



# FRIENDS OF THE PONTIFICAL IRISH COLLEGE, ROME, INC.

January 2009

## FIRST MASS CELEBRATED IN NEW COLLEGE CHAPEL

Structural work on the Chapel at the Pontifical Irish College has just been completed and the College community celebrated Mass in the Chapel on the first Sunday of Advent. Now all await the artistic decoration of the Chapel that includes a 200 square yard mosaic and eight stained glass windows.



*Christ cures the paralytic from the façade of the Basilica of the Holy Rosary, Lourdes, by Fr. Marko Rupnik, SJ.*

required to fully equip the Church and to buy and restore vestments, chalices and other liturgical items. Should circumstances allow you to contribute to the Chapel project know that your generosity will be greatly appreciated. If you

The artistic project is under the expert care of the Slovenian Jesuit, Father Marko Rupnik. Father Rupnik designed a Chapel in the Papal Palace for Pope John Paul. Among his most recent commissions are the beautiful mosaics on the façade of the Basilica in Lourdes. It is hoped that all will be completed by March 2009.

Already some \$500,000 has been raised and a further \$300,000 is



*The first Mass was celebrated in the new Chapel on the First Sunday of Advent (28 November, 2008). It was a time to give thanks for what has been achieved and to look forward with hope to the completions of this project.*

know of anyone who would like to be associated with this project please let me know and information can be forwarded. Costs of some items are shown on the enclosed card. More important however, is the support of your prayer for those who engage in our programme of formation and who will use this Chapel to seek to discern God's will for them.



*The new altar and ambo are already in place. The stained glass windows are being designed by Fr. Marko Rupnik, SJ.*



*The aisle and apse of the newly constructed Chapel await decoration. It will have mosaic depictions of the Risen Christ, Our Lady, St. Patrick, St. Brigid and other Irish saints.*

## MEDITATION GARDEN TAKES SHAPE



*The derelict site at the rear of the College is to be transformed into a Meditation Garden.*



*At the heart of the garden will be the cloister, a peaceful place for prayer and contemplation.*



*The garden walkway will be lined by the Stations of the Cross and pass by Our Lady's grotto.*

Getting permission to knock a structure in the center of ancient Rome takes time and effort! However, a permit has finally been granted to remove derelict buildings and to transform the back of the property at the Pontifical Irish College into a meditation garden. Work has already begun and new paths and walkways have been laid.

Three items will be the focus of the meditation garden. A cloister is planned at the front of the garden. This will provide a shaded area where students and visitors alike can enter a peaceful space to pray and contemplate. Stations of the Cross will be placed at suitable points around the garden and those who walk there can reflect on the Passion of Christ. A grotto dedicated to Our Lady will take pride of place in the garden. May Mary, Mother of the Church, guide and direct all who discern the will of her Son.

## STUDENTS FROM COLLEGE WALK IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ST. PAUL



*Students from the College celebrate Mass at Philippi. It was by this stream that St. Paul first preached the Good News in Europe and baptized the first believers.*

In honor of the 2000th anniversary of the birth of St. Paul, Pope Benedict XVI has declared 2007-2008 a special Pauline Year. As part of their celebrations, students and staff members at the Pontifical Irish College began this academic year with a pilgrimage in the footsteps of St. Paul. This faith journey took them to the ancient cities of Philippi, Thessalonica, Athens and Corinth where Paul preached the Good News and sustained the first Christian communities by his letters. Because of this pilgrimage names and places that were once unfamiliar or remote have now taken on a new life and significance for all who had the privilege of visiting them. This pilgrimage was made possible by a generous donation from the Friends of the Pontifical Irish College, Rome.



*Prayers were offered for members of the Friends of the Pontifical Irish College, Rome whose generosity made this pilgrimage possible.*



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(PIC-US)

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