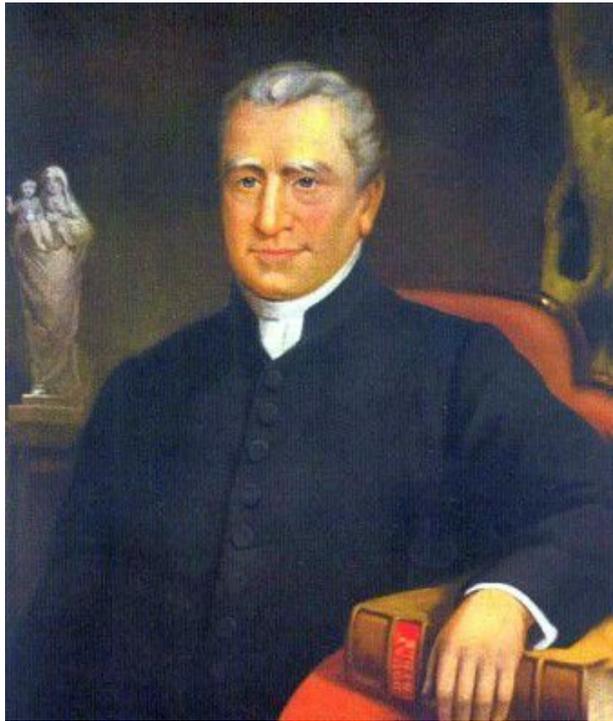




### ———— SAYINGS OF BLESSED EDMUND RICE ————

*The following are taken from the correspondence of Blessed Edmund Rice*



"But let us do ever so little for God,  
we will be sure He will never forget it, nor let  
it pass unrewarded."

"Were we to know the merit and value  
of only going from one street to another  
to serve a neighbour for the love of God, we  
should prize it more than silver and gold."

"One thing you may be sure of,  
that whilst you work for God, whether you  
succeed or not,  
he will amply reward you."

"Have courage; the good seed will grow up in  
the children's hearts later on."

"Each Brother is an open letter from Christ-- a message written not with ink but in the  
Spirit of the living God, with a faithful human heart to carry it."

"Give to the poor in handfuls."





## EDUCATION FOR LIFE 2017-2021 STRATEGIC PLAN LAUNCHING CEREMONY



Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> of May, 2017 will remain a memorable day for the EFL fraternity for many months to come. The significance of the day was the launch of the new strategic plan for 2017-2021 and the presence of significant visitors (Emily Faller (ERFA), Fiona Dowling and David Roche (ERD), accompanied by Brothers Vincent Mallya and Francis Nkwabi. The members arrived as early as 7.30 to prepare for the event, which began at 10.30. On arrival the EFL choir jubilantly sang melodies to usher in the visitors. The melodies were tailor-made to suit the day. The next item was a gallery walk to view posters representing the various programs in the new strategic plan, which had been well summarized in specific posters. The most striking programs were the child rights and

OVC (Orphan and Vulnerable Children) posters, which the children themselves passionately explained to the visitors and answered questions appropriately.

The entertainment session by the children and choir showcased the appreciation of the beneficiaries for the support they receive and their optimism concerning the new EFL strategic plan. The speakers complimented the programme for making a difference in the



Emily Faller and Fiona Dowling cutting a cake

community. The launch was full of pomp and color, especially due to the presence of Emily and Fiona who afterwards cut the cake to grace the occasion.

It is our prayer that this new strategic plan brings new insights in

achieving our overall objectives. We thank all our partners for the enormous support.

**Angie Obutu**





## EDMUND RICE CAMP – COMMUNITY OUTREACH IN KIBERA

With heavy rains that are currently pounding the country, the first week of re-opening of schools for second term saw 29 camp leaders spreading into different schools in Kibera on Saturday 6th May, 2017 for the outreach program. The focus of the outreach program was on sharing the story of Blessed Edmund Rice with all the kids and how Edmund has inspired both leaders and children in the previous camps. Other topics that were discussed with the children raised their awareness about domestic violence, bullying and child neglect.



The sessions between the leaders and children were very interactive. Through the Edmund Rice camps and other programs, the Kingdom of God is coming into being when children are laughing; when leaders and children form a caring, mutually interactive community; and when the children express increased self-confidence and a greater insight into their environment.

The spirit of Edmund Rice is also seen when

- leaders shows compassion for children who are sad and non-co-operative;
- when leaders are patient with one another;
- when the children refrain from conflict;
- when leaders become more skilled and more competent in leading games and other activities;





- when leaders act as big brother/big sister to the children, successfully catering for the seven basic areas of child needs and rights.



**Sammy Muga**

———— **A JOURNEY OF BROTHERS** ————  
**(Excerpts)**

*Delivered at the Welcome Ceremony for those participating in the Orientation Program (to prepare for forming the next group of OWITF communities in India) at the Pastoral Centre, Shillong, India on Sunday, 23 April 2017*

Friends. We are here for a special reason – to support our Brothers here, on their journey.

For some of you recently arrived in India, it is a journey into many unknowns ... people, climate – even curries! Others of you are very familiar with Shillong and so maybe your journey is to the unfamiliar places of your heart. One thing is certain – stay on the journey and you will find God and each other in ways beyond your wildest imagination. As the two disciples said after encountering Jesus on the road, “Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us ...?”

Why is this journey among Christian Brothers happening now? Let me go back a little and explain ...

For most of my lifetime we Brothers have been hearing a call of the Spirit at our Chapter meetings to move and be changed. In 1984 the Brothers heard very clearly the call of Luke 4: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has chosen me to bring good news to the poor.” This ‘move to the





margins' has been going on throughout the Congregation since then, not least here in India with the new rural openings and many creative urban initiatives.

But 'moving to the margins' isn't easy and living there, is even harder!. There was a growing realization that there needs to be changes in the way we lived our community and spiritual lives together, if we were to sustain these new communities...

These men are in for an exciting three months. They have a wise and experienced Orientation Program team in Sister Aurea and Brothers David and Sunil.

There is a proverb in Africa which says, "It takes a village to raise a child". a proverb from Mizoram, one of the States in North East India, literally says, "Even a big stone cannot remain static, without the support of small stones". I think the wisdom is that for the growth and overall well being of individuals and society, many people need to be involved...

**Br Francis Hall**

### **Birthdays in May**

|     |    |  |
|-----|----|--|
| MAY | 12 | AMOS KUTWA (Embulbul)                  |
|     | 17 | SAMUEL MUNYUA (Mongu. Zambia)          |
|     | 17 | PAUL FOLLAS (Keating House, Lusaka)    |
|     | 28 | MELKIZEDECK MUSAMIA (Shillong - India) |

### **CALENDAR**

|                 |                                      |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| May 15-16       | Formation Committee Meeting          |
| May 15-19       | PLT Meeting                          |
| May 27          | Br Pascal Kituku's death anniversary |
| May 31 – June 6 | AP Long Workshop                     |

Many blessings

George

