

## EUROPEAN PROVINCE UPDATES

Vol V Issue 19, November 15, 2013

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

***Please pray for the repose of the souls of recently departed.***

Donal McEntee (B.Ed. Bliain 1,) who died suddenly in M.I.E. on October 24<sup>th</sup>.

We extend our sincerest sympathies to Br Thomas Kelly on the death of his sister – Sr. Rosemary Kelly.

### ***Smaoineamh – ‘A Thought’***

Care of creation is not just something God spoke of at the dawn of history: he entrusts it to each of us as part of his plan.

[*Tweet by Pope Francis, 5 June 2013*]

### ***New European PLT***

The following Brothers have been appointed to the Province Leadership Team beginning April 2014:

Br. Edmund Garvey	Province Leader
Br. Dominic Sassi	Deputy Province Leader
Br. Paul Hendrick	Councillor
Br. Chris Glavey	Councillor
Br. Liam Deasy	Councillor

### ***CENTERING PRAYER REMINDER***

Emmaus Retreat Centre, Lissenhall, Swords, Co. Dublin on November 30, 2013

**Please register in advance with Emmaus:**

Phone 01 8700050

***Fit for Life Classes*** – Brothers who attend the Fit for Life class with their instructor, Fiona.



### ***Interfaith Prayer Event for Syria The Lantern Centre 12<sup>th</sup> September 2013.***

On the 12<sup>th</sup> of September 2013, the Lantern Centre in collaboration with WFWP Ireland, hosted an interfaith prayer and meditation evening in support of a peaceful resolution for the Syrian crisis.

About 35 people attended the event. Br. Jim O’ Hagan led us through a meditation using quotes from sacred texts from the major world religions. We had prayers from representatives of Sikhism, Judaism, Islam, Romanian Orthodox, Christian and the Spiritist Community.

A sacred dance was performed by Sr. Lumay from Sri-Lanka and a professional singer sang a beautiful and deeply moving peace song. The participants were invited to write a short prayer on a piece of paper cut in the shape of a dove. These prayers were collected and distributed among the attendants who had now formed into groups of six and were prayed by them in their groups. A short guided meditation followed and finally an invitation to spontaneous prayer for anyone who wished to do so. We ended the session with us all singing “Make me a channel of your peace”.

The Zephyr room had been appropriately decorated with coloured clothes, candles, and doves.

Afterwards, several of the participants mentioned how deeply moved they were by the experience. Two Muslim women said “The prayers were heartfelt. It was such a great feeling to come together not as a people of different faiths but people with love in their hearts for humanity” and later added “the experience has given us much to think about”. Another person reflected, “Tonight was something so worthwhile that everyone should have been there to share it”.

The format of the Liturgy was prepared by Doris McCann, Br. Jim and Joan Murray

*Joan Murray*

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

1.

This experience has opened my eyes to many things. It has showed me the difference between life in Ireland and life in Zambia. Things that we take for granted, like water at the turn of a tap or knowing that there is going to be food on the table at least three times a day is for many Zambians the complete opposite. To have a little child ask you for food is something we do not see here in Ireland. The experience of observing this has had a huge effect on me.

Change Changa was my favourite place to go every day. The smiles on the faces of the poor boys and girls were literally priceless. Most of them have absolutely nothing but yet they were always smiling, no matter what. All the girls in the City of Joy are the strongest people I have ever met. Listening to their stories and then looking at my life and realising how lucky I am with my family, education and opportunities I have, made me re-evaluate my life and respect all these people who are important to me.

This experience in Africa and in Zambia has changed my life forever and I will never forget it as long as I live. I can honestly say that I will return again to Zambia to get involved in the projects I experienced, so that I can support and encourage these people especially the children.

*Chelsey Murphy*

2.

Now that we have returned from Zambia I feel like the whole group has grown closer and stronger both spiritually and mentally. I have been changed in so many ways, by the children who have touched my heart and the Brothers and Sisters who welcomed us so warmly. The Brothers are a truly inspirational group of people. I have been touched in such an amazing way that I have already started planning a trip back next year.

The opportunity to go to Mazabuka in Zambia opened my eyes to see how poor people and those on the margins live and exist and how they learn to cope with their life. In spite of this they still have time to welcome you and smile through all their difficulties. How could you not be moved?

*Linda Fitzgerald*

**World Day for Overcoming Extreme Poverty – 17 October 2013 Custom House Quay**

**I thought I'd never be able to read and write**

*Martin - ATD Fourth World Ireland*

When I was in school, I was always at the back of the class. The teacher had no time for me. At the age of 15, I joined FAS. I became a carpenter, but I had an accident. I was in a coma and everything just went. When I heard about Sean's project, I was so happy! I started to learn how to read and write. I thought I'd never be able to do this!



**Out of sight, out of mind**

*Reuben – Irish Refugee Council*

My family has lived in direct provision for over 8 years. I have experienced like any Irish parent the shame of having to tell my 8 year old daughter I do not have one euro for the breakfast club. Like all the other people facing discrimination of some sort or living in poverty in any part of the world, asylum seekers are a vulnerable group of people who heavily rely on your solidarity.

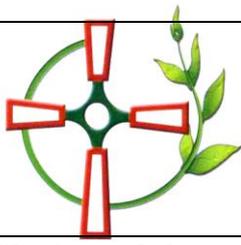


**Recently moved:**

Br. Pat Hegarty has recently moved from the community at St. Timothy's, Liverpool to the community at Edmund Rice House, Westcourt, Callan, Co. Kilkenny.

**Other Changes:**

Br. Lar Nevin has moved to Cowper Care, Kilternan; and Br. Matt Boyhan and Br. Thady O'Mahony have moved to St. Patrick's Nursing Home, Baldoyle



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### ***Closing of the community of Asunción in Paraguay***

The community in Asunción is recuperating from the surprise concerning the closing of the community in Paraguay after 27 years. The visit of Br. Paul Keohane between 10th and 14th of October gave the Brothers an opportunity to speak about their sentiments and to begin to imagine the future.



Brs. Jack Casey and Charles Fitzsimmons received a warm farewell in the chapel of St. Michael in Bañado Tacumbú.

The priests and the people thanked them and all the Brothers who have worked in the Bañado for their ministries and catechesis in the little school, with prayer groups and in work for young people and many other works. Jack is now stationed in Cardinal Newman College, in Buenos Aires.

### **News of the Brothers in the Philippines**

Members of the global Edmund Rice Network would be aware that the Christian Brothers have a presence in the Philippines, which has been struck by the devastating Typhoon Haiyan over the second weekend of November 2013. While joining in the world's grief over the estimated 10 000 people that have been killed by this worst storm on record and the thousands of others who have been left homeless, it is relieving to be able to report that the two Brothers communities – made up of Brothers from our Indian and Oceania Provinces – have both sent reassurances that they are safe.

### **Maasin, Leyte**

One community is situated in Maasin in the south of Leyte Island, about 130 km south of the provincial capital city of Tacloban. A phone call from Brother Theo Alvares to the Indian Province Leader Placid Henriques on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> said that the Brothers were safe and that not much damage had been done to their house. But in their vicinity, a great deal of damage has happened, and they are not expecting to have electricity for two to four weeks. So they will have to adjust to living without electricity for some time, and email contact will be difficult; but a text/sms could reach Theo's cellphone at the number (0063) 9063785556.

### **Kabankalan, Negros**

The other Christian Brother community is Kabankalan, on a central island of the Philippines, further to the west. Brother Rod Ellyard writes in an email to a member of the Congregation Leadership Team: "We're fine here in Kabankalan. The typhoon passed across the top of Negros. We had fairly strong winds for a little while. Heavy rains for extended periods caused minor flooding – not as bad as last month... The river was swollen and very fast but stayed this time within its banks. People were evacuated to safe havens for two nights. The worst we suffered was the inconvenience of power outages for most of the last two days, and of course no internet, our chief means of communication and news. So only this evening [Saturday 9 November] since these services have been restored are we learning of the loss of life and extensive damage suffered by many people across a huge swathe of the country. Inconvenience is nothing compared with that."

Naturally, members of the extensive ERN across the globe prays for all those directly affected by the storm, and join in reflecting on how we are all affected by the misfortune of this particular part of the human community.

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Br. Michael Burke has written an interesting article based on this on the Congregation website with a map to explain locations – please visit [www.edmundrice.net](http://www.edmundrice.net)

## ***An Tairseach***

A very pleasant evening was hosted in the Province Centre community house on Friday November 8<sup>th</sup> for the Brothers currently attending the programme in An Tairseach in Wicklow. The Brothers who attended An Tairseach this term were Paul Hendrick, Charles Belmoh (Sierra Leone), Bill Wilding (Oceania), Martin Sanderson (Oceania), Eddie McArdle (Latin America). The Brothers were loud in their praise of the programme. Br. Anthony M. McDonnell is one of the key lecturers on the programme.

A presentation was made on the occasion to Br. Paul Hendrick to mark his many years of service to the Life Centres.



## ***NANO NAGLE DECLARED VENERABLE***



Pope Francis declared Nano Nagle as Venerable on October 31<sup>st</sup>. A special Mass to celebrate this significant development in the cause of Nano Nagle will take place in the South Chapel, Cork, on Presentation day, November 21<sup>st</sup>. Attendance will be restricted to invitees. The Christian Brothers will be represented at the Mass.

Nano Nagle was born Honora Nagle in Ballygriffin in Cork in 1718, a turbulent time in Irish history due to the penal laws. The Nagle family was a wealthy Catholic family and Nano had the benefit of a European education and privileged lifestyle. She devoted her life to God and to working with people on the margins of society. Nano set up her first school in Cobh Lane in Cork City in 1754 and is buried in South Presentation Convent grounds.

## ***Celebrating Eucharist in a Holy Communion***

### ***Celebrating with creation***

The question remains: what happens in practice? How can a Christian community be helped to experience the creation dimension of its worship? How can it be moved towards ecological conversion and action? One might demur: are the other aspects, the Eucharist as sacrifice, as memorial, as ritual, not equally in need of attention? Of course, all aspects are intertwined; they do not stand alone as false alternatives. My attention, however, has focused on how the transformation of the universe is heralded in bread and wine at the Eucharistic event. Such is the reach and grandeur of the Eucharist where everything is drawn into a holy communion. For John Moriarty, the sound of the wafer being snapped and the trickle of water mingled with wine are 'the most serious sounds in Christendom'. They combine the out-breath of creation, 'let there be light' with the intake of Christ's last breath on the cross, two movements of God's love towards us from the beginning – giving us life and drawing us close.

From earliest times the rising sun has been a point of reference for our worship. The loss of this sense of direction (orientation) in our prayer and liturgy is more than sentimental. It speaks of our disconnection from the source of life and the dwarfing of our ambition to simply human concerns. In the past, we buried our dead facing east so that they might be ready to greet our Lord whose loving kindness comes 'like the dawn from on high' (Lk: 1:78)

At the winter solstice, the darkest time of the year, a dawn Mass in which we deliberately turn our attention towards the east would make a significant point. In this way we would also find ourselves in solidarity with those waiting in the Newgrange chamber for the sun to rise. It's time to re-educate ourselves to the wider frame of reference to which we belong.

*Extract from Eucharist and the Living Earth –  
Hugh O'Donnell*

### ***Post Script***

A collection in the Artane Oratory to assist the survivors of the Philippines Typhoon Disaster organised by Br. J. Ledwidge raised much needed funds. Those present contributed 2,125 Euro to it.