GREETINGS FOR 2017!

We wish all our readers a very Happy New Year and pray that the spirit of Edmund may inspire us all in living Our Way into the Future. 2017 is going to be an exciting year as we embark on a journey in India to establish the second cluster of communities.

The brothers who have volunteered for the second Orientation Program are currently participating in a Placement Program organized by their Province/District. We will have more on that in our next Bulletin. You will find fresh updates on this and much more on our Facebook group “Journeying Together’.

CONDOLENCES

While in India, Francis received the news of his mother Jo Hall’s worsening condition, and flew home to be with the family. His mother died peacefully aged 92 on 13 January in the presence of her loving family. May she rest in peace. Francis was in England with his family till after the funeral which was on the 26th of January.

LIFE IN THE TST

Looking back over the year, we have indeed had an interesting and challenging time in our journey together. There have been many changes in our life and work, and even in the composition of our team. This moment of reconfiguration has been, we know, a difficult yet blessed time for all on our team.

The TST has faced the challenge of forming community among ourselves while living in different parts of the world. And yet distance has not prevented us from growing as a community, and our commitment to our weekly check-ins, our business Skype calls and the constant flow of emails have kept us connected.

We reported in Bulletin 17 on our month together in Lusaka in October. This commitment to spending two months each year together is another
effective way of growing in Brotherhood. From the month of February, the TST will be living in Shillong, India. The Indian PLT have generously given us MIQ Study House as our residence for the year.

**TST-CLT MEETING**

In the first week of November, the members of the CLT and Dean were in Lusaka to meet the TST. Various aspects of the project were discussed. One of the decisions taken was to end the Review Team as they had achieved their mandate of initiating conversations on the new Governance model in Zambia and India. During that week, the CLT-TST were joined by the Hub community and the DLT of South Central District to discuss implications of the change of Governance structure. These meetings were ably facilitated by Mrs. Hedwig Nafula.

Following the meetings, Hugh O’Neill, spent the following two weeks in Western Province visiting the hub and the mission communities. The stay with the mission communities, gave Hugh the opportunity to see what the Brothers were doing, and getting a feel for life in Luampa, Limulunga and Senanga.

The Brothers were delighted to host Hugh and found the visits very affirming. Hugh also spent some good time with the hub community. He was invited by Donal and David to an evening meal in their house in Malengwa.

**PROJECT CYCLE MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP**

The five-day Project Cycle Management workshop presented by Mrs Mpa-la Nkonkomalimba took place at the Limulunga Pastoral Centre. The Brothers of the Cluster were introduced to
this topic by someone who proved to be a real expert in the field.

The Brothers learned how to analyse the various stakeholders who needed to be considered in PCM. Stakeholders with interest and influence are always people who need to be accounted for in planning anything. Mpala then discussed how best to look at the causes and effects of situations of injustice and inequality. By using the problem tree, the Brothers could identify areas that needed to be addressed in their location. From this study, the Brothers discovered the areas they needed to address in their mission planning.

The enthusiasm of the Brothers in being involved in a Project relevant to their community, and developing the skills of Project Cycle Management was noticeable.

**CLUSTER PROJECT ADVISORY TEAM**

The 13th of December marked an important milestone in the Zambian cluster project. The first Cluster Project Advisory Team meeting took place at Hub community house.

The members of the Cluster Project Advisory Team are:

1. Mrs. Moona (Jesuit Centre of Theological Reflection)
2. Mr. Mwimanenwa Mooto (Dean, Barotseland University)
3. Mrs. Mwala (Principal, Mongu Teachers College)
4. Sr. Numba PBVM (Lecturer, Mongu Teachers College)
5. Br. Joe Lauren (Cluster Leader)
6. Br. Mark Cody (Hon. treasurer)
7. Br. Samuel Munyua (Member of the Hub Community)
8. Mr. Martin Silutongwe (Project Coordinator)

The Cluster Project Advisory Team was established to oversee the planning and management of the ministries in the mission communities. We wish to acknowledge the generosity of the members of this Advisory Team in giving their time and expertise to support the work of the mission communities.

**TST IN ZAMBIA**

Donal, Chris and David have been living in Malengwa, near Mongu and have been working with the Brothers of the new Cluster. Donal and Chris visited each of the communities during the month of November and these visits proved very valuable.

On December 8th Donal and Chris attended the renewal of vows of eleven Brothers from the Cluster. Each Brother proclaimed his formula of vows which he himself prepared.

Donal and Chris joined the Cluster Christmas celebrations at the Hub Community House in Mongu on the 23rd of December. The Brothers gathered for a reflection and prayer before sharing a meal which was beautifully prepared. After the meal the celebrations continued with music and singing. The joy of being Brother together was experienced.

**WORKING WITH YOUNG BROTHERS**

Over in India, Sunil visited the novitiate in Bhopal in December and worked with the novices. The three young men were extremely eager to learn more about *Journeying Together* and found the workshop very valuable in understanding the spirituality underpinning it.
Donal and Chris presented a workshop on *Journeying Together* to the Annual Professed Brothers of South Central District. The workshop focused on the ministry aspect of our lives and on the *Mission Framework Document*. A good discussion took place, where the various elements of *Journeying Together* were explored.

**PARTNERSHIP WITH SCD DISTRICT AND INDIA**

Two meetings between the South Central District Leadership Team, the Hub Community and Donal and Chris representing the TST took place since November to discuss and plan the future operations of the Cluster.

The communities of Kabwe, Mazabuka and Livingstone had a visit from Donal and Chris to discuss various aspects of our spiritual search. The theme of community featured largely in the discussions.

In December, Francis, Ruvan and Sunil were in New Delhi for a three-day meeting with the Indian PLT. David, Donal and Chris joined in on Skype. This meeting was very fruitful and beneficial in forming a strong partnership between the teams.

The TST members in India then joined the Province for the Tertianship program presented by Fr. Errol Fernandes SJ. The Jubilee celebrations and the celebration of Final vows were very enjoyable.

We are grateful to the communities in Dadar, Vasai, Delhi and Shillong who were hospitable hosts to the TST during this time. Steve Rocha, Edwin D'souza and the staff of Pratyek, (the Province Social Justice NGO) staff have been extremely supportive of our work and we look forward to working closely with them.

**LOCATION SEARCH IN INDIA**

In August-September 2016, a site-study of the three selected districts (Sonitpur, Assam; Ri Bhoi & West Khasi Hills, Meghalaya) was conducted by four Brothers - Bipin, Lurshai, Sameer and Ruvan - for over six weeks. The
team interacted with Bishops, Priests, NGO personnel, visited 24 villages and recommended nine possible locations to the PLT-TST for the Indian Cluster. The Team’s findings highlighted the security concerns for foreigners wishing to stay in Assam. This led to the decision of the PLT-TST to focus only on Meghalaya for the new Indian Cluster.

Steve, Gussy, Ralph (from the Indian PLT) along with Ruvan and Sunil visited the nine possible sites. They met the people and village leaders, and shared with them about the possibility of the Brothers coming to their village. The people warmly welcomed the team and said that they earnestly wished that the Brothers would come and work with them. A joint report was prepared and shared with both the PLT & the TST.

In December, during a three-day meeting of the PLT and the TST, the Joint Report was discussed and possible locations for the Cluster communities were identified and ranked in order of priority. The respective Bishops and the village communities will be informed soon. The active involvement of the PLT and the brothers of the Province in seeking the new locations has been inspiring.

NEW TST PUBLICATIONS

At present the TST are working on a publication entitled Community Engagement Handbook. The handbook is written for Edmund Rice ministries, especially for those working with people made poor. It is particularly directed to the work of Journeying Together, and can be adapted to mission work in other parts of the world.

A book on the spirituality of Journeying Together is also near completion. This publication explores the spirituality of our Strategy document, and offers rich material for community conversations. We want to thank those Brothers who have contributed to the book, and we hope to have some contributions from the wider Edmund Rice network.

Listening to the village leaders during the visit