

EUROPEAN PROVINCE UPDATES

Vol V Issue 17, October 18, 2013

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

Please prayer for the repose of the souls of the recently departed.

Br. Phil O'Reilly, RIP

See attached article from the Irish Examiner Saturday, October 05, 2013 entitled "Innovative Br O'Reilly was ahead of his time"

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

1. I feel my trip to Africa has totally changed my outlook on life. It has really touched my heart in many ways. I feel blessed and privileged that I got the chance for this experience. When you compare the two cultures, the lives that we live and the Zambian lives, we are totally different in many ways. I am grateful now for the life and many opportunities I have. I find myself not taking things in life for granted anymore. I also feel, since my experience that I notice all the little things now that we need and don't need.

I am so happy that we had the Brothers on this trip with us, as I feel it would not have been as good as it was without them. They are truly amazing people and the work they do is unbelievable. I feel I have become closer to God and that my passion for Him has grown since my trip. Observing the faith of the poor people and praying with the Brothers impressed and influenced me greatly. I found it a whole different life out there. I will treasure this experience and all the amazing people I met along the way.

It is my ambition and hope that one day I will get another chance again to visit these wonderful people. It has truly changed me and I am so happy for that. I just want to take a minute to thank you, Br. Declan, Br. Dermot, Br. Alfred and all the Zambian Brothers for making all of this possible preparing for it. It could not have been done without you all. God is good.

Kym Carroll

2. The opportunity to visit Mazabuka in Zambia and to experience the many things we saw and the people we met has challenged me to look at my own life in a different way. It has made me realise that although things may be hard, that we should never stop trying to reach our goal in life. The people and young children we met made me realise that everybody should be treated with the same respect and dignity because we are all human and equal in the eyes of God. I will not be taking anything for granted anymore.

The Brothers and Sisters are such amazing people that they never put themselves first. The volunteers we met in City of Joy were really committed and dedicated to the children. Joseph, Charles, two of the leaders always tried their best to make all the children happy. I could not have asked to meet anyone nicer than them. The children are so adorable. They always had big smiles on their faces. They were so quick to learn new songs, dances which they loved doing.

Leanne Fitzgerald

Creedon Trust

Mr. Con Creedon, a past pupil of Synge Street, donated one million euro toward the educational expenses of past pupils of the school. A trust has been set up, called the Creedon Trust. The Trust has invested the money and the interest earned each year is distributed to past pupils of Synge Street who apply for assistance for their post Leaving Certificate education. 74 past pupils will benefit from the Trust this year and will be presented with their awards at the annual Mass for Past Pupils in the Secondary school on Sunday, November 10th at 10.30am.

Burren Chernobyl Project

The Burren Chernobyl Project is celebrating 20 years of wonderful achievement this year. Br. Liam O'Meara has been the driving force, ably assisted over many years by Br. Ned Hayden. Other Brothers have also helped along the way. Teresa Flynn has been hugely influential. Some of you will remember her beloved Sergei at one of our gatherings years ago. Liam says that Teresa and Sergei '***taught the world a new way to be.***' One of the great blessings brought by the Project volunteers to the people of Belarus has been to model a different way of relating to one another.

Eucharistic Spirituality

“To live a Eucharistic spirituality is to live in an awareness that all is one: that God is in all – from dandelion to human to the teeming life in a spoonful of earth. It is a mystical way, essential not only for the disciple of Jesus, but for everyone. Of course, it will take the discipline of love to give time each day to simply be and to ‘let be’; to utter praise by just being still and letting the world come to us. In Mary Oliver’s poem, *The Place I Want to Get Back To*, she describes an experience she had while sitting quietly in the pinewoods one morning before dawn; two deer approached:

and then one of them leaned forward
and nuzzled by hand, and what can my life
bring to me that could exceed
that brief moment?

That was twenty years ago and still she goes to the same woods, ‘not waiting, exactly, just lingering.’ She has named her house *Gratitude*.”

Hugh O’Donnell - Eucharist and the Living Earth

Heads and Governors Conference UK

The conference was held in Emmaus, Swords, Co. Dublin on the 3rd & 4th of October. Although the weather was not kind to us it didn’t dampen the enthusiasm of those in attendance.

Presentations from schools on ***the 8 Essentials of Edmund Rice Education*** and how schools implement these on a daily basis formed the body of the conference. The presentations were very inspiring and it was gratifying to hear how ***the 8 Essentials*** guide the life and thinking of the school Network in England.

Br. Brian Bond spoke on the work of Edmund Rice International (ERI) and it was obvious that there is scope for more connection between our school network and ERI. Already St. Joseph’s Stoke have two students taking up internship in Geneva in the coming weeks and we expect others will do likewise.

Edmund Rice Development gave an input on Thursday evening and the participants were appreciative of feedback on how their fund raising efforts are being put to good use in developing countries where the Edmund Rice Network has a presence.

The presence of members of staff of St. Aidan’s Sunderland and Plymouth school added to the richness of the occasion and we hope that all participants found their time at the conference worthwhile.

The evaluations at the end of the Conference which were both informative and challenging, will be very helpful in planning future conferences

Martin O’Flaherty

Michael Reynolds

Earlier this month Michael Reynolds signed his dispensation and left the Congregation. We thank Michael for the significant contribution he made to the life and mission of the European Province over many years. We wish Michael well in life and in his ongoing work with the Edmund Rice Schools Trust (ROI).

RTE to broadcast special Mission Sunday

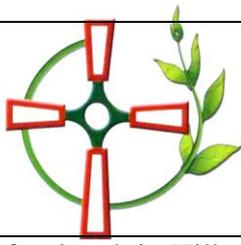
Mass - The Mass begins at 11am on RTE 1 television and can also be viewed on rte.ie/live. The broadcast may be heard on LW Radio 252 and on RTE's DAB service.

Stoke-on-Trent School visit to Ireland

On the weekend of the 4th of October, some staff and students from St. Joseph’s Stoke-on-Trent came to Ireland on a pilgrimage to Mount Sion, Waterford and Callan Co. Kilkenny. In all the group consisted of 12 students and four members of staff including the Head, Ms Roisin Maguire. The pilgrimage was led by Br. Pat Madigan.

The group stayed in Emmaus, Sword, Co. Dublin on Friday 4th October. On Saturday they travelled to Mount Sion stopping off on the way to visit Kilkenny Castle and to hear about Edmund’s association with that city. The group then moved on to Waterford where they were warmly received by the Community of Edmund Rice Brothers there. After a light meal, Br. Peadar Gleeson led the group on a tour of the city and sites associated with Edmund Rice. It was very obvious that Peadar had both a real understanding of the Waterford of Edmund and a love for the man himself. Br. Kevin Mascarenhas gave a guided tour of the Information Support Unit for refugees and Asylum seekers which is located in Mount Sion and does trojan work for these marginalised groups.

On Sunday morning the group travelled to Callan where they were received by Br. Malachy Gillen. Malachy gave a very informative tour of the house and chapel and the group felt particularly honoured to have time in the bedroom where Blessed Edmund was born.



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After lunch in Kilkenny city the group returned to Emmaus for a final reflection in the chapel there.

Overall the pilgrimage was a great success. Though the young people had heard about Edmund, this visit somehow brought Edmund to life for them and they returned to Stoke with a deeper understanding and appreciation of Edmund and what he stood for.

On their return to St. Joseph's the students undertook to share their experience with the whole student body at assembly.

Martin O'Flaherty

Health Matters

At the recent meeting of Community Leaders in Emmaus, a number of questions at the Open Forum session concerned Health and Aged Care. The Health Care committee considered some of these questions at our meeting on 9th October; other ones were discussed by the Stewardship committee.

On the question of the need for Community Leaders to have age-care training, it was felt that the model adopted by Community Leaders in the greater Dublin area might be a good model for others to follow. Brenda, our Health and Age-Care Coordinator, would be very happy to meet with Leaders in a geographical area who wish to gather for advice/training on specific care concerns.

Personal Alarms: A growing number of Brothers now avail of personal alarms. These alarms are discrete and easily used and can alert assistance in the case of emergency within the house or its environs. People wanting further information on these should talk to Brenda.

Br. Dermot Ambrose mentioned a bell system for Brothers who are sick or confined to bed for a period. This proved to be very useful and helpful in the Cabra community. Contact Dermot in Cabra for further information and he will be happy to help.

Another issue raised at the Community Leaders meeting concerned a Brother's bedroom and its accessibility. While accepting that a Brother's room is his personal space and that his privacy needs to be respected, it is important that rooms are free of clutter that could be a health or safety risk. In recent times Ruth and Brenda have arranged with housekeepers to help some Brothers keep their rooms clean and tidy. I would encourage more Brothers to avail of this assistance. If other help is needed this will be considered in consultation with Ruth and Brenda.

Martin O'Flaherty

Dublin 8 Community Education Centre

On 9th October there was a big 'gathering' of present and past students of D8CEC in the Guinness Storehouse for the annual presentation of certificates. This was the culmination of a busy year in which 350 students took part in courses.

The day was led by Rachel Morrissey, assistant director of the centre, in the absence of the director, Marie Gill. Rachel welcomed all and pointed out that many of the past students had found work and some had gone on to third level education.

Mr Jim Miley, chairperson of 'The Gathering' was the main speaker on the day. He gave an overview of what has been happening in 'The Gathering' at a national level and pointed out the importance of community education in giving people a second chance.

D8CEC grew from Francis Street Community Education Centre and is due to move to its new premises in Synge Street in the New Year.

Brian Molloy

Smaoineamh – 'A Thought'

The more deeply I search for the roots of the global environmental crisis, the more I am convinced that it is an outer manifestation of an inner crisis that is, for lack of a better word, spiritual... what other word describes the collection of values and assumptions that determine our basic understanding of how we fit into the universe?

[Al Gore, Earth in the Balance, 1993]

Recognition Ceremony for Missionaries with 40 years experience overseas will be held on November 27th at City Hall. Because of the numbers involved, places may be restricted. Anyone wishing to attend should contact the IMU to check if places are available

Mission Month Gathering for Returned

Missionaries will be held this Saturday, 19th October at 6.30pm for the regular Saturday Vigil Mass at Westland Road parish church (just beside Pearse Dart Station). Light refreshments will be available in the parish hall afterwards.

Visiting African Brothers make an impact during Mission Month

During the mission month of October, two visiting missionary Brothers, Br Andrew Turay from Ghana and Br. Stephen Chewe from Zambia have been speaking about their life and work in Africa to members of the Irish Edmund Rice community, young and old. This year the Edmund Rice community in Ireland and the U.K. is showing thanks for their blessings by giving back a little of their time to help the people and the projects supported by the Christian Brothers. The Brothers arrived in Ireland at the beginning of October and have already been invited to speak with a number of different schools and groups from the Edmund Rice Network. They have received a warm welcome from everyone they have met.



The students in the schools which they have been invited to visit have welcomed the Brothers with great enthusiasm and are intrigued to find out what life is like for people, especially children, in Africa. The recognition of the students here, that they are part of a much bigger global picture, and that there are students just like them in schools around the world has been part of the very positive response that the Brothers have received. Similarly, students have commented that all too often they forget to be grateful for things such as education that they may take for granted.

During their stay, the Brothers have had the opportunity to visit some of Edmund Rice's heritage sites including Mt. Sion and Callan. The Brothers will continue their visits in Ireland throughout October, and in November Brother Chris Teh from Sierra Leone will be visiting with the Edmund Rice schools and friends in the UK.

If you would like more information about these Mission Month activities, please click [here](#).

Student account of Stoke-on-Trent School visit
"12 Senior Prefects, 4 Staff & 2 Christian Brothers went to Dublin, Waterford & Callan, and walked the footsteps of Blessed Edmund Rice at the beginning of October. When we arrived in Dublin we began our 'Emmaus journey' and were encouraged to open our hearts, minds and eyes to all of the messages in the days to follow. We arrived in Waterford a busy city where Edmund grew up and had a tour, we walked around the city and saw first-hand the impact that Blessed Edmund had on this beautiful place. We were shown all of the points that significant events in Edmunds life happened. We learned about the calling he felt from God to respond to the needs of the poor children in the city. As we walked around the city we felt closer to Blessed Edmund."



Hearing about the impact that Blessed Edmund had on the children he helped in the city was awe-inspiring. We then toured around the museum and learned more about who Edmund was, what he did and how he devoted his life to helping children on the fringes of society. He used his wealth for the good of others.

The last leg of our journey was to the birth place of Blessed Edmund, Callan. We went to the house where he was born and it was there that he came alive for me. Along the way the Christian Brothers were so welcoming and hospitable. They were a real inspiration to us, they are living day saints reaching out to those in need and we saw this first hand. Before I went to Waterford I didn't realise the impact that the Christian Brothers have around the world globally. I was amazed to learn of all of the corners of the earth that they are living out the message of Edmund Rice. It is truly an honour to be part of that network. Walking the footsteps of Edmund Rice has been one of the most worthwhile, beneficial things I have done, and it has given me a new renewed outlook on life. "

Declan McHugh, Y13, Senior Prefect.