



Miss You

VOLUME 16, ISSUE 1

INDIAN PROVINCE NEWSLETTER

Dear Brothers and friends of Edmund,



With great sadness I wish to inform you of the death of Br. Peter Clinch during the night. The Brothers in Rome were contacted by the doctors from Tor Vergata Hospital in the early hours of Sunday (January 28) morning to inform them of Peter's passing, due to what appears to have been a heart attack.

We are very mindful of Peter's family in Australia and our Brothers and friends who have known and loved Peter during his life in the Congregation. Please take this opportunity for personal and community prayer for Peter and his loved ones.

The Brothers in the Rome community will host a wake for Peter on Tuesday 6th. A book of condolences will be available for messages which will later be taken to Oceania.

Peter's body will leave Rome for Melbourne on Wednesday 7th. That afternoon, a more intimate prayer service will be held for those individuals in Rome who knew Peter closely.

Preparations are underway in Oceania for the arrival of Peter's body and the subsequent funeral, tentatively scheduled for the 16th. All the members of the CLT will travel to Melbourne next ten days or so and be present for the funeral, with Visitation of the Oceania Province commencing a week later.

Br. John Casey.



Message from Cissy Gale for her family

Let me go

*When I come to the end of the road
 And the sun has set for me –
 I want no rites in a gloomy filled room.
 Why cry for a soul set free
 Miss me but not for long
 And not with your head bowed low
 Remember the love we once shared
 Miss me but let me go
 For this is a journey we all must take
 And each must go alone
 It's all part of the masters plan
 When you are lonely and sick of heart
 Go to the friends you know
 Bury your sorrow in doing good deeds
 Miss me but let me go.*



Mum

*All I ask of you is to remember me as loving you,
 And love one another*

Cissy

**OUR GREATEST STRENGTH LIES IN THE
 GENTLENESS AND TENDERNESS OF OUR HEART.**
 RUMI





Dear Brothers and friends of Edmund,

Shock and sadness fills our hearts as we mourn the passing on of Peter Clinch, our beloved Congregation Leader and Mrs. Cissy Gale, mother of Frank Gale, who have passed on.

May 2024 be a year of joy, challenge and fulfilment for you.

Let's have a look at the just concluded year. Among the many very significant events, the attack on Israel by Hamas on October 7th. was most surprising considering the billions of dollars spent by Israel on a surveillance system for Gaza that was second to none. Stung by this humiliation, Israel has bombed the people of Gaza with such ferocity that more than 22,000 have

been killed, among them a large number of women and children.

And then there was Manipur, where many people have been killed and thousands have been rendered homeless. After an initial period when the press raised a hue and cry, there has been a strange silence both in the media and among political parties.

On Christmas day, our Prime Minister made a very laudable gesture by inviting Christian church leaders to a get together. Sadly none of those invited had the courage to point out that during the year many churches have been vandalised and members of the minority have been harassed and beaten up by disruptive elements in the country.

The first round of the World Synod was held in October. Pope Francis faces a very formidable task to get church leaders to read the signs of the times and allow the Catholic Church to make the necessary changes required to make it relevant for today.

And then there was COPA 28 that promised much but delivered a watered down statement on Climate change. For some political leaders climate change is a hoax. Listen to Trump and Vivek Ramaswami and you get what I mean.

And not to forget the people of Ukraine who are suffering the effects of a war that was expected to be completed in 10 days and has now dragged on for 2 years and shows no signs of coming to an end.

But yet despite all of the above, there are journalists and activists who are doing their best to make the world aware of what is really happening. A case in point is Mehdi Hassan who was not afraid of challenging people in power. He paid the price by losing his job but this will not stop him from what he has been doing for the last many years.





Pope Francis is also playing a prophetic role in the world today. He wanted to address the delegates at Copa 28 but his Doctors felt it was not advisable.

Ron Rolheiser has an interesting reflection on “When we doubt the power of Prayer”. He gives us two examples of the lives of Therese of Lisieux and Dorothy Day and ends the reflection with “Prayer is a sneaky hidden antibiotic – needed precisely when it seems most useless.”

Yours fraternally

Mark

LOST IS A PLACE TOO

In her book, *Survivor*, Christina Crawford writes: “*Lost is a place, too.*”

That’s more than a clever sound-byte. It’s a deep truth that’s often lost in a world within which success, achievement, and good appearance define meaning and value.

What can that phrase teach us? That sometimes it’s good to be without success, without health, without achievements to bolster us, without good appearance, and even without meaning. Being down-and- out, alone, lost, struggling for meaning, and looking bad, is also a valid place to be.

One of the greatest spiritual writers of all time, John of the Cross, would agree with that. If he was your spiritual director and you explained to him that you were going through a dark, painful patch in life and asked him: “*What’s wrong with me?*” He would likely answer:

“There’s nothing wrong with you; indeed, there’s a lot right with you. You’re where you should be right now: in the desert, letting the merciless sun do its work; in a dark night, undergoing an alchemy of soul; in exile, lamenting on a foreign shore so that you can better understand your homeland; in the garden, sweating the blood that needs to be sweated to live out your commitments; being pruned, undergoing spiritual chemotherapy, to shrink the tumours of emotional and spiritual dead-wood that have built up from wrong-turns taken; in the upper room, unsure of yourself, waiting for pentecost before you can set out again with any confidence; undergoing positive disintegration, having your life ripped apart so that you can rearrange it in a more life-giving way; sitting in the ashes, like Cinderella, because only a certain kind of humiliation

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GENTLENESS AND TENDERNESS OF OUR HEART.
RUMI





will ready your soul for celebration; and undergoing purgatory, right here on earth, so your heart, soul, and body can, through this painful purging, learn to embrace what you love without unhealthily wanting it for yourself."

He'd also tell you that this can be a good place to be, a biblical and mystical place. That doesn't make it less painful or humiliating, it just gives you the consolation of knowing that you're in a valid place, a necessary one, and that everyone before you, Jesus included, spent some time there and everyone, including all those people who seem to be forever on top of the world, will spend some time there too. The desert spares nobody. Dark nights eventually find us all.

Knowing this, of course, doesn't make it easier to accept feeling lost and on the outside, especially in a world in which being successful is everything. That's why it's hard to ever admit, even to our closest friends, that we're struggling, tasting more ashes than glory. Small wonder that our Christmas letters to our friends each year invariably are a list of all that's gone well in our lives and never an admittance of struggle or humiliation.

The need to name being lost as a valid place is important for us, both communally and personally.

In many ways, at least in the Western world, that's exactly where the church is today, namely, in the desert, in a dark night, lost, being pruned, undergoing a purifying alchemy. We're experiencing public humiliation in the sexual abuse scandal, in our greying and emptying churches, and in the strong anti-clericalism inside our culture. We're aging, unsure of ourselves, lacking in vocations, and becoming ever more marginalized.

But that's a place too, a good place to be. From the edges, humbled and insecure, we can again become church.

The same holds true in our personal lives. We have our good seasons, but we have seasons too where we lose relationships, lose health, lose friends, lose spouses, lose children, lose jobs, lose prestige, lose our grip, lose our dreams, lose our meaning, and end up humbled, alone, and lonely on a Friday night. But that's a place too, a valid and an important one. Inside that place, our souls are being shaped in ways we cannot understand but in ways that will stretch and widen them for a deeper love and happiness in the future.

Good wines are aged in cracked old barrels. That's what makes them rich and mellow. They can, of course, go sour during the process. That's the risk. The soul works in the same way and, thus, we might ask whether failure and loneliness, as they shape our souls, need to be re-imagined aesthetically: Are maturity and transformation, growth in beauty, not about more than success, health, having it all, and looking like a million dollars?





Beauty is ultimately more about the size of our hearts, about how much they can empathize, and how about widely and unselfishly they can embrace. To that end, the desert-heat of loneliness is helpful in softening the heart, enough at least to let it be painfully stretched. That happens more easily when we're lost, feeling like unanimity-minus-one, unsure of ourselves, empty of consolation, aching in frustration, and running a psychic temperature. Not pleasant, but that's a place too.

Ronald Rollheiser

AN UNTOLD STORY OF SOFTWARE PROGRAMMING EDUCATION HISTORY IN INDIA



While his 'discovery' of SRK's talents have received much recognition, his significant contribution to education in India remains unknown. It not only deserves documentation, but national recognition, as well.

He has been widely recognized as the man who not only discovered and nurtured SRK's talent – something Shahrukh Khan has acknowledged and honoured in the national media on multiple occasions - but also the talent of many other Columbans who went on to achieve success at the national and international levels. He's been called "Cowa" (The Crow) at Columbas, and "Dasu" in the

Christian Brothers' Northeast schools, but otherwise he's known as Br. Eric D'Souza. This is a brief untold story about a significant contribution Br. D'Souza made to education that not only impacted St. Columba's, but all of India as well – a story that requires documenting and needs to be widely told.

Eric joined St. Columba's' in the early 1980's as the head of the Middle School. Rumour has it that he walked away from a Top 10 IIT JEE rank to join the Christian Brothers. Upon completing his training to be a brother, he was posted to St. Columba's'. If I'm not mistaken, Br. D'Souza's mother was a St. Columba's teacher in the 3rd grade – easily one of the best teachers I've ever had – she's the kind of teacher who made you want to come to school every day. His father was Maj. Gen. Eustace D'Souza, a war

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GENTLENESS AND TENDERNESS OF OUR HEART.
RUMI





hero, who stood to attention with sword drawn in the lead Jeep of the Republic Day Parade – an honour he fulfilled numerous times. These inherited qualities of being an educator extraordinaire, and a leader, were rather apparent in his performance during his tenure at St. Columba's, and even after that while being posted in West Bengal, Mangalore, Assam and Meghalaya.

Being the early 1980's personal computers were becoming the rage. Nerds were starting to become cool, and boys at school would pretend like they knew much about computers – even though none of them had actually even been in the same room as one, let alone touched one. Sinclair Computers had just launched a \$99 PC – with chicklet keys. A sub-\$100 computer was like breaking the 4 min mile barrier. Someone from overseas came to our Middle School auditorium to demonstrate one of these Sinclair machines. We were transfixed to the black & white screen watching a stupid game of pong. It was the most amazing thing we'd ever seen! We all swore we would write such an equally cool program one day!

In the midst of all of this was Br. Eric D'Souza – who had brought this computer guy to the school. He announced that St. Columba's was going to start a computer program. Little did we realize at the time that we were going to be the very first school in India to do so.



So, where to get started? Who would be the lucky few to get selected for the class? Naturally, it would be through the standard desi way of doing thing – a test – an aptitude test to be precise. 25 boys from each year of Classes 9th through 12th would be selected, for a total of 100. The test was completed, and we waited for the results.

With a last name that starts with a V, I was the last name to be announced from Class 10. Yaaaaa! Just 25 of us from Class 10 were part of the new elite! (For the record, I was the worst software programmer I've ever known – a skill that eluded me even at IIT – where I had to enlist the help of my CompSci dorm mates to develop my Structural Engineering software programs! (2))

Next, Br. D'Souza had to raise the funds to procure computers – which as you can imagine cost a pretty penny in the 1980s. St. Columba's resorted to the time-tested method of funding – do a musical. And who better to direct it than Superbrother Eric D'Souza himself (yes, the man's talents knew no limits!). The musical was "Smike" – and was based on Charles Dickens' Nicholas Nickleby. With Eric as Director,



the musical was a hit, and the school raised the few lakhs of rupees it needed to acquire a computer





system.

The computer was made by Usha (or was it Usha Rectifier?), and came with 2 floppy drives. One was a standard 5 ½ inch size, and the other was a massive one – the size of a 33 RPM record. Thankfully that size was soon discontinued by the industry, and Columba's returned that drive to the manufacturer for a refund (I hope!). The computer was housed in the basement of the Middle School, and entering the AC room where it was housed was like going into the promised land.

Br. D'Souza began our classes and the programming geniuses soon emerged. Arul Menezes, (Batch of 1984) took to programming like a fish to water. (He went on to not only become the Gold Medalist from IIT Bombay (a pretty decent school!), but also the best incoming grad student at Stanford, and eventually a scientist extraordinaire at Microsoft.) One day, Arul was sent to some company to acquire a stack of floppies. The CEO of the company was amazed to see a high school kid come in and ask for computer peripherals, and apparently after a discussion with Arul, ended up donating the stack of floppies to the school.

Throughout all of this, Br. D'Souza not only continued his duties as headmaster of the Middle School, but was also developing a computer programming curriculum for the school on the side. He ended up not only writing a text book on the topic, but managed to get computer programming established as an ISC board level class – firmly establishing St. Columba's as the first school in the history of India to provide high school education in computer programming.

Sadly, Br. D'Souza's health has recently taken a turn for the worse. He is currently living in Goa at Shanti Niwas, the Home for the Aged for seriously ill brothers, and requires constant care, which he thankfully has. He is unable to visit with or converse with anyone.

Today, when you realize that India is a computer programming behemoth, practically no one realizes or even knows that computer programming education was first thought of and made a reality in India's high schools due to the vision, and tenacity of one Br. Eric D'Souza. Sure, there may have been others who "thought" about it before he, but Eric made it actually happen – all the way from instilling excitement amongst his students, to obtaining the funding to actually buy a computer, and finally developing the content and program to formalize computer programming education at a national board level, thereby legitimizing the program nationwide. While India has grown into the largest software development nation in the world, and much will be written about



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GENTLENESS AND TENDERNESS OF OUR HEART.
RUMI





the history of this industry sector in India, let's not forget this contributing spark lit by Br. Eric D'Souza in bringing software programming to the schools of India.

Hubert Vaz-Nayak - Columba's, '85

Hubert Vaz-Nayak is a serial entrepreneur. He has been involved in starting up several companies including Convergys, Eclipse Network, and most recently Graviti Energy – a rapidly growing EV charging infrastructure manufacturer and operator. He also owns several additional businesses in Texas, and runs a large angel network of investors. Hubert is the President of the USCAF.

A THEATRICAL ODYSSEY

A play on Shakespeare's Macbeth by the students of St. Vincent's School, Asansol.

As we proceeded towards the pinnacle of our scholastic calendar --- the annual function, we were faced with the most challenging part ---- the choice of a play to be enacted on stage by the students of classes 9 and 11.

Selecting the right play for the stage is akin to navigating a complex artistic puzzle, requiring careful consideration of themes, audience and the skills of the cast. Our sole intention was that the audience, which came from different backgrounds would be able to connect with the play. When the decision to present Macbeth was made, the realisation of challenges involved added a layer of complexity. The daunting task of putting together a program for Macbeth involved grappling with the nuances of character dynamics, staging and the technical demands of the production.

Over the course of two intense months, the unwavering commitment of both teachers and students became the driving force behind transforming challenges into triumphs. Coordinating numerous actors for a seamless performance posed logistic hurdles yet the ensemble's synergy shone through, reflecting the collaborative spirit. Set designs, props and relevant costumes helped to transport the audience to another era. Technical intricacies from lighting to sound effects and appropriate backgrounds were meticulously managed to enhance the overall experience.

The students, too, embraced the challenge with enthusiasm and resilience. Their





commitment to mastering the intricate dialogues, embodying the characters and collaborating on stage logistics reflected not only their artistic prowess but also a commendable sense of teamwork. The culmination of this collective effort was the breath-taking realization of Macbeth on stage.

The play's underlying themes of unchecked ambition and the consequences of power resonated with the present day. In a world grappling with political intrigue and moral dilemmas, Macbeth's journey mirrored contemporary struggles, drawing parallels that left the audience introspective. The emotions like ambition, jealousy greed, temptation were amplified and presented by a contemporary dance and through relevant songs like Jealousy by Queen, Unstoppable, Bad Liar, Pawns of War sung by the choir, which added to the essence of the play and the aura created on stage. The emotions portrayed were not confined to a bygone era but mirrored the complexities of the human psyche in our modern reality. Lady Macbeth's, unbridled ambition was a reflection of the relentless pursuit of success in today's competitive society. The consequences of moral compromise and the erosion of personal integrity, as depicted in Macbeth offered a poignant commentary on the ethical challenges we face in the 21st century.



Some scenes were nothing short of a theatrical marvel, a testament to the dedication and talent of the students.

- The witch's scenes were a captivating dance of mystique and prophecy, wherein the students embodied the supernatural allure with haunting precision.
- The dagger scene, a masterful rendition of Macbeth's descent into hallucination unfolded with an eerie intensity. The student portraying Macbeth skillfully conveyed the torment of conflicting desires, making the invisible, tangible for the audience.
- The murder of Duncan unfolded with gripping intensity and as Macbeth grappled with

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GENTLENESS AND TENDERNESS OF OUR HEART.
RUMI





his emotions in the aftermath of Duncan's murder, the student actor conveyed a complex tapestry of guilt, paranoia and remorse.

- Lady Macbeth's portrayal was particularly compelling, capturing the character's ruthless determination and she, succumbing to insanity, haunted by her guilt was a poignant display of emotional depth and showcased a visceral unravelling.
- The portrayal of Birnam Wood moving was a visual spectacle that demonstrated creativity and ingenuity. Through clever choreography and stage design, the seemingly impossible was brought to life, translating Shakespeare's fantastical imagery into a tangible and breathtaking reality.

A heartfelt thank you to the brilliant student actors whose dedication and talent brought the characters of Macbeth to life, infusing the stage with emotion and authenticity. Kudos to the skilled choir whose voices added a haunting dimension to the production. A special appreciation for the technical team whose behind-the-scenes mastery illuminated



the stage and to the volunteers' backstage whose efforts with props and mics were invaluable.

Immense gratitude to the team of teachers: Ms. Japjit Sabharwal, Ms. Silvia Ekka, Mr. Md. Jabir, Mr. Richard Das, Mr. Saikat Sarkar, Mr. Harjit Saha, Mr. Thomas D'Cruz and Mr. Christopher Benjamin, whose collective commitment made the enchanting presentation of Macbeth possible and transformed a vision into a mesmerizing reality on stage. A sincere thank you to our Senior School Coordinator, Ms. Anita Matthew, whose unwavering support and steadfast presence played a pivotal role in navigating the complexities of bringing Macbeth to stage. Her guidance was a steady hand ensuring that each step of the production journey was met with confidence. Gratitude also extends to our esteemed principal, Mr Ravi Victor for the endless support, valuable guidance and insightful inputs

that transformed a conceived idea into a stunning reality on stage, leaving an indelible mark on this student-led theatrical expression.

J. Sabharwal





CONTINUING THE LEGACY

A landmark institution in Vasai Road celebrated its golden jubilee last year and as part of continuing this legacy hosted the Br C Gregory Fernandes under 14 inter school football tournament.

Vasai is famous for its many educational institutions that have completed fifty years of service. Among them is the campus of Saint Augustine's High School (SAHS). Located on the main road this school has over the five decades produced thousands of professionals who are spread out in many parts of the globe. As part of the golden jubilee celebrations, the school management decided to have an annual inter school football tournament so that budding talents in Vasai Road can be identified. The first edition was held last year.

This year the school hosted the second edition on the 3rd, 4th and 5th January, 2024 which was sponsored by the Saint Augustine's Vasai Alumni (AVA).

According to the tournament co-ordinator Sudhir Pillai once upon a time SAHS was a hub of school sports. However, later on, due to various reasons sports took a back seat, and therefore there was this need to recapture the past glory of the school. According to Vilton Remedios, secretary of AVA, the alumni will do everything possible to develop or upgrade the sports facilities in the school campus. Girish Shetty, treasurer of AVA, says that his vision is to introduce all the sports to all the children so that every child will have an opportunity to exploit his, or her, talent in one or two sports.

As for the tournament, fifteen schools competed for the Br C Greg Fernandes Memorial Rolling Trophy, namely, Carmelite Convent School, Nazareth Convent School, Saint Augustine's High School, Notredame High School, Infant Jesus High School, Saint Anne's Convent School, Rustomjee High School, BKS High School, Seven Square High School, Don Bosco High School, Vidya Vikasini English High School (SSC), LVM High



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GENTLENESS AND TENDERNESS OF OUR HEART.

RUMI





School, J B Ludhani High School, Saint Aloysius High School, and Isaac Newton School. What was heartening was that all the teams came with their respective teachers and coaches thus giving the tournament an overall sense of transparency, fairness and earnestness.

The tournament literally got to a flying start with an aero show hosted by the Aqua And Aero Sports Association Of Vasai, led by Samson D'Silva. Miniature helicopters did various maneuvers. A fly past by a small helicopter with tournament banner in tow captured the hearts and minds of the participants.

The tournament was inaugurated by Egbert Pais, an educationist and school sports co-ordinator. Addressing the budding footballers who stressed on the need for discipline and commitment on a daily basis if anyone wanted to achieve sports excellence.



Even though all the participants were young lads yet their knowledge of the game and skills were noteworthy.

Practically all of the matches were hotly contested ones. In the semifinals, it was Augustine's versus Carmelites, and the latter was leading half time 2-0. But a turnaround by Augustine's and they equalled it 2 - 2. It went for penalties and then great saves by Augustine's goalkeeper ensured that it won 5-3 in penalty shootouts. In the other semifinal Notre Dame and Vidya Vikasani SSC had a head to head match till the end, and both defended all the attacks on the goals and were 0-0. This also went to penalties and in penalty shoot out also they got all goals and it was 5-5. Then the sudden death penalty ensured that Notre Dame won 6-5.

In order to provide a free and fair atmosphere, a request was sent to the Palghar District Football Association to provide professional referees who accepted the request and did the needful. The referees did a fine job to keep all the games under good control and there were no controversies or fights over their decisions.

Augustine's won the rolling trophy while Notre Dame was the 1st runner up and Vidya Vikasani was the 2nd runner up.

Br. Greg is fondly remembered by his many ex-students as being their best science teacher and a





gifted sportsman. Hence it was decided that the last major event of the Golden Jubilee Year would be the setting up of the annual school football tournament, and this year the rolling trophy was sponsored and introduced by the AVA.

The tournament was sponsored and totally managed by AVA. Even though it had very little time to get things organized yet all the active members rose to the occasion and gave more than 100 percent of their time and resources to ensure a seamless and flawless tournament. People worked day and night to ensure that all the participants have a taste of a professionally managed tournament. All the players' needs like footballs, nets, etc were procured to set the ball rolling for a tournament that the young lads would remember for quite some time. The rolling trophy was sponsored by the batchmates of 1980 led by Samson Pereira. Refreshments were made available for all those who were on the field. A medical person was also arranged for any emergency need.

On its part, SAHS prepared two football grounds and provided student volunteers to run around and take care of all the needs of the visiting teams.



The tournament ended with a prize distribution ceremony presided by the school principal Br. Vinay Kedia. The Golden Gloves trophy went to goalkeeper Amstel Pinto of Carmelite Convent High School, and the Golden Boots trophy was bagged by Vilario Alphonso of SAHS, who scored the maximum number of goals while Trevi Nunes of Notre Dame was nominated as the "Player of the Tournament".

Biju Cherian

GO FOR IT MEETING

From the 4th to the 6th of January

A much-diminished GFI (50%) met at ER Centre, in early Jan. They discuss the nuances of their lives for the better part of two and a half days. Sharing and discussions took

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GENTLENESS AND TENDERNESS OF OUR HEART.
RUMI





place with much fervour. Enthusiasm of the group was hyped with a concluding visit to the chapel of the three Kings at Cansoulim.

Larry outspoken-ness was contrasted with Jockey's quiet demeanour. Tino breezed in and out from Chora. Jerome arrived after some due diligence with a lady. (Oh! Sorry fact check not

done) Willie, the most travelled in the group, had many a story to tell. Placid (to be renamed "Pathhar") anchored the group and applied the rudder when necessary. Raj , who has almost become a permanent member of ER Centre , surprised the group with his interjections.

Among topics discussed were: good practices in community, appreciation of different personal spiritualities, encouraging vocations, support to our formators, encouragement and support of lay people involved with our institutions, using our personal giftedness by giving short programs, concern and appreciation of our senior brothers and the expansion of Shanti Nivas to accommodate senior lay people.

Evenings were spent on the sands of Bogmallo with the appropriate sun downer at the local shack. All discussed, all fired up, all solutions arrived at, the group dispersed for the 4 corners of India with the same fervour as the Apostles after they witnessed the resurrection.

Post script: a stern warning to the absentees that their membership would be forfeited if they failed to appear for the next meeting.

Raj Noronha





Pilgrims Meet

14th and 15th of January 2024

The Pilgrims met at the Edmund Rice Center for 2 days of sharing on our lives as Brothers. Each day started with a short reflective prayer prepared by Frank on the 1st day and by Len N. on the 2nd.

We had in all 3 sessions of about 90 minutes where each brother shared on what he had experienced about the mystery called God during the year 2023.

The Pilgrims also decided to have their next meeting either before or after the Province Assembly in 2024.

Grateful thanks to the Co-ordinator Lenny Lobo and the Logistics Manager Wilfi D'Souza.



Clockwise; Wilfi,, Gerard, Mark, Lenny L, Philip, Gabes, Martin, Len N, Tom, Bob, Con, Frank

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EDMUND RICE

Probably the greatest man of the nineteenth century

What I like about Edmund

Is that there is so much to like.

What I admire about this man is

That what he did he did wholly.

**You want one committed to a scorned
country's rescue?**

You want one who gave known addicts dignity?

You want one into self-sacrifice to educate street brats?

You want one kind to the hidden impoverished?

As one who handled millions among millionaires

and gave it all for the belittled penniless,

As one whose wife fell to an early fever

and fostered an ill daughter for all his days,

As one noted for his fidelity to his religion

and friendly to those of different persuasions,

As one who established a first among brothers

and perpetuated the uplift of a despised nation,

I am proud to give you a misunderstood villager, Edmund.

I am proud to give you his inspiration, the villager, Jesus.

I am proud to give you the great saint, Brother Edmund Rice.

I am proud to call his present-day brothers my own.



Brendan

