



Pentecost Sunday, 2011.

Dear Brothers,

Celebrating the 250th Birthday of Edmund Rice with “A Way into the Future”

The Congregation Leadership Team, and the Province and Region Leaders send warm greetings to each one of you from Lusaka, Zambia where we are assembled for our annual meeting as the Congregation Leadership Group.

During our time of meeting, the CLT has shared with us the current position they have reached in a process called “*A Way into the Future*”. This process has focussed on the future of the Congregation in the context of the 2008 Congregation Chapter and the realities of today’s Church and world.

The CLT has spent 40 full days, over a period of more than a year, in prayer, reflection, research and discussion with a view to proposing a positive and spirit-filled way forward for us as Brothers into the future.

As a Leadership Group we are excited at the outline of what the CLT is proposing. Province and Region Leaders have endorsed the overall proposal and the plan to form five ‘*focus groups*’ to take up various elements of it. Membership of these groups will include Brothers and others with particular expertise. The groups will meet in Nairobi, Kenya in early October this year. Following that, they will conduct their work and communicate by emails and teleconference, with the group leaders meeting again with the CLT in January 2012.

The plan is to have the formal proposal finalised and ready for launching on June 1, 2012, the 250th anniversary of the birthday of our Founder, Blessed Edmund Rice.

Since there is much work still to be done before the proposal is finalised, it is not possible to give full details, but we can share that it is based firmly on the vision of Jesus; on life being lived fully; on ministries which enhance the dignity and potential of all people; on modelling, in our communities and ministries, the relationships we wish to see in our world.

In short, the thrust is to re-energise us in our mission of revealing the God of Jesus, always at the heart of authentic Religious Life through the centuries.

As the Congregation Leadership Group, we can think of no better way to celebrate the 250th birthday of Edmund Rice than by launching a forward-looking process of re-birth of the Congregation on June 1, 2012.

It is with faith, trust, hope, joy and optimism that we share this news with you, our Brothers, and invite each of you to participate in this significant moment in the life of our Congregation.

Francis, Hugh, Jack, Juan, Kevin, Peter, Philip, Placid, Richard and Vince.