



Novitiate News – Tamale, Ghana(Christian Brothers)



Standing (left to right): Nicholas Odiambo Minandi (Kenya), Chipango Brian Kashweka (Zambia), Constantine Sunday Otieno (Kenya), Chrispinus Minialo Okumi (Kenya), Sydney Muponda (Zambia), James Malunga (Zambia), David Otieno Oyugi (Kenya) Mumbanga Innocent Likisi (Zambia), Cornelius Pengnyin (Ghana), Paul Mutuku Mbithi (Kenya), Vivek da Silva (India)

Seated: Frank Borboh (Sierra Leone), Denis Vaughan (Ireland), Henry McGann (Ireland), Peter A Kabia (Sierra Leone)

Inter-faith Calendar

July	31	Birthday of Blessed Edmund Rice	Catholic Christian
		Feast of St Ignatius Loyola	Catholic Christian
August	1	Lammas	Celtic Christian
		Lughnassu (Lammas)	Wicca/Neo Pagan
		Fast in honour of Holy Mother of Jesus	Orthodox Christian
	6	Transfiguration of the Lord	Orthodox Christian
	11	Ramadan begins	Islam

Philippines calling

Roshan (D’Cunha) and I (Theo Alvarez) reached Cebu Island on the 27 June 2010. As we walked out of the airport we were met by Frank Perkins. He is a Christian Brother from New Zealand; one who has a beautiful calm and peaceful disposition. He is the third member of our community.

We moved around Cebu city and visited one of the finest Malls in the area. Frank kept repeating, telling us to keep our eyes wide open for anything that would be really important and essential for the community. I understood the implication of this only when I came to Maasin city where the choices of things were fewer.

We took the afternoon ferry from Cebu at about 1.30 pm. It took us about 5 to 6 hrs to reach the destination. We were met by the youth of Hilongos and were given a warm welcome to the Maasin Diocese. Hilongos is a port city where ferries keep coming in, transporting people and goods between the two islands of Cebu and Hilongos. We stayed the night in Hilongos city where the Oceania Province had rented a house about three years ago.

The Brothers are lucky and privileged to be placed amongst a generous and wonderful set of people. The next morning Frank brought us to two schools; one is a Primary school and the other is St. Teresa's Secondary School. We were given a warm welcome in both the places and we could see the expectant eyes, hoping that we would serve in those institutions.

The following morning we drove to another place, Maasin. This is a small city. The people are friendly and have great respect for the Priests and the Brothers. The common greeting would be for a person to put his hand out. The person receiving the greeting would take the hand and touch it to his forehead. The children and people receive blessings with deep faith.

On 3 July Bishop of Maasin Rev. Precioso Cantillas, SDB, D.D. celebrated his birthday. The celebration started with a Mass and then the whole group gathered at the School Hall and the students gave a wonderful program. After the celebration with the students the staff and the Brothers were invited for a sumptuous meal and the Governor and the Mayor joined in, to take part in this celebration. The Bishop gave a lot of his time to the Brothers and was very happy that we were present in his Diocese.

On the 6 July Ian Robertson (Cluster Leader in Queensland and Philippines A) Shane Wood (Supporting ministries in Developing Countries) and Graeme Leach (who was in PNG and is now in the Philippines looking for possibilities on special education) arrived here. We had two days of Community Building Exercises and preparations to find out new ministries for the future in Maasin Diocese.

Roshan & Theo

See the website for the [full text](#)



Standing (left to right): Theo Alvares, Shane Wood, Ian Robertson (Cluster Leader)

Seated: Graeme Leach, Frank Perkins, Roshan D'Cunha

Appointment

As of the 1st of July Edmund Rice Justice Aotearoa in partnership with Oceania Province appointed Sam Drumm to continue in the role of Justice Coordinator on a full-time basis to further develop the social justice program in New Zealand.

The change from part-time to full-time gives ERJ the opportunity to put more energy into the established programs that are sponsored by the Trust and develop new areas of work. Over the next six months ERJ will be focusing on;

- Penal Reform Efforts
- Restorative Justice programs (training and advocacy)
- Develop our links with urban Maori communities
- Further developing school leadership programs
- ER Volunteers development
- Human Rights Advocacy (specifically Timor Leste)
- Community Events

It presents an exciting time for ERJ moving from a part-time organization to one with substantially more hours to develop a sustainable, credible and influential social justice organization for the future.

The Province congratulates Sam on his full-time appointment.

Peter B Clinch
Director of Ministries
Oceania Province

The Year of Biodiversity

Dear Members of the Edmund Rice Network,

I'm writing to you shortly after the Congregation Leadership Group met in Rome, and in the wake of the letter they have sent us (June 27, 2010). It clearly states a new vision and direction for us:

"We were constantly brought back to looking at the deeper and bigger realities of our neighbourhoods, and the life of our planet today with all its complexities. It is only in this bigger picture that our living as brothers makes any sense. We realized that our attention is not about congregational survival, but about living passionately as Jesus lived to address the call to deepest life, what He called the Reign of God. The God of Jesus is always at the heart of but also beyond the smaller worlds in which we have become comfortable. Opening ourselves to the 'more' is a constant call.

A continuing theme was that we need to think congregationally, rather than provincially. The days when each Province was a separate, self-contained unit responsible for itself are over."

I found this passage very exciting. Here we are, in the UN Year of Biodiversity, and suddenly our own congregation is undergoing a profound shift. We are evolving!

I hear in this call to 'think congregationally' a congregational shift to inter-dependency, as when cells become an organism, or individuals commit to community. We lose some autonomy, we gain communion. We lose some short-sightedness and security, we gain complexity – and vulnerability. As a

congregation of Brothers, we are not becoming larger, in fact we are contracting numerically. But internally, there is re-organisation and a thousand conversions. This makes the new possible.

Paradoxically, I think it will also have us more aware of our local realities. We will need to 'shift gears' more frequently between local issues and global issues, and we will need to spend more time on 'translating' our local concerns into congregation-wide conversations. Remember this is the Year of Biodiversity. Our planet thrives on individual differences between local ecosystems - including our own!

I'm wondering is it time to take a more obvious pride in our local ecosystem, even as we get more globalised. Entering our houses, we often glimpse something that speaks of the family's or community's values, what they hold sacred. How often is it local trees, in local landscape? Or a local bird or animal, caught in some artistic way?

How often do we acknowledge the seasons outside in our furnishings inside? I'm aware of the brilliant work Tom Kelly does in the Stratton Road community in New Rochelle, where each season involves a shift in the décor. I remember the former novitiate chapel in Las Flores, in Lima, where the novices looked out into a garden, which changed with the more subtle Peruvian seasons.

Some of our Edmund Rice schools have formed spectacular partnerships with their local ecosystems. Aquinas College in Perth, Rostrevor in Adelaide, Edmund Rice in Wollongong, our two Asansol schools and Goethals Memorial in Kurseong are deeply embedded in what are virtually eco-parks. Other schools, with much less space, have a treasured 'elder' – like the old pohutakawa in St Peter's, Auckland, that line of hemlock in Vancouver College, or the last towering blackbutt in St Pius X, Chatswood.

But what about each house having its mascot or elder? Cardinal Newman community, Buenos Aires, has hummingbirds in the gardens, Regina Mundi, Goa, has its resident monkeys, Ruben School, Nairobi, has its sacred ibis ... What local bird or animal is your own spirit guide, that would greet your visitors and protect them? What local tree is your standing Elder, like the old moh'ua grandfather trees that guard our novitiate in Bhopal?

We can take this further, when visitors to our communities and ministries are taken to meet the local guardians, and rituals of greeting and farewell emerge. A community can become acutely aware of where it is, in the local valley or watershed, and what that means for its self-understanding, and its place in the scheme of things.

As summer/winter wanes, in our respective hemispheres, become aware of migrants and transients. These are the species that need our places for rest and renewal on their journeys. Listen for new calls, and watch for new colours and shapes. Cuckoos, kingfishers, wading birds and ducks are often among the transients. But our hedges and gardens also fill with small brown and greenish pilgrims (warblers, silvereyes, honeyeaters, tanagers, flycatchers) like us, seeking a better life for themselves and the generations to come. Let's honour them in our prayers and rituals. We also know what it is to journey.

Yours fraternally,



East Africa District ERN Co-ordinator
Johnstone Shisanya at Embulbul
Kenya

Unwary refugees trapped into mobile, internet deals

REFUGEES and recent migrants to Perth, trapped in unwanted telecommunications deals, are the subject of a joint research project between the Edmund Rice Centre Mirrabooka WA (ERCM) and the Centre for Consumer Research.

The study has been initiated by graduate law student Alicia Snyders, a volunteer worker at ERCM which, in the main, helps and supports refugees.

“Refugees and recent migrants to Perth have been targeted by telecommunications providers,” she said. “Salespeople have engaged in high-pressure sales tactics and taken advantage of language difficulties and an understandable lack of knowledge about the legal system.”

Visit *In my Community* website for [full text](#)

St Mary's Cathedral College

An important event took place on Friday 23 July at St Mary's Cathedral College, Sydney, an event which was set in motion earlier when David Standen discussed his resignation from the leadership of the College with both Brother Vincent Duggan and Dr Dan White of the CEO effective from the end of 2010.

In a moving ceremony at the College, in the presence of Brother Julian McDonald (representing the Brothers) and Mr John Couani (representing the CEO), students and Staff were informed of David's decision. Following the heartfelt comments of speakers the standing ovation must have said so much to Dave. It is to be hoped that more will be said of Dave's immense influence and scope of work accomplished. We wish him all the best in these final coming months of his ten year service to the College.

Tim Barnes

Rostrevor Indigenous Academy on TV

A full program feature involving the Rostrevor Indigenous Academy will be shown on the SA Channel 9 program 'Out of the Blue' scheduled for 5.30 pm on Saturday 31 July.

Mark McGlaughlin
SA/WA Region Coordinator - Formation and Ministries

Steve McLaughlin update



"I have RCMD. That is Refractory Cytopenia with Multilineage Dysphasia. It is a Myelodysplastic disease of the Bone Marrow and occurs in 5 out of 100.000 people under 60. So I am pretty rare!!"

In layman's terms it was once called pre-leukaemia but the condition has a 30% chance of developing into full-blown leukaemia.

Steve is still awaiting news of what is the best option for treatment. Please remember Steve in your prayers.

From East Africa District

We were very privileged to have had Sue Corby and Peter Hogan from the Edmund Rice Foundation in Melbourne and Declan Power, the African Province Mission Coordinator. Declan has returned to Ireland and Peter will be visiting Embulbul schools to share some financial advice and Sue will be visiting all the ministry sites in Nairobi and furthering the work of dialogue with the ministry leaders ahead of plans being written for funding cycles beginning in 2011. We are very grateful for this support to us.

Barry Donoghue is an Australian Brother who has been working in the USA for the last twelve years. Barry has generously given up some of his summer vacation time to visit Africa and to share his areas of expertise by teaching classes in the postulancy in Shams and also the novitiate in Lusaka. Barry arrived last week and had a few days staying at South C and visiting Ruben Centre, Embulbul, Mary Rice Centre and Maono in Kibera where Joseph Owino teaches. Yesterday he travelled to Arusha. We thank Barry for coming this distance and we hope his visit is a fruitful one not only for those he teaches but for himself too.

Tim Lockwood is due back from his home leave this week. We hope that Tim has had an enjoyable time reconnecting with his family, friends and Brothers. While on the subject of Australia... I heard from Benjamin Mbase and Joash Sigu on a few occasions last week to report that they are enjoying their visit to Australia despite the cold weather. They wrote that they are finding it a very interesting and fulfilling experience to visit so many schools, interacting with staff and students and meeting many brothers in different communities. They are staying at Parkville community where there are at least four brothers who have lived and worked in Africa: Rex Elmer, Chris Shearer, Frank Lloyd and Frank Chappell.

Gerard Ellul

VIC/TAS Cluster B gathering, St Kilda, Sunday 25 July



Standing (left to right): Ray McNerney, Paul Hannigan, Tony Smith, Paul Nangle Dennis Burland, Peter Flint, Vince Duggan, Ian Robertson, Matt Ryan, Paul McGlade, Bill Wilding, Kevin Atton, David Fogarty

Kneeling: Gerard Bennett, Terry Burke, Tony Dimattina, Pat Kelly

(Photo: Jack Higgins)

Oceania Updates

Please send any information or news items for Oceania Updates to the Province Publications Coordinator, Brother Nev Thornton, Email: ntthornton@edmundrice.org

I am particularly interested in receiving any good quality images of people, places, sights and faces throughout Oceania.