



**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.

January 2015.

Hello again from the Province Centre where the first daffodils are raising their heads in spite of the cold snap which we enjoyed for a lot of January.

Work on the roadway through the front field is continuing apace. (See photograph below taken from Griffith Avenue).



Meeting with the Congregation Leadership

Team:

The five members of the CLT met with the PLT for five days in Emmaus during the second week of January. It was an absorbing, enjoyable, tiring few days.

Day 1:

The first day, which was facilitated by Hugh, was devoted to all ten of us sharing our personal stories. We were pleasantly surprised at the common threads which pervaded all our stories and seemed to cross geographical and other boundaries with ease. At the end of a most interesting day we had certainly got to know each other a lot better!

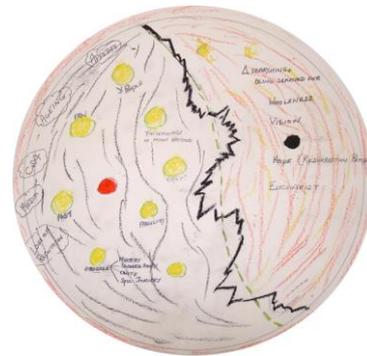
Day 2:

The theme for day two was 'Servant Leadership' and Julian took the chair. After an opening ritual we spent some time looking at the gifts which we bring to leadership and

the shadow side of these gifts. The day closed with a very moving washing of the feet ritual.

Day 3:

Richard chaired the third day which we spent reflecting on 'What is the province for me and how do I see myself in the province?' The five members of the PLT took some time to produce mandalas inspired by this question. The artistic endeavours which enhance this month's newsletter are the result of their efforts! (Thanks to Hugh for the photography).



We spent the remainder of the day exploring what these mandalas might be saying to us.

Day 4:

The fourth day looked at questions like:

- *How is the CLT/PLT living a new way of being brother in practice?*
- *What is the passion in me for living in a new way?*
- *What do I want to live differently?*
- *What are the challenges and obstacles?*

Julian facilitated the sharing which followed reflection on these and other similar questions.

Day 5:

Liam led the opening reflection on day five on behalf of the PLT. The remainder of our time was taken up with discussion of various matters of mutual interest under the chairmanship of John. Among the topics discussed were:



- CLT Visitation
- Collaboration in Leadership
- Advocacy
- A Way into the Future
- The role of the TST vis-s-vis the European Province
- Vocations
- Corporate Ministry
- Intercongregational collaboration

We took a well-deserved half day and re-convened in the Province Centre Community House where the two leadership teams were joined by Dean McLoughlin and the Province Centre community for a very nice dinner which was preceded by prayer around the table.

Emmaus:

A new community, in which Tom Costello and Raymond Maynes will be joined by Finian Gavin and Dan Healy, will take up residence in Emmaus with effect from mid-February. As a result, the community in Crumlin Road, Belfast will close and Brian Monaghan is transferring to An Dunán, Glen Road, Belfast.

Vocations Group:

The Vocations Group, under the stewardship of Dominic, has been very active. They have attended several meetings of like-minded groups and have produced a very attractive bookmark and brochure.

Resources:

A meeting of the Stewardship Sub-committee took place in The Province Centre recently. This committee, which is a sub-committee of the Christian Brothers' Trustees, consists of Owen McCabe (L&P), Derek O'Neill (L&P), Eddy Coupe (Province Bursar), Edmund Garvey (Province Leader & Trustee), Paul Hendrick (Trustee) and Chris Glavey (Trustee). Meetings take place four times a year and review financial matters and ensure that the trust is in compliance with charity legislation.

Separately, the trustees also requested a full review of all our resources and this is nearing completion. It is our intention that this review will assist us in the allocation of resources into the future.

We are indebted particularly to Owen, Derek and Eddy for their work in this area.



Life Centres:

During the summer and early autumn of 2014 the PLT decided, as trustees of The Life Centres, to have a review of the two Dublin Centres carried out. We were of the opinion, also, that a single manager would be better placed than the existing board of management to deal with the emerging situation.

Mr Kevin O'Brien was appointed as single manager on an interim basis.

We engaged L&P Trustee Services Ltd to carry out a review of the two Dublin Centres and report to the trustees.

The report of the L&P review, together with information presented by the acting single manager, was presented to the trustees in December 2015. Based on these reports, the trustees reluctantly took the decision to cease to act as trustees of the Pearse Square Life Centre with effect from the end of the current school year.

The positive side of this decision is that the trustees also decided to commit to putting suitable structures in place and keeping the Cherry Orchard Life Centre open for at least another three years.

We are very grateful to Kevin O'Brien who has worked almost full time on Life Centre matters without remuneration.



Date for your Diary:

A meeting for brothers interested in having a conversation regarding the establishment of Our Way into the Future communities in the European Province will take place in Emmaus on Saturday, 18th April from 10.00 (Coffee) to 4.00 p.m. Full details later.

Community Animation Group:

This group held their second meeting on 21st January. They have put forward a proposal to initiate facilitated conversation groups that would discuss questions pertinent to our lives as human beings who are also followers of Jesus and Edmund. This proposal has been approved by the PLT.



Engagements:

Relevant members of the PLT attended meetings of both the Congregation of Christian Brothers' Northern Ireland Trust and the Congregation of Christian Brothers' United Kingdom Trust.

Upcoming meetings etc:

Liam and Paul will be attending a meeting of the Trustees of the Creedon Trust in Synge Street on 26th February. Visitation has already commenced and will continue until the end of April.

Visitors:

*Among the recent visitors to the province centre were:
Br Dean McLoughlin (Australia & Rome)
Br Clement Sindazi (Zambia)
Br Alfred Banda (Zambia)
Br Dermot Cregan (Cochabamba, Bolivia)
Br Tom O'Connell (Buenos Aires)
Br Séamus O'Reilly (Zambia)*

Conclusion

Many thanks to those who have sent us comments on the PLT Newsletter.

God Bless,

Edmund, Domíníc, Paul, Chrís, Liam