

DEFINITORY NEWS

ISSUE NO. 2012-5

FRANCISCAN PROVINCE OF IRELAND

JULY 2012

The meeting was held in Merchants' Quay on 18–20 June. All members were present. Kieran Cronin, who also chaired the meeting, led prayer and liturgies.

FRIARS

Brendan McGrath has been granted permission to pursue a sabbatical in Rome, beginning in September. Accordingly he submitted his resignation as Vicar of the Cork fraternity. **Seraphin Kennedy** was elected Vicar in his place.

Stephen O'Kane has completed his License in Ecclesiastical History in Rome and has been assigned to the Merchants' Quay fraternity *pro-tem*. He will teach at Holy Trinity College, Harare, for two months each year.

FRIARIES

Gormanston—La Verna: The procedure in relation to the suppression of the Franciscan College friary as a house of the order and the transfer of the community to the Franciscan Friary—La Verna has commenced. The Guardian, Brendan Scully, and the Vicar, Ailbe Ó Murchú, have resigned their posts as requested and these were accepted. The Minister Provincial proposed their election as the Guardian and Vicar respectively of the Franciscan Friary—La Verna, Gormanston. They were both duly elected.

The Minister Provincial proposed the transfer of the college community as listed in the Provincial Directory to the new residence and this was approved. He also proposed requesting the suppression of Franciscan College Friary by the Minister General and this too was approved.

The friars have been allotted their rooms in La Verna and the building is almost ready for occupation. It was decided to form a Committee consisting of Brendan Scully, Ulic Troy and Gabriel Kinahan to oversee the transition. It is hoped that the community will have moved into its new home by mid August and Mass will be celebrated and the house blessed on 27th August with members of the Definitory present.

Multyfarnham: The minutes of the first meeting of the Multyfarnham Abbey Resident Organisations consisting of the Franciscans, LARCC and Irish Autism Action held on 6 June were tabled and discussed. The Definitory welcomed the establishment of the group as a way of addressing issues that are relevant to all three partners. The official launch of the new venture will take place sometime in September.

Gormanston College: The Definitory considered the latest updates from Gormanston College and the ongoing efforts to reduce costs and increase enrolment.

Provincial Committees

Formation: The recent meeting of the ISFS at Cold Ash, part of which the two Provincial Ministers attended, was discussed. It was agreed that Féidhlim Ó Seasnáin will return to Ireland after completing his course in Franciscan Studies at Canterbury and will begin theology at Maynooth in mid-September. He was assigned to the Merchants' Quay fraternity.

Kieran informed the meeting of the summer placements arranged for the friars in post-novitiate formation. At the ISFS meeting it was suggested that a gathering of young professed friars from both Provinces, as well as friars in initial formation and possibly aspirants, be held probably in July 2013, for an exercise of 'sacred imagination' about the future mission of our respective provinces. Cathal Duddy and David Collins were appointed as Irish Province members of the planning committee. Joe Condren announced that one of the postulants, Noel Maher, has decided to leave the Postulancy Programme.

Ongoing Formation: There was a very positive review of the recent Guardians' meeting and guardians requested a continuation of the same open format for the next meeting on 10–12 September. Kieran also reported on coming events...
i) Currently 25 friars intend to do the Provincial Retreat at Ballyvaloo on the theme 'Our Franciscan life in Christ is always Yes', preached by Joe Chinnici, ofm. **ii)** There appears to be an

enthusiastic response to the 'Year of St. Clare' celebrations planned for Multyfarnham on 5 August. Fr. Des McNaboe, ofm Cap will be the celebrant and Adrian Curran, ofm Cap will preach. The day will run from 10.30am to about 5.30pm. **iii)** There has been a change to the dates for the 2nd and 3rd cluster meetings on Adult Faith Formation to suit Bishop Murray. The 1st meeting in Mullingar will be held 25–26 October for the Gormanston, Merchants' Quay, Killiney and Multyfarnham communities and the other two in Knock (for Rosstown, Galway and Athlone) and Charleville (for Cork, Killarney, Ennis, Waterford and Clonmel) in November with dates yet to be arranged.

Vocations:

Pat Lynch presented the report of the minutes of the Vocations Group meeting held in May. The number of hits on the provincial website has increased significantly since we began to advertise on Spirit Radio. Pat will visit the communities from September forward to speak on vocations' promotion. Pat also spoke about various events he had attended, the highlight being the week at the International Eucharistic Congress, for which he was congratulated for the excellent work he put into preparing and running our presence at it. Two aspirants, Ronan Sharply and Denis Aherne, will go through the vetting process for entry to the postulancy.

Missions & Evangelisation:

Letters were received from four friars in the Custody requesting permission to be advanced to Temporary and Solemn profession of vows.

Salicio Makuwe and **Raymond Kondo** were approved for Solemn Profession.

George Muchega and **Blessing Tamirepi** were approved for First Profession.

Departures from the formation programme of the Custody include Desmond Mukorera (Post Novitiate), Samuel Masuka and Nicholas Mharapa (Novitiate) and one postulant.

Alfigio Tunha has been appointed Rector of St. Bonaventure College, Lusaka and will take up the position in July.

Fanuel Magwidi has been appointed Dean of Studies at Holy Trinity College Harare, in succession to Fr. Billy Cleary, CS.Sp., who was recalled to Ireland by his congregation.

Correspondence was received requesting a donation for the sinking of a deep borehole at St. Bonaventure College Lusaka in an effort to solve water shortages at the college. The Definitory approved the request.

Correspondence from Saúl Flores Interiano, ofm, Minister Provincial of Central America, and Roberto Bayaras, ofm, Custos of the Custody of St. Anthony of Padua-Philippines, was read. Saúl thanked the Irish province for its continuing support over the years.

Roberto thanked the province for its donation of €10,000 to help in reconstruction after the recent earthquake in the Philippines.

OTHER MATTERS

Communications Board: The minutes of two meetings of the Board were examined. The launch of the newly designed Provincial website was warmly welcomed.

Merchants' Quay Ireland: Following an interview Mark Kennedy has been appointed Director of Services at MQI. Consequently the Finance Department has been re-structured to take account of this. The Riverbank renovation has been completed to a very high standard and the day services of MQI will be transferring to the new premises over the coming weeks.

Sick & 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; Philip Deane and Fiachra ó Ceallaigh.

Deceased: Gerard and Kieran McDonnell (father and brother, respectively, of Paschal); Aquilina Utete (mother of Nicholas Banhwa) and Eamonn (Brother Hilary, f.m.s) Costello (brother of Liam).

A.O.B: Members of the Definitory visited La Verna, Gormanston on Wednesday morning where they were given a tour of the newly refurbished building by David Drain, architect, and Des Crean of Crean Sally, Co. Ltd. The building is bright and spacious and finished to a high standard.

The AGM of the provincial companies will be held at the September meetings.

Next regular meeting: Monday 3rd—Wednesday 5th September, beginning at 7pm on Monday in Merchants' Quay.

