



DEFINITORY NEWS

Issue No. 2012—8

Franciscan Province of Ireland

November 2012

The meeting was held in Merchants' Quay on 19—21 November. All members were present. Prayer and liturgies were led by Pat Lynch, who also chaired the meeting.

Friars

Brendan McGrath will return to Ireland in late December following his short sabbatical in Rome. He has been assigned to the Merchants' Quay community.

Since Rory O'Leary's death, the Waterford community has felt stretched and in need of a replacement. Consequently **Richard Kelly** was appointed to join the community and will work in church ministry and be part-time chaplain in the hospital. He will take up residence by 1 January.

Pat Lynch has been re-elected to the Executive of Vocations Ireland.

The opening of the permanent exhibition of **Ambrose O'Mahony's** paintings at Marymount University Hospice in Cork by Hugh is due to take place shortly after the Definitory. This event recognizes the great gift that Ambrose has developed over many years and the way in which 'his painting is his prayer'.

Friaries

A declaration suppressing the friaries of **Carrick-on-Suir, Limerick and Wexford** was made by the General Definitory and was signed by the Minister General on 31 October 2012. Wexford friary is still in the process of being transferred to the Conventuals.

The Definitory met with representatives of L&P, Conor O'Brien (Chair of the Board of Management), Ulic Troy (Rector) and Dermot Lavin (Principal) in ongoing discussions about the **Gormanston College**. Currently there are 256 pupils attending the college.

Most of the friars have moved from the castle to **La Verna**.

Initial Formation

Hugh reported on his visit last month to Canterbury. Joe Condren will visit this month as part of our policy to make monthly visits to our friars in formation there. Jack O'Riordan is now in the second and final year of his studies in philosophy.

A document on the retention and sharing of Personal Data of friars in formation was approved and will entail a change of procedure in the admission process.



Nativity, Oil on Canvas, by Murillo Fillipino

Ongoing Formation

The **Cluster Meetings** went well and were a good fraternal occasion. All the groups liked the programme though some features of it were criticized in a positive way. Niall and his Committee were praised and congratulated on the success of the gatherings. The Committee will now decide on what the next stage of the process should be.

The idea of having a retreat in the Holy Land was floated at the cluster meetings and was welcomed by about 10 - 15 friars. Planning for this will begin soon. It is envisaged that the stay will last ten days, probably in October, and friaries will cover the cost of members of their community.

Recent changes in the Custody

At the request of the Archbishop of Harare the friars have accepted responsibility for the mission at Mutemwa and the township of Mutoko for one year and will extend this if the experience is positive.

- ◆ Nicholas Banhwa, Naison Manjovha and Muquelisi Sibanda (Integration Year) will take up residence soon at Mutemwa.
- ◆ Tawanda Chirigo will be proposed to the Archbishop as parish priest at Gandachibvuva.
- ◆ Clemence Wiziki has been appointed Assistant Novice Master at Gandachibvuva.
- ◆ Onward Murape and Naison Manjovha will be ordained to the priesthood on 1 December.
- ◆ Hugh will begin visitation of the Custody on 26 November and will be present at the ordination.

Bernard Jones presented a financial account of FMU activities since the beginning of the year. The FMU is seeking ways of reducing costs because of decreasing income.

Communications

The minutes of the recent meeting of the Communications Board were tabled and discussed. The Board proposed that the 'members only' facility on the Provincial website be activated. The facility will provide a secure means of internal communication exclusive to the friars of the province. The Definitory agreed to this proposal and appointed Francis Cotter as Administrator. More information on how to access this facility will be made available shortly.

Sick & Infirm

We remembered the sick friars especially those who have been ill or infirm over time: Alexis King, Matthew McDonald, Sebastian Tighe and Paschal Slevin and those who have been ill more recently: Liam Costello and Chris Connolly.

Next Meeting:

Monday 7th - Wednesday 9th January 2013 beginning at 7pm on Monday in Cork.

Finance

L&P has informed us that the Department of Justice and Equality plans to consult with the charities sector and the public on the implementation of the Charities Act in the near future. L&P will keep us advised on developments in this matter.

The Definitory as Directors of SF Trust Ltd approved a proposal that Guardians will henceforward sign the renewal of leases and licences with user groups of our facilities on behalf of the Directors.

Other Matters

Representatives of the religious orders and congregations have been invited to attend a meeting to conclude the **Apostolic Visitation** in Malahide on 30 November. Instead of a written report the findings of the visitation will be communicated orally. Joe Condren and Joe MacMahon will represent the Province.

Franciscan

The final summary of the reflection called 'Moratorium' that was carried out over the last two years will be compiled by Kieran Cronin and will be forwarded to the General Curia.

Deceased

Rory O'Leary, ofm and Larry Murphy, ofm

*We wish all
friars a
happy and
peaceful
Christmas*

