

## EUROPEAN PROVINCE UPDATES

Vol V Issue 16 October 3, 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 recently departed including Gerry Gordon (former Brother). Please remember in your prayers Br. Kevin Guing and Br. Jim Logue, who have recently suffered bereavement. We remember particularly those Brothers who were not well enough to attend the funeral of family members.

*Please note:* Please notify the Province Centre of the deaths of immediate relatives of Brothers. We can only publish the names of those we have received.

***Edmund Rice Camp Cycle*** – an interesting article written by Br. Chris Glavey is attached together with photographs, on the recent Edmund Rice Camp Cycle, which took place from the 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> September

### ***Smaoineamh – ‘A Thought’***

I have squandered the splendid years that the Lord God gave to my youth  
In attempting impossible things, deeming them alone worth the toil.  
Lord, if I had the years I would squander them over again,  
Aye, fling them from me !  
For this I have heard in my heart, that a man shall scatter, not hoard,  
Shall do the deed of to-day, nor take thought of to-morrow's teen,  
Shall not bargain or huxter with God ; or was it a jest of Christ's  
And is this my sin before men, to have taken Him at His word.

[from ‘The Fool’ by Padraic Pearse]

### ***Emmaus Community***

Margaret O’Brien has joined the community in Emmaus. She is also a member of the Retreat team. The Emmaus community now consists of Brothers Tom Costello, Liam Deasy, Ger Loftus, Raymond Maynes, Sr. Rose Fitzsimons and Margaret O’Brien.

### ***Salford ‘Revive’***

Wilf and Anne Hammond, Shelagh, Br Edward Egan and Br. Daniel Walsh regularly support Revive and help run the Drop-in sessions in Lower Kersall, Salford on Wednesdays.

On Saturday 29th June St. Joseph’s College organised a fun day and BBQ for Asylum Seekers and their families. It was held in the local park, which had organised facilities for BBQ’s. A member of staff taking part from St. Joseph’s College, Paul Honeyfield, wrote a short report:-

The growing friendship between the CHRISP project in Salford, Manchester and St Joseph’s College led an exciting day in which asylum seekers and refugees were treated to a summer party.

Staff and students from SJC visited the CHRISP centre and were privileged to be able to help run activities and games. Brother Ger had arranged for us to use a space in the local park, including an all-weather football enclosure. A competitive game of football ensued between ‘the Sudan’ and a ‘Rest of the World’ team of varying ages and abilities! Some questionable refereeing meant that the game finished in a 4-4 draw. Bubbles, parachutes, tennis bats were all put to good use and great fun in the sunshine was had by all.

Back at the centre there was also a barbeque and plenty of party food and drink. Children enjoyed pass the parcel, face painting, skipping, hoola hoops, arts & crafts and modelling balloons while the adults took the opportunity to relax and meet new people on a beautiful day.

Runnymede St. Edward’s School started a collection before the summer holidays. This had to be put on hold but now the school is back for a new term they are completing their collection. When they are ready Shelagh will organise the food and clothes to be picked up and delivered to Revive’s Offices.

***Reflections from the members of the Maranatha Youth Club in Kilbarrack run by Dick Fields (Timiri)***

Maranatha Youth Club, since it was founded in 1995, challenges its young members to grow in confidence and self-esteem. Changing our direction in youth work in 2008 and initiating programmes in music, dance, drama and producing shows has had a huge influence in supporting our young members to be challenged and to grow in confidence and self-esteem. To invite the senior members of our club to come to Mazabuka in Zambia was another challenge in their development in character formation and to be challenged by the experiences they would encounter in a Third World Country.

Little did I expect or realise the dramatic change that was to take place in every single one of them after the two wonderful weeks they were to experience in Mazabuka from the 7<sup>th</sup> of July until the 21<sup>st</sup> of July, 2013. They did not know themselves that the experiences they were going to encounter were going to have such an impact on them. They never thought or contemplated that the moment they opened their hearts to the welcome of the people, the smiles of the children, the friendliness of everyone they came in contact with, was going to have such an effect on them and change their thinking and hearts forever. As each day passed by they felt this change coming over them, knew something extraordinary was happening and welcomed it willingly and lovingly into their hearts. I witnessed this happening in front of me every day.

Their introduction to the Church for the poor, the Church for the young, meeting Christian Brothers and Sisters committed to the poorest in our society, while advocating on their behalf, impacted very deeply into their own hearts and minds. The prayer of St. Teresa of Avila, “Christ has no body now but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours ....” became our mantra each evening as we gathered in the Lodge where we were staying, to reflect and pray on what had happened, the things that touched and moved us, the children and people they met, the poverty they witnessed and how the people dealt with it. In their reflections they have acknowledged what they saw and how the strength, faith and hope of the people, has been sustained by the God of love, compassion and joy. This attitude influenced in a major way the young people as they looked inside their own hearts, made comparisons and realised that they were the ones who were inadequate in their own lives because of the values we had put on material things and the importance of money.

*Dick Fields*

***What the trip of Mazabuka, Zambia meant to members of the group***

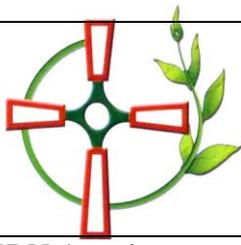
I could write 500 pages on all the wonderful experiences we had. We fitted so much into our 14 days. Every second was worth-while and I am so grateful for it.

When I think about the trip there was one thing that really stood out. I saw it every day and everywhere I went. It was gestures of kindness. I saw it in the children every day. I saw them sharing food and helping each other. The Brothers opened their home to us and made us feel so welcome and at home. They spend their lives each day doing acts of kindness. It's really amazing all they do and it was inspiring for us.

Even among our group I saw lovely gestures of kindness, supporting and encouraging each other especially when people were sick or upset or a bit down. This consideration became more evident even as the days moved on. The group interacting with the children in Changa Change and City of Joy were unbelievable. They really listened to the children. They were there and willing to help in any way they could. They gave away their sunglasses, their shoes, their clothes. Things and items that were important to them before coming to Zambia but now they gave away these things to the children, without a second thought. I really think every one of them realised things and items don't matter anymore, people do. I am so proud how they reacted and responded to the children they met and treated with such respect.

A gesture of kindness does not have to cost anything. It doesn't have to take a lot of effort but it can mean so much and do so much. That's what they did. That's what the trip did for us and what Zambia was all about.

*Clare Cooke*



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### **ERN Appointment**

Br. Donal Leader has been appointed as co-ordinator of the Edmund Rice Network for a period of six months from September 1<sup>st</sup>. He will work with the Edmund Rice Network Leadership Group (Aiveen Mullally, Declan Power, John Cooley, Joe Tynan and Wilf Hammond).

### **ERN News**

Donal Leader has begun his work on behalf of the Edmund Rice Network Leadership Group (ERNLG). His brief is explore how what we call the "Network" can be involved in conversations and actions based on the vision outlined in the ERNLG Vision Document, "A Vision for the Future". The "Network" is not an organisation but resembles more closely what we now understand as an 'ecosystem'. There are various groupings and entities that individually and collectively share in the charism, vision and mission of Blessed Edmund Rice.

The first phase of the process is not unlike the 2013 Gathering event. Donal is keen to gather people who identify with the Edmund Rice vision and are eager to gather in local groups. Some are teachers in schools, others are young people from the Edmund Rice Camps or graduates of Immersion programmes in the schools, others still are retired teachers while not a few are parents, members of Boards of Management and friends of the Brothers.

Visits have taken place already with groups in Midleton and Belfast. Visits elsewhere are planned for later this month. A very active God in the Now group exists in Belfast. In Midleton a group which never existed before has already held its first meeting. The emphasis is on gather people in local groups along the lines of Timirí and the God in the Now groups. Local Brothers communities can assist this process by hosting such groups where this possibility exists.

### **BEING AWARE OF WATER USE**

"We are well into the Year of Water. The Year of Water Cooperation suggests that we consider the water we use as everyone else's as well. We can't 'own' water. Just as it flows through our bodies unceasingly (and to stop the flow would mean death), it flows around our planet, and through our countries, without the slightest regard for borders and boundaries."

Those with Google skills (and some courage) may want to measure their individual **water footprint**. This includes both your water use and the 'indirect freshwater use' – the total volume of water used to produce the goods and services you consume. For example, try a site like:

<http://www.waterfootprint.org/?page=cal/WaterFootprintCalculator>

Moy Hitchen

### **UN Climate science panel issues starkest warning yet**

More than 830 expert authors have contributed to this titanic project. You could, however, sum its findings up in just four words: "the world is defrosting".

Human impacts are changing the planet in ways "unprecedented in hundreds of thousands of years".

Of course, we already know this, since its last report, issued in 2007, warned the world's leaders that we are now collectively supping at the last chance saloon.

Today, six years and a global recession later, instead of being reversed, green-house gas emissions are literally steaming ahead, at more than 3 per cent a year.

By mid-century, we can expect average surface temperature rises of about 2 degrees by that time.

With this, the current 10,000-year interglacial period of generally mild, stable climate that allowed human civilisation and the agriculture that supports it to flourish will come to an abrupt end. To lock in the apocalyptic scenario requires nothing more than maintain our present path just a short while longer.

"The decisions we make in the next decade or so are decisions that will determine the fate of the planet for thousands of years," says Prof Kerry Emanuel of MIT in Boston.

*Irish Times, Monday, September 23, 2011*

## *Ardcoil Ris Hurlers*

When the final whistle blew last Saturday night to herald the end of a pulsating All Ireland Hurling final replay Clare supporters celebrated wildly as the Liam McCarthy Cup would return to the Banner County for the first time since 1997. Across the border in Limerick though there was also cause for celebration as no fewer than 6 of the Clare panel are past pupils of Ardcoil Ris, 4 of whom finished on the field of play.

Ardcoil Ris has enjoyed huge success on the hurling field in recent times winning 1 Rice Cup (All Ireland U14), 2 White Cup (Munster U15), 1 Dean Ryan (Munster U16) and 2 coveted Harty Cup titles since 2008. To the fore of this hurling revolution were a large number of present Limerick and Clare seniors. 9 of the Limerick panel that won the Munster title this summer were past pupils of the school – Niall Moran who currently teaches in the school was joined by Declan Hannon, Kevin Downes, Shane Dowling, Alan Dempsey, David Breen, Adrian Breen, Mark Carmody and Conor Allis.

Ultimately the summer belongs to Clare though and now the school prepares to welcome back its former students with the McCarthy Cup. When Ardcoil Ris reached their first ever Dean Ryan final in 2006 the team was built around the brilliant Nicky O'Connell at centre back with Darrach Honan the main scoring threat at full forward. How fitting to see him score the goal that ultimately finished Cork's ambitions. Both these players featured on the first Ardcoil team to reach the semi final of the Harty Cup in 2008. Prior to this Derek Fahy lined out in goals for Ardcoil and was a substitute goalie for Clare this year. All 3 of these players were on the victorious Clare U21 team that won the All Ireland title in 2009. Conor Ryan captained the school team that again reached the Harty Cup semi final in 2009 before being defeated by St. Caimin's of Shannon after a replay. Conor, man of the match in the first All Ireland against Cork was joined last year on the Clare U21 team that again won the All Ireland title by Cathal McInerney and Jamie Shanahan, another 2 past pupils part of the current senior success. Cathal captained the Ardcoil Ris team that won the Harty Cup for an historic first time in 2010 and Jamie was not alone on that team but also on the team that retained the Harty Cup in 2011 and captained the team that suffered a semi final defeat in 2012 to Nenagh CBS. To top it off the current coach to the Clare senior team Paul Kinnerk is also a former student of the Limerick school.

The achievements of all these students from both Limerick and Clare are a real sense of pride for the school in a summer that has transformed the hurling world. Their contribution to the school throughout the years is immeasurable and they are an inspiration to all the current students who attempt to emulate their achievements and success. The excitement builds as we await the arrival of the Liam McCarthy Cup in the coming weeks!!

*Derek Larkin*

*Teacher - Ardcoil Ris Limerick*