



## EUROPEAN PROVINCE UPDATES

*Vol VI Issue 6, March 28, 2014*

***New Congregation Leadership Team*** The 31st Congregation Chapter of the Christian Brothers in Nairobi, Kenya, announced on March 25th, the Feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the election of a new Congregation Leadership Team:

**Congregation Leader: Hugh O'Neill cfc**

**Deputy Congregation Leader: Peter Dowling cfc**

**Councillors:**

**Julian McDonald cfc**

**John Casey cfc**

**Richard Walsh cfc**



We would like to congratulate the new CLT team on their election and wish the outgoing team every good wish for the future.

### ***Return of Delegates to the Congregation Chapter***

Most of the European Delegates to the Congregation Chapter are due home on Tuesday next, April 1<sup>st</sup>. We welcome them home and thank them for their contribution to the success of the Chapter

### ***Smaoineamh – ‘A Thought’***

We are at an irreversible turning point in human history. In the tumult of great disruption, millions of us are rising in a more universal, holistic, cosmic consciousness, seeking to fulfil our highest potential through joining together in co-creative action. The emerging worldview of conscious evolution provides us a purpose, pattern and process to bring forth a new future, a new world and a new humanity. The promise of Conscious Evolution is nothing less than the emergence of a universal humanity capable of guiding its own evolution into a future of unimaginable co-creativity. [Barbara Marx Hubbard]

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

Br Matt Tynan is now out of hospital and back in Rosmeen Gardens. Br. Paddy McGovern is also out of hospital and back in Community in Woodeaves.

Your prayers are asked for Br Augustine Anthony who will be undergoing some medical procedures around this time. We pray for Ger O'Connell who is having exploratory tests and would appreciate your prayers.

Eddy McEvoy was transferred from Clonmel hospital to St. Bridget hospital Carrick-on-Suir on Wednesday afternoon, March 26<sup>th</sup>.

### ***Guess Who, Guess When***



### ***Callan Heritage Centre***

As we move into Spring and Summer the number of visitors is increasing by the day along with other activities at the Centre.

At the beginning of March we entertained nearly 100 students, parents and teachers from Colegio Stella Maris, Montevideo. The highlight of their visit was to walk around the house where Edmund lived in his youth. They have contacted us to let us know that it was a most enjoyable and educational visit. They hope to return in the not too distant future.

Earlier in the year, 100 students, parents and teachers from Colegio Cardenal Newman, Buenos Aires paid the Centre a visit. Colegio Cardenal Newman are regular visitors to the Centre and have been most generous to us over the years. 16 students from Iona Prep, New York who were guests of CBS Wexford visited Callan as part of their stay. The Headteacher of CBS Wexford and four adults accompanied the group. Apart from these groups from abroad we have had visits from Doon CBS, Carlow CBS, as well as families, couples and individuals from Kilkenny, Tipperary, South Africa,, Australia, England, Monaghan and Carrickmore. In the immediate future we look forward to visits from St. Mary's CBGS, Belfast and St. Edmund's, South Africa.



The Monthly Mass, prepared by various local groups and very well attended, goes on all year round. The Centre is also used by groups both during the day and in the evening. The Gardening Club hold evening meetings and groups from the Schools and Parish have full day sessions. Camphill and L'Arch use the Centre for Training Days.

Retreat Days for the local Schools, Lourdes Youth Group, etc. are also regular features. A few times during the year the Centre is hired for Wedding Receptions and the grounds used for wedding photos on more numerous occasions. Recently, Malachy appeared on the Kairos "I Witness" slot on RTE.

*Malachy Gillen*

### ***Manchester Project***

Three years ago Ger O'Connell was invited by The Province Leadership to join the Spiritan Fathers in a collaborative ministry in the Salford area of Manchester. Salford is one of the poorest areas in the UK. Last September Ger was joined by Liam de Roiste. Here is Ger's account of his ministry.

When I arrived in Salford I was introduced to Berni Lomax who has worked in youth ministry with the Spiritans for a number of years. Together we identified that there was need to do something with the youth of the Salford area itself. As a result we set up a youth Club, an average of twenty young people attend the club two nights a week.

Another group of marginalized people in the Salford area is Asylum seekers and refugees. With the help of students from St Ambrose College, we hold basic English classes for newly arrived Asylum seekers. We average 15 students every week. Many of the asylum seekers arrive knowing nobody, isolated and frightened. We established a Social club for them every Thursday evening. On average, 20 people attend this social club.

For me as a Christian Brother and follower of Edmund Rice, this is a most privileged ministry. I meet people at their most vulnerability. They share with me their pain, their loneliness, their isolation, etc. Through my work I have met the most amazing people and they are such a source of inspiration. The contribution of the Edmund Rice Network people to this work is extraordinary. I am so privileged to meet in them the Christ who is hungry, imprisoned and rejected.

I live in a mixed community with three Spiritan priests and five young volunteers from various parts of the world. This is an amazing experience to share my spirituality with people of different denomination and cultures.

Last summer I was thrilled to be joined by Liam De Roiste in community and ministry. It has been wonderful to have Liam as a companion and fellow worker. Liam, as well as collaborating with me in my work with the youth of Salford, spends two and half days with a sister organization called, REVIVE. This is a Spiritan project geared specifically to the needs of asylum seekers and refugees. Liam's works with an Immigration advisor called Chica Sikhosana. He has made a major contribution to the running of Revive and the staff is high in their praise of his contribution.

The Visitation of asylum seeker to some of our schools, telling their story and making students aware of their plight, is another aspect of our work. These schools contribute to our work by befriending asylum seekers, collecting food for them and organising celebrations for significant events in their lives.

For the last two summers we have an Edmund Rice Camp running here in Salford with the help of students from our schools in Manchester, Birkenhead, Sunderland and Liverpool.