THE TIME IS NOW!

This was a day to remember! As the crowd gathered at the International Spirituality Centre (ISC) in Lusaka, there was a sense that something special was happening. Brothers Hugh O’Neill and John Casey, members of the leadership of the Congregation, Br Michael deKlerk, leader of the African Province and Brs Alfred Banda and Chris Nhete, of the South Central District leadership team were there to mark this historic moment in the life of the Congregation. There is no doubt that Sunday, 6 September will go down in the annals of the Congregation as a defining moment.

THE FIRST WEEK OF THE ORIENTATION PROGRAM (OP)

The aim of the first week was to welcome the Brothers to Lusaka, to get to know each other, and to introduce various spiritual practices that would enrich the quality of the way the Brothers come together for prayer. The group formed quickly, and outlined various norms and agreements as to how to create a sense of community. The outline of the programme was presented to the Brothers, and they discussed the rationale for each of the elements. On the fifth day of the programme, Mrs Mumba explained many of the cultural practices in Zambia, and gave the Brothers a comprehensive view of Zambian life. Probably the highlight of the week was the discussion that took place on Saturday where Brs Hugh O’Neill and John Casey strongly affirmed the twenty-nine Brothers present and said that they will be a ‘torch’ for the Congregation if they can live the Christian Brother’s way of life differently. For a more detailed account of the first week, you can log onto the OWITF website (ourwayintothefuture.org).
THE PRESENTERS FOR THE OP

A rich panel of speakers has been lined up for the OP. Philip Pinto will share his ideas on recent interpretations on the person of Jesus and its relevance for our spirituality. Diarmuid O’Murchu will offer an exciting vision for religious life. Paschalia and Dominic Mbutu, lecturers from Tangaza University, will offer a week-long course on community engagement. Moy Hitchen, of Edmund Rice International, is coming from Geneva to give a workshop on Advocacy and working with Mr Kawanga Ponisa from the Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection. Tony Hempenstall and Sr Lynette Rodrigues, a Presentation Sister will give input on the New Cosmology. FENZA, the Missionaries of Africa Centre for Culture and Religion, will provide speakers on various aspects of Zambian and African culture.

Donal Kirk and Mrs Lubinda Tafira will give input on sexuality. Sunil Britto will give a workshop on personality types, and David Gibson will use various processes to explore the dynamics of community living.

We are very grateful to our funders for the OP: Misean Cara, Ireland, Edmund Rice Foundation, Australia, Edmund Rice Development, and other donors who have been most generous.

WORK IN WESTERN PROVINCE

Donal and Ruvan are in Western Province, meeting with the local leaders in the chosen sites for the hub and frontline communities: Mongu, Limulunga, Moyo, Senanga and Luampa. This present visit also entails a meeting with people from each of the locations. Such meetings give notice of the arrival of the Brothers, and offer the opportunity for the people to express their response. In addition, Ruvan and Donal are looking to find accommodation for the various communities. Once the accommodation is found, there will be

Donal with the people of Luampa
Some very rich and inspiring articles are beginning to arrive on the editor’s desk in preparation for the publication of a second book on the spirituality of OWITF. Leadership Teams have begun inviting Brothers to write on the calls of the Nairobi Chapter and what is emerging will prove to be a significant development in this regard. Our hope is that when the new book – Drawn by Mystery, Destined for Life – appears, it will provide for a further source for personal and communal reflection. Should there be Brothers out there who have yet to put pen to paper, we encourage you to begin today to reflect deeply on the Chapter calls, and share your thoughts on the implications of these invitations to live the life of brotherhood in a vibrant and coherent manner and send them into the editor (David Gibson) dgibson5665@gmail.com

THE WEBSITE

29th August, the date that commemorates the death of Blessed Edmund Rice, was a fitting moment to launch the website for OWITF. The website is:

ourwayintothefuture.org

We hope that the website will provide the Brothers throughout the world a glimpse of what will be happening during the OP. We will continue to send out bulletins and reflection letters, but the website will offer more up-to-date and detailed information on the progress of OWITF. We encourage Brothers to interact with the website and send us comments and suggestions in order to contribute to the developing story of OWITF.