

IRELAND / KENYA



NEWSLETTER



Patrician Brothers



March 2015

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Cormac Commins

Catholic Schools Week has been celebrated in Ireland for the past five years. This year it was celebrated during the last week of January. Catholic Schools Week calls on catholic schools to give expression in a special way to a particular aspect of catholic education. The theme this year was `Catholic Schools: Called to Serve.` This is a call to action, to serve parents, teachers and students and the local community.

There was a time in Ireland when a catholic school was caring and inclusive and promoted christian values. Recently Bro Aengus Kavanagh, together with Sr Leone Pallisier, published a book with the very interesting and challenging title: `Will Catholic Schools be Catholic in 2030?` We could ask that same question in Ireland. There is a reference in the

book to `the growing secularisation of society and the declining influence of religion.` That is also a relevant factor in Ireland.

In the diocese of Kildare and Leighlin Bishop Denis Nulty invited teachers, parents and members of Boards of Management to discuss issues relevant to Catholic Schools Week. It was good to see the large number of interested people who turned up for the meeting. During the week he visited all the schools, both primary and post-primary, in Newbridge - an indication of his interest in promoting Catholic Schools Week.

In Luke's Gospel (Chapter 7) we read that John's disciples came to Jesus to ask: `Are you the one who is to come or are we to expect someone else?` Jesus' answer was: `Go back and tell John what you have seen and heard.` Let us hope that what is seen and heard in our schools show that they are catholic schools, not just during Catholic Schools Week but also throughout the whole school year.



Prayer for Year of Consecrated Life

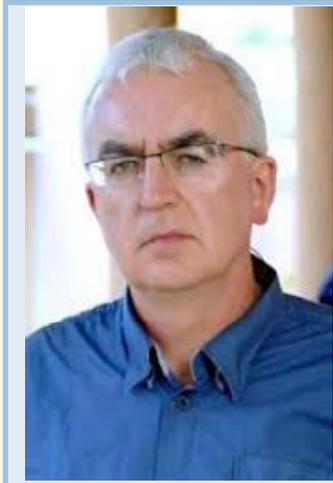
O God, throughout the ages
you have called women and men
to pursue lives of perfect charity
through the evangelical counsels
of poverty, chastity and obedience.
During this Year of Consecrated Life
we give you thanks
for these courageous witnesses of Faith
and models of inspiration.
Their pursuit of holy lives
teaches us to make a more perfect offering
of ourselves to you.

Continue to enrich your Church
by calling forth sons and daughters who,
having found the pearl of great price,
treasure the Kingdom of Heaven above all things.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever. Amen.



SOUTH SUDAN

KMF Productions is an Irish film company established in 1999. It has produced several documentaries about people whose lives have been affected by poverty and injustice. The Irish Province Patrician Brothers provides some financial support for their work. The following article on South Sudan was written by one of their directors, Peadar King, having been used as a report in the RTE Radio Programme, World Report.



Peadar King

Numbers are never neutral. When used for political gain, they are used both in ways that are inflationary or deflationary. And their use and miss-use can be seriously inflammatory. And with dire consequences. As in here in South Sudan. Just how many people were killed here in Juba following the violence that erupted amongst the presidential guard at 9.30 on the night of the 15 December 2013 is a case in point.

At 9.30 it was pitch dark. Street lighting in Juba, South Sudan's capital city, is practically non-existent. The only lights that cast shadows on the city streetscape are from charcoal fires as the women of the city hunker down to cook what is often the only meal of the day. These and the flickering lights from food stalls and other street sellers that act as a lighted cloister on the main thoroughfares of the city. But that night was like no other night. Fear and rumour gripped the city. Violence spread quickly and social media went into overdrive.

Since the very early hours of this conflict there have been extremely divisive and inaccurate reports on Twitter and Facebook reporting that certain things were happening, certain ethnic groups were being affected in particular ways which actually weren't true, which spread very quickly and were used to stir up purely ethnically-based hatred and escalate the tension, Ayam Wol told me.

Born to an Irish-American mother and a South Sudanese father, Ayam Wol is a writer and journalist raised in South London but returned to South Sudan to help in the reconstruction of the nation following independence. She has been chronicling the way in which social media has inflamed and distorted the conflict and in her distinctly south London accent.

This is a first for South Sudan. The morning after the conflict erupted, images were in circulation and not just in South Sudan but internationally of thousands of bodies piled high on the street. They weren't true and they could not be true, because the conflict started in darkness. It later transpired, she told me, that these images came from Boko Haram prompted killings in Nigeria. But by the time that was established it was too late. People believed that an ethnic killing spree was underway and they either fled to the nearest UN compound in Juba or sought vengeance themselves. The harm was done.

If social media fanned the flames, mainstream media took up the torch. Here in Juba, *The Nation Mirror*, which styles itself as 'Your First Authoritative Daily', headlined 'Rebels Hoist Sudanese Flag in Areas Captured from SPLA', the governing party. South Sudan fought a twenty-two year civil war with Sudan, a war that cost something in the region of 2 million lives and displaced millions of others. The Sudan flag is to the South Sudanese as the confederate flag is to African Americans - a symbol of years of oppression and in Ireland we too know the incendiary power of flags. Notwithstanding the certainty of *The Nation Mirror's* headline, it goes on to say in the body of the article that the rebels *are said* to have hoisted the Sudanese flag. In a country where just over a quarter of the population is literate the likelihood of misunderstanding is enormous. And misunderstanding is the harbinger of violence and death.

And death has come to South Sudan with a vengeance. Tens of thousands of deaths. And those left behind. Traumatized and destitute. Over two million have fled their homes and over five million in dire need of humanitarian assistance. More numbers. But as Dr. Daniel Bul, Chair of the Committee for National Healing, Peace and Reconciliation, pointed out to me the crime is not the number of people killed. It is important that a human being is not to be killed.

The reality is precise numbers are not known. In South Sudan's case it's best to stay clear of precise numbers. Here numbers beget numbers. And that is something for which no foreign reporter wants responsibility.

VISIT FROM THE AMBASSADOR

A resident Embassy of Ireland has been recently established in Nairobi and the ambassador is Dr Vincent O'Neill. Dr O'Neill is the first resident Irish Ambassador in Kenya in 26 years. He and his wife Brona paid a visit to the Patrician community at Kapsoya on 2nd March. Bro Paul Brennan had arranged for a number of Patricians to meet the ambassador and there was a pleasant question and answer session over a cup of tea.

On Sunday, 1st March, the ambassador and his wife attended the blessing and the laying of the foundation of the administration block of the Technical Training Institute at Kosyin near Eldoret. Bro Paul is a member of the board of management and has worked with Michael O'Callaghan in procuring Misesan Cara funding for the administration block.



Irish Ambassador, Dr. Vincent O'Neill, presents his credentials to President Kenyatta

ANNIVERSARY OF THE LATE BRO EDWARD McCARTHY

The anniversary Mass for the late Bro Edward was celebrated on 3rd March at Bishop Delany Memorial School. The music and hymns were provided by the school choir and there was a large attendance of Patrician Brothers, members of the teaching staff and students. Tributes were paid to the late Bro Edward for his wonderful contribution to Bishop Delany Memorial School where he was principal for 42 years. After the Mass floral tributes were laid at Bro Edward's grave beside the Brothers' residence.



Remember in your prayers Bro. Justin Madden, Bro. Otteran Mohan and Bro. James Murphy all of whom have been hospitalised recently.



The original 'Finglas Trio' pictured in the 'One-Room Flat' in 1969.
L to R : Fidelis O'Connell, R.I.P., Angelus Moore and Cormac Commins.

PRAYERS

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Una Rickard, sister of Bro. Paul Brennan, who died recently.

FINGLAS NEWS

Dermot Dunne

What a difference a few months make!



Patrician College, June 2014



Now St. Paul's School



Mater Christi Girls' School, June 2014



Now New Cross Coeducational College



*Angelus Moore
First Brother Principal
of Patrician College*



*Lucian Phelan
Last Brother Principal
of Patrician College*



*Paul Duffy
First Lay Principal
of Patrician College*



*Pat Carolan
Last Principal, Patrician,
First Principal, New Cross*



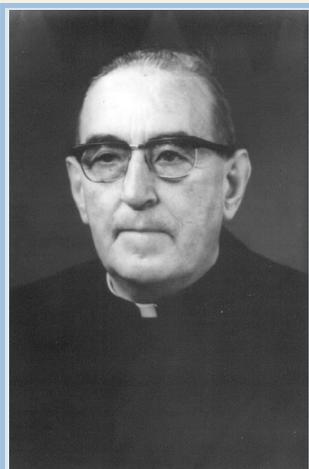
*Dermot
Dunne
Teaching
Woodwork
in
St. Pauls*



The historic Nethercross

PATRICIANS IN FINGLAS

THE EARLY YEARS



Bro. Francis Redmond

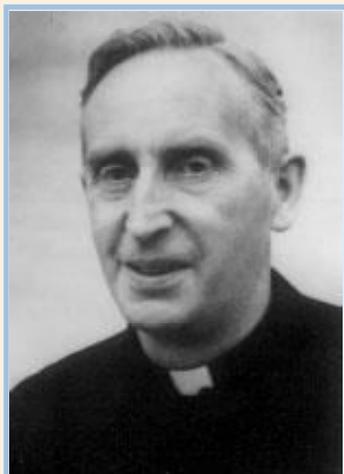
Even though our Congregation was founded in 1808 the Brothers in Ireland did not have a presence in the capital, Dublin, for over 150 years. They tended to open and run schools in rural areas of Ireland. Many Brothers questioned the fact that we were not present in Ireland's largest diocese. However that was to change when in early May 1966 the Superior General, Bro. Francis Redmond, received a letter from Dr. John Charles McQuaid, Archbishop of Dublin, asking the Brothers to open a Secondary school in his diocese. He mentioned two centres, Lucan and Finglas West.

On May 4th 1966 Bro. Francis and the Provincial, Bro. Denis Lomasney, met with Dr. McQuaid. The proposal to open a school was discussed fully and while the Brothers were inclined to press for Lucan the Archbishop spoke almost entirely of Finglas West and it became obvious that this was where he wanted them to have their first Dublin school.

Meetings followed with the De La Salle Brothers in Beneavin College, Finglas East, and Mr. Michael O'Brien, Dublin Corporation Planning Offices. Mr. O'Brien accompanied the Brothers to Finglas to see about a possible site and he promised

to help in any way he could.

Though most anxious to have a foundation in Dublin, the Superior General and Council felt that the Congregation was not in a position to take on such a large school at that time. Staff would be a major problem, financing the buying of a site and the building of a school and monastery would prove very difficult. This decision was conveyed to the Archbishop while at the same time they made it clear that a foundation in Dublin was something they always desired and would still like to have.



Bro. Denis Lomasney

His Grace wrote expressing disappointment but said he would leave his offer open. This was regarded as unusual as was his asking us to enter his diocese rather than receiving a petition from us to do so.

This turn of events caused the Superior General and Council to reconsider the project and in early July the Provincial received word from the Superior General that the Regime had decided we should acquire a site in Finglas West as soon as we could even though the school might not be built for some years. The Provincial was instructed to look after the Finglas project and take steps to provide a staff at the earliest possible date.

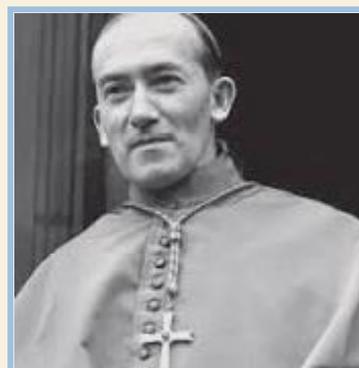
The project then move forward. Prefabs were purchased for classrooms and living accommodation for Bro. Angelus and Bro. Cormac who started the school in September 1967.

The people of Finglas were proud of Patrician College which excelled in the academic and sporting fields through the years. Many high achievers passed through its classrooms and halls, among the more well-known are Brendan O'Carroll of Mrs. Brown's Boys fame, Ronnie Whelan, Irish International Soccer player and David Rogers of Ireland's Meteorological Service who does weather forecasting on Irish Radio.

These are famous prefabs which served as classrooms, including a science lab, and living quarters for Cormac and Angelus. When Angelus was appointed Provincial Cormac took over as Principal

and he was joined by the late Bro. Fidelis O'Connell.

Their one room served as community room, bedroom and kitchen. Only the bathroom was separate!



Archbishop J.C. McQuaid



Cormac



Fidelis

CRICKET



*You have two sides,
One in the field and one in.
Each man that's in the side
that's in goes out and
when he's out he comes in
and the next man goes in
until he's out.*

*When they are all out,
the side that's out comes in
and the side that's been in
goes out and tries to get
those coming in, out.
Sometimes you get men still
in and not out.
When both sides have been
in and out
including the not outs,
that's the end of the game.*

Beatitudes for the Aged

Blessed are they who understand

My faltering step and palsied hand.

Blessed are they who know that my ears today
Must strain to catch the things they say.

Blessed are they who seem to know
My eyes are dim and my wits are slow.

Blessed are they who looked away
When coffee was spilled on the table today.

Blessed are they with a cheery smile
Who stop to chat for a little while.

Blessed are they who never say
'You've told that story twice today.'

Blessed are they who know the way
To bring back memories of yesterday.

Blessed are they who make it known

I'm loved, respected and not alone.

Blessed are they who ease the days
On my journey home in loving ways.



*Have you heard of the Kerryman who damaged his health by drinking
milk? The cow fell on him!*

*Negative feelings are like stray cats. The more you feed them, the
more they hang around.*

The first beginnings of wisdom is to ask questions but never to answer any.



*Group at Newbridge in 1989 to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the Brothers arrival to
take over the running of the school.*

*Front L to R: Leander Tannian, Fabian Doyle, Michael Malone, Lazerian Byrne, Ultan
Mahoney..*

*Back: David Byrne, James O'Rourke, Albert Lyng, Lambert Devery, Michael
Broderick, Thomas Gorman, Paul Duffy, Joseph Doheny.*

*Only James O'Rourke and Michael Broderick are still alive. Ultan Mahoney was a
member of the original community in Newbridge in 1939.*



Tina Fey

*"In most cases
being a good boss
means hiring
talented people
and then getting
out of their way".*



Noel Coward

*"It's discouraging
to think how many
people are
shocked by
honesty and how
few by deceit".*

90 YEARS YOUNG



The Murphys, James and Maurice, in celebration.

A Frosty Morning Picture from Daniel Delany's home town.



The White Horse River in Mountrath on a frosty morning. Part of the Parish Church can be seen in the background. This church was built by Bishop Daniel Delany. The picture was taken by Bro. Justin Madden the last Patrician Principal of the local Boys' Primary School.

The Year of Consecrated Life

The following is the Apostolic Letter of his Holiness Pope Francis to announce the Year of Consecrated Life.

In response to requests from many of you and from the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and for Societies of Apostolic Life, I decided to proclaim a **Year of Consecrated Life** on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, *Lumen Gentium*, which speaks of religious in its sixth chapter, and of the Decree *Perfectae Caritatis* on the renewal of religious life. The year will begin on 30 November 2014, the First Sunday of Advent, and conclude with the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple on 2 February 2016.



After consultation with the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and for Societies of Apostolic Life I have chosen as the aims of this year the same ones which Saint John Paul II proposed to the whole Church at the beginning of the third millennium, reiterating in a certain sense, what he had earlier written in the Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation *Vita Consecrata*:

“You have not only a glorious history to remember and to recount, but also a great history still to be accomplished! Look to the future, where the Spirit is sending you in order to do even greater things.”

Aims of the Year of Consecrated Life.

1. The first of these aims is to look to the past with gratitude.
2. This year also calls us to live the present with passion.
3. To embrace the future with hope should be the third aim of this year.

In the light of this, I ask you, the Pastors of the particular Churches, to show special concern for promoting within your communities the different charisms, whether long-standing or recent. I ask you to do this by your support and encouragement, your assistance in discernment and your tender and loving closeness to those situations of suffering and weakness in which some consecrated men or women may find themselves. Above all, do this by instructing the People of God in the value of consecrated life, so that its beauty and holiness may shine forth in the Church.

I entrust this Year of Consecrated Life to Mary, the Virgin of listening and contemplation, the first disciple of her beloved Son. Let us look to her, highly-beloved daughter of the Father, endowed with every gift of grace as the unsurpassed model for all those who follow Christ in love of God and service to their neighbour.



Loving God,

You are the source of all that is good..

Deepen our awareness of your presence with us as we continue our faith journey during this year of consecrated life.

Help the whole Church to value the riches that religious life brings to the faith community.

Help us religious

to look to the past with gratitude,

to live the present with passion and to embrace the future with hope.

Teach us to be humble servants of your Kingdom, to acknowledge our weaknesses and our need of healing In the sure hope of forgiveness and peace, so that, in union with the whole Church, we can awaken the world by living as instruments of your mercy and compassion, joy and hope. Amen.