

The Capuchin Franciscans

Today, our world won't tolerate mediocrity. We are not to put up with half-measures, and are challenged to pursue excellence and honesty in all aspects of our lives. It is important to try to do our best for each other and so to make the world a better place. On the field of play, in work, at home, in our personal lives, we see a call to try to *'live the dream, and make the difference'*.

St. Francis of Assisi was someone who tried to make a difference. He was born in 1182 to Pietro Bernadone, a wealthy cloth merchant, and Pica, a noble French lady from Provence. As a young man, he loved life and danced, and partied, and sang with all his friends. He had a dream; to become a knight, and he got his chance in the war between his town of Assisi, to the neighbouring Perugia. This didn't work out and he eventually returned home with little interest in his former lifestyle.

He was praying in the little ruined Church of San Damiano and he heard an inner voice saying, "Francis, go repair my church, which as you can see, is falling into ruin." He couldn't ignore the voice of Jesus Christ, and with the fire of a new enthusiasm, he began to repair the church there. As followers came to see what he was so joyfully doing, his re-building work became contagious to them. He soon realised that his movement of 'little friars' were repairing the Church of God, not with bricks and mortar, but person, by person.

Today, the Capuchin Franciscan Friars all over the world try to continue this rebuilding programme, together with fellow Franciscans. We are almost 12 thousand friars in all five continents. The Irish Capuchins work at home in Ireland in Belfast, Donegal, Dublin, Carlow, Kilkenny, and Cork. We also have Irish Friars working in South Africa, Zambia, Korea, New Zealand, and in California. If you want to find out more go to: www.irishcapuchins.com or www.ofmcap.org

A balanced lifestyle for contemporary Ireland



Invitation

**Fr Mathew
Celebration**

Agenda / Timetable

Croke Park – Saturday, 30th September 2006

- 9.30 am Registration**
- 10.00 am Launch – Michael O Muirheartaigh**
- 10.15 am Dr. Justin Brophy, Consultant Psychiatrist**
“Tempering the edge of the sword of our mind”
– living well with alcohol
- 11.15 am Coffee Break**
- 11.45 am Marion Rackard, Alcohol Action Ireland**
“Silence and Alcohol-Related Harm
– The independent voice on alcohol”
- 12.30 pm Presentation of prizes – Minister Brian Lenihan, T.D.**
- 12.50 pm Lunch**
- 2.00 pm Sports Gentlemen: Alan Kerins,**
Physiotherapist & Galway Young Man of the Year 2006:
“The Softer Side of Fitness”
& Peter Coghlan, Olympic Sprint Hurdler:
“An Olympic Athlete’s perspective on a balanced lifestyle”
- 2.30 pm Dr. Joe Barry, TCD**
“How are our Celtic Tiger Cubs coping
with alcohol and drugs?”
- 3.15 pm Q & A**
- 4.00 pm CLOSE**

We would like

to join us for our
One Day Conference

to celebrate the
180th Anniversary
of
Fr Mathew

on
Saturday, 30th September, 2006 from
9 am to 4.00 pm
at Croke Park Conference Centre

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