



## 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.

November 2014.

*Greetings once again from the Province Centre. The signs of winter are all around us here in Marino and it is wonderful to see the squirrels around the grounds busily filling up the larder for the cold months ahead.*

*Edmund has returned from his holiday refreshed and ready for action but it won't take us long to sort that out!*



### Routine

*The October newsletter mentioned that we have established the routine of devoting Monday mornings to reflection and sharing. The following is a selection of the material which we have used so far:*

*Daniel O'Leary,*

*An extract from 'Ask the Beasts' by Elizabeth Johnson;*

*An extract from 'Disturbing the Peace' by Eamonn Bredin;*

*An extract from 'Presence, An Exploration of Profound Change in People' by Senge, Scharmer, Jaworski, Flowers;  
God as Essence by A.H.Almaas;  
Zen Spirit, Christian Spirit by Robert E Kennedy S.J.*

*The Nairobi Chapter Document.*

*As you can see, our tastes are quite catholic (definitely with a small 'c'). If you have suggestions for material which we might consider using in the future, please feel free to let us know.*

### Projects

*Work is progressing well on the various projects mentioned in previous newsletters. Some examples of work in hand are:*

#### Rationalisation:

*Liam has taken charge of rationalisation. A list of criteria has been drawn up as a guideline in trying to decide on closures. During our three days of facilitation with Bridget Ehlert at the end of this month, we intend to discuss this issue in detail and make some decisions.*



#### Visitation:

*Paul has drawn up a project plan for visitation and has made out a rota. We hope to carry out visitation between mid-January and the end of April. In the meantime, if any community has matters that they would like to be addressed during visitation please let us know.*

### Emmaus:

Chris is in dialogue with a number of brothers with regard to the community in Emmaus.

### Vocation Awareness:

Dominic has put together a small group of brothers to come up with a plan for the way forward in promoting vocation awareness.

### Legal Fees:

Edmund, together with our legal advisors and staff from L&P, is pursuing the issue of the refund of legal fees which the province incurred during the Ryan Commission.

The complete list of projects would fill several pages!



### Edmund Rice Network

On Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> November, the PLT met with the leadership group from ERN. Wilf Hammond facilitated what was a very lively, encouraging meeting. Among the topics discussed were:

Membership of the ERN and intentionality;  
The possibility of having a co-ordinator;  
The role of an animator.

The PLT hopes to make some decisions regarding the ERN after further consultation.

### Meeting of Community Leaders

A meeting of community leaders took place on Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> of November in MIE. There were 35 community leaders in attendance. The morning was given over to reflection and discussion on the calls of the Nairobi Chapter

and how they might be implemented in community.

The after lunch agenda included topics such as:

- Rationalisation
- PSP
- Inputs from Owen McCabe (L&P), Derek O'Neill (L&P and Province Finance Office); Ruth Rooney (Services Manager) and Brenda Farrell (Health Care).

Many thanks to all those who attended and took such a full part in the discussions

### Engagements

Dominic and Paul visited the Life Centre in Cherry Orchard. They were very impressed with the lovely spirit in the Centre and the excellent work that is being done there.

Having visited the centre, the need for such provision is obvious; it is difficult to understand government intransigence when it comes to the question of funding.



Liam and Paul attended a function in Synge Street Secondary School where eighty-one past students of the school, who are currently attending third level, were presented with bursaries ranging in value from €300 to €500. These bursaries are made possible by a generous bequest from Con Creedon, a past pupil of the school.

The presentations took place after the Synge Street PPU annual November Mass for deceased past pupils and former teachers of the school. Both Tom Earley and Eddie McEvoy were fondly remembered.

*Edmund visits St Patrick's, Baldoyle on most Sundays where he attends Mass and chats to the brothers.*

*Paul spent some time with the communities in St Timothy's (Liverpool) and in Woodeaves and Salford.*

*Members of the PLT attended the launch of the Annual report of The Lantern Centre on Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> November. More than 50 groups make use of the centre on a regular basis in a living out of the chapter call 'To work collaboratively within the Church and with others, valuing cultural and religious diversity and interconnectedness'.*



*Edmund attended the launch by An Taoiseach, Mr Enda Kenny T.D. of the sesquicentenary (150 years to you and me) celebrations of Westland Row C.B.S.*

*On behalf of the Trustees in England, which still govern eight ER schools, Dominic visited the 4 Preparatory schools in Liverpool, Birkenhead, Stoke-on-Trent and Hale Barns. This is an annual meeting between the Trustees, the Governors and senior management. All four schools are flourishing at present.*

*Dominic attended the AGM of the Vocation Office in the UK and also that of Vocation Ireland. He was able to make good contacts with others in vocation work and to see what resources are available*

*The Province Vocation Awareness group had its first meeting on Sunday 23rd November at the Province Centre. They met to brainstorm*

*on the best way forward to answer the Nairobi Chapter call "to seek and welcome new members to the vowed life as Christian Brothers." The members of the group are: Damien Brennan, Phil Ryan, Sean Beckett, Pat Madigan, Martin O'Flaherty, Donal Leader, David Ryan, Dominic Sassi and they would appreciate your prayers.*

### **Timiri Silver Jubilee**

*Members of the PLT joined with the Timiri in celebrating their silver jubilee in Emmaus on 15<sup>th</sup> November. Opening prayer was followed by a power-point presentation on the Nairobi Chapter calls and a 'walk-through' of the Timiri website (timiri.org). After a well-deserved presentation to Dick Fields, the group enjoyed a lovely dinner which was accompanied by much reminiscing.*

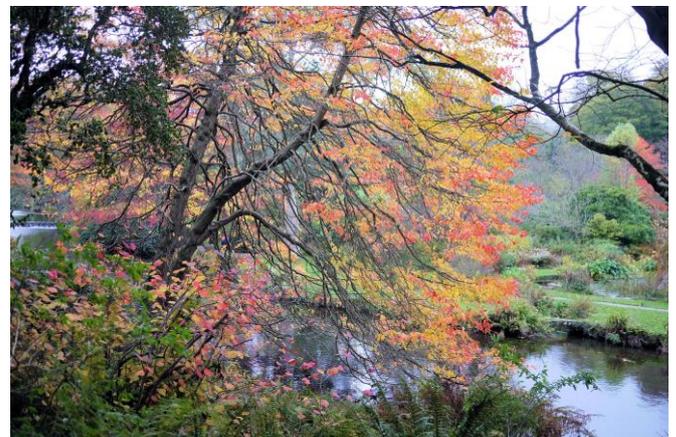
### **ERN Meeting in Emmaus**

*Liam, Dominic and Chris were among more than fifty Edmund Rice Network members who attended a meeting in Emmaus on 22<sup>nd</sup> November. The day was very life-giving from the opening prayer/reflection, through the inputs, the sharing, the questions to the renewed sense of hope.*

*The group parted with Wilf Hammond's admonition 'not to come back empty-handed next year', ringing in their ears.*

### **Property**

*Preliminary work has just begun on the front field in Marino. Eddy Coupe is handling various other property matters as they arise.*



### Visitors

*Fr Expedit, who returns to Burkina Fasso shortly, joined the PLT and some members of the community for lunch. Dominic made a presentation to him on behalf of the province.*

*Other very welcome visitors to the Province Centre were:*

*John Casey;  
Michael O'Donoghue;*

### Upcoming meetings

- *The PLT has planned a three-day meeting in Emmaus from 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> November with Bridget Ehlert, who facilitated the Nairobi Chapter.*
- *All five members of the Congregation Leadership Team will be meeting with the PLT from 12<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> January 2015*

### Conclusion

*Many thanks to those who have sent us comments on the PLT Newsletter. It is our hope that communication might be two-way, so please feel free to comment on what is (or isn't) in the newsletter.*

*In the meantime, as this is the last PLT newsletter before Christmas, may we wish you the peace, the joy and the hope that the message of Christmas brings.*

*God Bless,*

*Edmund, Domíníc, Paul, Chris, Liam*

*This month's photographs were taken in Mount Usher Gardens, Ashford, Co Wicklow in late October. Mt Usher is always worth a visit and is a nice place to take a camera for a walk (closed from mid-November to mid-March).*

*With half a page remaining, just thought I'd include the following short poem by Patrick Kavanagh.*

#### Street Corner Christ

I saw Christ to-day  
At a street corner stand,  
In the rags of a beggar he stood  
He held ballads in his hand.

He was crying out: "Two for a penny,  
Will any one buy  
The finest ballads ever made  
From the stuff of joy?"

But the blind and the deaf went past  
Knowing only there  
An uncouth ballad-seller  
With tail-matted hair.

And I, whom men call fool,  
His ballads bought,  
Found him whom the pieties  
Have vainly sought.

*Patrick Kavanagh*