

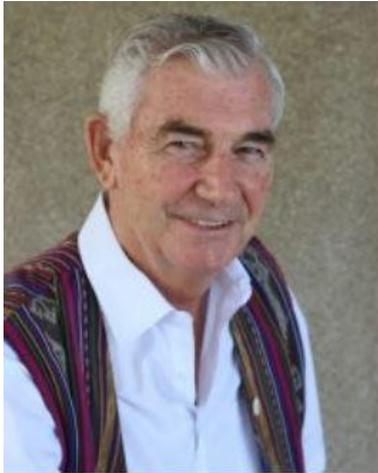
# St. Nicholas News

Francis Street Parish, Dublin 8. ---- 01-4530387, 01-5611390



19 February 2017

## TOP AWARD FOR FR. SHAY CULLEN



A high profile German human rights award is to be presented to Irish Columban missionary, Fr Shay Cullen, in recognition of his “extraordinary commitment in the field of peace and human rights” through the Preda Foundation. The 2017 AK Shalom Award is an honour made by the working group ‘Shalom - For Justice and Peace’ based at the Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt in Germany. The prize, which was initiated by a group of theology students at the university, has been awarded annually since 1982. Seventy-three-year-old Fr Cullen has pioneered justice and peace programmes in the Philippines since he arrived there in 1969. Last November he was awarded the Hugh O’Flaherty International Humanitarian Award in Killarney. Fr Cullen has, in recent months, been highlighting the killing of over 7,000 drug users and pushers by police and vigilante groups in the Philippines under President Duterte’s war on drugs.

The 2017 AK Shalom Prize recognises the work of the 54 staff - social workers, therapists, administrators and public educators - who work for the Preda Foundation and are engaged in defending human rights and promoting justice for the marginalised. Preda is active in rescuing and caring for abused children who have been saved from jails, abusers and brothels. The Foundation offers the victims of abuse a safe home with protection, education, values formation, affirmation, empowerment, healing therapy and restoration of their self-esteem. It takes legal action against child abusers and campaigns for the rights of the child through governments and the media.

Preda believes that many acts of violence, conflict and war begin with individuals who have been victimised as children. The prize will be presented to Fr Shay on 4 May in the Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt in Germany.

Ulrike Schurr-Schöpfel, a member of the organising committee, commented, “The award is one of the highest donated human rights awards in Germany and includes a substantial donation to the work of the recipient. “It is important that the people here in Eichstätt and Germany can learn about the situation in other countries. We choose award recipients who very often risk their lives for their work. “Last year, Bertha Caceres, the recipient in 2012, was killed because she campaigned for the indigenous people in her country, Honduras. We have known about Fr Shay Cullen’s work for some years already, and think it is an excellent project.”

Born in Dublin on 27 March 1943, Fr Shay was educated at Presentation College, Glashule, Co Dublin. He completed his college education at St Columban’s, Dalgan Park, Navan, and was ordained in April 1969. He was subsequently assigned to parishes in Zambales and Olongapo City, Subic Bay, on the main Philippines island of Luzon.

Fr Shay established the People’s Recovery, Empowerment and Development Assistance (PREDA) Foundation, saving children from abuse, prison and exploitation, in Olongapo City in 1974 to promote human rights, justice and peace.

## NOTICES

### Money Matters

Sunday 12 February 2017

Thank you for your contributions.

1st Collection: p285

2nd Collection: p311

Share: p50

Family Offering: p360

St. Vincent de Paul: p415



### Remembered at Mass

Sat 6pm: Christy Butler

Sun 11.30: Kevin Boyne, Michael Larkin

4th Anniv, Shea Larkin

Tues 10am: Georgina Nugent

Thurs: 10am: Owen Smyth 20th ann



### The FortySomethings

Are you in your 40’s? The Dublin FortySomethings organise spiritual and social events for people in their 40’s in and around Dublin. The next monthly gathering is at Trinity City Hotel, Pearse Street at 8.30pm on Friday 03 March.



### ‘All are Welcome Mass’ (19 Feb)

At our ALL ARE WELCOME MASS all are welcome, and we particularly welcome lgbt (lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered) people, their parents, family members and friends.

Mass starts at 3.30 pm. It ends by 4.30 pm. We need time to tidy and vacate the chapel by 5.00 pm for people arriving after us. The Carmelites very generously allow us to use their self-catering dining-room. Many of us meet there after our Eucharist for coffee/tea, biscuits and chat. Our monthly Sunday Masses started in July 2012. They have been held in Avila Carmelite Centre since November 2013.

We meet on the THIRD Sunday of each month at 3.30 pm at Avila Carmelite Centre, Bloomfield Avenue (off Morehampton Road), Donnybrook, Dublin 4. - However, we will NOT be having our Mass in April 2017.

Directions: Bloomfield Avenue is near the Hampton Hotel (formerly Sachs Hotel), and it leads to the Royal Hospital, Donnybrook. For Avila, take the second entrance on the left; it is before you get to the Royal Hospital.

Buses: 39A, 46A, 145. Bus stops: Hampton Hotel or Royal Hospital/ Bloomfield Avenue.

Parking: In the car parks at Avila (no charge).

## TRUMP RETAINS LGBT STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL



President for less than a month, Donald Trump has come through for the overwhelming numbers of religious conservatives who helped put him in office – but not so much on LGBT issues.

Conservative Christians in particular cheered his nomination of Neil Gorsuch to the Supreme Court and Trump’s promised “fix” for the Johnson Amendment, which restricts pastors’ ability to politick in the pulpit. But for the second time since his inauguration, Trump has decided to preserve an Obama-era initiative to protect sexual minorities.

The State Department announced Monday (Feb. 13) that it would retain Randy Berry, the special envoy for the human rights of LGBTI persons. In 2014, the Obama administration created Berry’s position to support efforts abroad to protect gay people from violence and death.

## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

“Heavens, how you’ve aged!” exclaimed the Master after speaking with a boyhood friend. “One cannot help growing old, can one?” said the friend. “No, one cannot,” agreed the Master, “but one must avoid becoming aged.”

*From “One Minute Wisdom” by Anthony de Mello*

*We are always looking for help. Give us a buzz on 01-5611390 at any time.*

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