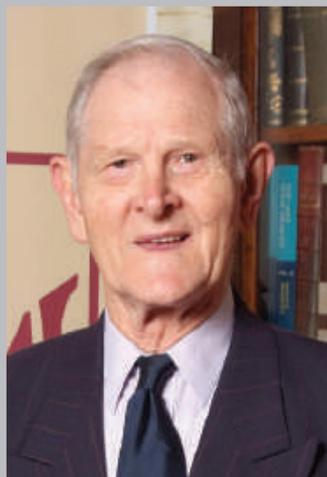


Jubilarians



Brother Matthew Feheny
Platinum



Brother Benildus Fenton
Platinum



Brother de Lellis O'Sullivan
Platinum



Brother Bede Minehane
Diamond

Blessed Edmund Rice Prayer During the Time of the Coronavirus

O God, we thank you for the life of Blessed Edmund Rice.

He opened his heart to Christ present and appealing to him in the poor.

He lived through times of revolution, disease, and famine.

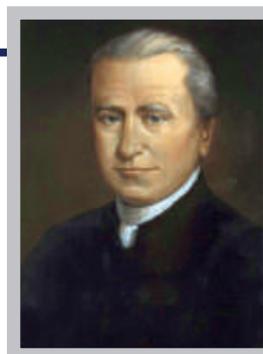
May we follow his example of faith and generosity during this time of the coronavirus pandemic.

Grant us the courage and compassion of Blessed Edmund as we seek to support one another, protect the vulnerable and overcome this virus.

Bring those who have died into the fullness of your love in eternal life. Comfort the bereaved. Grant health to those who are sick.

Bless health care personnel and all essential workers who bring healing and hope to people at this time.

We make this prayer through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.



A message from Brother Raymond Dwyer

As we celebrate the Jubilees of Brothers Bede Minehane, Benildus Fenton, De Lellis O'Sullivan and Matthew Fehenehy, we congratulate them for reaching these wonderful milestones in their respective religious life's journey. They have a combined total of 270 years of religious service. On behalf of the Province Leadership Team, I congratulate them and wish them all the best as they reflect back on their lives.

The year 2020 is a year that we will surely remember for a very long time. It started with the economy at an all-time high, unemployment was at its lowest, people were planning for the summer and all of a sudden the roof came in. Covid-19 came on our radios, televisions and newspapers, protecting ourselves from this pandemic became the norm: washing our hands, social distancing and other directives were being conveyed to us daily. As we came to realise that this virus was not going away, our lives as we knew them have changed and we are now following new norms and guidelines that are keeping us safe and well.

I take this opportunity to express the sincere gratitude of the Brothers to you, all members of staff of our Community Houses, for all that you are doing for us during this extraordinary time of Covid-19. You are our frontline workers; we cannot thank you enough for keeping the Brothers healthy, safe and well.

May the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave his life for us, protect us all in these unprecedented times. And with Pope Francis, we pray to Mary, *"Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test – and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin"*.



Brother Benildus Fenton

I was born in Co. Limerick in 1931 and having completed my primary & secondary education, I entered the Novitiate on Aug 12th 1948. Two years later I was sent to the De La Salle Training College, Waterford. Having completed my training as a teacher, I spent most of the next forty years teaching – 'dancing in the front lawns of your people's minds', as Byran McMahon so aptly put it.



I love this traditional African Prayer: *'Let us take care of the children for they have a long way to go; let us take care of the elderly for they have come a long way; let us take care of these in between for they are doing the work. Amen.'*

I am one of those elders now; it all began for me in Presentation College Junior School, Cork followed by Birr, Greenmount, Milltown and Kinsale.

I spent a year in Mount St Joseph before I was asked to do a Formation Course in Bellinter, Co. Meath prior to being appointed to the Novitiate in Coláiste Muire. Following three years there, I was appointed to Maiville, Greenmount, Scoil Chríost Rí, St. Joseph's and Pres Junior School.

My final appointment as a teacher was to Cobh as Principal where I spent five years before retiring in 1992. I then went to Milltown for two years before finally returning to Maiville. I worked in promotion of devotion to Blessed Edmund during those two years.

I enjoyed my years as teacher and Principal and I consider it a privilege to have worked with so many excellent teachers and pupils.

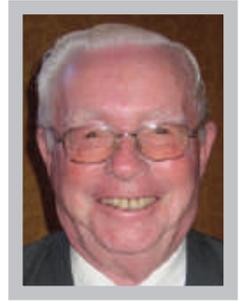
I also liked to travel and see new places. We camped for many years and attended folk dance festivals in many countries in Europe.

I had a wonderful holiday in Florida, Kentucky and Canada with Brother Clement and my cousin, Joe Quirke. In 2000, I celebrated my Golden Jubilee in St. Lucia, West Indies with my fellow Jubilarians. Brothers Matthew and de Lellis are still with me today as we celebrate our Platinum Jubilee.

I give thanks to God for the past seventy years and the gift of being alive to celebrate this day and for all those who have helped me on the way and especially Brother Bede, my Community Leader and Diamond Jubilarian.

Brother de Lellis O'Sullivan

For many Irish-born Presentation Brothers, the month of August is a very special month in their lives. It is the month in which they pronounced their vows as Presentation Brothers. Today three of us are privileged and blessed to be able to renew our vows which we first pronounced seventy years ago. In doing so, we remember especially our three colleagues who were with us for our diamond celebration in 2000 and who have since gone to their heavenly reward: Brothers Clement McCarthy, Liam Quirke and Gerard Jones.



During these past seventy years many changes have taken place in both Church and civil society. I am very grateful to the good Lord for the many graces and blessings bestowed on me during those years, and to my fellow Presentation Brothers for their help and encouragement at all times, both good and bad. A special thank you to my own family members, many of whom are already gone to their reward, but their good work is being faithfully carried on by the next generation.

During my Novitiate years, we were given periodic updates on our most recent foreign mission in the West Indies. It never dawned on me then that someday perhaps I might end up there. I did the Leaving Cert exam in 1950; that was followed by three years of study in UCC for a B.A. degree and then a further year for a H.Dip. Around that time new recruits for the WI mission were being sought. Since then another date in August is a fixture in my mind. On Friday Aug, 13th 1954, Brothers Jerome Kelly, Ligouri O'Mahony and myself sailed down Cork Harbour on our way to the West Indies. Three days later we boarded a banana boat at Southampton and began the long journey to the Caribbean, arriving in Trinidad on Aug 28th. For the next sixty-two years my work as a Presentation Brother was centred in the West Indies, 53 years and Peru, 9 years. They were sometimes difficult and dangerous years but generally very rewarding years.

Grenada in particular was politically unstable. In 1979 the lawfully elected government was overthrown by a leftist group led by Maurice Bishop, a past pupil of our school. They were overthrown after four years by a more radical group. The end result was the murder of Maurice Bishop and several of his ministers by the rebel faction. The population now lived in utter fear; schools and business places were closed and tensions were high. Within a few days American soldiers began to arrive in great numbers. Some of them occupied our school grounds and were very cooperative at all times. The US presence remained for some time until democracy was restored.

Another rather frightening and unpleasant experience was a disastrous earthquake in Peru on Sun 31st May 1970. It happened shortly after a world cup soccer game in Mexico had just ended. In a matter of minutes, over 65,000 people lost their lives, some 15,000 being buried alive in ferocious landslide that covered the village of Yungay. Fortunately we in Lima weren't badly affected but certainly felt the shock.

During the early months of 2015 I had noticed an unusual eye problem. At first I thought that a change of glasses was needed but soon discovered that local eye specialists could neither diagnose nor treat the problem.

I immediately returned to Ireland and within three days the problem was diagnosed as macular degeneration and treatment began immediately in the form of intravitreal injection in both eyes and it worked wonders for me. However this is an ongoing monthly treatment not available in WI – hence my earlier than planned return to Ireland. I got a very warm welcome from the Mount St. Joseph Community; for this I am indeed very grateful.

In October 2016 I got a formal transfer to the Anglo Irish Province and in Summer 2017 I transferred to the Maiville Community. Living in such a large Community was a new experience for me but I had nothing to fear because all the Brothers and staff have helped me in the usual Presentation Brothers style to make me feel at home. Muchisimas gracias a todos.

Brother Bede Minehane

My mother once asked me, ‘are you happy as a Brother?’ I surprised myself with my answer; ‘I am very happy, this is a fabulous life with lots of opportunities’.



Her sister, my aunt, wanted me to be a priest but for some inexplicable reason it held no attractions for me even though an uncle in America offered to pay my way through seminary. The quality of the men I met in Douglas really convinced me to proceed to Novitiate – especially Brothers Aquinas and de Sales.

Even though a very shaky foundation in Maths and Science from Brother Aengus left us ill-prepared for a science course in UCC, the group solidarity helped us along. Much later I came to realise that I should really have studied Arts but corrections in Maths and Science took far less time; and time was of the essence when training teams after school. I really enjoyed the teaching but was appointed to school leadership at the age of 35 and I have been in some form of leadership ever since.

School Principalship was a taxing but very rewarding experience. So indeed was Provincial and Congregation Leadership. I was involved in amalgamations in both roles – amalgamating schools in Cobh and amalgamating the Irish and English regions into the Anglo Irish Province. These involved a lot of change and some resistance and healing of hurts. I found solace in the saying of St. John Henry Newman, ‘to change is to grow and to change often is to be perfect’.

I was assigned the role of liaison person between our CLT and the Christian Brothers and the Pres. Sisters. This led me into Programmes such as Trasna, Tóir and RUAH where I met some fabulous people – some of whom became life-long friends. I was also involved in travel to Conferences in many parts of the world.

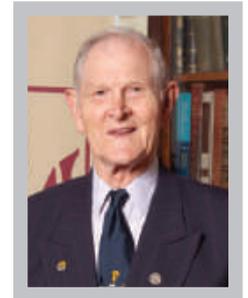
My guardian angel was particularly involved in my life when I was guided to a Catechetical course in Mount Oliver in 1972 and later to a Renewal Course in Sangre de Cristo in New Mexico in 2000. It was here I met Fr. Richard Rohr who has been one of my gurus ever since and whose recent book ‘The Universal Christ’ had helped me to integrate many strands of spirituality in my life.

Amazing opportunities continued to surface throughout my life as I moved from one assignment to another and from one Community to another. There have been times of real bereavement at the loss of dear friends with whom I shared Community and indeed at the closure of Community houses with which I had been involved. Many of those friends with whom I shared Novitiate have since passed away. I remember in particular today the two Brothers who celebrated our Silver Jubilee in 1985, Brothers Colm Taft and Michael McGrath.

Little did I know what opportunities would come my way when answering my mother’s question. I could sum it up by saying ‘there was never a dull moment’. Moladh go deo le Dia.

2020: Platinum Jubilee of Profession

This year, on 12th August, 2020, I am celebrating the Platinum (seventieth) anniversary of my religious profession as a Presentation Brother. The actual celebration is necessarily somewhat muted because of the Covid-19 pandemic. It is an unusual time and one likely to be a landmark in human history.



But these few words are not intended to discuss the pandemic, merely to put the present in context. Looking back over several generations, what do I now think of life, and more particularly my life as a Presentation Brother? I think life is wonderful, full of mysteries, yet permitting its secrets to be revealed by people who use the gifts God has given them. Though I know that my soul is unique, Pope Francis has told us that all living organisms on earth are genetically related. I thank God that I was around to witness some of the greatest discoveries in the world; the fact that the universe is around 13.8 billion years old; that everything in the universe is in a state of continuous flux, either changing or moving, and that permanence is only apparent. This conviction has enabled me not only to be comfortable with but even to welcome the everchanging nature of life, both material and spiritual.

I have witnessed enormous advances in technology. A member of the staff here in Maiville takes my temperature every morning by pointing an instrument like a gun at my forehead; I can speak to and see the faces of my superiors on my smartphone. The pedometer app in the same phone tells me how many steps I have walked in the day. I find that every fact I want to consult is in the little smartphone in my pocket. I regard it as one of the world’s greatest libraries and as one of God’s great gifts to humanity. Moreover, consequent to Moore’s Law, it has more power than the computer which controlled the Apollo 11 Moon landing on 20 July 1969.

But apart from the material things in life, what is my mature judgement on religious life and my own life’s journey? A late realisation in life for me is that God is infinitely compassionate, forgiving and loving. I believe that I eventually encountered Him in the course of my life’s journey, though, admittedly, I must have passed him by unnoticed many times as I hurried by. I believe that God has allowed me to make many mistakes in life, but, ironically, it is through my mistakes that He has made intimate contact with me. I am glad that He led me into the Presentation Brothers, because, perhaps without my noticing it, this mode of life has enabled me to realise all my ambitions and to eventually begin to grow into the person God intended me to become. I believe that in the next life, I will be reunited with all the members of my family, all my past students and friends and all the Presentation Brothers. In fact, I feel that I would be less than fully happy if any of them were absent.

So, in conclusion, I say thanks to all I met on life’s journey. Thank you all especially for being so kind and helpful to me. May God reward you and may He reveal his loving tenderness to you.

Brother John Matthew Feheny

The L.E.A.F. Project - Learning And Growing

On 14 July 2020, the L.E.A.F. Project hosted the 'Emmaus Lecture' on Zoom. This marked the first anniversary of the Presentation Brothers Leaders & Formators Conference, held at the Emmaus Retreat & Conference Centre, Dublin, in July 2019.

Our guest speaker was Msgr. Ciarán O'Carroll, former Rector of the Pontifical Irish College, Rome. Msgr. Ciarán is now back in Ireland, working as Vicar for Priests in the Archdiocese of Dublin. He spoke on: 'The Church in a Post-Pandemic World - Challenges and Opportunities'.

People joined this Zoom event from ten countries across the world and participants included many who were connecting with the Presentation Family for the first time. The lecture evoked a hugely positive response, offering people hope and encouragement at this challenging time. The following sample of feedback comments gives a flavour of the response:

"It was a great help to have someone of Msgr. Ciarán's calibre reflect back on the shared journey to date since Pope Francis' extraordinary Urbi et Orbi address (27 March) and to gather up aspects of the experience and reflect on same in a coherent way. To all of us seated in the virtual pews, his talk seemed like a watershed moment ... As a result of his gathering up the fragments of the last few months "into 12 baskets," I feel more prepared and more positive about engaging with the frontiers of mission thrown up by COVID-19."

"Once again, thank you for your generosity in letting those of us who are outside the Presentation Family share in the richness of what you are doing in the L.E.A.F. Project. I don't know of anything else like it around at the moment and I pray it continues to develop."

"I am so grateful to you for your excellent organising of the webinar. Ciarán was brilliant and was all that you said about him. I'm glad his presentation will eventually be available. There is so much for reflection and prayer in what he gave us."

L.E.A.F.'s mission is to form and mentor leaders, especially young leaders, who will serve out of a gospel-based vision. We work with Brothers and lay people within the Presentation Family and with many other Church groups and groups in civil society.

When the pandemic hit, the L.E.A.F Project switched to delivering a wide variety of programmes online. There was a great response to our seminars and retreats on prayer, scripture, and leadership lessons from our Presentation history.

In response to the feedback we have received, we will further develop L.E.A.F.'s online community and outreach in the autumn. We hope also to return to venue-based seminars in safely prepared environments when the time is right. We will be guided by the public health advice on this. During the last year we had events in Nano Nagle Place, Mount St. Joseph, the Mardyke House, as well as several schools.

Brother Raymond and the Anglo-Irish PLT have invited L.E.A.F. to develop more programmes at the Mardyke Centre. This is a great initiative. It will allow L.E.A.F. to utilise the Mardyke House as its city centre venue. The facilities are great and the location, close to UCC, will be ideal for many L.E.A.F. events, especially those involving young adults.

The L.E.A.F. Project provides a great way to fulfil our Christian formation mission in the Anglo-Irish Province today. As a charity, the work of the Presentation Brothers through L.E.A.F. clearly shows we are contributing to public benefit. L.E.A.F. is also an excellent vehicle to help the younger Brothers and the younger parts of the Congregation develop sound leadership skills and practices for the future. Our world and our Church need good leadership. We know it when we experience it! Sadly, as we see on our television screens, it is often missing in many countries today, with dire consequences.

I wish to thank the Brothers and leadership at all levels of the Congregation for your support and prayers. I am very grateful for the way Brothers of all ages and units have engaged with the work of L.E.A.F. Other Church groups (Diocesan, Religious and Lay) see what the Presentation Brothers are doing in the L.E.A.F. Project as something very positive and much needed today.

I end with the words of Pope Francis:

"Unless we train ministers capable of warming people's hearts, of walking with them in the night, of dialoguing with their hopes and disappointments, of mending their brokenness, what hope can we have for our present and future journey?"

Brother Martin Kenneally



Brother Simon Fernandes

My experience as a Brother studying in Maynooth University over the past two years has been a mixed journey of being challenged mentally, spiritually, together with being enlightened both spiritually and intellectually. The course that I am pursuing at Maynooth is a Bachelor's degree in Theology and Arts. It is a course that offers a good balance between my own personal faith development and formation and at the same time offers me intellectual and skill development.

Maynooth University is very multicultural. I have gotten to meet people from all different walks of life, from different countries, cultures, backgrounds, religions, and some of no religion at all. Though the university community is remarkably diverse, it is very inclusive at the same time. The students and staff are welcoming and friendly.

Another balance is struck with the difference of environments in the North and South Campuses. I am being challenged by the very secular environment in the North Campus while the South Campus offers an environment of encouragement, support, prayer and familiarity.

Beginning college was a bit challenging, returning to formal education after a six-year break. However, the resources and encouragement helped me overcome most of the challenges I faced. The communal support and structural flexibility provided by my community in Glashule have certainly made things easy on me.

At College I attend St Catherine's Society; it offers an opportunity for some very interesting conversations. These conversations usually start over a game of pool or football and we end up chatting with each other about a variety of topics, some arising from lectures, others just about life as it is being experienced by young people today. As a Religious in the heart of a very secular part of the university, many young people have had conversations with me and have asked me about my story as a Brother and about religious life.

I am also member of the Legion of Mary which holds a meeting once every week; as Legionaries we often do canvassing on campus, distributing prayers and medals or volunteering our time to different activities assigned by the Legion. I am a member of the Pro-Life Society; though the numbers are very small compared to other societies and clubs it is still very assuring to be with like-minded people. I am trying Archery which is quite interesting!

Over the months of Covid-19, the routine of college life has surely changed; studying and attending lectures online from home has certainly become the new norm. The transition was slightly hard, but I have adjusted to it and I am looking forward to the next semester which will be a mixture of online and classroom lectures.

My time in college, thus far, has helped me with my time management, and I cherish the experience of meeting and interacting with different people. It is helping me to think critically about things that I would not have paid much attention to in the past.

All in all, it is helping me be a better version of myself and I am thankful to my Congregation for giving me this opportunity to develop my vocation and improve myself.



Brother Theiva Renews His Vows

We rejoice with Br Theiventhiran (Theiva) as he completes his first degree in Theology at the Pontifical University, St Patrick's College, Maynooth. He has recently received his results, attaining a Second-Class Honours as the final grade. We congratulate Brother Theiva on achieving this milestone in his formation and development.



This year is a significant year for Brother Theiva, as he completes his six years of Temporary Vows and is now due for Perpetual Profession of Religious Vows as a Presentation Brother. In February of this year, all plans and preparations were being made for his Liturgy/Ceremony of Perpetual Profession in his home parish in Sri Lanka. No one foresaw that the world, in a few months, would be experiencing a pandemic. As a result of the restrictions and lockdown caused by the Coronavirus pandemic, this significant event, like many others, had to be postponed. The hope is that he will now make his Final Profession in the summer of 2021. He renewed his vows for another year, with permission

from the Congregation Leader, on May 31st, 2020, in a simple and beautiful liturgy in the community Chapel, Glashule.

Brother Theiva will be the first Sri Lankan to profess final vows as a Presentation Brother. This is a wonderful achievement for the Sri Lankan initiative started nine years ago. We are happy to have these young Brothers living, studying, and ministering in our Province here in Ireland. Their presence is a great sense of hope and new life in this part of the Congregation and the Church in Ireland.

The Brothers who have been part of this project are grateful to the Anglo-Irish Province, the Presentation Family Network and the local Irish Church for your welcome, support and the opportunity to respond to God's Call in the spirit and Charism of Blessed Edmund Rice.



Vocations to the Presentation Brothers

Is God Calling You?

If you are interested in knowing more about becoming a Presentation Brother, please contact:

Brother Barry Noel, Presentation Brothers, Glashule, Co. Dublin, A96 FH67

Mobile: 087 7519794

Website: www.PresentationBrothers.org

E-mail: barrynoel@presentationbrothers.org

Coming Out Of Lockdown

Covid-19 has been a difficult and worrying time for many people. It has been a time of trial, but also a time of grace. Among the bearers of grace have been our frontline workers, especially our medical personnel. One of the most human aspects of the pandemic has been the way in which it has stirred our gratitude for our healthcare workers, especially those who have cared so well for us in our communities.

When Covid-19 hit, our community of six Brothers - Stephen, Eugene, Bernard, Richard, John and myself - prepared for what we imagined would be short-lived but how wrong we were. Once in lockdown, we put a programme in place. Avoiding unnecessary stressors was important. The daily diet of news updates and social media can be draining experiences. Engaging in more life-giving activities decreases stress. Healthy-eating, exercise, connecting with friends and family, up skilling, physical activity, following a schedule, and maintaining a daily rhythm were important.

Our morning prayer was followed by breakfast. Some tuned in to morning Mass, and attended to their own personal or community responsibilities. I believe prayer and meditation often reverse the effects of stress, something we all have in common. Meditation can be a natural form of relaxation, and all prayer reminds us of the meaning of life and our intimate connection to God and others.

In the afternoons, there was the option of a walk in the park or physical activity in our garden. In the evening, we gathered again for prayer, followed by time for evening meal. Sometimes, there was a zoom meeting to attend to. Before retiring, there was an opportunity for reading, listening to music, or catching up on the news of the day. Personally, I like consistency and as we settled into a new normal just like everyone else there were highs, lows, laughs, arguments, time to relax and time to be together.

Here in Killarney, our community lives in the midst of nature. We are blessed with a lovely expansive garden (with a greenhouse) to the rear of our residence. Not everyone is so lucky. The two-acre stretch and greenhouse demand much attention, especially this time of the year; we have grass to be cut, hedges to be trimmed and plants to be attended to, not to speak of green fingers for the fruits and vegetables, all organic of course!

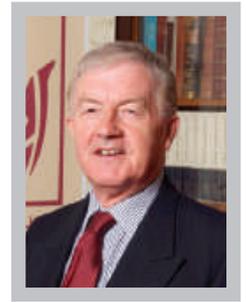
How nature thrived in the absence of human activity! The animal kingdom and plant life 'made hay' while we were in lockdown. How ironic! Creation began to heal itself! It is not a co-incidence that Pope Francis launched a year-long celebration to mark the fifth anniversary of his environmental encyclical, 'Laudato si,' noting that its message was as prophetic for this time as it was in 2015. Apparently, Pope Francis once called the encyclical, 'his love letter to the earth'. As I reflect on this beautiful encyclical again, I believe that human exploitation of the natural world and the rise of the pandemic are inextricably linked.

Personally, I enjoyed the opportunity to see and experience things in a new way. I realise it was not the same for everybody. I was familiar with Skype before the pandemic, but now it's Zoom and I feel I am 'Zoomed out' with virtual meetings. While

it is a very useful facility, nothing can replace the human, social interaction with one another, family and friends.

We have to ease ourselves back into the new reality with compassion for ourselves, our families and for one another while we get used to the new normal in these strange times. This is a marathon, not a sprint, and if lockdown has taught us anything it's that we need to be kinder to ourselves and how we live our lives in the future. We need to take things at a slower pace, if possible. We are here, we are healthy, we are grateful, and being busy every hour of every day is not necessarily something to be proud of.

Brother Rupert O'Sullivan



*This is the time to be slow,
Lie low to the wall
Until the bitter weather passes.*

*Try, as best you can, not to let
The wire brush of doubt
Scrape from your heart
All sense of yourself
And your hesitant light,*

*If you remain generous,
Time will come good;
And you will find your feet
Again on fresh pastures of promise
Where the air will be kind
And blushed with beginning.*

Book of Blessings – John O'Donohue

