BREAKING NEWS

The TST is pleased to announce that Br. Francis Hall has been appointed by the CLT as the Project Manager and Br. Declan Power as the Deputy Project Manager of the work of the TST. These appointments have been made to streamline the work of the TST and to ensure that goals, targets and outcomes are being clearly stated and organised in the most efficient manner possible. These new appointments will mean that the TST will now re-shuffle the various portfolios to free up Francis and Declan to undertake these new roles. We wish them every blessing in this new work.

MORE NEWS FROM THE ORIENTATION PROGRAMME

Last week we celebrated 50 working days of the orientation programme, and below you will find a brief summary of four of the OP training weeks.

WEEK 5

This week was devoted to the theme of advocacy within a marginalized community. The workshop was run by Br. Moy Hitchen and Mr. Ponisa Kawanga from the Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection. Mr. Kawanga was particularly interesting as he comes from Western Province where the first cluster is to be established. He stressed the need to work in partnership with the local traditional leaders as well as with the civil and ecclesiastical leaders. Moy, from Edmund Rice International offered a rights-based approach to advocacy as well as stressing the rights of the earth community.

WEEK 6

The main focus for week six was African culture. There were four speakers over the four days with each one taking an aspect of culture: Lozi culture, African worldviews, Zambian traditional religions, and intercultural communication. The challenge facing the
Brothers is to enter into what is a very different culture with an open mind, and to respect the differences they encounter when they arrive in Western Province.

On the Thursday of that week, the Brothers were invited to write an integration paper. The aim of this exercise was to afford the Brothers the opportunity to look back over the previous weeks of the OP and reflect on how the various inputs had impacted on their thoughts and feelings.

**WEEK 7**

Sr. Lynette Rodrigues and Br Tony Hempenstall were the animators of the week-long workshop on the new cosmology. This workshop proved to be a highly creative and stimulating time for the Brothers when they came to understand how vital it is to recognise the various cosmologies that exist, and how each of these has an impact on how we see God.

**WEEK 8**

Mrs. Lubinda Tafira and Br. Donal Kirk gave a very interesting and challenging workshop on ‘Integrating our Sexuality’. Donal was particularly insightful in the way he linked sexuality and the Universe Story. He focussed on the energy that is fruitful and which offers religious the challenge to live their celibacy in a free and fruitful way.

Mrs. Tafira dealt with sexuality in an African context, and explained how religious are viewed by local communities. She emphasised how important it would be for religious to earn the respect of the local community by the
way the Brothers live their religious lives.

Later on in the week, David Gibson explored the dynamics of group interaction with the group. He pointed out that the Nairobi Chapter invites Brothers to be gentle, compassionate, loving and intimate with each other. The Proposition speaks of vibrant and cohesive communities. David said that often the dynamics of the group prevented the creation of these qualities and led to communities being far from vibrant and cohesive.

MEETING OF AFRICAN LEADERSHIP

The CLT arrived in Lusaka for a three-day meeting with the Leadership of the African Province. Donal Kirk represented the TST at what turned out to be a very significant meeting. The first day involved group sharing on three important questions:

What gives me life?

What are the catalysts that are helping me to get there?

What are the blockages that are preventing me from getting there?

Brothers shared on how challenging it will be to overcome the blockages and face the challenges of implementing OWITF.

Donał spoke of the new clusters of communities that could be a prototype for the future of the brothers in the developing world. He said that these clusters involve a radical shift for everyone, and that leadership needs to prepare the Brothers to enter into these clusters. He invited the leadership to encourage Brothers to go to the Orientation Programme in India in January 2017.

NEWS FROM THE WESTERN PROVINCE

Ruvan and Donal continue to work at renovating the community houses in the West. Because of the time pressure to complete this task, Br. Dominic Sykes has kindly agreed to take over the task of renovation. We
are very grateful to Br. Alfred Banda and his team for making Dominic available, and to Dominic for agreeing to interrupt his present work to move West and undertake this task of preparing the houses for the new communities.

MEETING IN DUBLIN

Ruvan represented the TST at a meeting in Dublin to learn about Project Cycle Management. The training was facilitated by Mr Eamonn Casey and organized by Edmund Rice Development in partnership with ERFA. It was well represented by people from across the congregation carrying roles as development officers and leadership.

The purpose of this training was to understand different elements of Project Cycle Management and how it is implemented as a new way forward for the new ministries. The participants shared their experiences of success and failure. Group discussion was around role and responsibilities, monitoring and evaluation, reporting and compliance. The skill of project management has become a vital skill for OWITF and especially for the TST.

At the conclusion of the work, a special evening ‘Celtic Nights’ show was organised to give the participants a taste of Irish culture. Over all, it was a worthwhile experience.

DRAWN BY MYSTERY, DESTINED FOR LIFE

The second volume of the Drawn by Mystery, a collection of reflections on the calls of the Nairobi Chapter, has recently been published, and both volume I & II are available in book form or in Kindle, and can be purchased on Amazon. Volume III, the final volume will be available in December. Again, it is a credit to the many people who wrote articles that we have such a rich source of reflection on the Chapter calls.