

## Reflections on the Word of God

*It would not be right for us to neglect the Word of God – Acts 6,2*

The 70<sup>th</sup> Biannual Assembly of the Union of Superiors General chose as their theme the Word of God in the Life and Mission of the Consecrated person in keeping with the theme for the Synod of Bishops in 2008, “The Word of God in the life and the mission of the Church”. The Word of God is central to our calling and our Mission. We are nourished by the Word of God and in turn reach out to others in ministry.

The theme was developed by three Biblical Scholars **Fr. Innocenzo Gargano OSB, Sr. Dolores Aleixandre RSCJ and Fr. Ludger Feldkamper SVD** as a trilogy: Seized by the Word, Summoned by the Word and Sent by the Word.

To be seized by Christ and His word is to allow Him and only Him to be the absolute Lord of our life. This is an invitation to be transformed into the living Word of Christ himself. When this happens, our life and mission will be a reflection of the gospel and its values.

**“Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.”** To be summoned by the Word is an invitation to be experts in attention. *“Today, more than ever, the Word invites us to open doors and to offer attentiveness, acceptance, warmth and company to a world stiff with cold”*. It is also an invitation to trust that the Word does its work. Detailed planning, efficiency and immediate results are what we look for. But the Lord is inviting us “to discern when we should be active and diligent in the tasks of the Kingdom and when to be patient and passive”. The advice of Oriental wisdom is worth noting: “Do not push the river, it flows by itself”. We must be open and ready to be dazzled by the gratuity of God as in the parable where the labourers who arrived at the last hour received the same wage as the ones who worked all day. We are invited not to fix our eyes on our own merits or work but to allow God to surprise us “with his immeasurable love and fill us with a love which surpasses our merits”.

We are invited to consider the following recommendations and find practical ways of implementing them:

1. Greater effort must be made to correlate the word of God with current world problems or contemporary situations. In what way can the word of God shed light on the current problems of humanity today? In what ways does the present world situation become a hermeneutic for interpreting the Word of God today? Our Chapter Documents invite us to bring to prayer our lived experiences and share our faith together.
2. More emphasis needs to be given at making the Word of God the basis of Christian prayer. A recent evaluation of the forty years of the implementation of the Vatican II Document Dei Verbum notes that the Bible has not yet become a prayer or meditation book of the faithful. That the faithful are not in the habit of reading and praying the Scriptures has also been revealed by a recent survey conducted in Italy, France and Spain. According to the survey, 80% of practicing Catholics, (that is those who regularly attend Sunday Mass) have contact with the Bible only at Sunday Mass. Only 3% read the Bible everyday. What can individuals and communities do to promote the reading of the Bible? Does the study of Sacred Scripture form an integral part of the Religious education curriculum in our schools and formation programmes?
3. There are more and more Bible Study Groups and Basic ecclesial Communities coming together in houses, neighbourhoods, chapels and churches to study, to pray and to share the word of God. Are we willing to join and take an active part in Bible groups in the parish and neighbourhood? Maybe we can open the doors of our monasteries to such groups and allow them to use the facilities we have. Many Basic Christian Communities set themselves a threefold objective: to know the Bible, to create community and to serve people. We would do well to encourage such initiatives.

May we who are called to be Seized by the Word, Summoned by the Word and Sent by the Word be agents of evangelization and help spread the Good News.

**Bro. Jerome Ellens**



**Happy Christmas to all!**



**May the New-born Christ bring Peace,  
Harmony, and Happiness to all our  
Communities, Brothers, Friends and Relatives**

*Jerome Ellens* -- Superior General

*Peter Ryan* -- Vicar General

*James O'Rourke* -- Asst. General

*Edward McCarthy* -- Asst. General

*James Murphy* -- Sec. General

## CALIFORNIA GLEANINGS

Prepared by the California Brothers

Reaching out to the local communities, the Brothers in Midway City facilitate a wide variety of activities to further the Kingdom of God. Base communities gather regularly for Bible study and for prayer sessions. participate in these activities. In retreats, providing their own adults participate in the Divine Occasionally, adolescent sacramental preparation in local parishes and are grateful for Knights of Columbus celebrate members in the chapel. In term practice of taking Holy hospitals and convalescent homes, for adults. All these activities aid with the Lord.



[The attached photo shows Bro. Benedict in his full regalia as a Fourth Degree Knight of Columbus]

Vietnamese and Hispanic adults addition, some have Masses and one-day facilitators. Each Friday a steady group of mercy devotion in the chapel. Confirmation classes have their days of Midway City. All these groups are from the use of the facilities. Likewise, the their memorial mass for deceased addition, the brothers continue their long-Communion to the sick and elderly in as well as providing classes in Scripture the local communities in their relationship

## A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE

Patrick O'Neill

Since the last newsletter I have been six weeks in the new school in Newbridge – Scoil na Daomh Uilig. There are 110 pupils on rolls at present. 60% of the pupils are foreign nationals.

It is a very challenging job working with these pupils as they have very little or no English. I spent a while today teaching two boys – one from Lithuania – Vladik was his name and one from Slovakia – Mori was his name – the basics of subtraction. Unfortunately they had very little English. There are pupils from Slovakia, Lithuania, Brazil, the Philippines, India, Pakistan, Poland and others. At present we are in temporary prefabs but we expect to move into more permanent prefabs during the coming weeks.



Pat and Students



The Witches' Walk

Scoil na Maomh Uilig is an inclusive school – one of only two in Ireland – where disabled pupils are catered for. Despite the difficulties, the staff are very enthusiastic.

We were honoured with a visit by Bro. Jerome and Br. Christopher Dawes. The staff were happy to meet them. We held our witches walk and Bro. Jerome came along and took some photographs. A lot of the pupils had never heard of Halloween. Yours truly dresses up appropriately with the help of an old soutane. On that Friday night

we had a nice social and everyone enjoyed it. Finally I am glad I accepted the job and the experience it has given me.

## Requiescant in Pace:

- Kevin O'Rourke:** Cousin of James O'Rourke, Newbridge
- Jack Caulfield:** Knights of Columbus and close associate of the Brothers in California
- Mrs. Breda Barry:** Sister-in-law of Charles Barry, Fairfield
- Mrs. Margaret Brennan:** Sister of Bro. Rembert Brennan, Tullow
- Mrs. Patricia Whelan:** Staff member, Patrician College, Finglas.
- Mrs. Stacey:** Mother of Mr. Michael Stacey, Principal of Patrician College, Finglas
- Mrs Helen Quinlan:** sister of Brothers Bernard and Gerard Bulfin, (Ryde and Fairfield Communities, Sydney)
- Mr. James:** Supervisor at Mount St. Mary's School, New Delhi
- Mrs. McQuinn:** Mother of Christie McQuinn, past Principal, Community School, Tullow

## KEVIN SCOTT

### A Tribute

Kevin Scott died of cancer on the 15th of October. He had been ill for many months, first with an unrelated oesophagus condition which required radical surgery, and just as he was recovering rapidly from that he was diagnosed with an aggressive cancer. Within a few short weeks of that diagnosis he died.



Kevin Scott

Well, Kevin and Rhonda, thank you! And while your Affiliation into the Congregation is a proclamation by the Brothers of our gratitude to you both for all the work you have done for us, it is really more a thank you for the love you have shown for the Brothers, it is really more our best way of loving you back.

*[Excerpt from Jerome's message prior to Kevin's death]*

For fourteen years Kevin had been researching and writing his "The Green Sash", a quarterly newsletter which concentrated on the early years of the brothers, with special emphasis on the inner-city schools of Redfern, Waterloo, and Forest Lodge. In all, Kevin has written more than 500 pages on the history of the Australian province. He also took responsibility for posting out more than 200 copies to his avid readers.

Kevin has also played a large part in maintaining the inner-city schools Old Boys association. These reunions still take place every year.

For quite a while now the Provincial Council has been discussing how to best acknowledge Kevin's contribution. Affiliation seemed our best response. It was hoped that this could have happened during the BC year, but "man proposes and God disposes."

The Affiliation of Kevin and his wife Rhonda took place at the beginning of Kevin's funeral Mass, held at Holy Cross College, before Kevin's two children, granddaughter, fifteen brothers, and more than 150 friends. Most of the brothers were also able to attend the burial where they sang the "Salve Regina".



Rhonda Scott with Certificate of Affiliation

## GHANA IMPRESSIONS – 2

[George Mangara and Thomas K]

Sixteenth October was an unforgettable day for both of us (Bros. Prakash and Thomas). Jayaseelan kissed the soil of Ghana. We had warned Mr. Biju and Fr. Binoj CMI who had accompanied us to the airport not to look forward to the arrival of an Indian but rather a Ghanaian with Indian features. After a thirty minute wait Jayaseelan came out of Kotaka Airport beaming a big smile and looking much more fair to the chagrin of our own very dear “Rev. Bro. Prakash” who prided himself in the slight variation of darkness that had been the hallmark of Jayaseelan and himself. Thomas had been clicking away and Jayaseelan was hugging along. We felt our romance with Ghana had really taken root. The next best thing we thought to do was to introduce Jayaseelan to Ghanaian dishes. After our lunch we had an audience with the Papal Nuncio who warmly welcomed Jayaseelan and wished the very best for him. The night was spent at the SVD guest house, which seems to be gradually turning out to be the Patrician haunt in Accra. Here we counsel all Pats who would be travelling to Ghana to avail of this place which is very affordable, safe, neat and centrally located.



**Jeyaseelan and Peter meet Bishop Matthew**

The next morning we led him to Sunyani with a short halt at Kumasi.

Jayaseelan put his “right” foot in Delany Fie. Luckily Lydia our Cook and Chef had laid a rather large table and Thomas brought out the local flavor - Ghanaian Bitters. Ghanaian Bitters and Indian stories went a bit late into the night. The ensuing days saw Jayaseelan exploring every nook and corner of small town Sunyani and familiarizing himself with all and sundry.

We really thanked the heavens because both of us were really struggling before the arrival of Jayaseelan as to how to go to Accra and bring him and his luggage since the Pick up the Diocese had offered to us had been at the mechanic’s for far too long and the other vehicle at our disposal, again supplied by the diocese was not suitable to be taken on a long journey. Lo and behold a couple of days before our departure to Accra Fr. Peter Derry, the Financial Administrator brought back our old Mitsubishi with a benign caution that the speed should not exceed 80 km/h. It made Accra still farther.

We got the first shock was when the vehicle refused to move after we had reached Koforidua. We could only wait. And we waited, waited and waited. Finally our buddy budged and we chugged along waiting for the day when we will be provided with a vehicle which is safe to drive and just fast enough to reach places.

Leaving these aside we were now preoccupied with the official arrival of Bro. Peter Ryan just a week later. Preparations began with pre-trip checkups. Our God fearing mechanic who had seen better days of this vehicle gave us a studied counsel and with a bit of hesitation gave us the clearance certificate. Once again we were on our way to Accra maintaining a steady speed of 80 Km/hour. Jayaseelan who had been gazing at the rear view mirror saw and smelt a burning tyre. At the next stop we were advised to change all four tyres. Providence saw us reach Accra.



**Visit to the Indian Sisters at Techiman**

The KLM Flight landed on time but Peter was not to be spotted. A much worried and haggard Thomas rushed back to Prakash who had been guarding the vehicle. It took both of them a few anxious moments to spot Peter who was looking above practically every head and missing those of Thomas and Prakash. But the Indian in Prakash hollered out ‘Peter’ and the Aussie put down his head to locate the source of the yell. We presented him to the Nuncio who also was so generous in offering us a very warm meal.

The following day Peter was escorted to Sunyani. On 22<sup>nd</sup> of October Bro. Thomas took Bros. Peter and Jayaseelan to the Catholic Secretariat to introduce them to the Bishop. The Bishop was overjoyed at the materialization of Jayaseelan in front of his own very eyes. They had a long and meaningful interaction with Bishop Matthew who promised all his support to our venture. For the next few days both of them were taken around to different places. But the most important of them all was our trip to Dormaa to see the 65 acres of land which had been marked for us. The town planner, the Parish priest of Dormaa and the Parish President accompanied us to the location. It took quite a bit of time to walk along the boundary of our property. We are still awaiting the official documents and plans. Peter returned to Ireland on the first of November. Here ends our second episode of the Ghanaian mega serial.

## BISHOP DELANY MEMORIAL SCHOOL

### Kenya gets head start on Bicentenary Celebrations

It was planned to be a prayer day for Fourth Formers about to sit their Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education examinations. Bishop Cornelius Korir the sponsor of the school had agreed to celebrate Mass and be with the students, as far back as June this year. When he heard that the name change to Bishop Delany Memorial School had been sanctioned by the Ministry of Education he said he would announce it on that day, to take effect from January 1st. 2008. The parents of the Fourth Formers had been invited to attend, as well as some other guests from the Education Department and neighbouring schools. All Patrician Brothers in the area were also invited.



**Tom Grogan & Edward McCarthy with Bishop Korir**

Eldoret Harambee is in existence for forty years. In 1994 Education Authorities informed the Headteacher, Bro. Edward McCarthy, that the word ‘Harambee’ should not be used any longer in the school name, since another school by name ‘Eldoret Secondary School’ existed, a new name was required. During a discussion with Bishop Korir on the issue he suggested that Bishop Delany’s name would be appropriate. He said the school was clearly following what Delany had in mind and although not a beatified saint he was as good if not better than most of them. During our Assembly in December 2004 the Brothers sanctioned the name. The process of change then started through the long line of red tape with many snags. It took almost a year to get the sanction of the District Education Board since the school was not willing to part with any cash. The local Health Authorities took almost as long and then it went to the Education Headquarters in Nairobi where it duly got misplaced. Finally the Chairman of the School Board, a past student who benefited from the sale of waste paper in Ireland in the 70’s and now Deputy Vice Chancellor of the local University, contacted the Permanent Secretary for Education and had a long chat with him. Within a matter of days the files were located and the new registration certificate issued.



**Planting of Commemorative Tree**

When Bishop Korir announced, at the beginning of his sermon, that the name ‘Bishop Delany Memorial School’ was to replace the existing name the purpose of the day changed, even though the form fours were still prayed for. Bishop Korir spoke at length on Bishop Delany and his charism. He went on to speak of the Trojan efforts the Patrician Brothers have put into Kenya to educate the underprivileged. He said the Brothers were true followers of Delany. Bro. Paul gave a brief but educative talk on Daniel Delany and outlined the founding of the Brothers and their struggle for survival. Patrician Brothers present were introduced to the gathering--Peter, Walter, Masese, Henry, James, Amoscars, Tom, Paul, Colm and Edward. Bro. Colm gave a brief on what each brother was doing.

Entertainment followed with a Delany theme. A commemorative tree was planted. A token of appreciation was given to the Bishop. Thereafter everybody was given a simple but substantial lunch—all ate from the same pot.

Our apologies to all we may have offended by putting Africa first in the kick off of the Bicentenary celebrations. If this day was anything to go by, then our main celebration in March 2008 will go very well. The name ‘Eldoret Harambee’ will take some time to fade away but all those informed so far are extrememy happy with the transition.

*[Article submitted by Bro. Edward McCarthy, Principal of the school and member of General Council]*

# JUBILARIANS 2008

## 60's



**Benedict Olsen**  
2 Feb. 1948



**Joseph Guidera**  
15 Aug. 1948



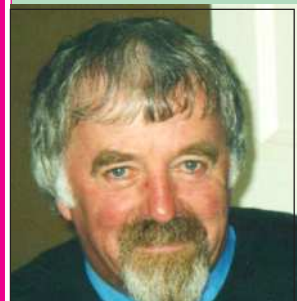
**Aquinas Cassin**  
15 Aug. 1948



**Rembert Brennan**  
15 Aug. 1948

## Congratulations

### 50's



**Patrick O'Neill**  
15 Aug. 1958



**Gerard Bulfin**  
15 Aug. 1958

### 40's



**William Wormald**  
13 Dec. 1968



**Thomas Rice**  
18 Dec. 1968



**Leo Cheruvil**  
23 Dec. 1968

## Ad Multos Annos

### 25's



**Antony Randive**  
18 June 1983



**Paul Kallarachully**  
18 June 1983



**Stanislaus Arulsusai**  
18 June 1983



**George Anchupankil**  
18 June 1983

# LORICANS 2008



**Christopher Dawes**



**Dominic Jacob**



**George Anchupankil**



**Damien Parambeth**



**Felix Nanthikattu**



**Benedict Mavelil**



**Gerard Reburn**



**Fergus Osborne**



**Paul Brennan**



**Nicholas Harsas**



**Domenic Xuereb**



**Martin Harmata**



**Stephen Sweetman**



**Peter Ryan Moderator**



**David Byrne Moderator**

# NEW LEADERSHIP TEAMS

## IRELAND



**Bro. Camillus Provincial**



**Bro. Cormac 1st. Assistant**



**Bro. David 2nd. Assistant**

## INDIA



**Bro. Bosco A. Provincial**



**Bro. Stanislaus Vicar Prov**



**Bro. Christopher 2nd. Assistant**



**Bro. Berchmans 3rd. Assistant**



**Bro. Vincent M. 4th. Assistant**