



EUROPEAN PROVINCE UPDATES

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GET WELL WISHES AND PRAYERS FOR all our Brothers who are currently ill, some of whom are in hospital at this time.

Fergus Reilly's brother, Kevin, is recovering in hospital after a serious accident. Your prayers would be much appreciated by Kevin and the family.

Prayers please for the repose of the soul of Marie Gill, former CEO of D8CEC adult education centre, who died on 28th March;
Oliver Garvey, brother of Br. Edmund Garvey who died on 30th March;
Donal Brennan, brother of Br. Don Brennan (Naas) who died in London after a short illness.
Br. Thomas Vianney Browne, who died in Rome on 2nd April 2014

Election of the New CLT

On March 25th, 2014, the Feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Congregation of Christian Brothers elected a new Congregation Leadership Team (CLT). It was an historic occasion, the first CLT to be elected at a Chapter held in Nairobi, though not the first in Africa. That honour goes to the 1996 Chapter in Johannesburg which marked the one hundredth anniversary of the Brothers coming to Africa. Nonetheless, everyone in the Chapter Hall felt the historic resonance of the event: the conviction that the future of the Congregation was being forged here on the soil of Africa. The presence of so many African Brothers was a validation of this conviction

That morning early risers noted a rainbow that arched over the Dimesse Centre in the dawn sky. It was interpreted as a blessing, an echo of the rainbow marking God's Covenant with Abraham. Indeed, Brother Philip Pinto in his opening remarks, as President of the Chapter, referred to this biblical sign when he suggested that the Congregation itself was entering upon a new covenant with the divine presence and mystery.

The mission of the new team is to lead the Congregation in its global mission focusing strongly on the emerging needs of the Church in the developing world. Since 2011 the Congregation has developed a strategic mission plan, *A Way into the Future*, which, in line with the vision articulated by Pope Francis, places a renewed emphasis on working in partnership with people made poor. For the Congregation, this is an important dimension for future directions.

The members of the new Congregation Leadership Team (CLT) are as follows:
Hugh O'Neill cfc, Congregation Leader
Peter Dowling, cfc, Deputy Congregation Leader
Julian McDonald cfc, Councillor
John Casey cfc, Councillor
Richard Walsh cfc, Councillor



Blessing of the New CLT

The Chapter members offered a blessing for the new CLT members as they took on their new mission. The Blessing offered is an invitation for all to engage with the essential invitation to live life to the full in a generous, compassionate and human manner, aware of our limitations and yet eager to make our contribution to a dream for the world, which is also God's.

At the final day of Chapter, Brother Hugh O'Neill, as the incoming Congregation Leader, addressed the Chapter. He challenged the Brothers to choose life despite the dark moments that many confront in their local circumstances.

At the conclusion of Chapter 2014 in Nairobi, Brother Philip Pinto addressed the Chapter. In his address he called the Brothers to courage in living the Nairobi Chapter Message. This address concluded with the extinguishing of the Chapter candle, marking the formal end to Chapter business. Live Jesus in our Hearts forever.



A Blessing

That the single, most significant dimension of life is our relationship with the Source of Goodness who never ceases to sing love songs to our souls
 Brothers, may you find meaning, purpose, and vitality in what you do daily
 May you treasure your loved ones and let them know how dear they are to you
 May you make choices and decisions that reflect your truest self
 May you look in the mirror at least once a day and smile in happy amazement
 May you remember relationships are what count above all else – more than work or money, or all the material things we spend so much time tending
 May live you in an uncluttered manner, enjoying the freedom to be content
 May you keep our sense of humour when things don't go the way we want
 May you find adventure in each new day and marvel at the wonders of creation which constantly present themselves to you
 May you never give up on yourself when others turn away or do not understand
 May you be attentive to the health of your body, mind and spirit
 May you take risks and accept the growth-full challenges that come to you
 May you draw on our inner strength and resiliency when you are in need
 May you carry peace within yourself, allowing it to slip into the hearts of others so our planet becomes a place where violence, division, and war are no more.

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Smaoineamh – ‘A Thought’

Our very nature as human beings is to be open and porous to deeper meaning. And the spiritual story of humankind, unfolding over the millennia, suggests that the divine life force (God) reveals itself with a prodigious generosity of presence, power, and cultural expression.

[Diarmaid Ó Murchú]

Mount Sion – Integration and Support Unit

is involved in a wide variety of projects – a short account of some of their recent work and programmes is given below:

Schools advocacy programme

This was held on Tuesday 11th March. Over 8 schools took part. They were made up of Presentation Brothers schools and Christian Brother's schools in the South East and Cork.

Intercultural Soccer and Hurling tournament

This tournament was held on the 27th March for the hurling and the 4th of April for the Soccer.

Diverse city week

Diverse city week is being held in August. It will feature a workshop on Diversity all over the city. It will finish in the People's Park with a Festival of Cultures. The groups taking part include Travellers, LGBT, Transgender, New Communities, and Disability groups.

Transition Year Placement

A Transition year student from Presentation Secondary School spent seven days in total in the ISU office under the supervision of the Outreach Worker. Her work schedule included many projects including researching mental health issues in young people, including an Outreach visit to Squashy Couch.

The Outreach worker is also engaged in a variety of programmes such as:

- International Teenagers Group (ITG)
- Bridgewater House Direct Provision Centre Outreach Group (Carrick-on-Suir)
- Brazilian Clients
- Viking House Direct Provision Centre (Waterford)
- Lourdes Youth & Community Services Training
- Facebook and Initiate Now Programme!

Visit the www.edmundrice.ie for information on the day-to-day activities within the Edmund Rice Centre, please go to the website