

# Augustinian-Lay Forum



Back in 2016 we wrote to you about the Augustinian-Lay Forum, which is a group made up of lay people and professed Augustinians, trying to plan for the future of our church in Ireland. As we are all aware this will not be a church similar to the one we have been used to .

We asked that all of you-lay ministers, parishioners, people who visit our churches , people who work closely with us and people who only interact with us occasionally, all those with whom and among whom we work. That as we face a future in which the only certainty is that it will be very different, we ask you to reflect, individually, as groups, as communities-together with or separate from the friars-on the following questions:

1. When there are no longer any friars to minister in your particular place, would you want the Augustinian spirit to remain alive in your community?
2. If the answer to this question is 'Yes,' how do you think this can be achieved?
3. What part, concretely, would you be prepared to play in this?

Moving on from this we want to continue now and expand. We have met and considered a path towards that expansion. The first stage we would characterise as **Awareness**. We want to make the people in each location aware of the existence and purpose of the Forum. We will do this in three stages.

**First**, this Advent we are offering a series of reflective questions based on the four guiding principles of the Forum. The Advent booklets at the back of the church contain the principals and the suggested reflective questions. We would then hope to form a group from the congregation to meet and discuss this together.

**Second**, a member of the lay forum, would welcome the opportunity to speak at our Masses here about their work and journey. The intention would be to invite others to join. This would take place after Christmas.

**Third**, they will arrange cluster meetings, perhaps in three locations around the country, to engage with those interested and move the process forward.

If you are interested in moving forward with us and engaging in this crucial discernment please give your name to Charlotte in the Pastoral Office.

**Thank you for your kind co-operation in this matter!**