

# EUROPEAN PROVINCE UPDATE

European Province Update No. 1

February, 2016



## *Lenten Reflections*

Dear Brothers and Friends

As we begin the Lenten season it may be helpful for you to know that a series of reflections, prepared by a small group of contributors, will be provided on a daily basis on the Christian Brothers European Province Vocations website. You will find this website by clicking [www.christianbrothervocation.org](http://www.christianbrothervocation.org).

Please share this link with colleagues and friends. You may also like to share the posts on social media.

The first two reflections on the Ash Wednesday theme prepared by Brother Anthony McDonnell cfc are now available on the [above website](#).

*Donal Leader*

## *Companions of Edmund Rice, Cork*

A group of people in Cork, committed to the Edmund Rice vision, have formed a group that they call 'Companions.' It includes Don O'Leary, director of the Cork Life Centre and some of his volunteers, Paul Kelly, deputy principal in Midleton and Kevin Barry, principal in Deerpark and some teachers from CBC.

I was invited to attend one of their meetings recently. The venue is rotated and CBC was hosting the meeting on the night. I was surprised to see students in their uniform greeting us at the door!

Trevor Hussey, one of the teachers in CBC, began the opening reflection and was followed by Lorna Mulvany, another CBC teacher, who led the group in a gospel meditation in the prayer room in the school. The students (from Transition Year) were totally present to the meditation. All of this happened on a Friday night in January at 8.00pm! It gave me great hope to be part of a group that included Gary O'Shea, Ned Hayden, about six volunteer teachers and Don from the Life Centre, some teachers, Larry Jordan [principal CBC], Kevin Barry, Paul Kelly and a group of students, gathered to pray on Sidney Hill on a cold Friday night!

*Jim Donovan*

## In This Issue

- Lenten Reflections
- 2016 EUP Jubilarians
- Global Climate Change/ Vital Signs of the Planet—January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016

## Jubilarians 2016

<i>Jubilee</i>	<i>Names</i>	
80	Berchs	Magill
80	John L	O'Sullivan
75	Eamonn	Birmingham
75	Leo	Canny
75	Michael	Gleeson
75	Wally	Skehan
75	Felix	Donnelly
75	Nessan	O'Mahony
75	Cathal	Smiddy
70	Jarlath	Feeney
70	Maurice	Tobin
70	Tim	Monaghan
70	Tom	Boyhan
70	Louis	Fox
70	Tom	Furlong
70	Pat	Hegarty
70	John	Corbett
70	Borromeo	O'Connell
70	Terry	MacSweeney
70	Micheál	O'Brien
70	Seamus	Gill
70	Al	O'Connor
70	Michael	Kavanagh
60	Ignatius	Chincotta
60	George	Gordon
60	Jim	McKenna
60	Leo	Kelly
60	Donal	Blake
60	Fintan	Hayes
60	Ollie	Nolan
60	Fred	Doherty
60	Eamonn	Doyle
50	Tony	Twomey
50	Ger	O'Connell
50	Sean	Beckett
50	Colm	Griffey
50	Tom	Costello
50	Finian	Gavin

### Request for Prayers

Paul Cassidy is the son of Monica Cassidy, sister of the late Brother Vianney Brown. Paul, about 50 years of age, had a very severe stroke and has now been transferred to the Royal Hospital in Donnybrook .

Monica and Jacqueline, Paul's wife, are very appreciative of the prayers of the Brothers and the Edmund Rice Network. This is a very difficult time for Monica, for Paul, and for his family. This illness has struck despite Paul's healthy, sports-filled, active life.

We are grateful to Brother Ray English for bringing this to our attention.

***Prayers please for the repose of the soul of***



**Br. Joe O'Donovan** who died on 28th December 2015 in Cowper St. Patrick's Care Residence, Baldoyle.

**Ann-Carmel Keane**, sister of Br. Michael Keane (Kells) who died in early January 2016

**Rita McKiernan**, sister of Br. Tommy McCarry, who also died in January, 2016.

**Jimmy Hennessy** , nephew of Br. Pat Hennessy (Castletown) who died in January 2016,

**Christine Condren** (nee Burke) sister of Br. Liam Burke (Naas) died in February in USA

**Br. James Plunkett Nolan**, who died on 17th February 2016 in Cowper St. Patrick's Care Residence, Baldoyle.

**Terence Kelly**, brother of Br. Leo Kelly (St. Joseph's Marino) who died on 15th February in Drogheda.

**Global Climate Change/ Vital Signs of the Planet—January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

(<http://climate.nasa.gov/news/2391/> )

“Climate change is the challenge of our generation, and NASA’s vital work on this important issue affects every person on Earth,” said NASA Administrator Charles Bolden. “Today’s announcement not only underscores how critical NASA’s Earth observation program is, it is a key data point that should make policy makers stand up and take notice - now is the time to act on climate.”

The planet’s average surface temperature has risen about 1.8 degrees Fahrenheit (1.0 degree Celsius) since the late-19th century, a change largely driven by increased carbon dioxide and other human-made emissions into the atmosphere.

Most of the warming occurred in the past 35 years, with 15 of the 16 warmest years on record occurring since 2001. Last year was the first time the global average temperatures were 1 degree Celsius or more above the 1880-1899 average.

**HOMELESSNESS**

The Romero Institute for Peace and Justice, based in Mt. Sion, and led by Phil Brennan, organised a meeting of school justice groups in Mount Sion on January 20th, 2016. The students are organising a campaign to abolish homelessness in Ireland. They plan to stage a protest outside the Dail in April.

It was truly a wonderful day. Those of us in our senior year, privileged to be present, were inspired by the enthusiasm, passion and commitment of the young people, by Fr. Peter McVerry and by members of the High Hopes Choir who participated by singing and by giving testimony to their own experience of homelessness. The High Hopes Choir, the brainchild of David Brophy, the conductor, is now very much linked into Mount Sion through Phil Brennan who accompanied them on the day with the guitar. Congratulations to Br. Kevin Mascarenhas (one of the organisers of the day) and the other members of Mt. Sion community!

Jim Donovan

## GOOD FRIDAY IN EMMAUS RETREAT CENTRE 2016

The Province Spirituality Group are planning to celebrate Good Friday, as we did last year. Even if you didn't make it last year you would be most welcome to join us for Good Friday 2016, March 25th.

You can put it in the diary now! We will begin at 10.00am with a cup of coffee. A small Good Friday lunch will be provided and conclude around 4.00pm. A small contribution of €10 is requested to assist in defraying expenses.

Please invite others to join us!

This year, by way of preparation for the Good Friday celebration, we are trying to look at Lent in a new way. Material is available on the following website: [www.christianbrothervocation.org](http://www.christianbrothervocation.org)

We will be looking at themes like Understanding Lent in a New Way (Br. Anthony McDonnell), Homelessness (Phil Brennan), Climate Change (Vivek da Silva), Refugees (Hilary Bizumuremyi).

If you intend attending the event, please email Donal at [donal.leader@gmail.com](mailto:donal.leader@gmail.com). You may also book a place with the Province Secretary by phoning 01 807 3300.

The closing date for booking for this event is March 22nd, 2016.