

IRELAND / KENYA



NEWSLETTER



Patrician Brothers



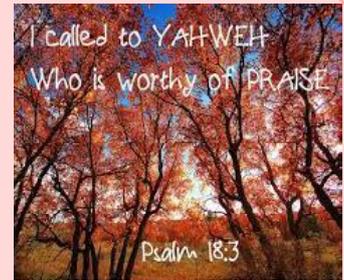
May 2016

*"For I, Yahweh
your Elohim,
will hold your right
hand,
saying to you,
'Fear not, I will
help you!"
(Isaiah 41:13)*

BEGINNING EACH DAY

Cormac Commins

*To you I pray, Yahweh.
At daybreak you hear my voice;
at daybreak I lay my case before you
and fix my eyes upon you.
(Psalm 5.3)*



Is this how my day begins? Or do I think of the many duties I may have to attend to during the day? Am I confident that I will be capable of undertaking what lies ahead of me. Do I begin my day like the psalmist by praying to the Lord? He assures us that if I pray God will hear my voice if, like him, my first words are addressed to God. "At daybreak I lay my case before you and fix my eyes on you". What a sensible way to begin the day - to lay my cares before the Lord and seek his help in dealing with the difficulties and problems that may come my way. Like the psalmist, if I lay my cares before the Lord I can be confident that he will provide the help that I need. There is an old Irish proverb or seanfhocal which says "Tosach maith, leath na hoibre" - a good beginning is half the work. How I begin my day will determine what will follow.

Help me, Lord, to begin my day like the psalmist by praying to you and laying my cares before you.



Group discussion at Ballyfin. Lucian Phelan, Nicholas Leahy, Matthew Hayes, Gerry Reburn, Camillus Regan, Cormac Commins. Dermot Dunne is missing from the picture as he was behind the camera.

CHAPTER PREPARATION

Meetings have taken place in the Province in preparation for the General Chapter to be held in Nairobi in August. The larger communities in Galway and Newbridge met separately while the Finglas, Ballyfin, Abbeylaxey and Tullow communities joined forces and held their meetings in Ballyfin. The SWOT analysis was used in the discussions which centred around our current situation and the issues facing us in the future. The results of the SWOT analysis were sent to the Process Committee in Sydney.

Australian Visitor



The Irish Province was pleased to welcome Bro. Stephen Sweetman who spent some time in the country while researching the life and times of our Founder. Stephen based himself in Tullow, attended a history course at Trinity College, Dublin, and visited parts of Ireland which had any connection with Daniel Delany. Before returning to Australia he travelled to France visiting Paris and St. Omer where Daniel Delany had been a student and a lecturer.

Lieutenant General Bill O'Callaghan

The following obituary appeared in the Irish Times on Saturday 23rd January in tribute to General O'Callaghan, a former pupil of Patrician Academy, Mallow.

Throughout his Army career, Lieut Gen Bill O'Callaghan, who has died aged 94, was not known by his true name. To his comrades and many admirers, he was "The Bull" Callaghan. But he wasn't actually a Callaghan at all. He was born William O'Callaghan, but was registered on his birth certificate as "Callaghan". The Defence Forces, feeling obliged to adhere to the official record, called him Callaghan throughout his lengthy service.

It was a career of achievement and distinction, particularly in UN peacekeeping missions, where he held senior rank on three occasions. He was the force commander of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (Unifil) from February 1981 to May 1986 and twice chief of staff of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation (Untso) from April 1978 to June 1979, and again from May 1986 to June 1987, in which role he commanded multinational forces in Syria, Lebanon, Israel, Egypt and Jordan.

William O'Callaghan, known to all as Bill, as well as "The Bull", was born in Buttevant, Co Cork to Cornelius O'Callaghan, a farmer, and Margaret (née Walsh). He had a twin sister, Kathleen, and three other siblings, Jack, Lilly and Eileen. After schooling at the Patrician Brothers in Mallow, he joined the Defence Forces aged 19. In 1944, he married Carmel (née O'Connell) and together they had seven children.

He saw overseas service in the Congo and Cyprus. He was company commander, then second-in-command and finally commander in the latter location. Senior ranks followed back home and he eventually became assistant chief of staff of the Defence Forces.

Truce supervision

He was a veteran of almost 40 years' service when, in 1978, he was appointed to lead Untso, originally set up in 1948 to supervise the truce between Israel and its neighbours following the establishment of the state.

O'Callaghan's Unifil forces in the 1980s sought to restrain Israeli troops who had invaded Lebanon in retaliation for attacks by the Shia militia Hizbullah. At the same time, it was itself attacked by Israeli-sponsored Christian militias.

He was unflappable in the face of high drama. Retired colonel Andrew Kilfeather recalls an incident in 1982 when Callaghan met the chief of the northern command of the Israeli Defence Forces. The officer looked at O'Callaghan and said simply: "Gen Callaghan, we're going to invade Lebanon in 10 minutes." O'Callaghan's response was unruffled: "That's fine," he said, "we'll have our meeting so."



O'Callaghan once described peacekeeping in the region thus: "We must look for trouble at the four points of the compass. And then we look behind our backs."

Retirement, in 1987, offered him the opportunity to pursue other interests. He and Carmel enjoyed walking and also spent long periods in the United States, where one of their daughters lived. These trips allowed him attend US golf majors, which he did religiously. He was an accomplished player himself, and also retained throughout his life a love of rugby, having played front row for Roscrea into his 40s, his nom de guerre deriving, according to some, from his bullish zeal in the scrum.

Throughout a long retirement, he retained a deep interest in the Middle East, one nurtured through a long friendship with the journalist Robert Fisk.

International honours

In his later years, his contribution received due recognition, nationally and internationally. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal, with honour, the highest class of the award. He also received the Légion d'Honneur from the government of France and the Order of the Cedar from the government of Lebanon.

Bill O'Callaghan played close attention to the individual lives of those who served under him, of whatever rank. Typical among comments on his death were "a fine soldier, officer and gentleman". Another soldier said: "A great man and a great general. He was a great role model at home and abroad. A holy terror though with any officer whose standards fell short of what he expected".

O'Callaghan was predeceased in 1994 by his wife, Carmel. He is survived by their five daughters and two sons, Marie, Patricia, Carmel, Claire, Fiona, Bill and Declan.

VANA SOMNIA

In the dim distance, gleaming faint and far,
I saw, at eve, a little lonely star.

In that far world, what love and joy may dwell,
What hate and sorrow – who is it can tell.

But what to us though glad, or sad, it be,
This world's the only world for you and me.

In distant years what joys for us may wait,
What days of gloom and sorrow be our fate.

Why vex our souls and strain our eyes to see
Today's the only day for you and me.

(Bro. Sebastian J. Darcy 1883-1974)

JUST A THOUGHT

A young couple moved into a new neighbourhood. The next day while they were eating breakfast the young woman saw her neighbour hanging out the washing. "That laundry is not very clean" she says. "She doesn't know how to wash properly. Perhaps she needs better laundry soap".

Her husband looked on but remained silent. Every time the neighbour hung the washing out to dry the young woman makes the same comment. A month later the woman is surprised to see nice clean washing on the line and says to her husband: "Look, she finally learned how to wash correctly. I wonder who taught her?"

The husband replied: "I got up early this morning and cleaned our windows."

And so it is with life! What we see when watching others depends on the clarity of the windows through which we look! Think about it!

Do all the good you can. By all the means you can. In all the ways you can. In all the places you can. At all the times you can. To all the people you can. As long as ever you can.

John Wesley

THOUGHTS FROM FILM STARS

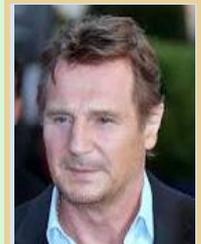


Jim Caviezel

It always helps to have a bit of a prayer in your back pocket. At the end of the day, you got to have something and for me it's God, Jesus, my Catholic upbringing, my faith. *(Liam Neeson)*

Every day I'm trying to be more humble and how do you do that? I guess every day we have Mass. Every day I pray the rosary. That's what I do.

(Jim Caviezel)



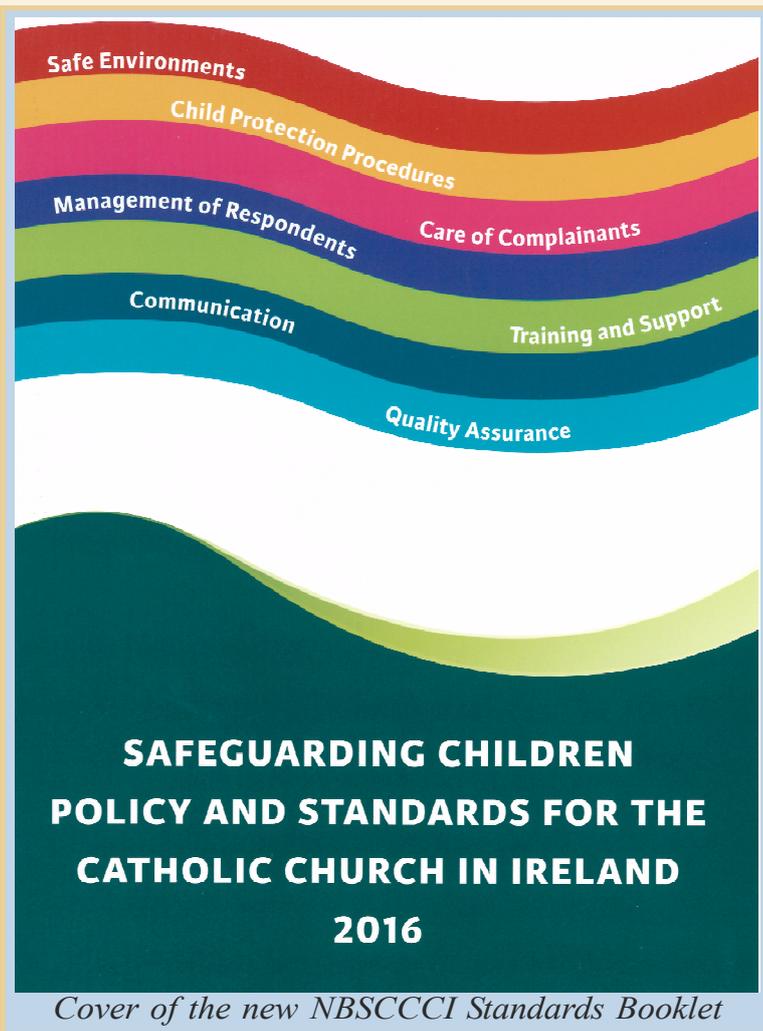
Liam Neeson

Maureen O'Hara, star of hundreds of films but probably best known for her role opposite John Wayne in the iconic film 'The Quiet Man', was asked in an interview about a year before she died, what she would miss most if her possessions were lost she replied: "My Rosary".



CHILD PROTECTION

Cormac Commins



When the issue of Child Protection began to receive a lot of prominence in Ireland the Conference of Religious in Ireland organised seminars and meetings to assist Religious Congregations in drawing up Child Protection Policies. The Irish Province put in place a very comprehensive Child Safeguarding Protocol. A copy of the document was made available to each community and to the Kenya Region. We also appointed a Designated Liaison Person in the Province and in each Community to ensure that all allegations are addressed as quickly as possible.

The National Board for Safeguarding Children in Ireland has been undertaking a review of safeguarding practice in individual dioceses and Religious Congregations. The safeguarding review of our Congregation took place in December 2013. Our Designated Liaison Person (Bro. Camillus) and I were interviewed by two people and our case records and

files were examined. A report of this review was issued to us in January 2014. I am happy to report that the reviewers were impressed by the commitment we had shown in listening to and providing support to those who made allegations of abuse.

The National Board for Safeguarding Children has now produced a set of standards for all Religious Congregations and dioceses in Ireland. We will adopt this set of standards while retaining our own policy and procedures.

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN - POLICY AND STANDARDS

The following is a summary of the seven standards outlined in the document mentioned above:

Creating and maintaining safe environments:

This standard refers to all procedures and systems required to ensure that those working with children are properly selected for their role, so as to minimise risk to children. It also refers to codes of behaviour, complaints and the use of church property by external organisations.

Procedures for responding to child protection suspicions and knowledge of allegations:

This standard highlights the requirements around mandatory reporting of allegations, suspicions and knowledge of child abuse to the statutory authorities.

Care and support of the complainant.

Those who have been harmed by abuse in the Church need to be enabled to feel that they can come forward and know that they will be responded to compassionately and that their allegation will be notified to the civil authorities. This standard also emphasises the need for a pastoral response to the complainant and access to professional counselling and support.

Care and management of the respondent:

This standard outlines the fair process which must be in place for investigating and managing concerns following the conclusion of an investigation by the statutory authorities.

Training and support for keeping children safe.

This outlines the training which must be in place at all levels in the church to raise awareness of child safeguarding. It also includes the need for those who have a safeguarding role to be supported in their role.

Communicating the Church's safeguarding message.

This standard emphasises the importance of providing information about the Church's safeguarding work.

Quality assuring compliance with the standards.

This requires close monitoring of practice to ensure that all other standards are being adhered to. Responsibility for compliance rests with the Church Authority.



Prayer of Pope Francis

May the Lord Jesus instil in each of us, as ministers of the Church, the same love and affection for the little ones which characterized his own presence among us, and which in turn enjoins on us a particular responsibility for the welfare of children and vulnerable adults. May Mary Most Holy, Mother of tenderness and mercy, help us to carry out, generously and thoroughly, our duty to humbly acknowledge and repair past injustices and to remain ever faithful in the work of protecting those closest to the heart of Jesus.

Quote from the letter of Pope Francis:

Families need to know that the Church is making every effort to protect their children. They should also know that they have every right to turn to the Church with full confidence, for it is a safe and secure home. Consequently, priority must not be given to any other kind of concern, whatever its nature, such as the desire to avoid scandal, since there is absolutely no place in ministry for those who abuse minors.

STEPS TO BECOMING A SAINT

(The following may be useful in the current discussion regarding our Founder).

Cormac Commins

Being named a saint in the Catholic Church is a significant honour. It means the saint's name is added to the official catalogue of saints and that Masses and feast days can be celebrated in his or her honour. Churches can then be dedicated in the saint's memory and his or her name can be used in public prayers such as litanies. The process of canonization involves four major steps.

At least five years after a person's death a formal request is made to consider him or her for sainthood. The people making the request are usually from the candidate's church or religious community. They submit their request to the bishop of the diocese where the person died. The request tells how the person lived a life of holiness and lists reasons why the candidate should be considered for sainthood. If the bishop believes there is enough evidence to consider the person for sainthood he asks the Vatican for permission to open a special tribunal. Witnesses are then called to attest to the candidate's goodness, holiness and other virtues. If the person passes this step he or she is named a "Servant of God".

The bishop sends a formal report and request to Rome where it is reviewed by the Congregation for the Causes of the Saints. A number of theologians read the material and determine whether there is enough cause to pass it to the entire Congregation. If so, the candidate's writings and other aspects of his or her life are studied to make sure there is nothing that goes against the teachings of the Church. As part of the investigation a person called a "Devil's Advocate" questions the candidate's holiness and virtue. Once a candidate has been determined to be virtuous and heroic in his or her faith he or she is declared "Venerable".

The next step is beatification. If the candidate was a martyr, someone who died for their faith, he or she may be beatified and named "Blessed". Otherwise a miracle brought about by the intercession of the candidate must occur and be verified by the Congregation. Once a person is beatified and named "Blessed" he or she can be venerated or officially honoured in his or her city, diocese or religious community.

After being beatified another miracle is required for the person to be canonised and officially declared a saint. Once again the miracle must have occurred as a result of the person's intercession. The Prefect of the Congregation then sends the cause for canonisation to the pope who makes the final decision. Once a person is canonised he or she is officially declared a "Saint". The pope declares this in an official way at a special Mass in honour of the new saint.

PRAYERS

Please pray for the happy repose of the soul of John Leahy, Co. Cork, who died recently. John was a brother of Bro. Nicholas Leahy of our Abbeyleix Community.



MORE PRAYERS

Brothers are asked to pray for the recovery to full health of Bro. James Murphy, Newbridge Community, who is hospitalised following an accident. James is in Peamount Hospital, Newcastle, Co. Dublin. We wish him a speedy recovery.

All-Ireland success for Patrician Secondary School, Newbridge
Mrs. Breda Disney (Maths Teacher)

The Patrician Secondary school, Newbridge had big success in recent All Ireland Applied Maths competitions. Both the junior and senior teams had qualified for the All Ireland Applied Maths quiz by winning the Midlands final earlier in the year, a huge achievement in itself.

From there, the teams competed in the All Ireland competition in March this year. Each final was contested by 11 other regional winners, with teams travelling from Cork, Galway, Dundalk, Dublin, Kilkenny and Waterford.



ALL IRELAND JUNIOR PROBLEM SOLVING APPLIED MATHS CHAMPIONS.

L-R MARK GLYNN, ELLIOT NOLAN, CONOR KING, MRS BREDA DISNEY (APPLIED MATHS TEACHER), COLIN SMYTH and PETER DOBEY.

The junior team were in play first and the Patrician pupils on the team settled quickly. After the opening round, they found themselves in joint 2nd place with a number of teams. They, then, moved into joint 1st place in the next round and held that position with one round to play. Fortunately, the boys won that round to take outright first place and were declared 2016 All Ireland Junior Applied Maths Champions.

These boys were no strangers to competition as they had all represented the Patrician Secondary school in previous years. Jack and Josh were both successful in the Comortas Maths quiz, when in 1st year. All three also represented the school in the PI quiz, which they won last year. Jack Moore has been involved

The senior team was up next. in the Maths Olympiad last year, and finished in 11th place in that Irish Maths competition. The team competed against other regional senior quiz winners. They finished 4th in the final, just 3 points behind the winners from Belvedere College.



Senior Team

L-R. DEMI OKE, JACK MOORE and JOSH FRANCIS.

All of the pupils were excellent representatives of the school. They prepared for these quizzes after school and during their free time. They were a pleasure to work with and I wish them every success in their upcoming state exams.

GOATNOMICS

Bro Tom Grogan

When I was in Kamagut I was involved in efforts to alleviate poverty and improve living standards of the local people. One of the schemes we used to tackle the problem was dairy goat farming. This was introduced on a very small scale. One or two dairy goats were given to each family and

through seminars and workshops each farmer was given basic training in looking after the family goat. The goat became an important member of the family and the wellbeing of the goat became a priority for the family. The goat was a prized possession and a newfound source of income. Each year the scheme was extended with more families becoming members, thus multiplying its impact on the locality and its economy.



Tom Grogan

Since I returned to Ireland I have visited a number of dairy goat farms. Some of these farms used different systems like zero grazing and ordinary pasture grazing. All were producing milk on a grand scale either supplying creameries, factories or local markets. Goat cheese and yogurts were other products. Milking systems capable of turning out over a thousand goats per hour are now on the market. While most farmers use lesser systems the days of hand milking are truly gone

Recently I was very happy to attend a Dairy Goat Conference organised by Teagasc, the education arm of the Department of

Agriculture in Ireland. This was the first conference since 2007. There was an impressive panel of experts from Holland, the U.K. and Ireland. This conference was a compendium of all aspects of dairy goat management, with emphasis on the commercial aspect of the business. The importance of looking after the pregnant doe was stressed as necessary and essential to the health of the new-born kid goat and the milking capacity of the doe largely depends on how she was reared as a kid. All the ways to achieve this were outlined. Another speaker spoke on the physical environment of the goat - buildings, space, ventilation, hygiene, bedding, water etc. Another speaker covered goat sickness, parasites and remedies.

The most interesting input of the morning session was that of a Dutch lady whose remit was goat nutrition. She works on a farm that holds 3,000 goats, producing milk cheese, yogurt and goat meat for the domestic and European market. She outlined in great detail the various stages in the

growth and development of the goat from kid to adulthood. The most intriguing was how the kid was weaned from its mother, tagged, weighed and put into a big carton together with other new arrivals. This farm was capable of handling hundreds of kids at any one time

This conference would have been very helpful to the Kenyan goat farmers

If the opportunity arises I will return to Kenya for a short period to help the local goat farmers to modernise their approach to herding.

