



**CONGREGATION OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS
EUROPEAN PROVINCE**

Drawn by mystery,
we answer the chapter call and commit to a new way
of being brother in a changing world.

October 2014.

Greetings from the Province Centre, Marino. The advent of winter time has heralded in the dark evenings and the growing reality that winter is with us. Fifty-six more shopping days till Christmas!

This is the second monthly PLT newsletter. I can assure you it was much easier to get material for the first one! However, here goes.

The members of the leadership team are gradually getting to know each other and becoming more familiar with their various responsibilities. Edmund finally found the time to take a well-deserved holiday and will no doubt return refreshed to the fray.



Routine

We have established the routine of devoting Mondays and Tuesdays each week to team meetings, leaving the remainder of the week available for other work. Monday morning is usually given over to centering prayer, reflection and sharing. Members of the team take turns in facilitating the reflection and in chairing team meetings.

Project Approach

As mentioned in the last PLT Newsletter, we have adopted a 'project' approach towards some of the tasks of the leadership team. It is the responsibility of the named team member to bring a plan to the team for approval and then to steer the plan through to conclusion within a given time frame, with regular feedback to the team.



The following are the projects which are in hand at present:

Edmund:

Review of resources; Refund of Ryan Commission fees; Voluntary pledge to Government (Redress Board).

Dominic:

Ethos training for ministries (UK); Life Centres; Community and Personal Renewal; Vocation Awareness.

Paul:

Communications; Canonical Visitation; New Life in Mission.

Chris:

Emmaus Community; Emmaus Centre; Community Houses (Amenities); Youth Ministry.

Liam:

Rationalising Communities; Co-ordination of individual and corporate ministries.

New Life in Mission

All the members of the PLT attended a meeting of seventeen brothers from NLiM communities in Emmaus on Monday and Tuesday 20th and 21st October. The gathering was facilitated by Denis Gleeson and the sharing and discussion were very helpful. There appeared to be a consensus that brothers in NLiM communities might be well



placed to spearhead the establishment of 'A Way into the Future' communities as envisioned by the Nairobi chapter. Many brothers in attendance expressed a willingness to make themselves available to answer this call.

Engagements

Dominic and John Burke attended a meeting in Glasgow arranged by the Bishops' Conference of Scotland for religious congregations who, presently or historically, had residential institutions in Scotland. There have been calls for an independent inquiry into historical abuse cases in these institutions. Those present were asked whether their congregation would be willing to participate in this exercise. After a worthwhile discussion, all congregations indicated they would collaborate.

Edmund and Dominic attended a meeting of the English Trust in Woodeaves. Apart from a full trustee's meeting, they also met with the Edmund Rice Schools' team and heard of the work that they do to encourage the

development and nourishment of the ER charism in the ER schools in England.

Dominic and Paul visited the Life Centre in Cork and Paul also visited the Cherry Orchard Centre. They saw at first hand the excellent work that is being done in these centres. In this day and age, in spite of the need of such careful support for vulnerable young people, funding is a major concern.

Paul visited Tommy McCarry last week. He is settling in as well as can be expected and is very grateful to brothers and others for their thoughts, prayers and visits.

Other functions attended include a meeting of the Creedon Trust in Synge Street C.B.S. and the annual music show presented by Maranatha Youth Club under Dick Field's guidance.



Property

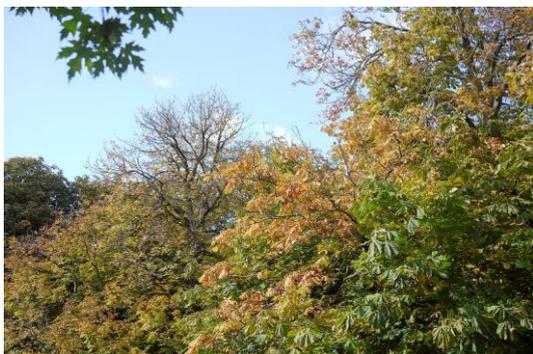
The Province Leadership Team recently decided to follow through on the sale of the "front field" at Marino. The agreements and contract were recently signed with the purchaser.

It is likely that some very preliminary development will take place in the field in the very near future in order to remain compliant with planning permission that had been obtained for the site by the previous leadership team. This work will be carried out by the new owner.

Edmund Rice Special Needs Camp

October marked a significant development in the Edmund Rice Camps with a camp dedicated totally to children with special needs. Chris, together with ER Camp leaders from Kilkenny, Dublin and Omagh, came together in St. Patrick's Centre in Kilkenny to host a camp for 14 children. The activities were specially designed to cater for the children's needs and they had a most enjoyable time. While children with special needs have always been included on camps, this camp was a big step forward for the leaders in planning, undergoing special training and running a hugely successful camp.

The camp leaders are grateful to the Callan community who hosted a visit from them.



Visitors

The following were among very welcome recent visitors to the Province Centre:

Tony Twomey;
Paddy Keohane
Michael O'Donoghue;
Father Expedit Gnomou
Peter Harney

Upcoming meetings

- The PLT will meet with the ERN Leadership Group in the Province Centre in Marino on Wednesday, 5th November
- A meeting of Community Leaders is taking place in MIE on Saturday, 8th November;
- The PLT has planned a three-day meeting in Emmaus from 26th – 28th November with Bridget Ehlert, who facilitated the Nairobi Chapter;

- All five members of the Congregation Leadership Team will be meeting with the PLT from 12th – 16th January 2015

Ruah 2015

In 2015 Ruah takes place from June 14th to June 27th. The first week will be in Galway and the second in Waterford, Ballygriffin and Cork City. A brochure with full details has been sent out to communities. The cost of the two-week programme is €1,950 plus travel expenses to Galway and from Cork.

The PLT is willing to assist with these costs where necessary. Please apply to any member of the PLT.

Conclusion

As usual, please feel free to engage with us on any of the topics raised in this newsletter.



In the meantime, many thanks for your continued thoughts and prayers.

God Bless,

Edmund, Domíníc, Paul, Chrís, LÍam

(This month's photographs were taken in the grounds of Marino).