

Capuchin Connection



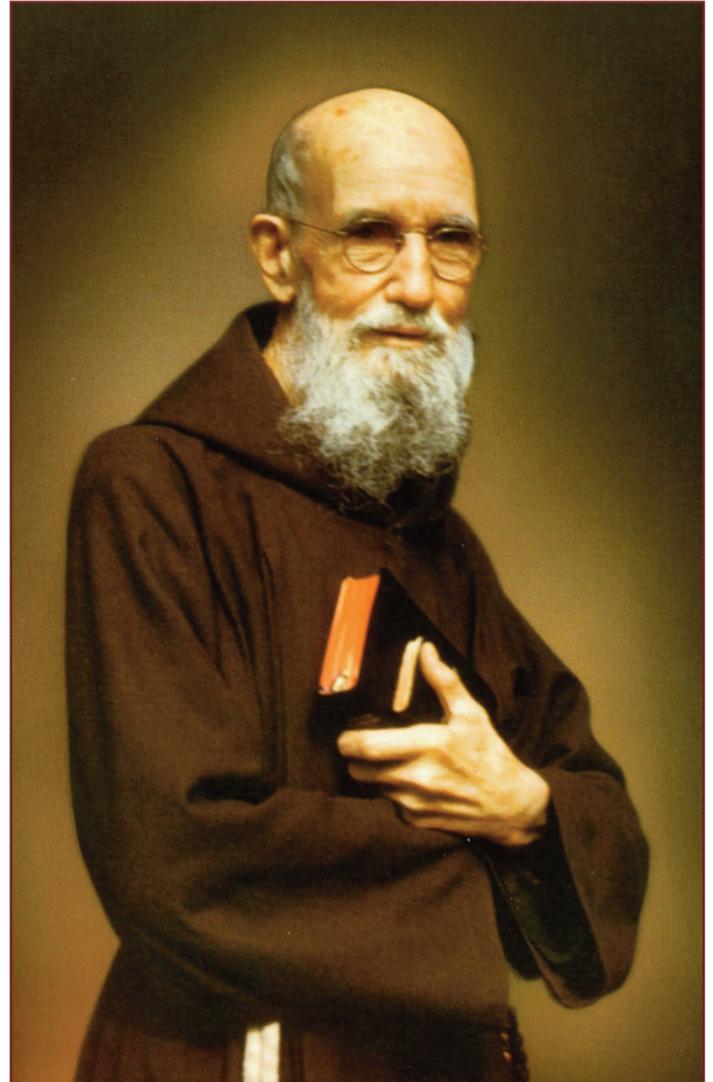
**CAPUCHIN
FRANCISCANS**
PROVINCE OF IRELAND

Welcome. A warm Capuchin welcome to the Autumn edition of Capuchin Connection. In many ways Autumn is a particularly Capuchin time of year and not just because nature begins to turn multiple shades of brown!

During Autumn we celebrate the feasts of many of our great Franciscan Saints and Blesseds including Saint Pio and Saint Francis himself. This year we see Capuchin Priest Solanus Casey added to this illustrious list.

Solanus was born Bernard Francis Casey in Wisconsin on the 25th of November 1870. His Irish parents emigrated from Monaghan to the United States around the time of the famine. Solanus ministered for almost twenty-one years as a doorkeeper in Saint Bonaventure's Capuchin Friary in Detroit. The ministry of doorkeeper is a traditional Capuchin ministry of hospitality. Solanus greeted, welcomed and listened deeply to the people who called to the Friary door looking for both spiritual and temporal help. He was a highly sought after spiritual advisor and people queued around the block to meet and speak with him. He provided spiritual assistance and comfort to all who called to the Friary and was hailed locally as a saint long before he died on the 31st of July 1957.

He was a quiet and prayerful man who encouraged the people he met to 'thank God ahead of time'. Today he provides us with a great example of how faith, lived in trust, can positively impact upon and encourage others even in their darkest and most difficult moments. Solanus will be beatified on 18th of November at a Mass in Ford Field, Detroit.



Our *Friar in Focus* is Brother Edwin Flynn OFM Cap. Brother Edwin ministered as a Capuchin Missionary in Zambia for over fifty years and recently celebrated his 90th birthday. We are also delighted to highlight the upcoming launch of our 'Year of Capuchin Vocation' in Knock, as well as reflecting on the visit in July of our student brothers from Eastern Europe, and much more besides.

Making and sustaining connections is a core part of Capuchin life so we thank you for taking the time to read this issue. Your comments and suggestions are always welcome and you can email us on ofmcapcoms@gmail.com.

The Capuchin Connection Team

Friar in Focus: Brother Edwin Flynn OFM Cap

Hi, my name is Brother Edwin and I was born 1927. When I was asked to write this short article I asked myself 'why did I join the Capuchins 73 years ago?' The answer is that my uncle, Br Killian Flynn, was a Capuchin. He was ordained in 1931 and volunteered for the missions in Africa. Each week he wrote to his parents, my grandparents, and they would answer my questions about him and his life in Africa. Did he see any lions? "Yes, three of them, all together!" All I wanted was to go to Africa and see lions.

In my teens, the thought came up: "This can't be a real vocation – maybe it is just a childhood dream!" So for the next year I pictured myself as a school-teacher or a detective. But slowly only one calling surfaced in my mind and that was to follow my uncle's example and become a Capuchin.

St Francis would correct me, saying, "Wait a moment. You made a decision, but don't forget that it was the Lord who inspired you. Give thanks first to the Lord for his inspiration."

I went to Africa in 1953 to a country known today as Zambia. There I spent 55 years teaching Religious Education at Primary, Secondary and Teacher Training levels. It was always demanding but with God's help, I managed to cope with the challenges. My greatest joy was learning to relate to people of a different culture. I still rejoice and remember them as my friends.

Today I am still giving thanks to the Lord for the many times he inspired me in my life.



Fraternal visit from our Capuchin Brothers from Eastern Europe

This summer we were delighted to welcome some of our student brothers from Eastern Europe along with their Formator, Brother Jacek. Our brothers had just finished a year of pastoral studies and ministry in Krakow and were given an opportunity to experience what Capuchin life was like in another Province, and so they chose Ireland! They were joined by Brother Ben Shone from New Zealand who is spending a year of his studies in our Friary in Raheny, Dublin.



While they were with us they visited a number of our Friaries, helped out in the Capuchin Day Centre in Dublin, visited the Poor Clare Monastery in Carlow as well as experiencing the beauty of the Irish landscape.

The experience culminated in a retreat in Ard Mhuire Friary, County Donegal lead by Brother Richard Hendrick OFM Cap.

Their travels were closely followed on our Capuchin Facebook and Twitter accounts as people tuned in to follow their progress around the country. Whether on-line or in person, they left a lasting impression wherever they went.

We wish our brothers well as they continue their studies in Krakow.



Saint Michan's Parish, Halston Street, Dublin celebrates 200 years of worship

On the Feast of Saint Michan (25th August) Archbishop Diarmuid Martin celebrated Mass in St Michan's Parish, Halston Street, to mark the bicentenary of the parish. The Archbishop was joined for the celebration by Archdeacon David Pierpoint and Reverend Abigail Simes from the Church of Ireland, as well as many concelebrating priests and a packed congregation.



Two hundred years ago the building of a church in Halston was permitted however the agreement also stipulated that the church be built on a back street, hidden from the eyes of the ascendancy, and with no external symbols of Roman Catholicism.

The original church was extended, and the sanctuary and tower were built, in the 1890's and early 1900's. The Parish Priest worked closely with the Clarke Studios to create some fine stained glass windows. These windows along with the mosaics and plasterwork vibrantly tell the faith story of the local people.

We wish Fr Bryan Shortall OFM Cap. (Parish Priest) and all in Halston Street every blessing as they celebrate two hundred years of prayer and presence in Saint Michan's Church. Sincere thanks to Paddy Pender (Parish Secretary) for the account and photograph.

Year of Capuchin Vocation



We are delighted to announce that we are launching a 'Year of Capuchin Vocation' in Knock Shrine on Sunday 17th of September 2017 at the annual Padre Pio prayer group pilgrimage. This year of vocation is an opportunity for us to promote vocations to our way of life. Capuchin life is a life centred on Christ and expressed by our brotherhood, prayer and service to the Church and those in need. It is also a year for us Friars to reflect upon our own vocational call to be Capuchin Franciscan Friars.

To help us focus our hearts and minds, we have composed a special vocation prayer through the intercession of Our Lady and St Pio.

We invite you to join us in prayer over the coming year as we pray for vocations to the Capuchin way of life.

If you feel called to a life of prayer, service and brotherhood as a Capuchin Franciscan Friar or if you have any questions about our way of life, please contact us.

E-mail: capuchinvocation@gmail.com

Join us in prayer for vocations to the Capuchin way of life...

Remember O Most Gracious Virgin Mary that never was it known, that anyone who sought your help was left unaided. Hear us now as we pray for vocations to the Capuchin way of life. Inspired with confidence we come to you. Listen to our prayers and present them to your son.. Amen.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be.

Amen



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RoCo Returns!

As another school year begins in Saint Francis College Rochestown the Friars wish a very warm welcome to all the first year students, and a very *warm welcome back* to all the others! This year the College has seen its biggest intake of students in its 173 year history. The College was founded by the Irish Capuchins in 1884 and was a boarding school for many years. Today the Capuchins remain as trustees of the school as its population grows to nearly 700 pupils. In recent years the school has enjoyed great success in sport, debating, music, art, chess as well as strong academic results. We send our very best wishes to the graduates who have by now collected their leaving cert results and prepare for the new adventures that lie ahead.



Finally, we wish the principal, staff, teachers, pupils and parents every blessing and good wish for the year ahead. We pray that Saint Francis will continue to guide and inspire you.

The Celebration of the *Transitus* of St Francis in Church Street, Dublin.

Saint Francis of Assisi died on the 4th of October 1226 and to this day Franciscans all over the world celebrate his *transitus* from this earthly life to eternal life. This celebration always occurs on the eve of the feast (3rd of October) and this year the Capuchin Friars in Church Street will host the celebration in Saint Mary of the Angel's, Church Street, Dublin following the 7.30pm Mass on the 3rd of October.



All are most welcome to gather with us, and with Franciscans from far and wide for an evening of music and reflection as we celebrate Saint Francis' birth into eternal life.

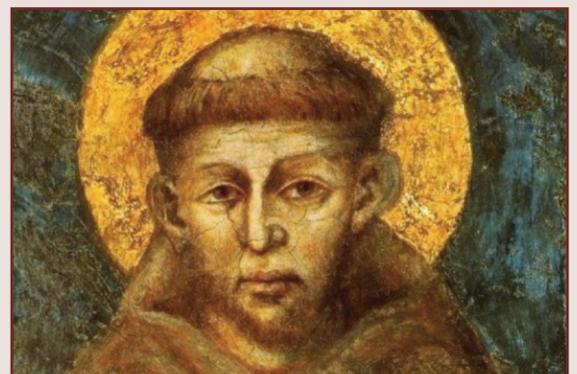
We wish all our readers peace and goodness on the feast of our Holy Father Saint Francis.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

May He show His face to you and have mercy.

May He turn His countenance to you and give you peace.

The Lord bless you!



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