

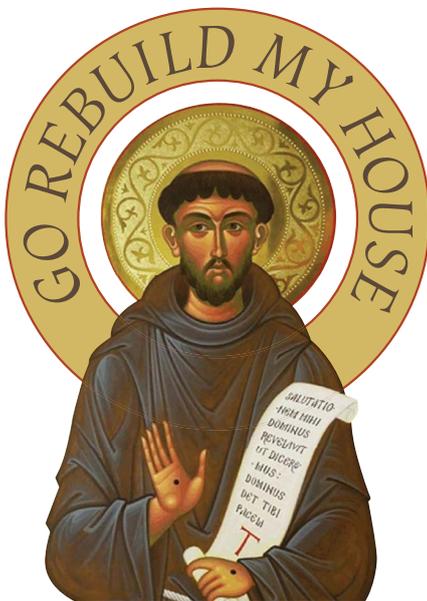
Capuchin Connection



**CAPUCHIN
FRANCISCANS**
PROVINCE OF IRELAND

Welcome to the Summer issue of *Capuchin Connection*. This summer the Irish Capuchin Province is holding what we call a *chapter*. A chapter for most is a subsection of a book – something that contains the next part of the story. In many ways, so it is for us too. The theme for this year's chapter is 'Go Rebuild My House'.

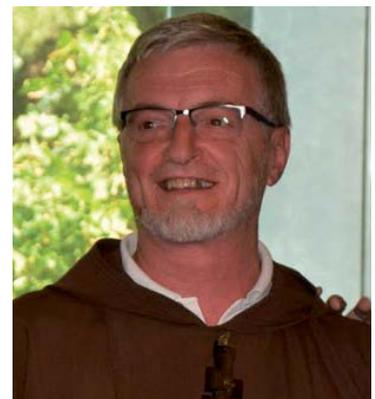
When we gather for chapter we hope to achieve a number of things such as listening to updates on our various apostolates at home and abroad, planning for the next three years and the election of a new leadership team. The chapter is not all business and one very important aspect of it is to create the time and space for friars to reconnect with each other. Chapter is also a time of spiritual enrichment for the friars.



We don't often have the opportunity to come together to pray as an entire province and there is something very powerful and moving about this. As we gather together for prayer all aspects of our life are represented in the friars present: missionary friars and returned missionaries, friars who minister in hospitals, hospices, schools and various other ministries, those who minister in local leadership as Guardians, Vicars and Bursars, the younger and the older.

Something special happens when we gather like this because as we gather our intention is not to look inward and stay there but to gaze inward so that we can better see how we can respond to the needs that surround us. This is what Capuchins have done since our inception in the fifteen hundreds. The Capuchin vocation is one of active-contemplation. What this means in real terms is that we are called to enter into deep reflective dialogue with God so that we can better serve the needs of those with whom we share our life: our brothers and the poor. Chapter is the opportunity for us to gather and reflect on a larger scale than usual.

This upcoming chapter is a very special one for us as we will be joined by our recently elected Minister General Brother Roberto Genuin. Brother Roberto was elected Minister General at the 85th Capuchin General Chapter in Rome last September. The Minister General is for us considered the 'successor of Saint Francis of Assisi' and he serves the brothers on an international level. Brother Roberto was born in 1961 and made perpetual profession as a Capuchin Friar in 1985 and was ordained a priest in 1987. Brother Roberto served as Provincial Minister in the Province of Venice before his election and has a particular interest in nourishing and strengthening our links with the Secular Franciscan Order and YouFra (the Franciscan Youth Movement). We very much look forward to welcoming Br Roberto to Ireland and we assure him of a very warm *céad míle fáilte*.



In this issue of *Capuchin Connection*, Brother Richard Hendrick from our Provincial Communications Commission highlights our emerging on-line ministry and how we can bring a positive message to the digital world as 'Digital Disciples'. Brother Seán Kelly reflects on his recent visit to our missions in Zambia and shares some of his fantastic photographs. All this and much more. We hope you enjoy this issue and remember *Capuchin Connection* is 100% recyclable!

The Capuchin Connection Team

Rochestown Pollinator Protection Project

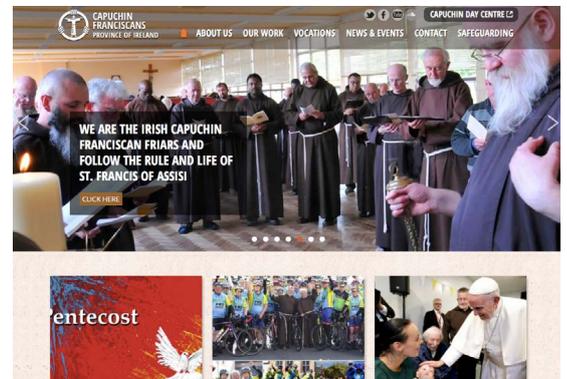


We are delighted that our community of Friars in Rochestown, Cork have decided to designate an area of the friary grounds as a 'Pollinator Protection Zone'. This makes the area a 'no-mow' and weedkiller-/pesticide-free zone that supports and encourages pollinator activity. As followers of St Francis of Assisi – Patron Saint of Ecology – we have a special calling to do all we can to safeguard creation.

If you would like to know more about what you can do visit the website of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan – www.pollinators.ie for some encouragement and great ideas.

We hope that this project will become a joint project with St Francis College and a number of teachers have already expressed interest in helping us develop the idea.

Digital Disciples: Preaching the Gospel on the World Wide Web



From the earliest days of the Capuchin Order the brothers have used every means at their disposal to bring the peace and joy of the Gospel to as many as possible. Saint Francis instructed his followers to 'preach the Gospel at all times' and the Friars aimed to do this whether it was by long and arduous journeys to foreign lands, missions and retreats in local towns, preaching in the squares and churches of the countryside or by their simple presence among the people. Over the centuries, Friars have brought the contemplative Franciscan message into the midst of an often noisy world. Today we have many new forms of communication at our disposal to help us continue this mission.

As a Capuchin Province we have embraced these new forms of communication with presences on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and on various blogging platforms. In many ways these new ways forms of communication offer new opportunities for preaching the Gospel. They allow us to be present to people at home and abroad as well as helping us to invite them into deeper experience of their faith and the message of St Francis. Many people have told us that they enjoy reading the daily social media posts and by 'virtually' praying with the Friars. This helps them to deepen their faith while learning about our way of life. If you would like to follow us online then a good way to start is by visiting our website (www.capuchinfranciscans.ie) – from there you can link with all of our social media platforms. We look forward to meeting you on-line!



Br Richard Hendrick OFM Cap. – Provincial Communications Commission

A visit to Zambia – Brother Seán Kelly OFM Cap.



L - R: Brothers Seán Kelly, James Connolly and Noel Brennan

At present there are approximately 45 friars in Zambia only three of which are Irish. This is a great testimony to all those missionaries who from the 1930s in the most difficult of circumstances-built Churches, schools and hospitals establishing many parishes and creating self- sustainable projects.



Brother Donatus McNamara.
Assembly on Self-Sustainability 2018

The first place I visited was Chinyunyu, a parish assigned to us by the new local Archbishop, Alick Banda. Here Br. Christopher Nkole is Parish Priest and is busy with the construction of a new church.

The first thing that struck me was the large number of children present on the grounds of the new church on a Saturday morning being led in catechism classes by lay catechists. There were about four large groups of children and they were all full of joy and were so enthusiastic about their faith. Br. Christopher lives in a very basic house with no electricity and with outside washroom and toilet. He is very popular with all the locals who love him for the hard work he does. He, along with the people, are actually building the church themselves, using whatever trades they have as a service to the parish. One lady who assists Br. Christopher was embarrassed to have to report that as she was preparing rice and chicken for the 'visitors', the chickens had run away. Smart chickens in Lusaka!

Before I came to Zambia these places were just names that were mentioned in different conversations. But to see them in reality and to hear the local people recall with fondness the work started by the Irish missionaries all those years ago has given me a real appreciation of the very difficult life and work they have endured and continue to endure in the 'holy trinity' of Brothers Donatus, James and Noel. It is so inspiring to witness the vibrant Church that exists in Zambia. It is a living testimony to all the great friars who have built up the mission to what it is today.

I want to personally thank all the former missionaries at home for their contribution to the Church and people in Zambia through their preaching, schools and hospitals, in collaboration with the Presentation and the Holy Cross Sisters and others.



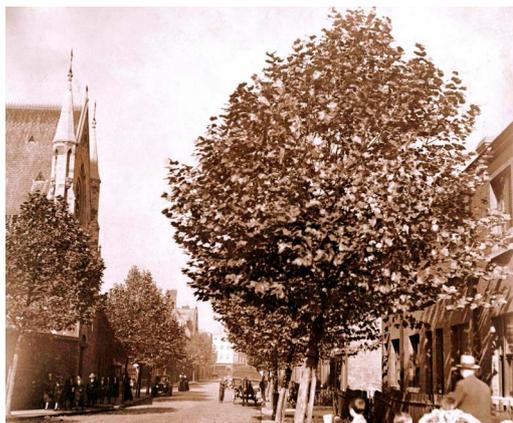
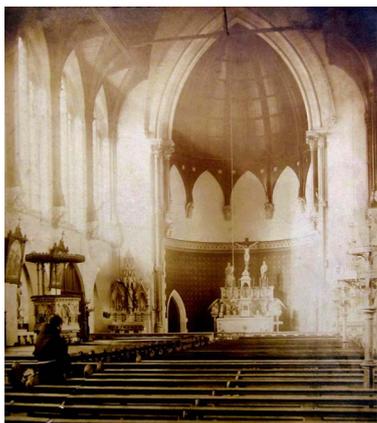
Sincere thanks to Brothers Donatus, James and Noel. And to Augustine and indeed all the Zambian brothers for their warm welcome and hospitality during my visit.

Mangango, Mongu, Chinyingi, and Lusaka were names of places I had heard our returned missionaries talk about often in conversation, but I never dreamed that I would have the privilege of visiting them myself one day. I was thrilled when I was asked by our Provincial to attend an assembly on self-sustainability in Zambia in March of this year and to visit all our friaries which would involve a 4,500 KM journey by road most of which were sandy and uncomfortable to say the least.



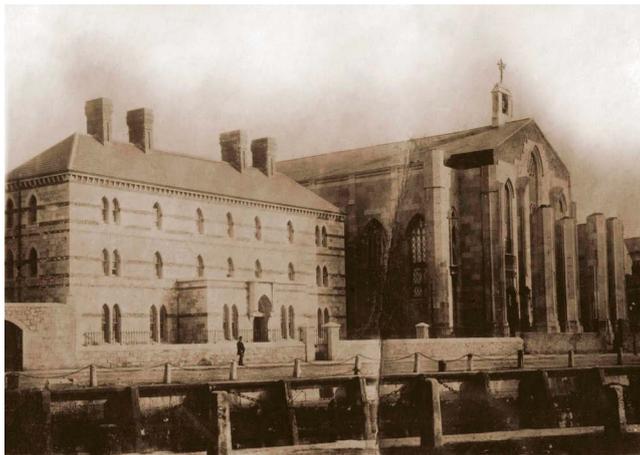
L - R: Br. Moses Moffat Muyuya. Br. Chanda Shula.
Br. Augustine Mwape.

From our Archives - a look at some of our Capuchin houses



Left:
The Interior of the Capuchin Church of St. Mary of the Angels, Church Street, Dublin, c.1900.

Right:
A view of Church Street, Dublin, looking northwards with St. Mary of the Angels on the left, c.1925.



Left:
The exterior of Holy Trinity Church and the adjoining Capuchin Friary on Charlotte Quay (now Father Mathew Quay), Cork, c.1885. This rare image shows the church before the construction of the Gothic portico and spire in 1890.

Right:
Holy Trinity Church and Capuchin Friary, Charlotte Quay (now Father Mathew Quay), Cork, c.1915.



Left:
Corpus Christi procession at the Capuchin Friary in Rochestown, County Cork, 1905.

Right:
The exterior of the Capuchin Church of St. Francis and the adjoining Friary in Kilkenny, c.1925.



Right:
The exterior of the Ards House, County Donegal.

Left:
Ard Mhuire Capuchin Friary and Retreat Centre near Creeslough, County Donegal, in 1980.



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