

fraternitas

Ars Gratia Christi

Official Newsletter of The Fraternity of St Genesius, St Mary's Presbytery, Dublin Road, Drogheda, Co. Louth, Ireland.

Volume 3

Spring 2009

Issue 1

ROME PILGRIMAGE ISSUE



“It is a wonderful work”

The Fraternity of St Genesius

St Mary's Presbytery, Dublin Road, Drogheda,
Co. Louth, Ireland.

Tele: + 353 (0)86 266 2565 Fax: + 353 (0)41 98 45144
www.stgenesius.com e-mail: info@stgenesius.com

The Fraternity of St Genesius is an approved association of the Catholic Church in which its members commit themselves to supporting the men and women of the theatrical and cinematic arts through their daily prayers and sacrifices. In this way, recognizing their role within the Mystical Body of Christ, they participate in the renewal of culture as called for by the Servant of God, Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI, and spiritually accompany their brothers and sisters in Christ. The Fraternity was founded in Drogheda, Ireland, on 19th January 2007 and is under the patronage of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and St Genesius, the patron of the theatrical arts.

Fraternity Council

The Fraternity is governed by a Council under the Father Director. Its current members are:

Father Director: Fr John Hogan. **Secretary:** Christopher McCamley, OCDS. **Treasurer:** John Cahill. **Membership Secretary:** Michael Barden. **Media Secretary:** Donal O'Sullivan-Latchford. **Member Relations Secretary:** Mary Cahill. **Cllr. Epilepsy Apostolate:** Sr Eucharia Kenny, RSM. **Assistant, Apostolate for Epilepsy:** Elizabeth King. **Cllr. Religious Goods:** Sr Carmel Casey, DC. **Culture Secretary:** Kevin Dolan.

Fraternitas

Fraternitas is the official Newsletter and magazine of the Fraternity. Published quarterly, it aims to keep members informed of what is happening in the association while providing articles of interest on spiritual and cultural matters. Contributions, be they articles, letters, testimonies etc., are always welcome and will be considered for publication. Contributions can be sent to: Editorial Committee, *Fraternitas*, Fraternity of St Genesius, St Mary's Presbytery, Dublin Road, Drogheda, Co. Louth, Ireland or by e-mail to info@stgenesius.com.

Donations

The Fraternity is a non-profit organization and does not charge membership fees or a subscription for the Newsletter. Since it has no source of income it depends entirely on donations to cover the printing of the Newsletter and literature and postage. We would be most grateful if you could send a donation to support us in our work. The Fraternity is a registered charity.

Special Pilgrimage Issue

This issue of *Fraternitas* is devoted, for the most part, to our association's recent pilgrimage to Rome. It was the first official pilgrimage of the Fraternity to the Holy City and the days we spent there were truly days of grace. Forty-five pilgrims traveled from Ireland, and four traveled from England, to visit the tombs of Ss Peter and Paul, the Seven Pilgrim Churches and the tomb of St Genesius. Bishop Michael Smith, our Protector Bishop joined us for the most of the pilgrimage and we are grateful to him for taking time out from his busy schedule to be with us.

The trip was organized by Joe Walsh Tours in Dublin and they did an excellent job. Thanks to Angela and Amanda in the Dublin office, and to our guide in Rome, Marina.

Thanks must also go to the members of the Council and Fraternity who assisted in making the pilgrimage the success that it was. The lion's share of the work fell to our secretary, Christopher McCamley who chaired the pilgrimage committee, and we are indebted to him in particular for his hard work and dedication. Thanks also to Mary Cahill and Liz Goggin, the other members of the committee. Thanks also to those who provided photographs: in particular Michael Barden, who acted as our official photographer and also to John Cahill who made his personal photographs available to *Fraternitas*.

Thanks to our Benefactors

We would like to offer a sincere thanks to all those who sent Christmas Gifts to the Fraternity in honour of St Genesius to assist us in our work. The Fraternity is a non-profit charity, and we depend on donations to cover our expenses which consist mainly of printing the newsletter, our prayer cards and other literature and postage. Your contributions will help us keep up the work. All our benefactors are remembered in a special Mass which is offered each month by the Father Director for their intentions and needs. May the Lord bless you for your generosity.

CONTENTS

Fraternity News	3
From the Father Director	7
Rome 2008 Report	9

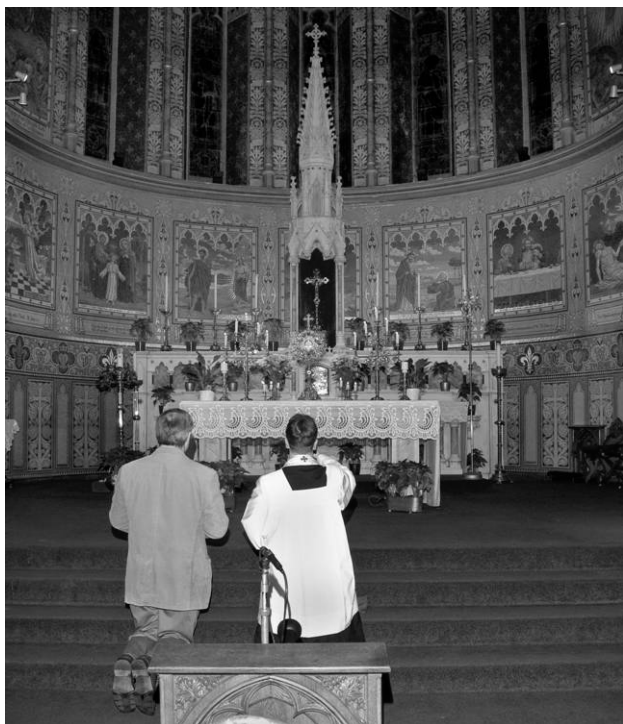
Fraternity News

Second Anniversary Celebrated

The Fraternity marked its second anniversary on the 19th January. The Council organized two spiritual events, a Vigil of Prayer on the evening of the 18th and a Solemn Sung Mass on the evening of the 19th.

Vigil of Prayer

Members of the Fraternity joined Father Director, Fr John, with members of the Council for a Vigil of Prayer in St Mary's Church, Drogheda on Sunday 18th January. During the Vigil prayers were offered for those working in the arts, all members of the Fraternity and their intentions; the sick were also remembered in a particular way.



The Vigil began with Exposition at 9pm. Timmy Regan, a local musician led the congregation in *Pange Lingua* and other hymns during the hour and a half of prayer and adoration. Following the opening prayer and Rosary, a half hour of silence was observed between 9.30 and 10. The Corona was then recited with prayers for the sick and Benediction. The ceremony ended with a blessing with the relic of St Genesius. The members of the congregation then came forward to venerate the relic and receive a personal blessing.

The Father Director reminded the congregation that they had come here to pray for the Fraternity and its mission and to ask the Lord to lead us and show us what he wants us to do. It was a time to give thanks for his blessings, he said.

Anniversary Mass



The climax of the Fraternity's celebration of the second anniversary took place on evening of Monday the 19th January with a Solemn Sung Mass of the Holy Spirit in St Mary's Church, Drogheda. Chief celebrant was Fr John Hogan, Father Director; homilist was Fr Patrick Moore, PP, VF, and they were joined by Fr Denis Nulty, Parish Priest St Mary's Parish, Fr Owen Gorman and Fr Martin Carley. The music was provided by St Peter's Male Voice Choir, conducted by Edward Holly. A large crowd of members and non members were present, including a number, members and non-members, who travelled on an organised coach from Offaly to attend. The Mass began at 7.30pm.

Fr John welcomed those present and said that the Mass was being offered both as a thanksgiving for blessings received, but also as a means of asking the Holy Spirit to guide the Fraternity in its mission. He said that the Fraternity had much work to do: as the family of prayer devoted itself to interceding for and supporting those in the theatrical and cinematic arts, it also had to follow the will of the Holy Spirit in assisting the Church in the renewal of culture. This required discernment and fidelity and only docility to the promptings of the Holy Spirit will enable the Fraternity see what God wanted it to do. He asked

those present to pray that the Fraternity would always be open to the voice of God.



During the Mass, Councillor John Cahill and member Rachel McKeever (pictured) read

the readings. Rachel is a member of the new Christian drama group, the St Genesius Company, recently founded with the assistance of the Fraternity. The new group aim to explore and perform some of the many great Christian theatrical works. Two other members of the Company, Tara Kelly and Martin O'Connor presented the gifts at the Offertory. Councillor Sr Carmel Casey, DC, led the prayers of the faithful.



Fr Patrick Moore (*pictured*) delivered the homily. Fr Moore was the first priest to join the Fraternity in 2007 and has been a great support since its foundation. In his homily he reflected on the mission of the Fraternity in the light of the life and teaching of St Paul. Recognizing the importance of the Pauline Year, Fr Moore encouraged members to see that their mission is vital, that the areas of cinema and theatre are areas of great promise for the preaching of the Gospel and promotion of Christian values, but an area which held many difficulties and even dangers. As St Paul sought to make Christ known in the world, the Fraternity, in true Pauline fashion, must seek to make him known to the men and women in the arts today.

Fr Moore also spoke of the Fraternity's apostolate to those who suffer with epilepsy. Referring to the condition as one which is borne mostly in silence, he saw the patronage of St Genesius as bringing hope to those who lived with it, convincing them that they were not alone: they have a patron who will watch over them.

Most of the Mass was sung, parts of it in Latin, including the Eucharistic Prayer. St Peter's Male Voice Choir, one of Ireland's leading amateur choral groups, sang Charles Gonoud's *Messe Solennelle de*

Sainte Cecile, led by conductor and organist Edward Holly. The Mass began with a choral rendition of the new hymn to St Genesius, and other motets were sung at the Offertory and Communion.

At the end of the Mass, Father Director thanked all who had come and encouraged the members to spread the word about the Fraternity. Following the singing of the plainchant, *Salve Regina*, an organ voluntary brought the Mass to an end. Afterwards those present came forward to venerate the relics of St Genesius.

An informal reception followed in St Mary's Parish Centre. Member Relations Secretary, Mary Cahill, organised a veritable feast and members of the congregation enjoyed the variety of sandwiches, cakes and other goodies, while having an opportunity to meet and talk.

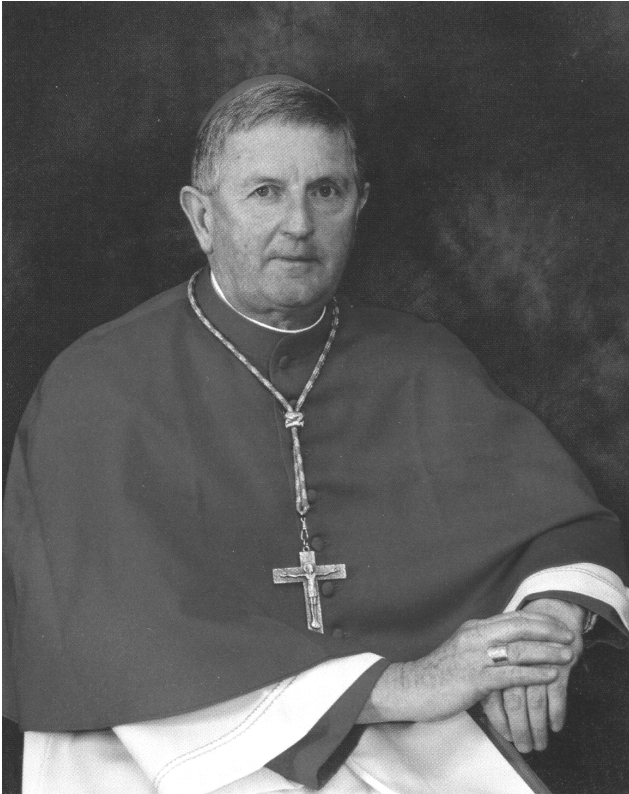


"No room at the inn": Some members of the newly formed Drama group, the St Genesius Company, form part of the overflow at the reception following the Mass.

Protector Bishop Celebrates Silver Jubilee

Bishop Michael Smith, Bishop of Meath and Protector Bishop of the Fraternity celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of his Episcopal consecration on the 29th January last. The official diocesan celebrations were held on Sunday 1st February in the Cathedral of Christ the King in Mullingar, Co. Westmeath. Bishop Smith was ordained in 1984 as auxiliary bishop to Bishop John McCormack and succeeded him in 1991.

Over 2,500 people packed the cathedral, among whom were representatives of the President of Ireland and the Taoiseach (Prime Minister of Ireland) and other members of the Irish government. One hundred and fifty priests concelebrated with the Bishop. His Excellency Archbishop Giuseppe Leanza, the Apostolic Nuncio to Ireland, and Bishop Anthony Farquhar, Auxiliary Bishop of Down and Connor and personal friend of Bishop Smith were also present.



The organisers of the Mass made sure that every parish in the diocese was represented as were the religious and members of the many lay associations, including members of the Fraternity. The Cathedral Choir and instrumentalists from the Schola Cantorum in St Finian's College in Mullingar provided the music under the directorship of Gerard Lillis. Representatives of various parishes within the diocese participated in the ceremony, including the first child to receive the sacrament of confirmation from Bishop Smith twenty-five years ago.

Bishop Farquhar, who is also celebrating his silver jubilee as a bishop, delivered the homily, in which he reflected on the mission and role of the bishop in the Church, on the three-fold mission of teaching, governing and sanctifying. He told the congregation that Bishop Smith was always a humble man whose took great pride in his diocese, his people and his priests, revealing a love which was exemplary.

At the end of the Mass, Mgr Eamonn Marron, one of the Vicars General of the Diocese, paid tribute to the Bishop on behalf of the priests of the diocese.



Bishop Smith then spoke to the congregation, reflecting on his 25 years as bishop. The decision to become a priest was his, he said, but to be appointed a bishop was another's. Reminding the congregation of the words addressed by the Church to a priest in the ceremony of ordination that he must model his life on the mystery of the cross – this also applied to a bishop who had to embrace the cross of Christ in his mission of serving God's people: this was something he had taken to heart. The cross he wears around his neck, he said, was not for decoration, but a reminder of his office and what is expected of him – it is a call to service, a call to spend one's life in complete service of the Lord. Thanking his priests for their continued support and loyalty, he praised them for their dedication to the ministry and for their friendship over the years.

Following the Mass a reception was held in the Mullingar Park Hotel. There Bishop Smith personally greeted many of the thousands of well-wishers who attended the ceremony. Other celebrations are taking place within the diocese, included among them a broadcast Mass from the mensal parish of Navan, which took place on Sunday 8th February. The priests of the diocese will have their own celebration with the bishop following the Chrism Mass on the evening of Spy Wednesday.



Pope Benedict XVI also marked Bishop Smith's jubilee with a personal letter of congratulations. The Fraternity made its own presentation to Bishop Smith during our recent pilgrimage to Rome. Following Vespers at the tomb of St Genesius, Father Director, Fr John, presented Bishop Smith a gold pectoral cross as a gift from the Fraternity members to mark his jubilee.

Divine Mercy Conference 2009

The Fraternity welcomed 150 new members into the family of prayer at the Divine Mercy Conference held recently in Dublin from the 21st to the 22nd February.

The Conference, held annually at the RDS exhibition center, one of Ireland's main conference venues, attracts over 4,000 people each year and features prominent speakers for a weekend of prayer, reflection and talks. Last year the Fraternity applied and was given the opportunity to staff a stand, about 120 joined the Fraternity. This year our application was approved again. A Number of members volunteered to staff the stand for the two days, spreading the word about the Fraternity and our mission, accepting applications for membership and greeting other members who had come to the Conference.



Member Anne Barden and Councillor Mary Cahill staff the Fraternity stand at the Divine Mercy Conference

Among the speakers at this year's Conference was Anne, the Lay Apostle, an American now living in Ireland who claims she has been receiving messages from heaven. Many of these messages have been compiled into books and are generally available. She is under the direction of her local bishop in the Diocese of Kilmore. Another speaker was Fr Patrice Chocolski who is the General Secretary of the World Congress of Mercy.

Numerous other groups were present at the event, presenting their apostolates at their stands and exhibits, among them the Legion of Mary, the ALIVE newspaper, Rachel's Vineyard – an organization which helps women hurt by abortion, the Elijah Fellowship, a new community of lay people who work to support the renewal of faith in Ireland, Youth 2000 and a new Christian radio station Spirit FM. Among the religious orders present were the Pious Disciples of the Divine Master, one of Blessed James Alberione's Pauline congregations.



In its eighteenth year the Conference aims to promote the apostolate of Divine Mercy, but has also become an important vehicle in the renewal of the Church in Ireland. Over the years many of the new associations and religious congregations have participated in the weekend's events not only making contact with the faithful in Ireland, but also bringing a spirit of hope for the future. Such ventures need to be supported and we would ask all members of the Fraternity remember the success of future Conferences in their prayers.

New Look Website

The Fraternity website has been undergoing a number of changes in recent times and now has a new look. Webmaster, Caroline McCamley (*pictured*) has been working hard on the site for the last few months, redesigning the style and constructing new sections. It is hoped that the website will not only be a first point of contact for many, introducing them to the work and mission of the Fraternity, but will also become a forum for members with news and articles. At present the website has an application facility for new members and it is hoped to provide an online shop to sell religious objects including copies of the icon of St Genesius. Please keep the project in your prayers and visit the website. If you have any suggestions, please let us know. www.stgenesius.com

