



Greetings once again from Nairobi.

“Today’s Christ-workers can never be satisfied with the status quo, but are rather intent on maximizing potentials and stretching the horizon, envisioning what does not yet exist and making it happen. This is what Teilhard called ‘loving the not-yet.’” Louis Savary (The New Spiritual Exercises).

The above quote was part of a reflection we had during one of our morning prayers last week and we felt it challenged us very strongly as TST, summarizing what Our Way into the Future (OWITF) is calling us to at this time.

Quite a lot has happened since our last communication. To begin with, we were delighted to have David Gibson join us as the replacement for Chris Meehl, who was appointed to the Oceania

Leadership Team. David has been involved with OWITF from the beginning and so we are delighted to have him with us. There is much that he brings to the team in terms of skills and experience. Currently he is with us for a few weeks but because of commitments already made he will not join us permanently until after Christmas.

THE MISSION SUSTAINABILITY COUNCIL INAUGURAL MEETING

Relying on the spirit and power of collaboration, the Congregation Leadership Team requested the collaboration of the Provinces and Region to establish the Mission Sustainability Council. It comprises 22 members:

- Executive Officers of the Foundations/Development offices associated with the five Christian Brother Provinces and one Region

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Participants of the MSC meeting

- A Member of the Leadership Team of each Province and the Region, preferably the Province Bursar.
- The Chair [or a chair's delegate] of Edmund Rice Foundation Australia
Edmund Rice Development
Governors of Regional
Development Offices/Foundations as they emerge.
- The Congregation Executive Director of Finance and Resourcing.
- One Member of the Congregation Leadership Team, who will be Chairman.
- Two Members of the Transition Support Team (TST).

The main function of the MSC is to plan on a global scale for the resourcing of the mission direction in Our Way into the Future and the Edmund Rice ministries around the globe and to work out a global collaborative strategy for future mission support.

The Stellenbosch gathering affirmed the courage of the Congregation in embracing such challenging change and is convinced that the MSC can contribute significantly to Our Way into the Future. Ruvan Rebello and Francis Hall were our representatives at the meeting in Stellenbosch and were very satisfied with the work done.

TRAVELS

Back in July we visited the communities in Zambia and Zimbabwe. We did not get to South Africa at that time so while Francis and Ruvan were in

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Stellenbosch for the MSC meeting we decided that Donal should visit Kimberley and the communities in the Johannesburg area and Pretoria. He enjoyed the meetings with the men in these communities. Most of them are elderly but are filled with the spirit of Edmund Rice and are a wonderful example to us all. He enjoyed engaging with them and is very appreciative of the wonderful hospitality he encountered in all the communities. A special word of thanks to Mike Burke who went out of his way on several occasions to insure that Donal was able to reach all his destinations.

During the European Province Chapter Declan and Francis were delighted to host two voluntary evening sessions on OWITF. The sessions were not only well attended but full of insightful questions and some passion about such issues as what is happening to



Declan at the European Chapter

our CB traditional school apostolate and what will the new communities be like and be doing. There was a buzz in the air that seemed to express deep interest and support for OWITF. For Declan and Francis it was most encouraging to receive such brotherly support from their home Province. Thank you, Brothers!

While Declan and Francis were at the Chapter Donal and Sunil went down to Arusha to visit the postulants. They were warmly welcomed by Daniel Lyimo, John Carrig, Kevin Delaney and the postulants. The sessions with the young men were never less than



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lively with lots of questions and sharing. It was very pleasing to encounter these young people and experience their energy and enthusiasm.

SURVEY

A decision that is looming large on our horizon is the question of where to insert our first “hub system” (a group of communities in mission and a hub community). To this end we have initiated a process to engage with as many as possible in finding criteria for the location of that intervention. We hope that when the survey comes your way, you will give it some serious thought and reflection. You will be able to respond on-line or by email.

Later this year we will be looking for people to come forward to train for membership of these new communities, so we ask you to continue to reflect and discern and

be in dialogue with your leadership teams about your response to the invitation.

We are also planning the putting together of the training program for those entering the first hub system. A venue must also be found, and the people with the necessary skills and expertise chosen, so that all participants are prepared well for the challenges ahead.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Immediately on our return from South Africa we had a very full six days with Dean McGlaughlin working on our strategic plan. Those who know Dean will attest that he is a man of boundless energy, has wonderful skills as a facilitator and is fully in touch with all the elements of OWITF. In addition to his expertise in strategic planning we also managed to get him into the

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Dean McGlaughlin facilitating the Planning

kitchen from where we enjoyed the fruits of his labours. It was a joy having him with us for a week. New life and energy was injected into us as a result of his infectious enthusiasm. We got through a mountain of work but there is still plenty more to be done.

SPIRITUALITY

The more we engage with OWITF the more convinced we are of the necessity for each one to have a deep appreciation of the spirituality underpinning the whole thing. Hence, we have invited a number of people, about sixteen in all, brothers and others, to write on the spirituality behind OWITF. So

far we have received five responses and they are excellent. When we receive the remaining ones we will decide how best to make them available to you but we have no doubt that they will be a marvellous resource for prayer and reflection as we seek to deepen our understanding of, and commitment to OWITF.

FUTURE PLANS

We would like to inform you of some of our planned activities which are scheduled over the next few weeks and months.

Declan Power and Ruvan Rebello will be in Rome during the first week of September for a workshop on fund raising and project writing presented by the well-known Marist brother Allan Sherry.

We will all attend an Advocacy Workshop given by ERI-Brian Bond- at the Dimesse Centre



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from Sept 8th to 12th. At the end of September we will do a workshop in communal discernment given by Margaret Benefiel ("Soul at Work" and "The Soul of Leadership")

October will see us engaging with the communities and Leadership Team in the East Africa District and the India Province. Our plans to visit the West African District have been shelved until the ebola crisis has been brought under control.

Meanwhile we continue on our strategic plan and working on next year's budget.

Let us go back to the quotation with which we started from Louis Savary. Let us try and see Our Way into the Future as part of a much bigger Dream, what Savary calls "God's Christ Project" that encompasses the evolving Universe and its aim is to bring the whole earth community and cosmos to a new unity in God. As we see it, to engage fully in all the elements of OWITF is to engage in God's Christ Project. As disciples of Jesus we answer the call "Come follow Me".



*Welcome
aboard,
David.*