. Not much about the walk though there was a lot about the Bishop on the "Examiner". On the RTE webpage I got a video clip where I could see Michael setting off from Cobh cathedral and could see him being interviewed but could not get any sound. We have been kept updated at times with comments from Paul O'Connor in Ecuador.

When I heard about it all I was in admiration of his gesture, which seems to have been lonely in some quarters but well supported in others. I have felt it is something I would not be able to do myself but am glad that someone else has the "guts"

for it. I thought it an interesting touch that the bishop gave him a blessing at the start, emphasising that it was more a walk in solidarity with victims rather than a protest against the bishop, though the dividing line may be narrow. In the present climate, as we await the Dublin revelations, it is good to have someone stand up to be counted. Tom Sexton OSA

Thanks, Pat, for the latest IAN, with the intriguing 'Foster's Irish Oddities': I'm itching for more. Let me confirm that [rhickeyosa@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:rhickeyosa@hotmail.co.uk) is the proper address. Thanks, Ray Hickey OSA Abuja, Nigeria.

Pat, I would not have used the phrase "... a bit daft" about the walk of atonement. Kieran O'Brien OSA.

Pat, Not everyone thinks it daft of Michael to do the walk. Maybe you put in that comment to draw further replies. I'd say you'll get them. I've been sent extracts from Canada that describe it as a brave declaration. Bob Prevost's (Superior General OSA) comment is found below. Paul O'Connor OSA, (Ecuador)

Hi Paul, Thanks for sending the article on Michael Mernagh. I sent it on to Emanuel Borg, and it is now up on the Order's web site. Good PR, and a great gesture on Michael's part. All the best. Bob Prevost OSA (Rome)

Dear Editor, I'm watching our Pilgrim's Progress from North America on the internet with interest and applaud Fr Mernagh. No it's not daft, as one writer suggests! Let him pause and think; friars of old were for the poor in the community, victims or perpetrators (and if examined closely I bet quite a number of the perpetrators were they themselves victims).

What a fine action on the behalf of one person who bravely demonstrates that we are not entirely helpless. A simple gesture – inviting others to walk a bit of the road reminding us that we are all responsible in the end, that there is something else, a balance between justice and mercy which is rarely addressed by the many different forms of media. I'm sure many other women, like myself, are touched by this gentle form of activism and will take hope that some good may be wrought.

Yours sincerely, T. D'Monte



Archbishop Martin, greets Michael and Ben O'Brien OSA



Archbishop Martin praises "man of principle" as atonement priest ends epic walk in the Pro-Cathedral.



## PRAYER IN TIME OF RECESSION

Prayer For Times of Recession" is an original Christian prayer submitted by an "About.com" member. During these troubled times of financial turmoil and economic instability, many across the globe are feeling fear, anxiety and insecurity. Yet this prayer for times of recession reminds us that God is faithful and he will never fail to sustain and guide his children.

" God, we thank you for the gift of your presence - in Christ who is your Word made flesh.

We need your wisdom especially in these troubled times, of uncertainty, as financial institutions crumble.

Many are gripped by anxieties and fears. Those who know your name will put their trust in you, for you will not abandon those who seek you. Now, we seek your wisdom to guide us when the way is confusing.

We pray for the many people affected by the housing and credit market collapse. We pray for those whose life savings and finances have been wiped out.

Restore hope to those who have lost their livelihoods and homes. Grant peace and healing to families and couples, whose relationships have been strained.

We pray for those who do not know you and have no one to turn to, the many who have been driven to despair. Lord, give them strength and resilience. Make us ready to stand alongside those who are weighed down by the pressure of living.

Help us to bring your compassionate presence, through the sharing of each other's burdens. Christ, be the light which dispels our darkness, in our moments of anxiety and insecurity. You are the voice of faith who proclaims, "PEACE, BE STILL".

Give us hope to be able to find You in all situations and events. Help us to live wisely, with moderation and prudence. Help us to exercise discernment and sound judgement, and to conduct your wisdom, to keep things in perspective.

We continue now to trust in your goodness and provision.

For you are a God who hears, answers, and acts on our behalf, out of the abundance of your eternal love. We trust you in your grace and mercy to sustain us. Amen."

The above Prayer was used in Abbeyside Parish Church on Sunday last 25th January at 9.30 am Mass by Matt Cooney OSA. He tells me it came from Flor O'Callaghan OSA. Flor said he cobbled it from a much longer one he got on the net. Google "Prayer in time of Recession" for original version.

Dear Pat, Just to let you know that our web-site is finally LIVE, up and running ! I have finally pulled it together, though we will be fine-tuning / improving and adding to as we go along.... now that we finally know how ! You can find us at: [www.johnslanechurch.ie](http://www.johnslanechurch.ie) Giles O'Halloran OSA.

'First Site of the Year 2009': such was the heading which welcomed the arrival of John's Lane on the web by the company GetOnline: "The year 2009 starts with a really nicely designed and organized site: [www.johnslanechurch.ie](http://www.johnslanechurch.ie)." It has quite a number of 'visitors' each day. Compliments to Giles for setting it all up.

Pat Gayer OSA.

Orlagh website has a new look:

<http://www.orlagh.ie>

Prosit to Giles and John Byrne on above websites. (Editor).

## BRIEF ENCOUNTERS.... FUTURE TIES ?

Sunday, January 25 became one of those days which gave rise to new hopes for the future. For the first time members of the Church of Ireland, Very Revd Nigel Dunne, Dean of Cork and the Dean's Vicar Rev John Dardis and members of their congregation from Saint Fin Barre's Cathedral joined us in the late afternoon for an ecumenical prayer service, containing carefully chosen readings from scripture and prayers of intercession.

The Polish choir enriched the occasion with joyful, uplifting music just right for the event.

Later in the evening the OSA'S made their way to Saint Fin Barre's to join the congregation there in their Evensong. The experience of praying and sharing the psalms brought a feeling of oneness as we became more acutely aware of how much we share in common in our spiritual journey. After the prayer service we mingled and chatted for some time over light refreshments. The evening ended with short guided tour of the Cathedral.

Last Sunday January 25 provided the opportunity of a very special encounter between the Augustinian and Church of Ireland community in Cork. The aspiration of Jesus in the solitary priestly prayer, "John 17", became a living symbol. – that they may be One.

Michael O'Regan OSA, Cork.

## AN UPDATE ON TOMMY McMANUS OSA

On the afternoon of Tuesday, 13th January, 2009 Fr Tommy McManus arrived in John's Lane for a short visit, his first since being admitted to the Beacon Hospital in May of last year. He was accompanied by three "helpers" from the Royal Hospital in Donnybrook, where he is under the excellent care of Dr J J Barry, a nephew of Fr Harry Leahy OSA. (J J is a former student of St Augustine's College, Dungarvan).

Tommy looked great! To our delightful surprise he walked into John's Lane, aided of course by his helpers, but, nevertheless he did manage to walk in. During a 45 minute visit, Tommy took his three friends on a tour of the Priory, including his bedroom (where they observed how he managed to get in and out of bed – unaided, how he sat at his desk etc).

He then proceeded - on foot - to show them the toilets and bathroom and how he would manage the facilities there. After showing them the oratory and how he would cope there, Tommy led the way to the dining room, where we celebrated his "home-coming" with tea and Christmas cake.

I am pleased to share this good news with the Province that Tommy is making great progress with his physiotherapy and is always happy to welcome a visiting Friar! I am reliably informed that he has been /is a "model patient", bearing his long and serious infirmity with great patience and an infectious sense of humour – which has contributed in no small measure to his continuing progress! – laughter the best medicine!

My sincere gratitude to you all for your enquiries, your assurances of prayers, your cards and your kind word's of support over the last nine months. It is very much appreciated by both Tommy, his sister Polly the McManus family, and the John's Lane community.

It is our fervent hope that Tommy will be back with us – permanently – in the very near future. Please continue to keep him in your prayers. Tony Egan OSA (Prior)

### SUICIDE VICTIMS SUPPORT SERVICE

A special Mass for the victims of suicide and their families will take place here in the Augustinian Church on Sun. February 1<sup>st</sup> at 1.15pm. It is open to anyone who wishes to attend. Some two years ago a support organisation SODAD (Save our Sons and Daughters), was established in Drogheda. The initiative was in great measure the work of Peter Moroney and his family. This group have been responsible for organising many events in support of those who have been directly or indirectly bereaved by suicide. The special Mass is one such event and is celebrated on the first Sunday of February each year. In the words of a SOSAD spokesperson:

"This is a wonderful opportunity to remember those we have lost, in a very special way and pay a respectful tribute to them all. Everybody who has lost someone, whether family or friend, is invited and they are all asked if they wish, to bring a special token with them to place at the front of the church for the duration of the Mass. This token can be anything from a photograph to a football jersey or other item which has special meaning for loved ones."

Music will be provided by a group of students from Our Lady's College, Greenhills along with local singing legend Timmy Regan. Public representative and members of the emergency services have also been invited to attend and take part. Iggy O'Donovan OSA (Drogheda).

### DURING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

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

01 1971 Fr. K O'Flynn  
02 2004 Fr. P Killian  
04 1961 Fr. N Fitzhenry  
04 1990 Fr. H Sheehy  
09 1969 Fr. T Hoyne  
11 1969 Fr. TL McCabe  
12 2006 Fr. L Lyons  
13 2007 Fr F O'Shaughnessy  
13 2000 Fr. FX Martin  
16 1982 Fr. L Meagher  
18 1982 Fr. C Roche  
20 2006 Fr. B Baldwin  
25 1989 Fr. J Anderson  
26 2004 Fr. P Tinney  
27 1995 Fr D Treacy  
29 1960 Fr. PG Byrne  
29 1992 Fr. T Cooney

Please remember in your prayers Julia Mariah O'Connor, sister of the late Jerry Sheehan OSA who died in early January and was buried in Knocknagree. Co Cork.

### THE LATE FR JIM SHEERIN (Kiltegan)

I am just back from the diocesan Requiem Mass for Fr Jim Sheerin who died in Ireland on 17 January. He arrived here in 1956, just after his ordination: he spent a long period on promotion work in Britain and Ireland, and returned to Abuja in 2000. He found his greatest fulfilment in helping and counselling the diocesan clergy. Archbishop Onaiyekan was flanked by Fr Dermot Connolly for the SPS, Kiltegan and Fr Patrick Arowele for the diocesan clergy, over 30 of them turned up. The Irish Ambassador Kyle O'Sullivan was there as was his Deputy, Shane Stevens, both often speak of Richie Goode and Mike Brennock. Good memories, valuable links.

Cheers for Jim Sheerin who is so well remembered.

Ray Hickey OSA. Abuja, Nigeria.

### BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Belated congratulations and best wishes to Fr Michael Clifford OSA, who was 90 years old on 21.01. 2009. Michael served in Dungarvan, Hoxton, Australia and since he returned has worked in Callan. A great man for the quest. His present address: Strathmore Lodge Nursing Home, Callan, Co Kilkenny. Tel. 056 775 55 15

### CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to David Kelly OSA, Ballyboden, who has produced "Reflections for Weekdays" for First to Fourth Week of the year inclusive. David lectures in Spirituality at the Milltown Institute, Dublin and the reflections are published in the current Issue of "Scripture in Church," 1 January to 31 March 2009.

### SALE OF WORK

Greetings from Dungarvan – home of the last surviving Sale of Work! This year our laity did Trojan work for our one night stand. There was great enthusiasm in the face of a possible cancellation. If that happened Mary Power said, "You would be run out of town!"

For years now the townspeople of Dungarvan always rally around and the mighty sum of €12,000 was raised for the Augustinian Missions. Seamus Humphreys OSA

### THE IRISH AUGUSTINIAN ONGOING FORMATION COMMISSION PRESENTS

What do you want me to do for you?  
Phase Two of  
**HEARING THE GOSPEL AGAIN FOR THE FIRST TIME**  
in  
**Horse and Jockey**  
**Thurles**  
**Co Tipperary**  
**FEBRUARY 19 – 21 2009**

### FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK.

Welcome to Vol. 2 No 8. Thanks to all who have contributed to this edition. Sorry I had to chop some articles and omit other news items. Special thanks as always to Peter Galus, David Moran, John O'Connor, and to Paul O'Connor, Colm O'Mahony, and John Byrne for photographs.

Photographs are always welcome. My urging's in January for photographs came to naught! Perhaps the Priors will now take up the request to supply me with Photographs on an ongoing monthly basis!

A photo is worth a thousand words! Close-up photos of three or four people at most - then we can have some quality!

All past editions of IAN available on:

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

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