

DEFINITORY NEWS

Issue No. 2012—6

Franciscan Province of Ireland

September 2012

The meeting was held in Merchants' Quay on 3—5 September. All members were present. Prayer and liturgies were led by Joe Condren, who also chaired the meeting.

FRIARS

Cathal Duddy: Cathal was appointed to the Merchants' Quay fraternity.

Joe Walsh: Joe Walsh has been accepted for a place on the part-time MA Art Therapy programme at the Cork School of Art.

Ambrose O'Mahony: Ambrose's paintings have found a permanent home in Marymount Hospice in Cork. At present a catalogue is being prepared and there will be an official launch of the display in Marymount at the end of October. The definitory congratulated Ambrose on this very significant achievement.

FRIARIES

Gormanston—La Verna: The Definitory in its capacity as Patron of Franciscan College Gormanston met with the College's Board of Management, all the College staff and the La Verna community on the 27th of August to outline its vision for the future of the College.

Conor O'Brien, Chair of the Board of Management of Gormanston College and Shane Cowley of L&P attended this session. Conor distributed a report on the current situation. The Licence agreement, which had already been passed by the Definitory, will go before the Board for consideration next week.

The religious house at the Franciscan College Gormanston was declared suppressed by the General Definitory at its session of 20th July. At the same session the General Definitory ratified the election of Brendan Scully as Guardian of the Franciscan Friary, La Verna, Gormanston.

PROVINCIAL COMMITTEES

Formation: Pat Lynch gave an account of the men who have been in contact with him over the summer enquiring about vocations to our life.

The current situation regarding our friars in initial formation is as follows: **POSTULANCY:** Ronan Sharpley (Ballinamore, Co. Leitrim), Denis Aherne (Listowel, Co. Kerry) and Richard Cutting (UK Province). **NOVITIATE:** Vincent Finnegan, Adrian McGrath and David Connolly (all Irish province). **POST-NOVITIATE:** David Collins (will begin two units of the CPE course); Feidhlim Ó Seasnáin (will begin theology in Maynooth); Jack O'Riordan (will continue philosophy at Canterbury); the UK province has two men studying philosophy at Canterbury: Marc Riemer and Michael O'Grady.

ONGOING FORMATION

Final arrangements were made for the Guardians' Meeting on 10—12 September in All Hallows.

About 25 friars attended the Provincial Retreat at Ballyvaloo, preached by Joe Chinnici, ofm. The input was excellent and the accommodation very good. It appears to have been a pleasant experience for all the friars who attended.

The 'Year of St. Clare' celebrations held at Multyfarnham on 5 August was a good experience and was well attended.

The revised dates for the cluster meetings on Adult Faith Formation were agreed. The 1st meeting in Mullingar (probably Bloomfield Hotel) will be held on 5—6 November, the 2nd in Knock on 8—9 November and the 3rd in Charleville on 15—16 November. As previously indicated it is important that each fraternity attend the cluster meeting together as part of the work will involve looking at how the material can be applied at local level.

FINANCE

Tracy Comerford reported on the recent meeting of the Finance Committee. Various requests for funding were discussed. Those approved include a donation to Trócaire, to the Province of India who are constructing a formation house, and to the friars in Namibia for a "Healing of Memories" project.

MISSIONS & EVANGELISATION

Kieran and Tracy Comerford reported on their visit to Zimbabwe. They had meetings with the Council, visits with the local communities and a meeting with the Custody Bursars and Accountant.

The following friars were professed in the Custody over the summer: **SOLEMN PROFESSION:** Salicio Makuwe and Raymond Kondo. **FIRST PROFESSION:** George Muchega and Blessing Tamirepi.

Naison Manjovha, Vicar at Assisi Mission, has returned to Tafara and Linous Mukumbuzi was elected by the Custodial Council to replace him. This was ratified by the Definitory.

Heritage

The General Definitory has agreed to the request of the Province that the manuscripts and rare books belonging to **St. Isidore's** and in temporary storage at the General Curia be returned to the College. This is expected to take place shortly. The papal bulls however will remain in the Wadding Archives in the Curia.

A Report on the **assessment of the OFM-UCD mss and book collection** undertaken by a body of international scholars and financed by the Andrew Mellon Foundation was discussed. The Report highlighted the importance of the collection as a "vast resource of relatively untapped material [which] contains new evidence for studies in many fields." It also identified urgent priorities in the areas of conservation, cataloguing, etc. and the challenge of seeking funding to address these priorities.

All friars are reminded of Article 32 of our Particular Statutes:

1. Valuables such as works of art, manuscripts, antiques, rare books as also monuments or items of historical interest, shall not be disposed of without the consent of the Provincial Definitory or without due observance of canon law. (c.f. CIC. 638,3; 1292,2).
2. Library books may be transferred from one Friary to another with the consent of the respective local Chapters.

AGMs OF PROVINCIAL COMPANIES

A special session was devoted to the AGMs of the provincial companies (SF Trust, Saint Anthony's Pools, Merchants' Quay Project, Franciscan Social Justice Initiative & Saint Francis Housing Association). Revised Memorandums and Articles of Association were approved for some of the companies in order to comply with recent legislation.

OTHER MATTERS

English-language course for Foreign Friars: This year's course was reviewed by the Definitory. Clare Brophy prepared a memo for the meeting which revealed that the course at Edgewater College in Drogheda and the accommodation at Gormanston were satisfactory.

LEUVEN: Caroline Nash, Director General of the **Leuven Institute for Ireland in Europe** attended the meeting and gave an update of developments in the former St. Anthony's College. Development work on the Institute has been completed apart from some minor cosmetic details and the Institute is financially viable. The building is used for a wide variety of activities—business, academic, cultural, etc—and the University runs the Leuven Centre for Irish Studies from the building. The Institute is also being used by the Irish Government to prepare for Ireland's presidency of the EU, January—June 2013. Caroline went on to explain a cultural project celebrating the **Franciscan involvement in Leuven** and Ireland's membership of the EU which will take the form of an art exhibition and catalogue to be launched next May.

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: Pat Power, Jude O'Riordan and Fiachra Ó Ceallaigh.

DECEASED

Philip Deane, ofm, Stan Brennan, ofm, Solanus Hughes, ofm, May Gleeson, sister of Ignatius Gleeson.

NEXT MEETING

Next regular meeting: Monday 1st—Wednesday 3rd October, beginning at 7pm on Monday in Merchants' Quay. Pat Younge will chair the meeting and lead the liturgies.

CHANGES TO DIRECTORY

- A) **Cathal Duddy** is moving from Galway to the Merchants' Quay community.
- B) **Bishop Michael Lenihan's address is...**
Obispado,
Parroquia San Isidro,
Calle 9, Avenida San Isidro,
Apartado 51,
La Ceiba,
Departamento De Atlandida,
Honduras, C.A.
Email: ellenjer1951@gmail.com
- C) **Dominic Hession's new address is...**
La Verna Franciscan Retreat Centre,
P.O. Box 838, Vanderbijlpark 1900,
Rep. of South Africa.
Tel: 016-9872878
Fax: 016-9877496
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