

Mission NEWS & VIEWS



COLUMBAN MISSION CENTRE

Global & Local



WINTER 2007

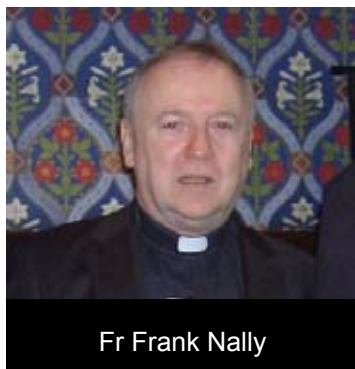
The Philippines Today: Still an Uphill Battle - Fr Brian Gore

Fr. Brian Gore recently visited Melbourne at the invitation of a number of community groups who are engaged in the Columban Partnership Program. He visited groups in Geelong/Torquay, Elwood, Mentone and Ferntree Gully.

The Partnership Program has assisted parish groups to visit the Philippines and Fiji to engage with people in places where the Columbans are working. Several partnerships have been established, providing great opportunity for real missionary work, greater understanding in our own communities of the realities of poverty in those places and a real sense of solidarity.

Fr. Gore first went to the Island of Negros in the Philippines in 1970. After years of ministering to and assisting oppressed workers, he was jailed in 1982 and again in 1983 and effectively deported in 1984 after all charges were dropped. Today he is the Regional Director of the Columban Mission Society in the Philippines and while responsible for all the Columban priests and lay co-workers in the Region, he retains a particular interest in the people of Negros.

Some of the problems in the Philippines today are the same as they were when Fr. Gore first arrived. While some progress has been made it is still very much an uphill battle. In recent years there have been reports of increasing human rights abuses and ecological destruction in the Philippines. And official repression still exists. In January this year, Irish Columban Fr. Frank Nally who was working with former British government minister Clare Short on a report on the impact of foreign mining companies in the Philippines, was detained and deported upon his arrival at Manila airport. "You're blacklisted" an official told Fr. Nally at the immigration desk.



Fr Frank Nally

In Australia, Fr. Brian spoke about current issues in the Philippines, the work of Columbans worldwide and lessons we could draw from past experience.

Fr. Brian also attended an event in Sydney organized by the Columban Centre for Peace Ecology and Justice along with Jubilee Australia. This was an opportunity to discuss first hand the effects of the debt burden on development and poverty eradication in the Philippines today. Campaigning for cancellation of unjust debts is one of the issues Columbans focus on both here in Australia as well as globally.

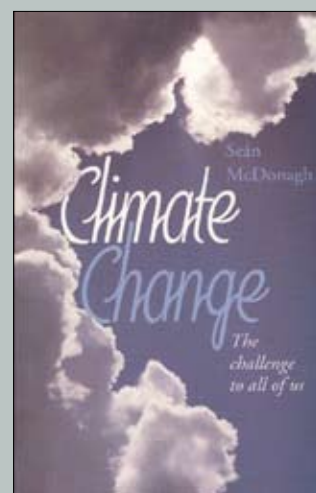


Fr Brian Gore

Fr. Sean McDonagh Challenges Us All on the Issue of Climate Change

Fr. Sean McDonagh visited Melbourne, Sydney, Tasmania and Shepparton during February/March 2007 to discuss climate change with various interested and concerned groups in Australia where we are already feeling the effects through severe drought, extra stresses on water supplies and changing eco systems.

Fr. Sean McDonagh is an Irish Columban missionary who worked in the Philippines for many years mainly among the T'boli people on the island of Mindanao. He recently released his new book entitled "Climate Change – The Challenge to all of us."



Continued overleaf...

Fr. Sean McDonagh launches his latest ecological book on Climate change.....



Life continues in the Philippines despite the daily struggles....



Fr. Sean McDonagh with Mrs. Joan Woods signing copies of his new book at the Melbourne Launch

This is an addition to his many other published ecological works such as “The Death of Life – The Horror of Extinction” (2005); To Care for the Earth (1986); The Greening of the Church (1990); Passion for the Earth (1995).

His new book provides some political insight into this current topical issue of ‘Climate Change’ which has left most of us asking questions and searching for answers. In addition to the scientific discussion of this issue, the book offers suggestions on what can be done to reduce greenhouse gases, and the final chapter is dedicated to what the churches should be doing to help. It looks at how the churches have responded to the challenge of climate change and what the churches should be doing to address this enormous challenge in the next few years.

If you would like to purchase a copy of his new book, please contact www.rainbowbooks.com.au or Columban Mission Centre on (03)9375 9475.

Bequests

Over the years, thanks to the generosity of past bequestors, missionaries have been able to be present with people in times of great need.

Leaving a bequest to St. Columban’s Mission Society in your Will enables us to plan ahead with confidence knowing that we will be able to continue to respond to future needs. Making a gift such as this costs nothing now but will provide lasting benefits for generations of children to come. Why not leave your influence behind?

Please talk to your Solicitor or Trustee for advice on including the Columbans in your Will, or contact the Columban Mission Centre on 03 9375 9475.

People

FR BERNIE LANE



Fr. Bernie Lane returned to Peru in January. He is involved in the formation of students for Columban priesthood from both Peru and Chile.

FR TONY COX



After many years at Columban Mission Centre in Essendon, Fr. Tony Cox is appointed to the parish of Boronia in the eastern suburbs of Melbourne. He will continue to produce the Columban Calendar and be involved in work here.

FR TIEN XUAN NGUYEN



Fr. Tien Nguyen is returning to Japan after 18 months in Australia. He is appointed to the Parish of Fujisawa in the Diocese of Yokohama, a large parish by Japanese standards.

FR WARREN KINNE



Fr. Warren Kinne was in Australia visiting family and friends. He has returned to Shanghai where he continues to teach Western Philosophy at Fudan University.

FR RAY SCANLON



Fr. Ray Scanlon was in Melbourne to visit his family and friends over Christmas/ New Year. He has returned to Korea where he continues his missionary work.

Run Lahore Run

Columban priest, Fr. Dan O'Connor reports on his recent marathon experience in Pakistan....

The third Pakistan International Marathon was held on 14 January this year. About 50 invited athletes were among the approximately 30,000 Pakistani participants. Races were held over 42.2 km, 10km, 5km, and 3km for the physically impaired. In the full marathon about 400 runners started including me.

During the warm-up period in the stadium, readings from the Holy Koran were recited over the loud speaker. Not long before 10am we were called to the start line. The air of excitement was so great that a number of less experienced runners broke through the rope in a false start and we were called back.

President Musharraf started the race amid a parade of flags (not N.Z.!) and the singing of the National Anthem. Slogans were shouted with great gusto, "Allah Akbar" (God is Great) and off we raced around the stadium and into the streets of Lahore where thousands of exuberant spectators cheered. Twelve thousand police were on duty for security reasons. There had been threats from an extremist group who were against women running with the men, but the race went smoothly.

The winner in the men's race was Ketma Amerssissa (Ethiopia) in 2h 15m 26sec. The winning female was Merima Danboba (Ethiopia) in 2h 32m 54sec. I was very happy with my run in a time of 3h 4m 33sec. This had me overall in about 40th place. It was a really festive atmosphere at the stadium.

The President gave credit to the Punjab Government for holding the event despite those who had tried to stop it. He also stated that the races gave a clear example that Pakistan is a society that welcomes healthy activities and has a progressive and positive outlook. He said, "This event has helped create a soft image of our country."



Fr Dan O'Connor with Mohammed Bashir

Rest in Peace

FR HUBERT HAYWARD

Fr. Hubert died on 25 October 2006 in Christchurch, New Zealand, at the age of 91 years. He was ordained in 1938 and spent his missionary life in Korea where he was caught up in the tumultuous events of World War 11 and the Korean War. He ran the diocese of Chunchon in the absence of Bishop Quinlan who was captured by the North Koreans. After the war he served in several parishes as Pastor. He returned to New Zealand in 1992 and spent his declining years among students for the priesthood in Christchurch.

FR FRANCIS J HERLIHY

Fr Frank died on 16 December 2006 in Melbourne at the age of 94 years. He was ordained by Bishop Edward Galvin the co-founder of the Columban Fathers. He arrived in Korea in 1939. Interned by the Japanese in 1941 he was repatriated to New Zealand in 1942. Fr. Herlihy spent his priestly life in the formation of students for the priesthood as both a formator and later as a lecturer in the seminary.

FR. JOHN VAUGHAN

Fr John was in his 90th year when he passed away on 9 November 2006 in Geraldine, New Zealand. He was ordained in 1946 and appointed to Japan. He made a unique contribution to Columban mission through the films that he crafted of life on the missions in Fiji, Japan, the Philippines and Korea. He served as Pastor in Geraldine in the Christchurch diocese after returning to New Zealand in 1971.

Bread for Life

We encourage you to consider hosting a Bread for Life gathering which is based around fun occasions such as get-togethers with family and friends.

Many supporters have gathered a group of friends together, shared a special meal (many dishes often from a country where Columbans work) and then invited them to make a financial contribution to Columban Mission – to transform lives. These occasions also became times of social concern and action. Fr. Brian Gore was currently in Australia. It gave you, our supporters, the opportunity to hear how your efforts so far have assisted many people, like the Filipino communities with whom we work.

Bread for Life can be an activity which can be conducted any time. **Bringing Resources to Evangelize, Assist and Develop**, Bread for life is ideal for parish, youth, prayer, mission, women's and similar groups. The workplace also provides opportunities. Your efforts will translate into a better life for others who need us.



*If interested
please contact
Columban
Mission Centre
on
03-9375-9475*

The Far East

Why not introduce a friend to Columban Mission by sharing a copy of The Far East with them?

To take out a subscription, contact Columban Mission Centre;

Tel: 03 9375 9475 or

Fax: 03 9379 6040

News from Columban Mission Institute (CMI)

The Columban Mission Institute continues to publish **The Lantern Series** on Evangelisation, Witnessing Christ in the World.



Issue #4 on Dialogue within the Church is out now. To order this useful resource email annelanyon.cmi@columban.org.au or phone 02 9352 8021

2007 is a **Sabbath Year**- seven years since the Great Jubilee of 2000. Luke 4: 17-19 invokes the ancient Jubilee principle that requires debts to be forgiven and right relations be restored every seven years. The PEJ Centre of CMI, as Chair of the Jubilee Australia Campaign, reminds Catholics of Australia to make a special effort in 2007 to take action on the issue of poor country debt, particularly on Jubilee Sunday, May 20th. Prayer bookmarks are available from PEJ. www.jubileeaustralia.org

Fr. Brian Gore visited Sydney in March and April where he had two engagements: 1. With Parish Priests and Pastoral Associates on Social Justice in Parishes. 2. With Jubilee debt campaigners and supporters on the debt situation in the Philippines. A report was recently published by the Columbans called "Mining in the Philippines" which describes the effect mining, including by Australian mining companies, is having on poor Filipino communities and their environment.

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