

Anchors Aweigh

From the Desk of Mother Mary Wendy:



We arrived in County Donegal Ireland in February to begin our 2017 Lenten Missions. Donegal is a remote and rugged part of the island with a beauty much like Wyoming, except that it is on the sea.

As many of you may know, Ireland's faith has faltered lately. There is a real crisis of vocations and a lack of love for the Church. I had been discerning whether the Lord was calling us there long-term to re-evangelize the people, and so on a blustery morning in March, I happened to notice a portrait of St. Philomena hanging on the wall just outside the kitchen. The saint was on her knees with an anchor,

rope and arrows by her side. I touched the picture and said, "St. Philomena!

Show me a sign that we are meant to 'anchor' our community in Ireland." Perhaps you know that the anchor represents 'hope' in Catholic symbology, and I wondered, "Are we the ones meant to bring this hope?"

Without further thought we said our Morning Prayers, headed to Mass, and drove Sr. Mary Francis to a Legion of Mary meeting. When the weather cleared, Sr. Mary Augustine and I went to the nearby beach for a walk. Normally we walked in the early morning when the tide is so high that we have to hug the upper part of the sandy beach to remain on dry land. But this time the tide was so far out we could practically walk across a rocky "bridge" to another part of the little town of Inver. It seemed like the ocean was a mile away.

As I walked over a particularly rocky section, I called out to Sr. Mary Augustine to take a picture to show just how far out we could go. As I posed for the picture, my foot hit something hard, half-buried in the sand. When I reached down and dug the sand away, I discovered an anchor!

I pulled it out and showed it to Sr. Mary Augustine who said, "Mother, you do realize that St. Philomena is pictured with an anchor!" I had completely forgotten that I prayed that morning for a sign that we should "anchor" in Ireland! Thank you, St. Philomena, for your powerful intercession. It is indeed our hope to "anchor" a convent of sisters there.

Please consider supporting our re-evangelization work in Ireland, and we thank you as all our missions are funded through your generous support. May you and your loved ones have a joyous and Merry Christmas!

- Mother Mary Wendy



Hear Ye, Hear Ye!

The Chaplet of Divine Mercy in Song is now available on iTunes,

Google Play, Amazon or your favorite digital music host. Search for 'Sisters of Reparation' or for links to download go to www.sistersofreparation.org An Audio CD makes a great gift for family or friends. Please send \$5 plus \$2 shipping with the address.



Above: Delivering a Birthday cake to a dear Irish friend.

Center: Mother Wendy, a preschool teacher for many years, is right at home with the Irish wee-ones.

MURPHY'S LAW VERSUS ST. PATRICK'S MIRACLES



Mother McCauley Home

Mr. Murphy and his law are still alive and well in Ireland. Truly! It was the very day we were scheduled to leave Donegal for Dublin to catch a plane back to Pittsburgh. Our bags were packed, the house was cleaned, flights were confirmed, and a dear priest was standing by to return our rental car. "Liquid sunshine" was pouring down as usual. We said our thanksgiving at St. Patrick's Church after Mass and made our way out the doors. We were all but to the car when Mother missed the second of three steps outside St. Patrick's and landed full-force on her left knee. Her voice sang out in pain and she couldn't move. Murphy's Law: If something can go wrong it will!

After an ambulance ride to one hospital, and an agonizing 4-hour drive into Dublin, we sat through another long wait overnight in the ER of a downtown hospital. Mother soon began to realize that the injury was too serious for her to fly. By midmorning surgery was scheduled, and at the very time we should have been well out across the Atlantic Ocean, Mother was having the quadriceps muscles of her left leg reattached to the bone. Meanwhile we sisters spent long hours in the chapel praying and waiting. We were finally able to visit her in a hospital ward that evening, thirty-six blurry hours after her fall.

We are happy to report however, that St. Patrick and his miracles well outshined Murphy and his law. As a child Mother Wendy was taught by the Irish Sisters of Mercy; and at her parish church in Daytona Beach, Florida she often stared in wonderment at the stained glass window of Mother McCauley, curious who this woman was. To her surprise, she was about to gain a close encounter with this same order of sisters. It was the witness of these Irish sisters in Daytona Beach, Florida, that inspired her to give something back to Ireland for all the missionaries they had sent throughout the world. For, what are the chances that a friend of a friend would contact the Sisters of Mercy in Dublin for us to stay for accommodations. Coincidence or miracle?



Mother McCauley

And, what are the chances that those same Sisters of Mercy would have a nursing home next to the convent where Mother could receive top level care for the two weeks needed to recover enough for clearance to fly home? And truly, what are the chances that the sisters who taught Mother as a child, would help Mother recover in her time of need?

Mother always wanted to visit the convent of the Servant of God, Mother McCauley and her sisters, so she could thank them for their missionary service to the USA. Now in Dublin, under the most unusual circumstances, she thanked them for their missionary work and explained that the Sisters of Reparation are giving back to their country what she had received from them. What goes around comes around in a good way....



Slieve League, the Highest Sea Cliffs in Ireland!

Walking with Jesus

Walking a mile in someone else's moccasins takes on a new meaning when on pilgrimage in the Holy Land. When you stand on the Mount overlooking the City of Jerusalem and see the "whitewashed tombs" dotting the hill; or submerge yourself in the Jordan River where Jesus was baptized; or look out across the bow of a boat on the Sea of Galilee, you suddenly realize you are walking in the sandals of Jesus, Mary, and the disciples. You are walking on Holy ground. It all becomes very real...and deeply moving.



Sr. Mary Francis and Sr. Mary Augustine were blessed to receive scholarships through the generosity of benefactors supporting the Magdala Apostolate and the Institute of Catholic Culture (ICC), to accompany Fr. Hezekias and forty-six other pilgrim on this two-week trip of a lifetime. They came home on the "glory cloud" of love for the Lord Jesus and an infectious enthusiasm for Scripture which they will definitely use as they evangelize through parish missions.

Each day of their pilgrimage was packed with Gospel readings and Bible study, and archaeological explanations and insights about the lives of the ancient people. Beginning with a Bible study on the Mount of Olives they traveled to the "hill country of Judea," the Shepherd's Field, Jericho, Nazareth, Capernaum and all the places that Jesus lived, worked, taught, suffered and died. The pinnacle was a "Good Friday" walk following the Passion of Jesus from the Lazarus' Tomb to Golgotha, and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the site of the Resurrection. It was a solemn and introspective day.

The sisters prayed for you and your intentions throughout the Holy Land but especially in Bethlehem, the birthplace of Our Lord. May He bless you with all the graces you need to become a great saint!

Please consider supporting us this Christmas by sponsoring one missionary sister on her journey to Ireland. We will send each donor a special postcard with an update on our Irish Mission. Give this sponsorship as a Christmas gift to your children, grandchildren, family and friends. Your \$50 donation will allow one sister to combat negative media and misinformation through her fervent and faith-filled evangelization. Checks can be made payable to "Sisters of Reparation" with "Ireland Mission" in the memo. Thank you for your support and may St. Patrick shower you with blessings!

Missionaries in Ireland!

Sr. Mary Francis teaches the children to pray the Stations of the Cross for the first time

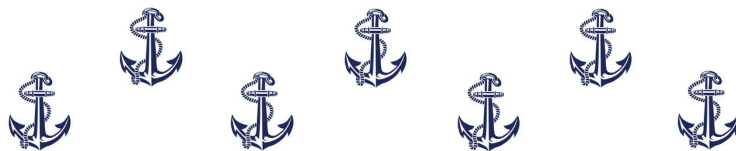


Bishop Boyce welcomes the Sisters as Missionaries

Sr. Mary Augustine teaches High school students about Faith and Business Ethics



Sisters of Reparation to the
Most Sacred Heart of Jesus
P.O. Box 9
Steubenville, OH 43952



The Sisters of Reparation Christmas Newsletter

*St. Philomena,
the Wonder-Worker
Does it Again!*

From the Desk of Mother Mary Wendy McMenamy.

Preceding the Nativity of Our Lord, a Novena will be prayed for your intentions.



*Anchoring the Sisters
in Ireland!*

When the great
St. Columcille, an
Apostle of Ireland, and
his twelve disciples
came to meet St. Naul
and his twelve by the
sea, he ordered the fish
to jump on the shore so
that each disciple could
have his fill. Not to be
outdone, St. Naul
turned the sand into
flour so that each man
could make his bread
to eat.



*St. Columcille
and St. Naul
of Donegal
535 A.D.*

No, this is not a
stained glass
window, it's
Sr. Mary Francis
looking through
the window of
St. Columcille's
first monastery
and church.

From the same sea came this Shrimp! Caught and
unexpectedly delivered to our door in Ireland! Our
Irish neighbor couldn't have brought us a better
meal, and so we SCAMPI-ED to the table!

H **o** **o** **k** **e** **d**
on Shrimp!

