

EXCHANGE - ECHANGE

NORTHERN EUROPEAN PROVINCE * PROVINCE DE L'EUROPE DU NORD

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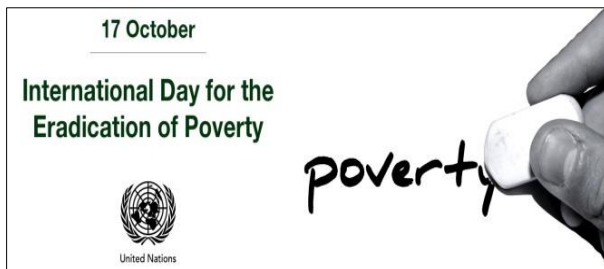
Novemeber 2016



*13 November -
Birthday of Péré Jean Gailhac*

*Trusting in the Spirit,
we pledge ourselves to support each other
in our consecration for mission. (Const 9)*

From Anne Murphy



This morning (17 October) I was down on Custom House Quay here in Dublin to attend a now annual gathering to mark UN International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. One of my students, Bernadette (Bernie) Browne, herself a child of Dublin's docklands, is a member of the

organising committee for this and all related and feeder activities throughout the year. Bernie is a graduate of All Hallows ALBA Programme on which I teach. She got so immersed in our Ireland and the UN programme (which itself was designed after my work at the UN with Rita Arthur, RIP) that she, Bernie, is working on building justice in her own backyard. A tall order in an area which, to many, is identified as gangland territory, rife with crime and drugs.

Bernie Browne is a mature student with a grown-up family, and from a loving and decent family herself reared in better times. Having achieved a good primary degree, she went on to gain a Master's Degree; she is now a doctoral student (facilitated by DCU); in fact, she may shortly be officially named a Research Fellow. Some achievement! Bernie is on the committee of ATD (All Together in Dignity) who co-ordinate events like those of this week which focus on poverty and homelessness and the related issues of humiliation, shame, and hopelessness. I asked Bernie to write a few paragraphs to send to you on her work, and the ongoing issues needing the attention of all of us.



President 'Michael D' spoke passionately, and eloquently, to this morning's gathering, just a few yards from the **Famine Sculptures on Custom House Quay**. His address was particularly emotional, given that he was responding to moving testimonies of immigrants and homeless people, real living and breathing people from our own streets and communities. They are just asking for respect, and a decent standard of living; one which will restore their dignity and self-respect. Surely, this is no more than a matter of human rights?

Bernie wrote:

On October 17th for the last eight years a group have gathered to remember the poor. The World Poverty Stone was installed in 2008 and has been a place for people who experience poverty to speak. We bear witness to their suffering to remind us to become complete as human beings. The World Poverty Stone is a commemorative stone marking the United Nations International Day for the Eradication of World Poverty. It is situated to the east of the Famine Sculptures on Custom House Quay in the heart of Dublin's Docklands. At Custom House quay where the stone is locatedwe see homeless people sleeping rough. The famine memorial is located nearby and reminds us of such devastation and humiliation along with its effects.



In order to show we care... ATD (All together in Dignity) Fourth World Organisation Ireland welcome all to the event.

Each year we are growing, and this year the President.....who has attended before...responded to the testimony of those who shared their suffering. The people were in no doubt that their voices were heard. We, as advocates, are urged to work to ensure that economic decisions include ethics - suggested our president. The mission of ATD is to ensure the dignity of all. Surely, this has to be the fundamental influence for all decisions relating to justice and human rights?

My Ministry - Kathleen Hamilton

I am one of three who live in our house in Fazakerley, and each of us is involved in different apostolates in the area. I will leave it to the other two to speak for themselves.

You could term me “a roving musician” – because my main occupation is playing the organ in various churches for weekend Masses, and for funerals, weddings, and other celebratory functions. You might remark “they must be badly off having to put up with such an old fogey!” True, because there is a noticeable shortage of organists nowadays. Young people tend to favour learning other instruments like guitars, violas, flutes, violins.

In one church, I’m also a member of the choir which sings in harmony at one of the three Sunday Masses where I play.

In one parish I’m responsible for money matters – helping with counting the Sunday collection, and then taking it over to the presbytery, to continue counting other moneys accumulated during the week – Mass stipends, other collections for outings, pilgrimages, Pius lists in November, stole fees etc.; then recording the findings, balancing the books and filling in the paying-in book for banking each week. You might say I could have the letters MM after my name (Money and Music). I make a start on all this every Sunday after the

Masses (not getting back here until around 4.30 pm) and conclude proceedings on Mondays, when I also do “door and phone duty in the office there). So, weekends are my busiest.

Other than that, I visit some housebound or handicapped people, whom I’ve come know over the years in Kirkby and other neighbouring parishes.

Alas, this aspect of my apostolate is now waning because of recent unfortunate circumstances which prevent me from driving anymore; and because of my arthritic limbs, I’m unable to walk any distance, and need wheelchair assistance when travelling by public transport.

However, I’m happy to say that the Province have kindly financed a mobility scooter to enable me to scoot around out and about – to the post box, the chemist, the doctor, the local shops, and, whenever I might happen to be free, to go to Mass in our parish church in St. Philomena’s.

All things considered, I have a lot to be thankful to God for in my life.

Kathleen on her new scooter



THE STATUE ON THE HILL - *Agnes Hunt*

It was 1948 and my sister Mona and I were studying for our Intermediate examination in the Sacred Heart of Mary Convent School in Ferrybank. One afternoon, an announcement was made that a Jesuit missionary priest would give a talk with a slide-show on one of the projects in Northern Rhodesia.



The slides depicted local men making bricks, digging foundations, building walls and then roofing a church in N Rhodesia. While he named the mission, it was strange and meant nothing to me. I was very taken by the strenuous work these men did and the expertise they showed working in such a remote, rocky, underdeveloped area, with no equipment and in several degrees of heat. Fr McCarthy S.J. explained to us that these men had been trained by a Jesuit Brother in the Trades School on the grounds. When these slides were taken, they were actually doing their exams in brick-laying, flooring, roofing, and then, in carpentry making the benches, confessionals, altar etc. and then the final painting. Each man qualified in his particular field and could apply for paid work anywhere. This was so practical, I thought, and they were so proud of the finished church.

At the time, we had a Mission Guild in Ferrybank called The Mother Butler Mission Guild. We, the class members, decided to raise some funds to defray the expenses of the building of that church in N Rhodesia.

I cannot remember how much money we collected from donations, whist-drives etc. However, it was sent to Fr Joe McCarthy S.J. and he decided to purchase a statue of Our Lady for the mission.

Years later, in 1956, Mother Odile and I arrived in Zambia in the dark. We were met by Fr J McCarthy S.J. , who drove us to Chivuna , again arriving in the dark. Next morning we went for Mass at 06.00 am in the Mission Church. I immediately recognised the church as the one we saw on the slide-show. On reflection, I knew now that N Rhodesia had become Zambia, that the mission was Chivuna, that the S.J. brother was Br Jim Dunne, that the remains of the Trades School were still there and now housed students' suitcases. The church of the slide-show was now Chivuna Parish Church.

So here was a building, a church, built for local people, having risen from the ground where it stood. In time it would reach out to people in the outstations enlarging and uniting a widespread rural community.

But that is not the end. Mother Odile and I would sometimes take a short walk up a thorny, rocky hillside. Often we would sit on a stone and survey the mission and the haphazard lay-out of the buildings. A snake disturbed us on one occasion. It was peaceful and the noise from the classrooms seemed far away. To our surprise, there on the hillside was the statue of Our Lady of Fatima. While rugged looking, it was so lovingly cared for by two of the students as their manual work and on that day it had a fresh bougainvillea added to the cacti that grew naturally around it. We thought of Ferrybank and the Mission Guild of 1948. The sight of the statue completed our welcome to Zambia.

Abbey Community College students raise over 10,000 Euros for Zambia



Over 800 hundred students and teachers from Abbey Community College took part in a sponsored walk around the Ferrybank area on Friday 30th of September, in an effort to raise funds for the young people of Zambia which is one of the poorest countries in the world. Classrooms often contain 60-100 students; more than double the size of an Irish classroom. It's nearly impossible for them to get a proper education in such crowded facilities.

Education is

something students in Ireland often take for granted. Teenagers moan about how they have to get up at 7am to go to school, where they spend the majority of the day with their friends. People in 1st World Countries don't realise how good they have it, especially the people of Ireland. These children often get up when the moon is still high in the sky, when we are all still sound asleep in our warm beds under a sturdy roof that keeps out the bitter cold. They have to walk miles to get simple things we take for granted like water, an education and so much more.

The RSHM (co-trustees of the Abbey) support education in Zambia and are involved in expanding a primary school for children with disabilities to secondary level. They provide educational support for girls, orphans, HIV positive children and children with special needs. In places like

FROM FERRYBANK
 Collect Sponsorship Cards From Your Religion Teacher
 30th September 2016
 Sacred Heart of Mary Sisters Travelling to Zambia 50 years ago

Collection Points:
 GPA, 01: 1st Year
 Hub, 02: 2nd-6th Year

Collection Times:
 Morning: 8:30-8:45
 Lunchtime: 13:20-13:45

ZAMBIA
 40% Zambians are considered to be Extremely Poor
 14.3% aged 15-49 have HIV
 Classrooms in Zambia have between 60-100 students
 Celebrating 50 Years
 64% Zambians live on less than \$1 a day

Zambia, children with disabilities are seen as a curse, a waste of space. The Abbey have recently opened up a new extension and, in this massive high-tech building, there is a space called The Pod. This facility is especially for children who want an education but suffer from a disability or have special needs. Something as simple as The Pod is taken for granted by so many people. We as a country are so lucky to have such a facility.

In Zambia over 15% of the population aged 15-49 are infected with HIV and the country has one of the lowest life expectancies in the world - 44 years. Can you imagine only being able to live in this world for a mere 44 years? to be considered lucky if you reach your full 44 years?

There was a fantastic and generous response from the students and their families when the sponsorship cards came back. To date we have raised over 10,000 euros. This is a phenomenal figure that will definitely help thousands of people in Zambia.

Students, parents and teachers enjoyed a walk around the Ferrybank area, showing their support in the way they could. The school community really opened up their hearts and minds in the efforts to help people just like us. All the funds will go directly to the RSHM projects for education and health in Zambia. Well done everyone!

Zoe Dowling, pupil at Abbey Community College, Ferrybank

Village News from Penmaenmawr - Pauline Stott

You are all familiar with the ministry which takes place in Noddfa but we are also close to the life of the village and try to take part in all that goes on.

On Saturday 22nd October, the house was given over to a local group that do fund-

raising for the training of Guide Dogs for the Blind. We learned a lot about their training and the support needed. They made £747 in the few hours they were here.



On Sunday, 23rd October we took part in a Service of 'Songs of Praise' for 'Churches Together in Penmaenmawr'. Each denomination chose a hymn.

Last Friday 28th October, we attended the Welsh Chapel Hall for soup. Different members of the WI prepare soup voluntarily and we pay £5.00. This will take place on the last Friday of every month until March. The proceeds go to Christian Aid - £163.00 was collected this week.

On the way home from the village there was a Sale of Work for a Breast Cancer event which raised £1,000.00 within three hours.

It is really good to be part of Village Life and contribute to the events.

Two of us are members of the parish Justice and Peace group, which meets every month and tries to raise awareness in the parish



HUNTSTOWN REQUEST

Can you help ?



We hope you can support our fundraising efforts to help with the restoration of Huntstown Church which was damaged by a fire on the 9th of June last.



*Please send donations to : C/O Huntstown Parish , Sacred Heart of Jesus School, Huntstown Way, Dublin 15.
Contact phone no. 01 8129632*

Here in Huntstown we have been without our parish church for some months. On the night of June 9 there was a major fire in the church caused by an electrical wiring fault. The fire caused the roof of the church to collapse and also serious damage was done to the main body of the church. It is very difficult and sad for our parish priest, Fr George, and our Huntstown parish community and a great loss to all of us. We have become a wandering group seeking the liturgy here and there!

Fundraising is taking place to help finance the restoration as insurance will not cover the total cost. We in Huntstown, Catherine and Judith, would really appreciate if any community could contribute. No amount is too small to add to the fund. We will all be most grateful for any help given. Donations can be made payable to Sacred Heart Church, Huntstown and sent to Judith in Huntstown.

We are grateful for the generous donation we have received from the province

Blessings and peace ,
Judith and Catherine

BEREAVEMENTS

Our sympathies are extended to:

The sisters in Madonna House on the death of Sr Constance O'Sullivan on 2 November. Constance was 87 years old and in the 67th year of her Religious Profession

The sisters of the EAP on the death of Sister Margaret Ann Landry, RSHM who died suddenly on 18 October. She was 84 years old and in the 64th year of her Religious Profession.

The husband, Tom Kelly, and family of Josephine (sister of the late Sr Catherine Philbin) who died very suddenly on 20 October.

May they rest in peace

A tribute to Sr Constance O'Sullivan RIP delivered at her funeral Mass by Patsy Butler

We are gathered today in memory of St. Constance, Connie. In our own lives we already have many memories. Today we are creating another one and we're doing so in the context of the memory of the last Supper when Jesus gave Himself in the Eucharist. But this is not just a memory...it's a reality.

Some time ago a little girl was walking down Ferrybank and seeing Connie she cried out "there's MY sister". Everyone of us can identify with that remark. A sister is someone who loves us, supports us, encourages us and sometimes corrects us but is always faithful.



Connie was like the Pied Piper no matter where she was - in Lisburn, Overstrand, Ferrybank and even Zimbabwe. Children gravitated towards her. She was only 3 months in Zimbabwe. She didn't know a word of Shona, the local language, but as soon as she went out the gate of the Novitiate all the children gathered round her. A few days ago Sr. Immaculée said it was because she was non-threatening. Connie was loving, kind, compassionate and deeply intuitive. She was 'no dozer' and could describe a person in one word!

After College she taught in the North of Ireland and just this past week when a few of the Sisters met some Past Pupils after Mass one of them said; "I remember Sr Constance especially. She was an amazing person. She taught me Religion and I've never forgotten it." One of our sisters who is with us today says "she taught me Religion too and I won the Bishop's prize that year."

Connie's compassion was particularly evident when caring for the sick whether in their homes, in hospital or in the various convents where she lived. She never expected a word of thanks for her great attention to the sick. In the Readings of today's Mass we will hear phrases that could be applied to Connie. She was loved by everyone. Why? because she loved them and approached people with joy and a smile. Everyone, young and old, were happy in her company especially the young as her nephew, Richard, said "You couldn't get near her at a party or gathering because she would be surrounded by all the young ones."

She was also very human and loved a flutter on the horses. Nothing would give her more joy than to go to Tramore and try her luck on the slot machines. There was great chat and treats when she won but when the reverse happened never a word was said!

She accepted her illness during the past years without complaining and never looked for attention; never ringing her bell or when one of the carers came to her she never said "where were you?"

Connie "God gave you the courage for your hidden self to go strong and to become the person He created you to be. You will be welcomed home now as that person. Go to God with our love and rest in peace."



Sunflower and Millenium Groups – forward planning

Many sisters have contacted Noddfa with a request to have meetings for the Sunflower and the Millenium Groups in 2017. Noddfa have kindly offered the following dates:

Sunflower group – Easter week Tues 18 – Fri 21 April 2017

Millenium Group – Tues 2 – Fri 5 May 2017

Please make a note in your diaries.