



Letter from the Congregation Leadership Meeting - ZAMBIA

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.

Read the complete letter on the website [here](#)

LEADERSHIP GROUP

Front row (left to right) Jack Mostyn (CLT), Sr Brigit Matthew (Facilitator), Francis Hall (CLT), Donal Kirk (Secretary), Joe Mosely (Facilitator)

Second row: Placid Henriques (Indian Province), Vince Duggan (Oceania Province), Juan Casey (Latin America Region)

Third row: Kevin Mullan (European Province), Philip Pinto (CLT)

Back row: Peter Dowling (CLT), Hugh O'Neill (North America Province), Richard Walsh (Africa Province)



For a report on each of the four days of the meeting visit the website [here](#)

Speak out

Recently you may have been amused, as I was, by the newspaper report chronicling the "Ninety Gaffes in Ninety Years" published on the occasion of the 90th Birthday of Prince Phillip of the British Royal Family.

Among others, quotes like "It looks as though it was put in by an Indian." The Prince's verdict of a fuse box during a tour of a Scottish factory in August 1999. He later clarified his comment: "I meant to say cowboys. I just got my cowboys and Indians mixed up" left me wondering just how much was artifice, deliberately



provocative or intentional wit if just a little lacking in political correctness.

It did give me reason to ponder about what I might be remembered as saying. Should I ever reach my 90th birthday, a prospect from my present age of late 50s that doesn't seem either greatly likely or particularly welcome though my father who is 90 says that it is amazing how the perspective changes as the years advance and he seems in no hurry to shuffle off this mortal coil, I wonder whether anything I said during my years will be worth remembering.

To paraphrase the often misquoted Edmund Burke: *Evil flourishes where good men remain silent* [I know he meant women as well!] That puts an obligation on all of us who abhor the evils we see, to speak up. When people claim their voice the movement that follows can change society and the world – the present experience of the peoples of Syria, Yemen, Libya and other such places living the turmoil of social upheaval give painful and violent testament to this.

Yet despite recognising this reality, complacency and not wishing to disrupt our comfortable lives often keep us quiet when we should be shouting from the roof tops. How few are the Australian voices we hear taking a stand about changes and decisions by our elected representatives, of all political persuasions, in regard to refugees and asylum seekers. Privately in our comfortable dinner conversations we are appalled and avidly hope that things will change but remain silent while evil flourishes.

It's so easy to be the sheep who meekly follow the dictates of State or Church or others who would sometimes determine to take us back into old inadequate ways of being when our hearts tell us something is not right about all this; but we wait for others to speak.

Actions, they say, speak louder than words and it's true. Hats off to those who match their convictions with actions, to the human peace shields in strife torn conflicts, to the whistle blowers who expose the frauds and deceptions that underpin injustice, to those who make the ultimate sacrifice like the Syrian soldiers shot by their own colleagues because they refused to turn their guns on their own people and to so many whose lives inspire us.

But words count! So I invite you to ponder – if you get to 90 what will you be remembered by others as saying - when were the times you gave voice and took a stand?

Be careful though, it can be a dangerous proposition. As Gospel people we know only too well that, if they don't like what you say and do, it can get you nailed to a cross at 33 a long way shy of a 90th birthday celebration.

Dean McGlaughlin for the OLT

Greetings from Province Leader Vince Duggan - ZAMBIA



I spent a week and a half in Tamale Ghana with **Victor** and **Blaise** and eleven African novices who are with them. The novitiate team there comprises Tony Shanahan (who was away for all but the last day of my visit), Conrad Cerejo from India and Kevin Delaney. All of them, Africans included, certainly went through tough times as they adapted to the torrid Ghana weather which, in the early months of the year, brings temperatures in the mid to high forties (about 15 degrees hotter than coastal PNG ever experiences) and humidity approaching zero. Ask Andrew D, Fidelis or Joachim about this - they've probably told you anyway! Now conditions are much more like those in PNG, and I would say that both Victor and Blaise are flourishing as they go about their daily classes, ministry experiences and other aspects of life that make up the "*Listening for God*" that a

novitiate programme aims to foster. All three staff members in Tamale have suffered significant health problems this year, making for a fragile situation. The real positive that I felt in Tamale was the great spirit amongst the group of novices, and, as happened twice previously when PNG novices were in Africa, nearly everybody comments that the presence of PNG men has been a remarkably positive influence on the overall morale.

Now I am in Lusaka Zambia and most of the waking hours are being spent at the Congregation Leadership Group meeting at Keating House (African Province headquarters), a couple of kilometres from the novitiate and International Spirituality Centre where we are spending most of the non-waking hours. So my time with **Andrew M and Willie** has been somewhat limited up until now, but I am still able to report that they are both in great spirits and very enthusiastic about their recent ministry experiences in distant parts of Zambia. Both Willie and Andrew had major parts in the welcoming ceremony that the novices staged on the first evening of our meeting, and Andrew finished the dramatic presentation by being crowned king. As today is our "day off" from meetings I will be meeting with Andrew and Willie this afternoon at greater length and part of our conversation will be to explore next year – community, ministry, study etc.



Vince Duggan
Province Leader

Maasin Retreat - PHILIPPINES

The four Brothers from Maasin: Paul, Graeme, Theo and Roshan; together with John and Rod from Kabankalan came together at the Redemptorist Holy Family Retreat House in Cebu for a retreat led by Cluster Leader, Ian Robertson, from May 22 – 27. The theme of the retreat was 'The New Story', taking a lead from the Munnar document and recent

Pictured: John Moodie, Roshan D’Cunha, Rod Ellyard, Ian Robertson, Graeme Leach, Paul Coster, Theo Alvares



ecological understandings

Read the complete report on the website [here](#)

The Year of the Forests (C) - WORLD

Pentecost is upon us and the solstice, for our respective hemispheres. I write in the Year of the Forests, and I wonder if the Holy Spirit is planning a particularly spectacular descent this year, through our forests.

Climate Change presents us with an anti-Pentecost paradigm: the descent of fire (drought, water shortages, freak storms, crop failures) in



The West pond Nature Reserve on the Arve

destructive mode. Next year, the Earth Summit in Rio will see us gather, as we do at ten year intervals, since 1992. We have a choice. Will we gather with our forests beside us, capable of absorbing carbon dioxide, or will we gather with our selfish agendas inside us, happy to let the poor cope with the consequences of our carbon-emitting industries?

For the complete article visit the website [here](#)

Moy Hitchen
Edmund Rice International

Thanks and gratitude - TIMOR LESTE

Bill Tynan's 10 years of selfless service to the people of Timor Leste began when Dan Courtney had to be evacuated to Australia following the motor bike accident which has left him in a coma ever since. Inspired by the vision that Dan had for Comunidade Edmund Rice (CER) and its mission, Bill generously volunteered to take Dan's place. Bill has led the CER ministry with passion, focussing his insight, energy and talent on the people in the region of Railaco Craic and their needs and challenges. With the support of groups like the Terrace Timor Network and Rotary, Bill has overseen developments such as Just Coffee, a medical clinic, a kindergarten program in 5 villages, the installation of solar lighting and running water, new school buildings and vocation education and training. In the second half of 2011, a review of CER is planned as a prelude to setting directions for the next 5 years, building on the work of Bill, Richard Walsh, Vin Haseler and others, the Religious Sisters and the many volunteers who are and have been part of CER.



Bill will make a significant contribution to the review and to passing on leadership to those who will succeed him. He will finish in Timor Leste in mid-April 2012 and will have some space for rest and recuperation before taking on the challenge of new ministry.

Peter Harney on behalf of the OLT

Edmund Rice Institute for Social Justice, Fremantle closes - WA



Edmund Rice Institute for Social Justice, Fremantle Inc. will cease to exist from 30th June 2011. What follows is Br Kevin Paull's statement-'The Edmund Rice Institute for Social Justice, Fremantle Inc. advises its stakeholders and members of the public of

recent developments. The Institute's principal funding source to date has been the generous support provided annually by the Oceania Province of the Christian Brothers. Unfortunately, the Oceania Province has advised the ERISJ Board that the Province is unable to provide financial support to the Institute after 30 June 2011.

Read the complete statement on the website [here](#)

(Br.) Kevin J. Paull
Chairman, ERISJ Inc. Board of Management
6 May 2011

A conversation with Pat Dodson - NSW

Congratulations to the EREA organisers and CBHS Lewisham (under Br Paul Conn, who hosted the event) on the conversation with Pat Dodson on Thursday evening, 5th May, 2011, which happened to be the actual Founder's Day. There were over a hundred in attendance and the overwhelming consensus was that it was a very successful evening, expertly organised and generously hosted. Below is also a brief report from Donna Mulhearn, Region Coordinator Edmund Rice Networking-



Pat Dobson addresses gathering at
CBHS Lewisham 5 May 2011

Photo: Dave Curtin

This week we've celebrated Founder's Day for the Edmund Rice Network in NSW/ACT with a gathering and Mass at ACU, a wonderful evening with Pat Dodson that drew together a great crowd of people from various parts of the network, and a range of activities in schools and communities. It's great to take time to pause and reflect on Edmund's charism and the significance it holds today as expressed by the Province values of Presence, Compassion and Liberation.

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ERN North America on Facebook – NORTH AMERICA

Did you see the photo of NYC's Rice High School's last graduation?
How about the story on Monsignor Farrell's 50th anniversary?

If you didn't and you are on Facebook, "Like" the new "Edmund Rice Network North America" community.

Follow the link below or when you are on Facebook, search for: Edmund Rice Network North America.

Be sure to click on the "Like" button.

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Edmund-Rice-Network-North-America/120375644703385>

Also, look on the left for the "Share" link to share the "Edmund Rice Network North America" community page with all your friends.

The purpose of the Edmund Rice Network North America Facebook community is to share news and information about and with all members of the Edmund Rice Network in North America. This includes, but is not limited to Brothers, Edmundians, Associates, colleagues, students, alumni, and friends. In essence, anyone in North America (and around the world) touched by the charism of Blessed Edmund Rice.

The Edmund Rice Network North America Facebook community is a project of the Edmund Rice Network Office of the Edmund Rice Christian Brothers North America. The Edmund Rice Network Coordinator is Brother Jim McDonald. You can contact him by e-mail at: bromaccfc@yahoo.com

Tom Lesser
Director Publication & Marketing

From Christchurch – NEW ZEALAND

Wow!! Yesterday (13 June) we had some shaking and rolling again and the number of shakes must have climbed into the thousands by now.

A new statistic that I learnt to day was that when the shake goes over 5.5 on the Richter scale public buildings have to be inspected by the engineers to see that they are sound. All supermarkets closed yesterday and of course most of that would be to realign the shelves again and sweep up the broken items.

Also believe that the news was that another 90 buildings tumbled to ground

But here in Wharenui Rd we are all ok and so are the buildings but a couple of hot water cylinders have sprung small leaks.

Don Murray

News from Edmund Rice Foundation – VIC



New Primary School under construction, BBCEC

The three senior African members of the leadership group at Br Beausang Catholic Education Centre (BBCEC), Br Francis Otieno (Principal, BBCEC), Ms Catherine Gathogo (Head Teacher, Secondary School) and Ms Eva Wanyaga (Principal, Primary School), will be visiting between June 17 and June 30 as guests of the Zimele Foundation / St Kevin's College, Toorak and St Bernard's College, Essendon. BBCEC provides educational opportunities for more than 800 primary and secondary students at Embulbul, an impoverished area on the outskirts of

Nairobi, Kenya. Francis, Catherine and Eva's visits are being sponsored by Zimele / St Kevin's and St Bernard's and they will be billeted with the Zimele / St Kevin's and St Bernard's communities. Catherine's program will include a number of days working at Bernard's, while Francis and Eva will have engagements at St Kevin's. Zimele / St Kevin's and St Bernard's are strong supporters of BBCEC and through a series of immersion experiences over recent years have established partnerships with BBCEC. In addition to financial assistance for new buildings and resources, these partnerships are providing professional development for local people in leadership, which is a critical element in building sustainable futures for Edmund Rice projects and programs in developing nations.

Francis, Catherine and Eva will be Guests of Honour at the Third Annual Zimele Dinner, which is to be held at St Kevin's on the evening of Saturday, 25 June. Zimele means, *to stand on your own two feet* – a statement attributed to South African activist, Steve Biko. The Zimele Foundation exists to enable local people in East Africa to do precisely that, through its support of education and health projects at [BBCEC](#) and [Ruben Centre](#) in Nairobi. For more information about the Zimele Dinner contact Tom Purcell (purcellt@stkevins.vic.edu.au). To learn more about the Zimele Foundation visit <http://zimele.org/>

Robert Stone (Foundation Office)

Car-jacking in Port Moresby – PAPUA NEW GUINEA

A terrible incident involving most of the people involved with the Child Protection based Leadership Workshop in Boomana took place on Saturday morning (11 June). The group were in a vehicle with the presenter, Dr Pauline Meemeduma, and were intending to visit Parliament House. At the gate to Parliament House the vehicle was 'held up' by some men with a pistol, sticks and bush knives. The pistol was pointed at Michael Lulu (the driver), Dr Pauline Meemeduma was hit on the head with a rock and on the arm with a stick. All in the vehicle were told to lie or sit on the ground and all billums, mobile phones, plane tickets, personal documents and money were stolen.

Kevin Ryan

For the complete report visit the website [here](#)

Brother Olly hits 20,000 –WA



Br Olly Pickett with Gordon Hudson at his Wangara workshop

Photo Glynnis Grainger

Christian Brother Olly Pickett and his Wheelchairs for Kids charity will produce their 20,000th wheelchair donated to disabled children overseas by the end of this month.

In May, they sent 327 wheelchairs to Iraq and, in June, will send 130 wheelchairs to Tanzania and 130 wheelchairs to Vietnam, all built with volunteer labour.

Br Olly told the Record at his Wangara workshop that they have a minimum of 104 volunteers a week working at the workshop and hundreds of ladies making rugs, cushions and toys throughout Australia.

Glynnis Grainger
The Record
Perth
8 June 2011

For the complete article visit the website of The Perth Record [here](#)

Donations can be made to PO Box 1175, Wangara DC, WA 6947, phone and fax (08) 9407 3633 or to Wheelchair1@optusnet.com.au or www.wheelchairsforkids.org

Inter-faith Calendar - WORLD

Visit the Inter-Faith Calendar [here](#)

Edmund Rice Network - OCEANIA

Here is a draft list of the individuals and groups who can say they belong to the ERN. If you or the group you are associated with are omitted please let us know so a more complete list may be drawn up.

- Brothers, ER communities
- ER ministries
- ER associated ministries
- EREA schools
- ER associated schools
- ERF e.g., Taringa
- ER justice centres
- ER migrant & refugee services
- ER camps
- ER associated camps
- ER associates e.g. people previously working/volunteering in various ministries e.g., CER
- ER secretarial and support staff
- Former Brothers
- Past students
- Past Brothers clubs
- Terrace Timor Network

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.

CAST YOUR NET WIDER

www.edmundrice.net