

EUROPEAN PROVINCE UPDATES

Vol V Issue 18, November 1, 2013

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

We remember all those who have died especially in this month of November.

We extend our sincerest sympathies to Brothers Eamonn Kinsella (niece), Br. Paul Tobin (sister: Joan Joyce) and Br. Stan Kelly (niece: Susan Tansey) who have recently experienced bereavement within their families.

The family of the late Martin Whelan (his wife, Claire, and children, Raymond and Fiona) attended the weekly reflection in the Province Centre on November 1st, the Feast of All Saints. A photograph of Martin now hangs in the Province Centre

HUNDREDS MARK UN DAY FOR THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY IN DUBLIN

17 October 2013

Hundreds of people have been marking the UN Day for the Eradication of Poverty in one of Central Dublin's most marginalized communities.

Organizers of the event - which took place near the Famine Memorial on Custom House Quay - said poor people here face discrimination on a daily basis.

Watched by Dublin's Lord Mayor, Oisín Quinn, a drum ensemble from O'Connell Schools set the scene for a colourful commemoration.

Pupils from four schools listened as one local youth, Martin, who is suffering from the after-effects of an accident, praised his literacy coach for teaching him to learn to read and write after his Community Employment Scheme closed.



Smaoineamh – 'A Thought'

As 'Mother', the Earth cares for all our needs providing us and the other creatures of the earth with plenty to sustain us all, and as 'Sister', we have a responsibility to care for the Earth as we would wish to care for our very own blood sister. St. Francis realised that as mother, sister & brother, the earth with all its creatures has another role too, that of guiding and leading us towards God. Francis began to see God's goodness at the heart of all matter. He came to believe that all creation is sacred and points beyond itself to its Creator, God.

[Br Cathal Duddy ofm]

Congregation Chapter 2014 Delegates

A list of delegates to the Congregation Chapter is attached with this issue of the Province Updates

CLIMATE CHANGE

"We have received a wake-up call – the IPCC's Fifth Report, the fifth report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The Executive Summary is 36 pages long, and patiently lists the changes to Earth's climate, water cycles and carbon cycles. Yes, humans are responsible.

As an exercise in global human learning, nothing beats Climate Change. World Peace may not move us till war threatens. World Poverty may not trouble us till we find ourselves made poor. But Climate Change is noticed by us all: we can't escape the weather. How does the human race learn from this? I think the bigger tragedy may not be the loss of something we love, but the failure to learn from this. It would be Cross without Resurrection.....

The universe, in its blind but helpful way, hums certain rhythms. Interiority, diversity, and connectedness keep recurring, at every level of organisation, including our own human intelligence. Our collective learning may follow the same pattern. At first we'll scatter, and blame someone else (diversifying). Then we'll reflect, and find the core value we treasure (interiorising). And then there's the delicate business of connecting all this human activity into something greater and more beautiful than we have hitherto produced, in nations or churches or sub-groups of these."

Moy Hitchen

Reflections from the members of the Maranatha Youth Club in Kilbarrack run by Dick Fields (Timiri) who travelled to Mazabuka, Zambia

1. Thinking back on the weeks we spent in Zambia I am filled with great memories and I know I won't forget them.

From the moment we arrived to the second we left we were welcomed by everyone we met. The Brothers and Sisters from Changa Changa, St. Edmunds and City of Joy, treated us all like they had known us for a lifetime and showed us a level of hospitality I could not believe.

The children have left a permanent effect on me due to a mixture of their respect for others and the happiness they displayed from having us around.

Over all the trip has left me with a feeling of appreciation for what I have and a knowledge that the majority of what we as a people complain about is a load of nonsense, compared to the real problems that others have

Ian Corr

2. The journey to Africa is something I will remember and cherish for the rest of my life. The minute we arrived in Mazabuka we got such a warm reception and welcome. The Brothers were so good to us and treated us with so much respect. They truly are amazing people.

I loved working with the boys and girls in Changa Changa Community School. They really did touch my heart. They had nothing and still had a smile on their faces each day we were there. I also loved spending time at the City of Joy. The people were so friendly and I truly made some good friends there.

I believe the people in the Maranatha group have become very close and we are so thankful that we had an opportunity like this. I really am a changed person and I know not to take things for granted any more. I feel I have become closer to God and pray for the people in Africa every day. Thank you so much for giving us the opportunity that has challenged us in a positive way and for the better.

Megan Hansard

Centering Prayer Introduction

Emmaus

November 30, 2013

Details have been sent out. Please apply directly to Emmaus.

St. Timothy's Liverpool

Tatan Micheloud joined our community in St Timothy's, Liverpool in mid September. He wanted to experience community life and how it's lived today, with the hope that he might be able to support a new community being planned for Buenos Aires in the near future. Tatan works on a ten person pastoral team in our school in Newman College, Buenos Aires. He is twenty seven years old and is a qualified architect. Last year Tatan spent some time in our community in Cochabamba, Bolivia and also did an Immersion Course in Lusaka.

We were absolutely amazed how well Tatan fitted into the community way of life. He was truly involved in all our activities both in community and ministry. He visited the Soup Kitchen in Seel St. with the Brothers, where he came in contact with the homeless. He joined us in Asylum Link where some of us teach English to refugees from many parts of the middle east and Africa. He was very impressed with the warm reception he got from the Brothers' communities and schools wherever he went.

This visit came out of the experience of the Newman students, together with some teachers and parents, who have been visiting us annually for the past five years. The spirituality that we are trying to live out of is also the spirituality that the Pastoral Team in Newman is trying to inculcate among their students. They talk about "a bigger God", a letting go of the literalism of the Bible, the holistic approach to education, the essential journey from the head to the heart, the need to take care of the earth. One of the key points Tatan and his team want to inculcate in their students' lives is to share a new way of being with them, embracing them for who they are with respect, and a belief that they are loved as they are, by a compassionate God. He points out that Pablo Keohane, Philip Pinto and John Burke are the major influences in developing a new spirituality in the College.

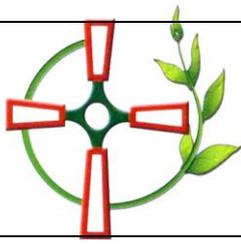
Tatan has a lovely built-in rhythm in his life which includes freedom, enthusiasm, balance and can go with the natural flow of life. Before he left us during the last week in October we had a review of how he found his time with us, where we acknowledged the personal experiences, the influences, the sharings, and contributions. We completed the review by offering affirmations and a blessing. These few weeks have truly been blessed and have been very enriching for us all.

David Ryan

National Conference Valuing the Giftedness of Senior Religious will take place on Friday, 6th

December 9.30am to 1.30pm at the Regency Hotel, Whitehall, Dublin 9.

For reservations, phone (01) 838 88 88 or 087 918 0777; email info@awarenesseducation.org or visit their website www.awarenesseducation.org for more details.



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Walking in the Footsteps of Edmund: from the past into the future

2013 marked the occasion of the third Edmund Rice Education Australia pilgrimage, this time in partnership with Edmund Rice International and the Oceania Province. A group of ten, comprising educators and formation personnel, visited the key sites of Edmund's life and explored the ways in which his response to the Gospel of Jesus is being lived out today. This included the addition of three days in Geneva learning more about advocacy and human rights education with ERI.

Highlights of our time away included our visit to Dublin where we were given an insightful presentation about the times that formed Edmund by Dáire Keogh and had the opportunity to visit four ERST schools and Edmund Rice House, where we were hosted by Br Patrick Madigan. We would like to thank Tony McCann from ERST for organising the school visits to CBS Westland Row, St Paul's CBS, North Brunswick St, O'Connell's School, North Richmond St and Oatlands College. Our participants all appreciated the opportunity to spend time with their Irish colleagues and to experience an Edmund Rice education in the land where it all began.

Our journey took us onwards to beautiful Glendalough, where we walked the land and felt the presence of St Kevin and those who followed him with Fr Michael Rodgers. This was followed by time in Callan and at the Heritage Centre at Westcourt. Then it was on to Waterford, where we walked the Edmund Rice Trail with Br Peadar Gleeson. We also spent time in the Heritage centre and the beautiful Chapel, praying and reflecting on the life of Edmund and his legacy. From Waterford we moved to Cork where we experienced the hospitality of the Presentation Brothers and the contemplation of the Prayer Garden at Mardyke House.

In addition to walking in the footsteps of Edmund, we also had the opportunity to consider the stories of Catherine McCauley and Nano Nagle and the Mercy and Presentation Sisters: both of whom have helped shape Catholic education in Australia.

Our Pilgrimage concluded in Geneva, where we explored the impact that Edmund Rice communities from around the world are having in their fight for human and earth rights with the support of Edmund Rice International. We walked the halls of the United Nations and spent time with the team from ERI and Franciscans International exploring the ways in which we can ensure the enjoyment of human rights by all.

As pilgrims, we were touched by the generous hospitality of all we met. We were struck by the vitality and spirit with which the story of Edmund is lived and told by Brothers, women and men in Ireland and Geneva. We were captivated by the music and culture of Ireland and overwhelmed by the beauty of its hills, lakes and valleys. But above all we were grateful for the opportunity to walk with others in the footsteps of Edmund.



*Mark Walsh
Edmund Rice Education Australia*

CHILDREN'S RIGHT TO SIGHT - Cataract surgery in the Philippines

Br. Graeme Leach is working with Edmund Rice Services (ERS) in the Philippines. "The Community-Based Rehabilitation service of Edmund Rice Services identifies children with special surgical needs, advocating for prevention of disabilities in children and youth especially in Eye and Ear health. The team keeps a record on children with eye and ear problems. During cataract missions, these children are visited in their homes and their parents informed of the surgical mission. For indigent cataract patients, parents were informed by CBR nurses that ERS will pay the expense of medicines."



Note: This is an extract from a report sent to Br. Peter Harney of Edmund Rice International by Br. Graeme Leach following on training workshops run by Peter in the Philippines.

Edmund Rice Network Conference

On October 11th the Edmund Rice Network Conference took place in Mount Sion. It was coordinated by a Committee drawn from ERST, ERST NI, ERD, Presentation Brothers, Christian Brothers, the Christian Brothers Schools Office (UK) and the Edmund Rice Heritage Centres.

John Waters, the writer and **Irish Times** columnist, was the principal speaker. He addressed the conference on the theme of the values and the openness to a religious dimension that ought to characterise education in the Edmund Rice tradition. Over one hundred participants, representing schools, projects and centres, attended the conference. The focus of the conference was how to promote the involvement of young people in the Edmund Rice Network.

It was noted with appreciation that young people had travelled over from England for the conference. Particularly well represented were the Edmund Rice Camps and the Life Centres. Students from the Marino Institute of Education attended accompanied by their lecturer, Patricia Slevin. Overall, the presence of the young people added greatly to the vibrancy and energy of the conference.

The presenters in the workshop sessions, facilitated by Chris Glavey and Aiveen Mullally, included young people from the Edmund Rice Camps, the Cork Life Centre and the Open Doors Project in Belfast. John Cooley spoke on behalf of the Edmund Rice Network Leadership Group (ERNLG). Tom Murray gave an account of the Network activities in England.

Following the conference many referred to the energy and creativity manifested by the young people who attended. They represented a new voice, one that challenged the conference to reflect on how the evolving story of the Edmund Rice vision might be told in new ways and to new audiences. Many attending an event of this kind marvelled at the extent, strength and variety of the network initiatives. As one person said, "We discovered that we are not alone".

The outstanding hospitality and welcome offered by the Mount Sion Centre and Community contributed significantly to the success of the day.

Donal Leader

Reunion of Past-Pupils of St. Joseph's Industrial School, Glin, Co. Limerick.

Past-Pupils of St. Joseph's Industrial School, Glin came together with their families and friends for a Mass of Reconciliation and a Reunion in Limerick on the afternoon of Saturday, 19th October. The Mass was celebrated in Raheen Parish Church by Dr. Brendan Leahy, Bishop of Limerick. Bishops Raymond Moore, Bill Murphy and Donal Murray were co-celebrants. Bros. Kevin Mullan and John Burke were present at the Mass and Reunion as representatives of the leadership of the Christian Brothers. Representatives of the Mercy Sisters and a number of TDs and local Councillors were also present.

Thanks are due to the Diocese of Limerick and to the parish of Raheen who made the church available and assisted with the arrangements for this initiative of the past-pupils of St. Joseph's Industrial School, Glin.

A Way Into The Future

Twelve Brothers from all over the Congregation are presently attending a training programme for the Transition Support Team (TST), including Declan Power from the European Province. A summary of the programme to date is attached with this bulletin.

The Brothers who are part of the TST programme are : Alfred Banda (Africa), Sunil Britto (India), Juan Casey (Latin America), Tino D'Abreu (India), Tony Hempenstall (Oceania), Donal Kirk (Africa), Sylvester Lahai (Africa), Dean McGlaughlin (Oceania), Chris Meehl (Oceania), Declan Power (Europe), Damien Price (Oceania) and Ruvan Rebello (India).