



Greetings to all in this first CLT bulletin for 2107.

Our movements....even more than usual

Much of this bulletin reads like a travelogue, but it gives some idea of our engagement with the Brothers in recent weeks and a flavour of the diversity of the Congregation.

At the time of our last bulletin in early November we had just concluded the formal **Visitation of the Indian Province** and were in Zambia for a meeting of the Transition Support Team, the *Journeying Together* Hub Community and the South Central District Leadership Team.

Now again we are in the **South Central District of the Africa Province for Visitation**. This includes the *Journeying Together* Cluster of Communities in the Western Province of Zambia.

Peter and Richard made an early start to the Africa Province Visitation in November by going to the communities in Livingstone (Zambia) and Bulawayo (Zimbabwe). Meanwhile **Hugh** spent time in the Western Province of Zambia with the *Journeying Together* communities.

After a quick turnaround in Rome, Hugh then went with **John** to West Africa where they spent about a month. During this time they attended the *First Professions* in Tamale (Ghana), as well as *visiting the community and school* there and going on to Sierra Leone, staying on for the *annual assembly of the West Africa District* where we have communities in Sierra Leone, Liberia and Ghana.

First Professions, Tamale

On November 25th 14 men made their First Profession, including our first Filipino Brother. An account of the events is available on the website <http://edmundrice.net/2-uncategorised-sp-786/1510-14-new-christian-brothers-in-africa>

West Africa District Assembly

From December 15th to 21st **Hugh and John** attended the West Africa District Annual Assembly.

The first two days were devoted to our *Chapter Call to Advocacy*, facilitated by **Brian Bond and Kevin Mullan** of Edmund Rice International.

During the remaining days the leadership team focussed the conversations on the theme “*The Essence of being a Christian Brother in West Africa Today*”. During the Assembly 20 Brothers renewed their annual vows.



West Africa Brothers renewing their Vows



West Africa District assembly during Visitation

Meanwhile **Richard** went on home leave to New Zealand and **Peter** went to Ireland for meetings and for medical treatment.

As well as having an ongoing medical issue, now satisfactorily resolved, **Peter** had confirmation of a diagnosis of *chikungunya* (a mosquito-transmitted virus) which he had contracted in India. This necessitated his remaining in Ireland and missing out on taking part in the Visitations of both Africa and North America. He returned to Rome on February 4. The Brothers in Marino, Dublin, have been very hospitable and attentive to Peter.

Julian was in Rome during much of late November and December except for some days on ERBT business. After spending Christmas together with the community in Rome, **Hugh, Julian and John** went to West Africa and completed the Visitation of that District.

In mid-January **Hugh, John, Julian and Richard** came to Nairobi, Kenya, for the *Visitation of the East Africa District* (Kenya, Tanzania and South Sudan), and then moved on to Lusaka and the *South Central District* (Zambia, Zimbabwe and South Africa). Later in February we will meet with the Africa PLT as well as all members of the three District Leadership Teams in Lusaka.

John goes on from Africa to Sydney, Australia at the end of February for a meeting of the *Mission Sustainability Working Party*, while **Hugh Julian and Richard** return to Rome for only a few days before heading off for the *Visitation of the North American Province* from early March until the end of April. Regrettably, **Peter** will not be with us.

All in all, Rome will have seen little of us in the period October to May. After that we hope to be a little more settled for a while.



East Africa Brothers Cluster Meeting during Visitation

Meeting the Brothers continues to be a blessing for us as we share our lives together and see the dedication to community, spirituality, mission and ministry. We are noting a growing appreciation of, interest in, and commitment to all aspects of *Our Way into the Future*.

Papal Award

Congratulations to **Julian McDonald** who received the Papal Award, *Croce pro Ecclesia et Pontifice* in Rome in the latter part of November. **Peter Dowling and Kevin Mullan** attended the ceremony and dinner afterwards.

Rome Community

As you will have seen from the above, our Roman community has not been together since September. **Kevin Callaghan and Dean McLaughlin** (and at times only Kevin) have been holding the fort valiantly.

Amandi Mboya (East Africa District) has joined the Rome community for about five months as he undertakes a course on Child Protection at the Gregorian University. Welcome Amandi and thanks for increasing the numbers.

We await **Patrick Payne** (Latin America Region), whose arrival in the community has been delayed for medical reasons.

Finally

.....from our 2014 Congregation Chapter we read:

*In our awareness of our brokenness,
God is calling us to be compassionate
people transforming old structures,
cultural mind-sets and practices, and
ushering in a new way of being brother
for the world.*

It is a privilege for us to see how this call from God is being answered by Brothers in many and various ways.

Best wishes to all

Hugh, John, Julian, Peter and Richard.