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March 7th – 13th
The Lord of compassion and love

God said to Moses: “Take off your shoes, for the place on which you stand is holy ground”. All religions designate certain places as holy places and rightly demand a certain level of reverence and respect. For ourselves as Catholics our sacred place is the church where the Blessed Sacrament is reserved. But the revelation of Christ is that the most sacred place of all is the company of another human being. He said that what we do to even the least person we do to him. Because of Christ, we are always standing on holy ground and our response always has to be one of reverence and respect. This has very far-reaching implications for us in the practice of our faith. The intimate relationship of husband and wife is a sacred place and calls for great reverence from all of us. And equally our homes and families and our faith community are places where we very often need a change of heart.



Earthquake Devastation in Port Au Prince.

Havoc in Haiti.

(continued)

The visit by Fr. Gerry O'Connor and Fr. Seán Duggan to Haiti was made possible through making direct contact with Mr. Denis O'Brien, Chairperson of Digicel. Denis O'Brien offered a lift on his personal jet and the opportunity to deliver emergency food, medicine

and cash to the Redemptorists there.

They were aware of the tragedy that had hit the Redemptorist School, Saint Gerard's, in Pout-au-Prince on the day of the earthquake. The school collapsed into a sandwich-like formation. The slab-like form of the roof remained intact thereby making recovery and removal all the more difficult. It was a three-storey building with the third story added last year (2009). Three hundred children and six teachers died as the school collapsed. Visiting the school left them numb and tearful. The parents of the children, some teachers and the local Redemptorist community were manually removing the ruins attempting to save children and in the hope of finding some students alive. The bodies remained trapped and left in the debris.

They asked Denis O'Brien to visit the school and both Denis and his wife Catherine visited Saint Gerard's. Within an hour of that visit, Denis O'Brien had organised for Frs. Adonai, Gerry O'Connor and Seán Duggan to meet with engineers and building contractors. On the following morning, work commenced at Saint Gerard's to remove the debris and to attend to the bodies, care for the children's families and prepare a dignified burial. A site close to the Redemptorist parish church was chosen as the burial place where the children and staff will be remembered with love and dignity.

A Cork man, Mr. Brendan Ahern, who works with Denis O'Brien is overseeing the recovery operation at Saint Gerard's. He sends, each evening, an email to the Redemptorist Provincial with an update on his work at Saint Gerard's.

(continued)

Weekly Masses Special Remembrance

Mon. 8th Mar. to Sun. 14th Mar. 2010

Mass at 8.00 and 10.00 each morning, Monday to Friday, is offered for all those whose names are on the list of Mass intentions. If you wish to have someone mentioned specifically - for an anniversary, a recent death, an illness - please leave the name at the Reception Office.

In the Novena Masses on Saturday at 8.00 and 10.00 we remember especially all those who have sent in petitions and those attending the Novena.

Mon. 10 am: Paddy Curley R.I.P.

Tues. 10 am: John, Nora & Elizabeth Brennan R.I.P.

Fri. 8 am: Ronan Finnerty R.I.P.

Sun. 11am: Patrick Barrett R.I.P

Sun. All our Redemptorist Benefactors.

THE SICK

Please pray for
Fr. Brian Foley,
Fr. Seán Mullin,
Fr. Paddy Martin,
Fr. Liam O'Connell,
Michelle O'Donnell.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Mrs Fionnuala Rice
R.I.P.

IT'S A GREAT DAY FOR THE IRISH!

"St. Patrick's
Monastery, Esker,
one of the oldest and
best known in the
country, will celebrate
the feast of its Patron
with a Celtic
Concelebrated Mass
with Irish music and
dance at 11 o'clock on
St. Patrick's Day. There
will be a surprise for
every child. **All are
welcome
from near
and far.**"



During the coming week:

In The Retreat House:

Mar 12-14: Bethany Bereavement Support
Group Training

In The Youth Village:

Mar 9: Lackagh N.S. (70)

Mar 10: Ballybay Athlone N.S. (29)

Mar 11-12: St. Maria's Louisburg (40)

Mar. 12-14: Irish Girl Guides (60)

Parish Missions & Novenas in Ireland & Abroad.

Mar 7-13: Roscommon Parish
Solemn Novena.

*Please share in this Redemptorist
Apostolic Work by praying for its success.*

The Way of the Cross

- 1) Jesus is condemned to death
- 2) Jesus is given his cross
- 3) Jesus falls the first time
- 4) Jesus meets His Mother
- 5) Simon of Cyrene carries the cross
- 6) Veronica wipes the face of Jesus
- 7) Jesus falls the second time
- 8) Jesus meets the daughters of Jerusalem
- 9) Jesus falls the third time
- 10) Jesus is stripped of His garments
- 11) Crucifixion: Jesus is nailed to the cross
- 12) Jesus dies on the cross
- 13) Jesus' body is removed from the cross
- 14) Jesus is laid in the tomb.



Although not traditionally part of the Stations, the Resurrection of Jesus is sometimes included as a fifteenth station

The object of the Stations is to help to make in spirit, as it were, a pilgrimage to the chief scenes of Christ's sufferings and death, and this has become one of the most popular of Catholic devotions. We move from station to station pondering on the various incidents in the last hours of Jesus' life on earth.

The Way of the Cross, made in this way, constitutes a miniature pilgrimage to the holy places at Jerusalem. The Via Dolorosa at Jerusalem (though not called by that name before the sixteenth century) was reverently marked out from the earliest times and has been the goal of pious pilgrims ever since the days of Constantine, the first Christian emperor. Tradition tells us that the Blessed Virgin used to visit daily the scenes of Christ's Passion and St. Jerome in the fourth century speaks of the crowds of pilgrims from all countries who used to visit the holy places in his day.

Pondering on the various events of the last hours of Jesus' earthly life is often performed in a spirit of reparation for the sufferings and insults that Jesus endured during His Passion. Pope John Paul II referred to Acts of Reparation as the "*unceasing effort to stand beside the endless crosses on which the Son of God continues to be crucified*".