

DEFINITORY NEWS

Issue No. 2012-1

Franciscan Province of Ireland

January 2012

The Meeting was held in Merchants' Quay on 9–10 January 2012. All members were present. Prayer and liturgies were led by Pat Younge, who also chaired the meeting.

FRIARIES

Multyfarnham:

It is hoped that LARCC will finally be able to occupy their section of the building by the middle of next month. At this stage it is almost certain that a prominent Irish charitable body will become tenants of the remainder of the building.

Gormanston:

Ulic Troy, Rector attended the meeting to report on how matters are going at the College since taking up his appointment. The new Board of Management is getting to grips with the various tasks to be undertaken. The deficit for the present academic year will be less than previously anticipated and this was welcomed. Naturally, the staff of the College are anxious to know whether the Province will continue to support the College financially into the future. The Definitory feels that the new Board needs time to allow it to tackle the financial difficulties and so the proposed assembly of the friars will take place at a later date, but before the next Provincial Chapter. The Board is currently undertaking an Ethos audit of the College to ensure that all members of staff have an understanding of what a Franciscan College ought to be about.

The Definitory also met with the local Guardian, Brendan Scully, to discuss the community's concerns regarding the move to La Verna. It was decided that the next meeting of the Definitory will take place in Gormanston.

The **AGM of the Gormanston College School Trust (GCST)** was attended by the Trustees (the Definitory), Ulic Troy and Brendan Scully (members of the Board) and Tracy Comerford of L&P, secretary to S.F. Trust.



Waterford: Hugh visited the Chaplaincy in Waterford at the request of the five friars working there. The Chaplaincy is a Provincial commitment and we need to plan for the future. The Definitory acknowledged the importance of this ministry and hope that other friars will become available to continue this ministry into the future.

Rossnowlagh—La Verna: Plans for an extension to La Verna were submitted by the Rossnowlagh fraternity. This will involve constructing a separate oratory as the present oratory is inadequate for groups to use. It will also involve the construction of a larger meeting room. A description of the replanting plan for the woodlands at the Friary was also submitted. It is intended to replace the conifer species with broadleaved trees, mainly native ones. This will be implemented on a phased basis over the next ten years and will pay for itself.

Kraainem: Pat Power has been asked by the Archdiocese of Mechelen-Brussels to take responsibility for the coordination of Sunday services in the various English-speaking churches in Brussels. A letter of agreement has been drawn up and sent to the Archdiocese.

PROVINCIAL COMMITTEES

Formation: The details of the forthcoming Guardian's meeting were finalized. This will be held 31 January—2 February and details will be sent to the Guardians soon.

Plans for the holding of Cluster meetings next October on the topic of evangelisation in an increasingly secular culture were discussed. The topic would implicitly embrace two major issues (1) the future of our involvement in education and (2) adult faith formation.

Adult Faith Formation: Niall O'Connell, Provincial Animator of Adult Faith Formation, attended the meeting and gave a report. The Committee has not met yet but hopes to do so soon. Niall gave an outline of the programme at Merchants' Quay. He plans to prepare a resource pack on the forthcoming papal encyclical on 'The Renewal of Faith' due next October. Friars could be offered a day's training on the use of the pack so that it could be used in the friaries.

Healthcare: The idea of appointing a Healthcare Support Group was suggested by Colette as a means of helping her in her work. The following were appointed: Philip Lane, Seán Murphy and Isidore Cronin.

OTHER MATTERS

Franciscan Matters: Michael Lenihan's appointment as Bishop of the new diocese of La Ceiba, Honduras was welcomed. Hugh and Kieran are unable to attend the ordination due to other commitments and Eugene will represent the Province on 11 February. A donation to Michael on behalf of the Province was agreed.

The Sick and Infirm: We remembered the sick friars especially those who have been ill or infirm over time: Alexis King, Matthew McDonald and Sebastian Tighe and those who have been ill more recently: Feargus McEveney and Fiachra Ó Ceallaigh

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Definitory will be held in Gormanston on 12—14 February 2012, beginning at 7pm on the 12th.

