

IRISH AUGUSTINIAN NEWS

“HOLLY BOUGH” EDITION - 2008



Dear Brothers and Friends
in Augustine,

May your Christmas, whether at home or abroad, be filled with joy and peace. Praise and thanks be to God for the many blessings enjoyed during 2008. On behalf of the Provincial Council, I wish to thank most sincerely all who have ministered on behalf of the Province during the past 12 months, friars and lay folk alike. I also want to thank the members of the

Provincial Council for their sterling service throughout the year.

Among the highlights of the year I might mention:

- The **Footsteps of Augustine** pilgrimage through Italy in October. I am hopeful that the flame lit during that week will continue to burn brightly into the future.
- **The Times We Live In** (Phase 1 of **Hearing The Gospel Again**), which took place at the Horse & Jockey near Thurles in November. May the 2009 phases be equally successful.
- The September Province retreat at Glencomeragh which afforded time and space for prayer and reflection. The plan is to offer similar opportunities during the coming year.
- The arrival of new recruit Turlough into the Galway community on Sept 1 and the fact that Colm has settled well in Santa Monica. We must continue to pray often for vocations and be prepared to issue personal invitations to suitable candidates.
- As always, the most pleasing aspect of the year resides in the generosity and commitment of so many friars, providing such great service in our public churches, parishes and schools. Credit is also due to those involved in more individual apostolates, whether at home or abroad.

I conclude with St Augustine's Sermon 189:

“And when we say he was born of a virgin, it's a great thing, you're astonished. He's God, don't be astonished; let astonishment give way to thanksgiving and praise. Let faith be present; believe that it happened..... He agreed to become man; what more do you want? Hasn't God humbled himself enough for you? The one who was God has become man. The inn was crowded and cramped, so he was wrapped in rags, laid in a manger; you heard it when the gospel was read. Who wouldn't be astonished? The one who filled the universe could find no room in a lodging-house; laid in a feeding trough, he became our food.”

Gerry Horan OSA (Provincial)

SEEN BY STARLIGHT

On a frost-flecked night the angels sang
and made great stirrings in the sky,
above the streets of Bethlehem,
and out o'er the shepherd fields hard by.

And from the dark a clear star shone,
and shepherds peered with sacred awe
at a couple, rapt in radiant bliss
and a new Child cradled on the straw.

And ever since down all the years
the world is drawn to Christmas night,
to angels' song and shepherds' praise,
and Mary and Joseph in the lantern light.

And ever since the wise have pondered
how so small a Child could come to save,
and to this day there's no end of wonder,
kneeling with the Magi at the cave.

And ever since have grown men hearkened
to forgotten fairy-tale and nursery rhyme,
for to this day a sense of childhood
comes over the world at Christmas time.

John O'Connor, OSA



E-MAIL ADDRESSES CHRISTMAS 2088

Aidan O'Leary: akclonmines@eircom.net
Ailbe Brennan: patpresto@msn.com
Archbishop Matthew: catholickaduna@yahoo.com
Australian Province: osaadmin@bigpond.com
Ben O'Brien: benignus@hotmail.co.uk
Bernard O'Connor: osabernard@hotmail.co.uk
Bill Prendiville: wprend@gmail.com
Brendan McDonnell: brenmcd43@hotmail.com
Brian O'Sullivan: bosullivan@aug.org
Chris Fitzgerald: fund_fitz@easynet.net.ec
Colm O'Mahony: colmomahony@hotmail.com
Dave Crean: dcrean@hotmail.com
David Fitzgerald: osadassa@yahoo.fr
David Kelly: dkellyosa@iol.ie
Declan Deasy: d.deasy@stpatricksrome.com
Denis Mason: denismason@gmail.com
Des Foley: desmondtofoley@eircom.net
Dick Brennan: rjbrennan@btinternet.com
Dick Lyng: rlyng@indigo.ie
Eng/Scot Prov: augprov.engscot@btinternet.com
Finbarr Fogarty: declanff@aol.com
Flor O'Callaghan: focal@eircom.net
Frances Aherne: faherne@yahoo.com
Frank Sexton: franksexton67@hotmail.com
Gabriel McDonagh: gabrielmcd@eircom.net
Gary McCloskey: gary.mccloskey@merrimack.edu
Gerry Horan: gerry_horan@hotmail.com
Giles O'Halloran: hoselig@eircom.net
Greg Howard: greghoward10@02.ie
Henry McNamara: henrymcnamara@kairoscomms.ie
Iggy O'Donovan: igosa5@hotmail.com
Ignatius Farrell: igsfarrell@yahoo.co.uk
Irish Prov. Sec: hibprovsec@irishbroadband.net
James Downey: downeyosa@hotmail.com
Jerry Hackett: hackettj@mailbox.sc.edu
Jim Downey: downeyosa@hotmail.com
John Byrne: john@orlagh.ie
Joe Lam: lamcquy@libero.it
John Grace: jgrace@olfchurch.net
John Hennebry: johnhennebry@eircom.net
John Hughes: johnhughesosa@eircom.net
John Lyng: jlyngosa@eircom.net
John Niyiring: jnniyiring@yahoo.com
John O'Connor: johncolmoconnor@eircom.net
Kieran O'Mahony: kieran@orlagh.ie
Larry Brassill: laurencebrassill@hotmail.com
Liam Ryan: liamgryan@yahoo.com
Malachy Loughran: malachy1@go.free.indigo
Mark Minihane: markminihane@aol.com
Martin Crean: martincrean.sa@hotmail.com
Martin Nolan: tomas.nolan@gmail.com

Matt Cooney: mattcy@eircom.net
Michael Boyle: mboyleosa@eircom.net
Michael Campbell: revmgcampbell@hotmail.com
Michael Mernagh: mmernagh@sicdda.ie
Michael O'Regan: mioregan@live.ie
Michael O'Sullivan: maosullivan7@eircom.net
Michael Sullivan (Korea): msul50@hotmail.com
Michael Walsh: m55walsh@yahoo.co.uk
MichaelCollender: michaelcollender@eircom.net
Mick Leahy: derleahy@eircom.net
Mike Brennock: mbrennock@eircom.net
Mike Walsh: fmdm@jos.rel.nig.com
Ned Sullivan: nedsullivan@eircom.net
Niall Coghlan: niallcoghlan@hotmail.com
Nigerian Prov Sec: petmaig@yahoo.com
Noel Hession: hessionn@eircom.net
Noel Keane: noelkeane@eircom.net
Paddy Lennon: lennonjp19@gmail.com
Paddy O'Reilly: paddyforeilly@eircom.net
Padraig Cullinane: padraig.cullinane@ufcmail.ie
Pat Codd: patcodd@eircom.net
Pat Furness: patfurness07@eircom.net
Pat Gayer: pcgayer@eircom.net
Paul Flynn: ofloinn05@hotmail.com
Paul O'Brien: paullobrien@yahoo.ca
Paul O'Connor: poconnor@ecua.net.ec
Philip Kelly: frphilip@eircom.net
Ray Hickey: rhickeyosa@hotmail.co.uk
Raymond Hickey: nuntiusadmin@hotmail.com
Richie Goode: goodernm@eircom.net
Rui Caldeira: rui.jorge.caldeira@gmail.com
Seamus Ahearne: saherne@gofree.indigo.ie
Seamus Ahearne: seamus.aherne@gmail.com
Seamus Humphreys: shumpherys@eircom.net
Shem Furlong: shemos@eircom.net
Tadhg Crowley: tadhcrowley2@eircom.net
Ted McCarthy: michaelmc@easynet.ec
Terry Fee: terryfee@hotmail.co.uk
Tom Cooney: tcooney@milltown-institute.ie
Tom Greally: Thomas.greally@stgregs.nsw.edu.au
Tom Sexton: tomsexton2005@gmail.com
Tommy K. McManus: tfjkmcmamus@eircom.net
Tony Egan: tonymegan@gmail.com
Tony Finn: t.finn@stpatricksrome.com
Tony Finn: anthonyfinn1@gmail.com

Above, please find a list of e-mail addresses that I have gathered over the last year and a half. If there are any mistakes or omissions, please forward corrections / additions to the Editor and I will include them in the January edition.

USEFUL WEBSITE:

Primary School Resources for Advent and Christmas: www.ciadvent.ie

ECUADOR - THE VALUE OF A BONUS



It seems that I'm fated to start off Mondays for the future at 5am, bringing the masons in an hour's journey to Novillo, where a small bonus is getting very spectacular results in building a new parish

house. See above photo of the first eight days work.

What a tremendous advance they made this week. There are three masons and two helpers. Between them they threw down a floor of nearly a hundred metres, built ten columns and laid 5,000 bricks – in five working days.



Luckily for me, when I got the puncture, I was still on the way to Novillo so I had plenty of help to change the wheel - I couldn't help them myself as I had to take the pictures! It wasn't simple. Last Friday I nearly lost a wheel on the same journey as someone had not tightened the nuts last time it was changed. The holes for the nuts were all damaged. The turner did not do a great job on mending the wheel, so it didn't fit well when we had to change it today. But we got there with a few belts of a stone.



The house will be big, but it will be for all kinds of meetings and not just for the PP to lounge around in. And it will be higher than is normal because I'm experimenting with how to make a house cooler. (We built the hospital far higher than is normal and it seems to be giving results -- just that they complain of the cold (26°C) at night.) Ted McCarthy and I will meet up in Chone this evening for supper.

Paul O'Connor OSA

Hi Pat, Le gach ghui I gcoir na Nollag agus na hath bhliana agus buidhcas mor. Keep up the good work. Brennan Ipse.

JOS - TROUBLES



On Friday 28th November some Muslem thugs knocked part of the outer wall of the Augustinian Monastery here in Jos which is situated in a strong Moslem area.

They burned some of the buildings and injured a few of the students. It was miraculous that none were seriously injured or killed. There were tit-for-tat Christian/Moslem reprisals in other parts of the town for the next two days.

Tudun Wada, where I live in our Novitiate, is a strong Christian community and all the Moslem shops and compounds here were burned. It is very hard to know how many were killed or injured but the estimation that hundreds were killed could very well be true.

As I write this (the following Wednesday evening Dec. 3) things are getting back to normal but there were still buildings smouldering near the Monastery when I visited there this evening. Greetings. Brendan McDonnell OSA.



Staff quarters in the Monastery, Jos

SERMON 190 ST AUGUSTINE SPEAKS ON CHRISTMAS DAY 395

“Let us proclaim the good news: He lies in a manger, but he holds the whole world in his hands; he sucks his mother's breasts but feeds the angels; he is swaddled in rags, but clothes us in immortality; he is suckled but also worshipped; he could find no room at the inn but makes a temple for himself in the hearts of believers. He did this that “weakness” might become “strong” that “strength” became “weak.” We are overcome with wonder as we recognise his “lowliness” for us and our “loftiness” because of him. We therefore kindle love in ourselves and among us, to grasp his eternity.” (Brought to my attention by Seamus Ahearne in his Rivermount Parish Bulletin).

READERS' COMMENTS !

Hello Pat, a correction.....I cannot be contacted at flynn@svdphb.org It was an e-mail address at the former parish. At the new parish of which I am 1 year and 6 months, I can be contacted at ofloinn05@hotmail.com
Yours fraternally, Paul Flynn O.S.A. (California)

Hi Pat,
Thank you ever so much for the December issue of IAN. It made for fascinating reading especially the expedition to Italy as also the spiritual rallying of the Friars at Horse and Jockey. This is just to chip in my email.

denismason@gmail.com

The school goes well. I will be in touch. Regards to the brethren Denis Mason OSA (Kenya)

Re new cameras in Church:

Very big improvement. There may be trouble by having the servers sitting behind the lectern! They can be a distraction. You may wish to know that the Redemptorists in Limerick paid a nice compliment to the Augustinians in O'Connell Street Limerick. Fr. Byrne, C.Ss.R on the occasion of launching the newly decorated Church of Mount Saint Alphonsus in Limerick was preaching to the confraternity last Monday night. His theme was "I have a dream". His "dream" was that the troubled city which used to be known as "Confraternity City" would be united by the Eucharist in the newly refurbished Redemptorist's Church. Then he went on to say "the Augustinians in O'Connell Street are bringing about healing through the Eucharist. I often drop in there myself and the Augustinians are doing great work there". Seventy years ago I was a server in the Redemptorists; about eighty years ago John Meagher was a member of the choir there. Every good wish,
Kieran O'Brien, OSA (Abbeyside)

Thanks, Pat, for the newsletter. Much enjoyed!
+Greg Campbell OSA (Lancaster, England)

Dear Pat Congrats and thanks for new IAN.
Keep it up. Frank Sexton OSA (Limerick)

Dear Pat, thanks for sending us the IAN. I could open the file without any problems. Interesting news about the Augustinian life in Ireland.
Fraternally, Joe Lam OSA (San Gimignano, Italy)

Hello Pat, I got your message saying you couldn't send a copy of IAN by e-mail - not to worry I read it on line, wouldn't miss an edition. Colm O'Mahony OSA (Rome).

Hi Pat, thank you very much for sending me your IAN. It's always good to keep in touch through the IAN.
Best regards from Spain. Rui Caldeira OSA

Dear Pat, thank you very much for sending your production of IAN. It is one of my best reads of the month. Keep up the good work and my best wishes to all the friars.

Michael Barry (Bahamas)

Best wishes Pat. You really deserve high praise and great appreciation for creating and maintaining IAN. It indicates that there is life in the province still. Seamus Ahearne OSA

CONGRATULATIONS

Michael Collender OSA, recently completed his Masters Degree in Psychotherapy at University College Cork. He was conferred by Dr Michael Murphy, President of UCC, on December 10. Michael is at present school chaplain in Good Counsel New Ross. Auguri.



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Greetings from Cork. On behalf of staff, David Moran, Peter Galus, John O'Connor and myself, a big thanks for the many contributions I received over the last few days. At this busy time of year all your efforts are deeply appreciated and made this edition possible. I had a tremendous response, and I am sorry I could not accommodate all your contributions, but I do hope to use them in the January edition.

Last Sunday Dec 7 was a special day here in St Augustine's when we began web casting all our church services with new cameras as 29 young and not so young Polish people made their Confirmation. Bishop John Buckley, a great supporter of the Polish Community in Cork and Ross, did the honours. Some photos available on our website: www.staugustinescork.ie

Also if you open "Welcome Page" on our website and click on "camera icon" you can tune in to all our church services.

Wishing you all an abundance of peace and joy. Pat Moran



Pat Moran OSA, Editor, St Augustine's Priory,
Washington St, Cork
Tel. 021 427 04 10.
087 235 25 82.
Fax. 021 427 53 81
E-mail: sacw@iol.ie
Web: www.staugustinescork.ie