

IRELAND / KENYA



NEWSLETTER



Patrician Brothers



July 2014

Commemoration of the death of Bishop Daniel Delany Man of Courage -- Man of Vision



The anniversary of the death of our founder was commemorated in Ireland on 8th and 9th July at the place of his birth in Paddock, Mountrath, and the place of his death and burial in the Church of the Most Holy Rosary, Tullow.

Many Brigidine Sisters and Patrician Brothers, including the Congregation Leaders, Sister Louise and Bro. Jerome, attended on both occasions as well as local people and clergy from the diocese of Kildare & Leighlin and beyond. The new bishop, Denis Nulty, was the chief celebrant of the Mass on both occasions and one of the concelebrants in Tullow was former bishop Jim Moriarty as well as Bishop Derek Byrne from Brazil, representing St. Patrick's Missionary

Society, Kiltegan. The homily in Mountrath was given by Sister Mary Teresa Cullen and Monsignor Brendan Byrne, former Parish Priest of Tullow delivered the Tullow homily.

A feature of both occasions was an exhibition dealing with Daniel Delany's life and work done by the pupils of Paddock Primary School for which they won a prize from the County Laois Heritage Council.



EVOLVING RELIGIOUS LIFE

Cormac Commins



Whenever Religious gather in Ireland today I can't help noticing that we are an ageing group of people. We had a fine turnout of Brigidines and Patricians at Paddock, Mountrath and Tullow recently to mark the bicentenary of the death of our Founder but there were very few young people from either congregation. I could not help reflecting on the ever-increasing median age of religious in Ireland today, the almost total lay staffing of our schools and the conviction that Religious Life as it was when I entered is over.

We may have rejoiced when Pope Francis appeared on the balcony of St Peter's a little over a year ago and greeted us with a simple "good evening". As archbishop of Buenos Aires he lived in an apartment, cooked his own meals and got about on public transport. When elected Pope he decided not to wear the red shoes but continued to wear his old black shoes from Buenos Aires. He paid the hotel bill where he was staying and chose to ride on the

bus with the other cardinals rather than using the papal limo.

Pope Francis is a Religious and I'm sure he has a thorough understanding of Religious Life. I also think that it is no longer "open season" on certain Religious by some Vatican personnel. He has made appointments to various positions which have changed attitudes to towards Religious. In other words Religious Life is seen as a prophetic vocation in the Church charged to preach the Gospel in season and out of season.

I am not saying that we needed a Pope Francis to tell us that our life is a prophetic life form in the Church and that our mission is to promote the reign of God. For us Patricians I think recent General Chapters endeavoured to give us a clear understanding of Religious Life. Our Constitutions tell us: "We are called to the consecrated life so that we may share in a distinctive gift of grace in the life of the Church and contribute to its saving mission."

I leave the final words to Sandra Schneiders: "We post-conciliar Religious have run up against a formidable challenge that we have not figured out how to name accurately or negotiate, namely that the "normal" which obtained when almost all of us entered Religious Life is simply over. Neither it, nor a version of it, is going to come back."

CORMAC MEETS THE PRESIDENT

On 25 June the first gathering of the "garden party" season was held at Aras an Uachtarain. The President, Michael D. Higgins and his wife Sabina welcomed over a hundred visitors under the auspices of the President of Ireland's Ethics Initiative which Mr Higgins launched last November.

Representatives from community groups, charities, professional bodies and third level institutions were invited. Bro Cormac was there with three other members of the Executive of the Conference of the Religious of Ireland. (CORI).



Cormac with President Michael D. Higgins and his wife Sabina



*CORI Executive Members
Sr. Anne Kavanagh, Cormac, Sr. Noelle Corscadden,
Fr. Michael Kelleher*