

# IRELAND / KENYA



## NEWSLETTER



*Patrician Brothers*



*June 2009*

## *Requiescant in Pace*



*Fidelis Seamus O'Connell*



*Richard John Doheny*

Since our last Newsletter the Congregation has suffered the loss of two much-loved and admired Brothers with the deaths of Fidelis and Richard. While their deaths were not unexpected, as both suffered from poor health for a number of years, the sense of loss was keenly felt especially in the Irish and Australian Provinces.

The Galway and Fairfield Communities are to be commended for the care and attention lavished on these two men during their long illnesses. It was an example of caring Patrician brotherhood at its best.

A native of Ballingarry, Co. Tipperary Richard was born on 3rd September 1935, the third youngest of twelve children four of whom are still living. His brother, Joseph, also a Patrician, died in 1995. Richard arrived in Australia on 13th December 1956 aboard the *Otranto* and from 1957 until he retired in 2002 he taught in Fairfield, Blacktown and Granville finishing in Fairfield.

Fidelis was born in Kilcullen, Co. Kildare, on 7th June 1936. Having qualified in University College Galway he taught in Galway, Finglas, Tullow, Ballyfin, Finglas again and he finished his teaching career in St. Joseph's College, Galway. He is survived by two brothers, Tom and Brendan.

We pray that Fidelis and Richard, who gave of themselves so generously to the apostolate, may now rest in the peace of Christ.

## *Kevin Ruane's memories of Fidelis*

Fidelis was born in Kilcullen, Co. Kildare, in 1936. He entered the Novitiate in Tullow in 1953 and came to Galway in 1958. He left Galway in 1968 and returned in 1986 and remained until his death.



Some fourteen years ago he was diagnosed with a stomach cancer. Operations were successful but a course of preventative chemotherapy was prescribed and for a year or so he went through great agony. In the end his lungs were affected which brought on his final dependence on oxygen.

He had a pleasant disposition and was always friendly and obliging. He was very religious and endured his ill-health without complaint. He had a great memory for names and faces and his popularity was shown in the great numbers of people who attended his wake, removal to the church and his funeral.

In the Secondary Schools where he worked he was regarded as a master at the teaching of maths and was always willing to take the highest or the weakest

classes. In his latest years he excelled in teaching the use of computers.

He always liked travelling, visiting many countries. He made a number of trips to Australia where his brother had settled.

It was so sad in his final years to see him confined or tied to an oxygen supply because during his life he was active at games – hurling, football, tennis and golf. Without any previous experience he took charge of St. Joseph's College, Rowing Club and made quite a success of it.

May he rest in peace.

## *Bust of Founder for Tullow Church*



*The Irish Province recently commissioned a new bust of Daniel Delany which will be placed in the Church of the Most Holy Rosary, Tullow, where our Founder is buried.*

*The bust, pictured left, designed by Annette McCormack, will be positioned close to the Daniel Delany window.*

We regret to record the death of Mr. Jack Tierney, formerly Bro. Canice. Jack was Deputy Principal of Patrician Academy, Mallow, and also a member of Mallow Town Council. He never lost touch with the Patricians and was very much involved in our Bicentenary celebrations last year. His funeral was attended by many Brothers, former Brothers and former colleagues. We offer our sympathy to his wife and family.

# End of an Era



*Sixth Year Student, Erin Dollard, presents a framed picture of Ballyfin to John Quinn*

On Friday 15th May, Staff, present and past, pupils present and past and Patrician Brothers with some of their former colleagues gathered in the Heritage Hotel, Portlaoise, to mark the end of Patrician College, Ballyfin, in its present location. In September the school returns to its original home in Mountrath, not this time as a stand-alone school but joining with the Brigidine Secondary School, Mountrath, and St. Aengus' Vocational School to form the new Mountrath Community School.

Highlight of the evening was the launch of a history of the college compiled and edited by Ciaran Tinkler, a member of the teaching staff of the college. Filled with articles and photographs it chronicles the life of the college from 1930 to 2009 remembering Brothers, Lay Staff and past pupils who made a major contribution to the life of the college.

The history was launched by John Quinn, producer and presenter with RTE Radio. John quoted from his own internationally acclaimed radio programme about his time as a pupil in Ballyfin.

It was a night when people looked back with pride at the achievements of the school. Past pupils who made a name for themselves in medicine, politics and sport were remembered. Former pupils who spoke at the function were high in their praise of their treatment remembering especially that they were treated as adults by Brothers and Staff in their final years.

We wish Staff and pupils every success in their new Community School and we hope that ethos and spirit of Ballyfin will continue for generations to come.



*Bro. Matthew makes presentation to Ciaran Tinkler*



*Bro. Dermot Dunne and Bro. Gerry Reburn*



*College students handle the sale of the History*

# Le Cheile - an Update

Readers will be aware that we have been involved for some time in setting up the Le Cheile Trust. It is a collaborative Trust set up initially by twelve founding Congregations. The Trust will carry out the increasing complex legal and inspirational role of the Patron previously exercised by the religious congregations. In setting up the Trust the participating congregations wish to affirm their commitment to the future of Catholic education.

The Trust is established as a legal entity, under company law. Central to the operation of the Trust is its Charter. The Charter outlines the mission and vision that the congregations entrust to this new venture. The Charter is written in three parts - part one describes the mission of the Trust, part two describes the vision of education and the third part consists of a heritage statement from each of the founding congregations.

Congregational leaders from the participating congregations met in Dublin on 6 March to launch the Charter. Representatives from the schools of the founding congregations met in Mullingar on 13 May to launch the Charter for schools and it is hoped that individual schools will launch the Charter in September to mark the beginning of the new school year.

Other recent developments include the appointment of personnel to the Le Cheile Education Office. Three people have been appointed: an Education Secretary, a Faith Development Officer and a business secretary



*Camillus lights Patrician candle at the Charter launch.*



*Peter O'Reilly, Principal, Newbridge, lighting the school Le Cheile candle from the Patrician candle held by Cormac to symbolise forthcoming passing on of schools to the Le Cheile Trust.*

## *Representatives of other Patrician Schools at the Launch*

### *Galway*



*Myles McHugh, Chairperson*



*Jimmy Brennan, Principal*

### *Finglas*



*Seamus Mullooly, Chairperson*



*Michael Stacey, Principal*

### *Fethard*



*Bro. Matthew, Chairperson*



*Ernan Britton, Principal*



## Finglas Reunion

The Patrician Brothers opened a second level school in Finglas in September 1967. Bro Angelus Moore was the first Superior and Principal with Bro Cormac Commins as his assistant. Classes were conducted initially in prefabricated classrooms until more permanent structures were put in place. In 2007 a group of former pupils who attended the school on the first day endeavoured to organize a fortieth anniversary gathering but their efforts proved fruitless for a number of different reasons. During the past year efforts were renewed following a chance meeting between a number of former students and current staff member, Mick Sweeney. This group succeeded in making contact with many past pupils and a very well organized reunion took place in the school on 27 March 2009.

The gathering included former students as well as current and former teachers. In all, over 150 people enjoyed a very pleasant evening in the school when many stories were told and past events recalled. Among the attendance were former pupils now living in the United States, England and Germany. Prompted by the success of this reunion the organisers are hoping to make it an annual event.

### *Sharing Memories*





## General Chapter Delegates

The Irish Province has chosen Bro. Cormac Commins and Bro. Matthew Hayes as delegates to the General Chapter to be held in India in 2010.



## *Almost Ready*



Mountrath Community School which will be ready for its September opening to receive students from Ballyfin College, Brigidine Secondary School, Mountrath, and St. Aengus' Vocational School.

### *THE SENILITY PRAYER*

*God grant me the senility to forget the people  
I never liked anyway,  
The good fortune to run into the ones I do, and,  
The eyesight to tell the difference.*

# Changing the Guard at St. Joseph's College, Galway



*Mr. John O'Keeffe, left, incoming Principal, and Mr John Madden, incoming Deputy Principal.*

Mr Jimmy Brennan, Principal of St Joseph's College, Galway, is due to retire at the end of the current school year. Interviews for the appointment of his successor took place on 22 April and the current Deputy Principal, John O'Keeffe, was appointed to the post. John is a native of Mitchelstown, Co Cork and he has been a teacher at St Joseph's since 1974. Apart for his teaching duties has been very much involved in the life of the school. He was a member of the Board of Management for three years, he set up the Parents' Association in 1996 and he has successfully coached many of the school's Gaelic football and soccer teams.

We wish John every success in his new role and we are confident that the Patrician ethos will be maintained under his stewardship.

We also congratulate the new Deputy Principal, John Madden, and wish him well in his new position. John has been a member of staff for ten years and teaches PE and Maths. He is the First Year Year Head and coaches Gaelic Football teams.

We take this opportunity also to thank Jimmy Brennan for his many years of service in St Joseph's and we wish him a long and happy retirement.



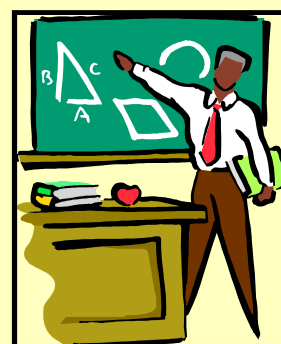
Sean Hennelly of the Parents' Council presents a cheque to Jimmy Brennan as a contribution to the school, watched by the new Principal and Deputy.

## THE JOURNEY BEFORE US

*(The following is an excerpt from an article in Religious Life Review, May/June 2009, by Sister Janet Malone, Congregation of Notre Dame).*

Amidst widespread crises, religious are entering a new era of responsibility. No longer can one or other group of us turn the tide of these momentous challenges. Lives are changed nowadays by the click of a mouse. Perhaps at one time the hierarchical ways of being and doing may have worked, but no longer. It is all of us together, so we can take heart from Obama's mantra-like challenge to all in his nation, 'Yes, we can'. Our challenge is to find out together what each of our roles demands. We can fulfil our roles only if there is trust, if we are given the space to be both leaders and members as needs dictate. Together, we can. In this new era of responsibility there must be a recognition on the part of every religious that we have duties to ourselves, our congregations, our nations and the world .... duties we do not grudgingly accept but rather seize gladly. To do otherwise reveals a fortress mentality, where the nuanced separations between leaders and other members continue to cry out 'us and them'.

Not many of us could have foreseen this moment of 'winter' in religious life. Most of us entered consecrated life in the halcyon days that blossomed with a vision for monastic as well as apostolic mandates, exercising our particular charisms. For apostolic congregations, with age and numbers on our side, we answered educational, health care-related, and social needs. Now past the harvest time of our lives, we have long since reaped the fruits of those labours.



We responded as best we could to the signs of the times in which we were called.

Now is the season to let go in faith and hope. The future is not in our hands but rather in the embrace of the Cosmic Mystery in which we all belong. We must have confidence - the knowledge that God calls on us to shape an uncertain future. We only know in faith and hope as the yawns before us.



As consecrated persons, we purport to have faith and of hope in lives we choose to live. Change is inevitable. The major shifts both in our cultures, for instance: these impress upon us that we must move from denial to acceptance of the changes before us. Such stark changes must be found not only in our Chapter documents but must become part of our lives.



Yes, together we can.

## The English Language!

Lets face it - English is a crazy language. There is no egg in eggplant, nor ham in hamburger; neither apple nor pine in pineapple. English muffins weren't invented in England nor French fries in France. Sweet meats are candies, while sweetbreads, which aren't sweet, are meat. Quicksand can work slowly, boxing rings are square and a guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig.

If teachers taught why didn't preachers praught? If a vegetarian eats vegetables what does a humanitarian eat? Why do we recite at a play and play at a recital? We have noses that run and feet that smell. How can a slim chance and a fat chance be the same? Why is it that when the stars are out they are visible and when the lights are out they are invisible? Why did the soldier decide to desert his dessert in the desert?