

Welcome

There is so much we want to share with you:

The new Summer courses in 2010 and 2011; the collaboration with the Pontifical University Antonianum; the Foundation of the Franciscan International Academic Federation; the short courses, evening courses and Excorde programme for the Lent term and the Assisi pilgrimage. So please take some time to read about them.

This year I had the opportunity to interview members of staff here at the Study Centre. The first interview is with Br Philippe, our Principal, and you can read the notes of our conversation on page 4. Although, as a supporter of Liverpool FC myself, I must admit that I find his support for Colchester United remarkable.



Advent
© Margot Perryman

We are also pleased to announce the launch of our new website. It provides all the latest information on courses and events at the Study Centre. The new website will include a new online bookshop facility together with secure electronic payment facilities for purchases of books and CD's. This new payment facility can also be used for the payment of courses and / or events at the Study Centre.

May we take this opportunity to wish you and yours all the joys and wonders of Christmas.

May the Lord give you Peace.

Franciscan International Academic Federation

The Study Centre is a founding member of the Franciscan International Academic Federation (FIAF) which was established with this aim:

"The Franciscan International Academic Federation (FIAF) is a federation of Franciscan Centres of tertiary education teaching from within the Franciscan Intellectual Tradition with the aim of collaborating in the following areas:

1. Furthering the Franciscan Intellectual Tradition (FIT) through teaching, research, and specialised formation
2. Formation of lecturers and researchers
3. Student exchange
4. Faculty exchange
5. Promotion of joint academic conferences
6. Fundraising and advertising to promote the FIT"

(Statutes of the Federation)

As a founding member of the Federation the Study Centre has worked to increase collaboration between Franciscans working in the academic field so as to ensure that the unique Franciscan approach to theology and spirituality continues to be available to the wider the church. One result of this collaboration is the Franciscan Formators' Course taught in conjunction with the Pontifical University Antonianum.

"Masters" in Formation and Leadership



The collaboration with the Pontifical University Antonianum is the result of the desire of the Franciscan family to ensure that formators and leaders are prepared to the highest standards for their roles. The Study Centre was approached by the Pontifical University to

teach a joint two year English-language programme leading to a

Roman "Masters" in Formation and Leadership accredited by the Pontifical University.

This course comprises an academic year in Canterbury at the Study Centre which provides a grounding in Franciscan history, spirituality and theology, an introduction to formation and leadership skills required, and the option of pursuing the Spiritual Direction programme over the summer.

A second academic year in Rome at the Pontifical University intensifies training in the skills of accompaniment and leadership, to give a well rounded preparation for any friar or sister training for a role in formation or leadership within the Franciscan family.

The TOR Charism at FISC



Did you know that the Study Centre offers a series of modules that focus specifically on Third Order Regular Franciscanism? Third Order Franciscans form a large part of the Study Centre Community each year.

These modules are offered concurrently with First Order modules or incorporated into the more general Franciscan modules. They form an integral part of the Certificate in Franciscan Formation, the Certificate in Franciscan Studies and the "Masters" in Formation and Leadership.

TOR modules for 2010

The History of the TOR; The Rule and Life of the TOR; Identity and Values of TOR.

Integrated First and Third Order modules include: The Franciscan Vision and Evangelical Counsels; Franciscan Spirituality/Theology; Franciscan Formation Seminars and Franciscan Formation Sessions.

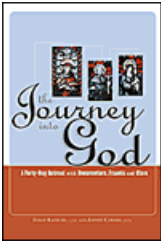
Short Courses

The Journey into God

11 January - 22 January 2010

Monday - Friday 9.00am - 11.00am

Andre Cirino OFM



In the fall of 1259, St. Bonaventure, the seventh General Minister of the Order of Friars Minor, was "eagerly desiring. . . peace." As he wrote in his *Prologue*: "It happened around the time of the thirty-third anniversary of the death of the saint that. . . I withdrew to Mount La Verna. . . to satisfy the desire of my spirit for peace." And from this experience he composed his famous work *The Journey of the Human Person into*

God. This module will unpack the content of this classical work of spiritual theology seeking to recover this oft-neglected source of Franciscan spiritual wealth. The module begins with a power-point presentation of the life of St. Bonaventure in order to provide a context for the study of his work followed by an examination of each of the chapters of his *Journey into God*.

The Prayer of Francis and Clare

25 January - 5 February 2010

Monday - Friday 9.00am - 11.00am

Andre Cirino OFM

This module is dedicated to examining *The Prayer Experience of Saints Francis and Clare* and incorporating that experience into our own lives. Five approaches to Franciscan prayer are considered in this term: *meditation* based on the guidance we find in the life and writings of St. Francis; *contemplation* as cultivated by St. Clare and mirrored in her life and writings; biblical/liturgical prayer typified by the rich text of St. Francis we know as the *Office of the Passion*; the creation of *personal prayer forms* and texts in the Franciscan tradition; *prayer of solitude* and silence as proposed in Francis' *Document on Solitude*. All of these forms are explored through lectures and experiential activity, the latter including 4 days in Franciscan solitude.



The Franciscan Vision and Evangelical Counsels

15 February - 19 March 2010

Monday and Tuesday 9.00 - 11.00am

Kathleen Copp OSF and Séamus Mulholland OFM

In the Rules Francis gives the Franciscans the WHAT of their lives '*to live the holy gospel*' and then says HOW this is to be done '*by living in obedience, without anything of one's own and in chastity*'. This course will examine the Evangelical Counsels through the lens of Franciscan gospel living with a view to demonstrating that there is a particular [if not unique] approach to the gospel and the Counsels by the Franciscan movement which is challenging yet enlivening to both Church and world today.

The Spiritual Franciscans

15 February - 19 March 2010

Wednesday and Thursday 9.00-11.00am

Paula Pearce SFO

The module will include the tensions already in the order of friars minor at the death of Francis and the appeals of the friars to the papacy for clarification about observance of the *Rule* and the *Testament* of Francis, on the debates concerning living *sine proprio* and the interpretations given to *usus pauper*. Other factors in the development of this group will be considered; the rise of Joachimism, the influence of individuals, specifically of Peter Olivi and Angelo Clareno and the effect of persecution and exile. Attention will be given to the specific geographical areas in which the Spirituals had the greatest influence. Students will be encouraged to examine the response to the spiritual movement during the period of its growth, inside and outside the First Order and the place of the Spirituals within franciscan tradition until the present day, in the light of revisions of the history of the Order and recent scholarship on the Spiritual Franciscans.

Evening Courses

A SERIES OF TEN CLASSES

Duns Scotus

Monday 11 January - 22 March 7.00 - 9.00pm

Séamus Mulholland OFM

It is certainly true that the medieval Franciscan theologian-philosopher Duns Scotus [1266-1308] is probably the most difficult of the medieval theologian-philosophers to grasp. His soubriquet 'The Subtle Doctor' evinces to his complexity and yet while very challenging, Duns Scotus is the most rewarding of the medieval thinkers.

Interwoven with profound philosophical and theological thought and insight on matters as varied as Being, Intuition, Cognition, Self-Change, Individuation, Will, Trinity, Incarnation, Sacraments, the role and place of Mary, there is an extraordinary spirituality of creation and the human person which is deeply rooted in the Franciscan Intellectual and Spiritual Tradition.

This course explores the mind and the *heart* of Duns Scotus to reveal not just one of the great theological and philosophical masters of the Middle Ages but also one of the great spiritual masters of Franciscanism.

A SHORT SERIES OF CLASSES

Spirituality of Franciscan Sanctuaries

Tuesday 12 January - 2 February 7.00 - 9.00pm

Andre Cirino OFM

After travelling with pilgrims for more than twenty years to Franciscan holy places throughout the world - Italy, Prague, England, France, Germany, the Holy Land and the California Missions - this module will offer to guide prospective pilgrims to places that are made holy by the people who lived there and the events that happened to there.



This module will begin with a consideration of the concept of *pilgrimage* and the *sacred place* based on the *spirituality* of the events that occurred at these holy places. All of this will be considered through the prism of the sanctuaries in Franciscan Italy. Through presentations and lecture, each session will look at one or more Franciscan sanctuary in the light of the history and spirituality connected with these sacred places.

Summer Courses

SUMMER 2010

Franciscan Spiritual Direction

The Spiritual Direction Programme which has been held at the Study Centre for the last eleven years during the Lent term, is now to be held during the Summer months beginning 2010.

We invite applications for this life-enhancing experience which has drawn both lay and religious from all over the world to take part in it.

It is an opportunity to live and study in beautiful surroundings and to live the Franciscan spiritual life to the full. A committed and experienced team, with support from the wider Franciscan family, will accompany you throughout the Programme.

The Programme is open to all.

The Programme is based on St Bonaventure's Major Life of St Francis which is a theology of the spiritual life based on the life of St Francis of Assisi. The guiding principles we discover in the Major Life of St Francis can be followed in our own living out of the Gospel Way of life for our own direction and for the direction of others.

The Programme runs for some ten weeks and is divided into different parts including: Introduction / Personal Retreat / Core weeks which take the participants through the Purgative, Illuminative and Unitive ways as seen in the life of St Francis / Supervised Directed Retreat .

Personal spiritual direction: participants meet privately with one of the team Directors to look at their own spiritual progress.

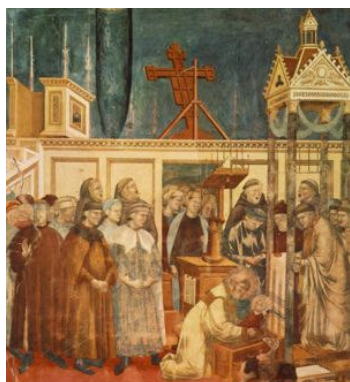
It is expected that the Programme will end with the Participants giving a Directed Retreat which will be supervised by the Team. At all times confidentiality is maintained between the new Directors and their Directees.

Semester Abroad Programme

In conjunction with other Universities in Canterbury, we offer a wide-ranging Semester abroad for students from the USA to cover two of our terms from mid-January to the end of June - twenty weeks of tuition, with a month in the middle to explore the rest of Britain and Europe, take part in our Assisi pilgrimage, go on retreat, or return home to visit family and friends.

Assisi Pilgrimage

Each year, during the Easter vacation, the Franciscan International Study Centre organises a pilgrimage to Assisi.



The pilgrimage lasts one week. Most of the week is spent in Assisi so that participants can visit all the significant Franciscan sites in the city and surrounding area.

The pilgrimage includes visits to La Verna, and to the hermitages of the Rieti Valley, including Greccio and Fonte Colombo. Mass is celebrated at a major Franciscan site each day.

SUMMER 2011

Franciscan Immersion Rekindling Experience



The Franciscan Immersion Rekindling Experience (FIRE) offers Franciscans of every branch of the family an opportunity to rekindle the spiritual flame of Sts Francis and Clare of Assisi. Each one of the four weeks provides modules

set to different Franciscan themes for immersion into the charism, wisdom, spirituality and way of life that is Franciscan.

Modules will run Monday to Friday; each week will be autonomous so that participants can choose to attend one, two, three or all four weeks.

The themes will embrace the values of Conversion, Contemplation, Minority and Poverty, with Fraternitas as the essential fuel for our life throughout all four weeks. Each week students will have several options from which to choose.

Franciscan Formators / Leaders Programme

This four week programme offers Franciscan Formators and all others in leadership/formative roles a unique opportunity to refresh and or engage in topics pertinent to this particular service.

This is a month long intensive for those Franciscan leaders and formators who have training for their particular role, but are seeking to add a Franciscan dimension. Training sessions on Franciscan leadership and the Franciscan process of formation at every level will be offered with an emphasis on the particular Franciscan Order being addressed.

First and Third Order Regular members will find courses that lead to a deeper understanding of either the Rule of 1223 or the 1982 Rule and Way of Life of the Brothers and Sisters of the TOR of St Francis.

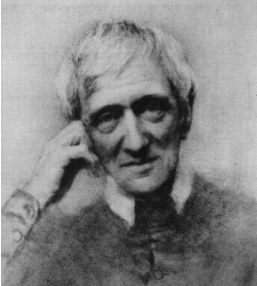
The ExCorde Programme



The programme continues:

Our speakers speak "from the heart", presenting rigorous and well-thought-out ideas in a manner that engages not only the mind, but more especially the heart and soul too.

Cardinal Newman's Epistemology of Faith in a Franciscan Key: Some Parallels with the Thought of Bl. John Duns Scotus Thursday 21 January 2010 7pm



As Aristotle was to the ancient and medieval world, Immanuel Kant is to the modern and post-modern world. **Rev. Dr. Edward J. Ondrako, OFM Conv.**, currently, scholar in residence at FISC, will share the fruit of his research in a Franciscan key into several parallels in the thought of Bl. John Duns Scotus (d. 1308) and John Henry Newman (d. 1890), two who laboured in England and knew the empirical tradition. Scotus knew its form in the early fourteenth century. Newman knew the original empirical tradition and understood the modern empirical Kantian form at Oxford.

In brief, this lecture focuses on Newman and will be an introduction to parallels, hardly noticed yet in the scholarly world, between Scotus' and Newman's attempt to understand the light (epistemological questions) and what the light was illuminating (the metaphysical questions) without becoming

blinded by the light. The light helped both Scotus and Newman to apprehend and to give assent in a profoundly personal quest for truth.

Priests 'from' or Priests 'for' the Community: The Ratio of Ordained Ministers to People in the Early Church. Thursday 11 February 2010 7pm Rev'd Prof. Thomas O'Loughlin

In recent centuries priests have become specialists who are trained to provide pastoral care for relatively large numbers of Christ's faithful - and the size of the group they serve is simply a matter of logistics. They are ordained 'for' this specialist full-time task. This is in marked contrast to earlier times and to the language of service and ministry that we still use in formal descriptions of the presbyterate. This language still recalls that priests are 'from' a community who are ordained to actualise specific gifts of the Spirit within a local church. This paper will examine the theological and pastoral implications of each model



An interview with



Br Philippe Yates OFM - Principal

What made you think that you had a religious vocation?

I first started thinking of a vocation to the priesthood when I was 15. I heard a sermon in the chapel of my (mostly) boys' boarding school about the chaplain's vocation. It came as a flash thought, "I should be a priest" and it never went away. I always wanted to be a civil engineer, like my Dad. I think it was the idea of making buildings that I could point to and say "That's my work" that appealed to me. I tried to put the idea of priesthood to the back of my mind and gained a place to study engineering at King's College, Cambridge.

Before I went up, I spent a year at school in Paris staying with my aunt and uncle and learning a new culture - a year of great fun with good friends and little responsibility. At Cambridge, in between rowing, chairing the Fisher Society (the Catholic Students Society), and not a little partying, I learned enough engineering to pass my degree, but most importantly I became aware of the beauty of the Catholic faith practised by my Recusant ancestors at great cost, and the irresistible pull of God. So I felt compelled to follow the call I'd heard at 15.

Why the Franciscans?

At school we were being schooled for "success": good jobs, wealth etc. Now my Dad died just before I started at boarding school, and my grief taught me that nothing was more important than the relationships we develop with God and with others. That was true success; no wealth could replace the need we have for love. I felt called to live a life witnessing to this. When I spoke about my thoughts on a priestly vocation, living in

community and poverty, the priest told me my ideas sounded Franciscan. So I contacted the friars and was accepted.

Why study canon law?

Coming up to ordination, I was asked if I would consider studying canon law. Personally, I'd have chosen church history, but obedience led me to accept and I discovered that canon law enabled me to be of great help to others. For my doctorate, I combined the ideal that had drawn me to the friars with a love of history and studied the legislation on poverty drawn up by the Recollect Franciscans. Studies took me to Canada, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy and the United States, and teaching led me to the Holy Land and South Africa. I have been truly blessed, with a vocation that allows me to use all my talents and with people who love and support me in that vocation.

What are you passionate about?

My passions at the moment are ensuring that the FISC continues to be a great Franciscan place to live and study and making our Franciscan tradition better known through working with politicians, television, internet, books, DVD, the 8th centenary celebrations ... plus of course praying that Colchester United Football Club are promoted to the Championship next season!

and in conclusion...

It's truly a privilege to contribute the gifts that God has given me to the life and mission of the friars, the Church and the Franciscan International Study Centre - where I hope I'll meet some of you who read this.