

April: Dick Spring in
his week (LL)

Labour locally would
e an early date they
ut conceded that they
o wait.

r, it is likely that they
an early convention—
Sullivan looks certain
ed.

er is seen as the most

twos. In other words Mr O'Dea
has taken a huge chunk of the tra-
ditional Labour vote, which he
has turned into a personal one for
himself.

It is unlikely that whoever wins
the Fianna Fail nomination will be
able to get this vote in such quan-
tities and Cllr John Ryan of
Democratic Left and Cllr
O'Sullivan, Labour—would be
the favourites to attract most of
this vote.

came to Limerick when
he was four, returns next
Tuesday to receive an
honorary doctorate from
the University of
Limerick, where he will
become writer-in-resi-
dence.

"I'm not surprised that
Frank forgot to mention
he worked for me in the
shop for three to four
years. He was a real
Walter Mitty character

Today: Frank McCourt and Jackie B
master.

and had a great imagina-
tion" laughed Mr
Brosnan, 83, still living in
Limerick.

Mr Brosnan's shop
was at 7 William Street—
now occupied by Ryan's
Locksmiths—and he sold
records, repaired bikes,
radios, prams and lots of

household
Frank
years repa
working in
up to his
America
reached h
day.

Mr Bro
meeting h

'Pogrom' priest not evil: Redemptorist

By EUGENE
PHELAN

THE superior of the
Redemptorist
Community in Limerick,
Fr Dan Baragry, this
week hit back at sugges-
tions that one of their
order, the late Fr Creagh,
was "evil" and responsi-
ble for the "pogrom" in
the city in 1904.

"I would just like to say
again that we regret any
hurt to the Jewish commu-
nity in Limerick, but from
what I could find out Fr
Creagh certainly did not

want any attacks or any-
thing to happen to anyone,"
Fr Baragry commented.

Journalist Simon Sebag
Montefiore, whose family
were "cast out" of Limerick
following what he termed
the "pogrom," was seen on
Channel 4's "Witness" pro-
gramme last week reading
out part of the infamous
sermon given by Fr Creagh
93 years ago.

Fr Baragry said that
Channel 4 were given per-
mission to film inside the
church but were refused
permission to carry out a
re-enactment. He did not
know Mr Montefiore was
going to read out some of

the sermon in the church.

In London this week Mr
Montefiore admitted hav-
ing "mixed feelings" about
coming to Limerick to film
about how Jews had been
cast out of the city. He said
that he could not have
received a better and more
friendly welcome here.

And he praised members
of the Redemptorist com-
munity for allowing him
film in the church and re-
count the Fr Creagh's
sermon, which was blamed
for starting Limerick's
"pogrom" in 1904.

"Fr Creagh was an evil
man, but the community
now are far more enlight-

ened and they could not
have been more helpful to
me," he said.

"You have a lovely,
charming city, I enjoyed
my stay. The pubs were
lovely, everyone was very
kind," he said this week.

Fr Baragry said that
when he was first
approached by a Channel 4
researcher about Fr Creagh
he was not that interested.
This all happened 50 years
before I was born. They
were different times," he
told me.

However, he added, he
did some research on Fr
Creagh, who after Limerick
went onto to do some fine
work in Australia for the
order.

It was unfair on Fr
Creagh to cast such a bad
light over one incident in
completely different times
almost 100 years ago.

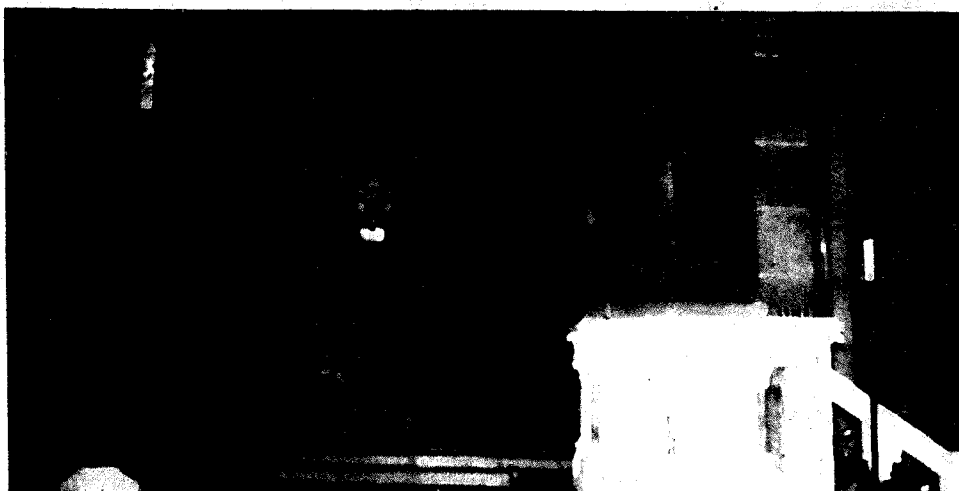
While it would appear
that his comments at the
time regarding the Jewish
community were unwar-
ranted, "to say he was evil"
was going a bit far.

Fr Baragry said that the
situation was complex at
the time, with local busi-
ness people losing out. The
Catholic Church was seen
as anti-semitic then and Fr
Creagh reflected some of
the thinking of the time.

The Pope had in recent
years apologised to Jews
for any hurt caused to them
over the years by the
Catholic Church.

OP2

Echoes from the past



The Mount St Alphonsus pulpit from which Fr Creagh delivered his
infamous sermon—and where, 93 years later, Simon Sebag
Montefiore, repeated it for television. Picture: DERMOT LYNCH (LL)

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McCarthy, said that Kenneth Hynes, who now lives at 15, Ballynanty Road, was homeless at the time and hadn't intended

Wood covering a boarded up window had been forced aside and he had entered the house to sleep even though he had an

'Pogrom'

FROM P1

Fr Baragary also felt the use of the word "pogrom" was also over the top. "Pogrom" meant massacre, but there was no evidence to show that anyone was seriously injured, or that there was even a riot. Yes, things happened, but a "pogrom" was also going too far.

Mr Montefiore was in Limerick some months ago to film for the programme.

This week he defended his decision to describe the incidents in Limerick in 1904 as a "pogrom," even though no-one was killed or seriously injured. He felt that a "pogrom" was a "violent action" and there was violent action in Limerick which resulted in a boycott of the Jewish community, the majority of whom left the city.

His own grandfather was sent to Leeds though he spoke very affectionately about Limerick to the journalist when he was a young boy.

In the programme, the Mr Montefiore claimed that his family, who lived in Limerick city and came here in the 1860's with other Jewish families, were cast out.

Mr Montefiore's family were Jaffe and came here from Lithuania on a ship bound for the United States. They thought they were in the US when they got off a Cobh.

In 1904, members of the local business community complained to Fr Creagh that they were losing out to

Jews who were selling items door to door.

Mr Montefiore's researchers found from the files in the Limerick Leader some of the sermon which he read out in the church:-

"The Jews came to Limerick apparently the most miserable tribe imaginable but they enriched themselves, their rags were switched for silk; they have wormed their way into every form of business.

"They are in the horse trade, mineral water trade and milk trade, the drapery trade and in fact in business of every description.

"You are allowing yourselves to become the slaves of Jew usurers."

Mr Montefiore said that Creagh told the congregation that 20 years previously the Jew were only known by name and evil repute in Limerick:-

"They were sucking the blood of other nations but these nations rose up and have thrown them out."

Fr Creagh said that the Jews had come to Limerick like leeches to draw blood.

The night of the sermon, the programme told us, hundreds marched through the streets and some battered down the doors of Jews living in Limerick.

The Jews were in fear of their lives.

However, as reported, in last weekend's Limerick Leader Stuart Clein, Limerick's last remaining Jew, who has researched the famous incident, maintains that it was not a "pogrom" in the meaning of the word.

Mr Hynes had had a on with his parents and homeless at the time.

He asked the court to accept that Mr Hynes in to sleep and had no original intent on the night.

Mr McCarthy said Mr Hynes, who was working part-time as a man and hoped to be working full time soon, was in a Limerick Corporation



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