

# THE HISTORICAL CONTEXT

## 1817 – 1822

### *1817- 1819 PREPARATIONS*

In 1817 the superiors of the Brothers' communities met at Mount Sion, Waterford, to examine the centrally-organised De La Salle Rule as a model on which to base their own Rule. A Statement of Resolutions was passed at a meeting held in Mount Sion on August 25, 1817.

Two further meetings were held in Thurles, in 1818 and 1819, to consider the decrees in greater detail. All professed Brothers were invited to attend.

### *1820 PAPAL APPROVAL IS GIVEN*

On 13 August 1820, two pen strokes in the margin of a Papal Audience note indicate that the Holy Father granted the request.

A note from Mons. Pedicini, Secretary of Propaganda, to Cardinal Consalvi, Segretario dei Brevi, asking him to prepare the Brief, is dated 26 August 1820.

The Pope signed the Brief on **5 September 1820**. At the end of the text of the Brief are the words: "Datum Romae apud S. Mariam Majorem sub Annulo Piscatoris die 5 Septembris 1820" and the signature of Cardinal Consalvi.

The approval was given under the Ring of the Fisherman, and signed as "Placet G.B." using the initials of the two names of the Pope: Barnaba (Baptismal name) and Gregorio (religious name as a Benedictine).

### *1821 RECEIVING THE BRIEF IN IRELAND*

The Brief did not reach Ireland until January 1821; Father Peter Kenney, S.J. was the bearer. To receive the Brief fittingly, a general assembly of the Brothers was held in Thurles, during the summer vacation on 25 August 1821.

### *1822 FIRST GENERAL CHAPTER AND PROFESSION CEREMONIES*

Nineteen Brothers assembled at Mount Sion on Friday 11 January 1822. On January 20, 1822, the Superiors of 7 of the 9 houses were elected as the first General Chapter by the nineteen Brothers present. Their final profession was made according to the new Constitution. Edmund's Formula of Vows was written in his own hand.

Following this, they convened as the General Chapter and elected Edmund Rice as Superior General. Later that day a further profession ceremony was held. The following Brothers pronounced their vows: Laurence Byrne, Michael Austin Coleman, Edmund Austin Dunphy, Patrick Ellis, James Jerome Foley, John Joseph Keane, John Aloysius Kelly, Patrick Joseph Murphy.

The Chapter reconvened the following day, Monday January 21 and the following were admitted to final profession: Michael Bernard Dunphy, Michael Baptist Green and Laurence Joseph Watson.

*With the compliments of the Brothers of the European Province*

**Researched and produced by Br. Michael Dredge, cfc.**

For the Latin text and translation of the Papal Brief with related documents go to:

**[www.edmundrice.eu/papalbrief](http://www.edmundrice.eu/papalbrief)**