



WALKING HUMBLY WITH OUR GOD

MISSION INTEGRITY

*Core Statements
and Strategic Directions*



Oceania Province
Christian Brothers

CONTENTS

| | |
|---|----|
| Introduction | 4 |
| Oceania Province Mission Statement | 4 |
| The Values of the Oceania Province | 4 |
| Missiology Framework | |
| Moved by the Spirit | 5 |
| Advancing Mission I | |
| Our Way into the Future | 8 |
| Advancing Mission II | |
| Organisational Response | 10 |
| Advancing Mission III | |
| Strategic Directions | 11 |

INTRODUCTION

'*Walking Humbly with Our God*' is designed to promote understanding about mission intention and practice within the Mission Directorate of Christian Brothers Oceania Province. It is hoped that this document will encourage theological reflection upon the various expressions of mission witnessed in our ministry based responses and services.

The principle of right relationships defines the radical inspiration of Jesus and the movement of Jesus' Spirit alive and active in our midst. The liberatory charism of Edmund Rice underpins our shared mission identity which remains ever responsive to the cry of the poor and the cry of the earth evident in the Congregational Chapter of Nairobi and articulated as '*Drawn by Mystery, Destined for Life*'.

OCEANIA PROVINCE MISSION STATEMENT

The Oceania Province Mission Statement draws its life
and vision from the Charism of Edmund Rice
and the Mission of the Congregation.

*Daring to be disciples of Jesus
and inspired by Edmund Rice,
we, living in solidarity with the whole earth community,
and walking with those whom society has marginalised,
particularly young people,
proclaim liberation and justice for all creation.*

THE VALUES FOR THE OCEANIA PROVINCE

PRESENCE

*Alive to the wonder of all creation
opening us to intimacy with the Mystery of God.*

COMPASSION

*Opening our hearts to and standing in solidarity
with the suffering world.*

LIBERATION

*Freeing and enlivening a world
groaning under the weight of injustice.*



MISSIOLOGY FRAMEWORK – *MOVED BY THE SPIRIT*

INTRODUCTION

The Missiology Framework is intended to stimulate our mission imagination and engage us with theological reflection about our mission practice.

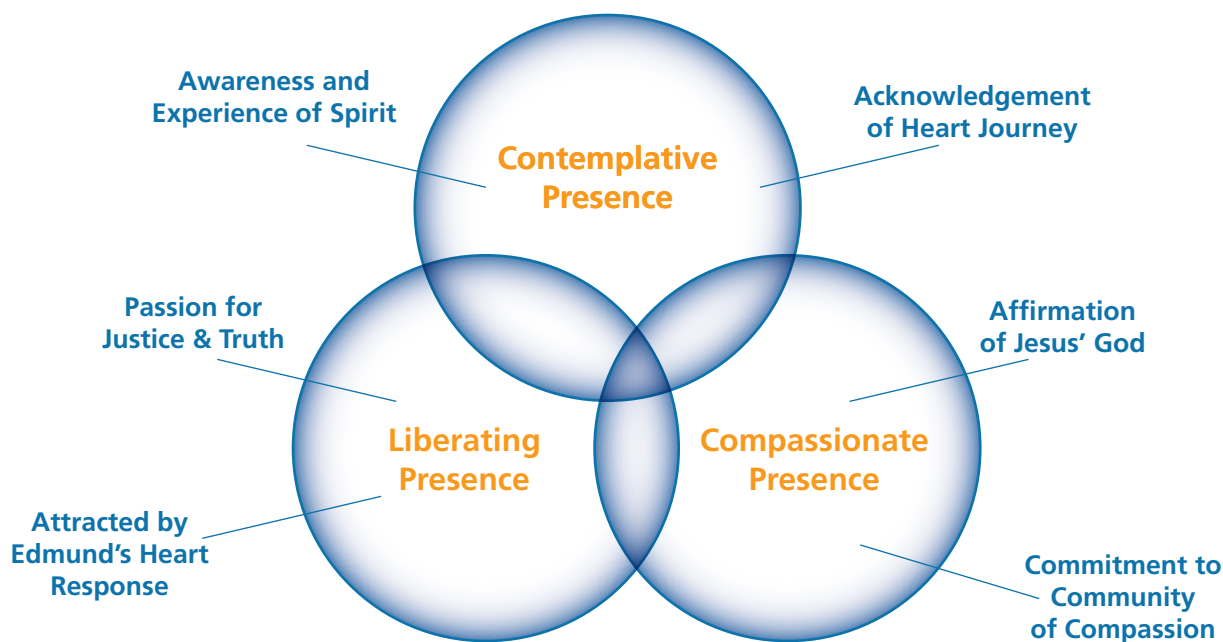
The hope is that the Missiology Framework will encourage openness to new perspectives and new possibilities and will encourage a dynamic approach to ministry and service.

The Missiology Framework is informed by the experience of individual reflective practice, the Christian Brothers' discerned directions, the liberatory work of Edmund Rice, the radical inspiration of Jesus and the movement of Jesus' Spirit alive and active in our midst. Further to this, the Missiology Framework is attentive to the revelatory insights of the unfolding Universe and the expanding images of the Mystery that we call God. This information and attentiveness have generated six entry points for engagement with a shared mission identity.

SIX ENTRY POINTS OF THE MISSIOLOGY FRAMEWORK

1. An awareness of the profound experience of Spirit which is confirmed in our sacred story and our emerging consciousness of the cosmic story;
2. An acknowledgement of the sacredness of the inner journey that is the essence of a heart-centred spirituality that calls us into an experience of connectedness with all life;
3. An affirmation of the radical and intimate nature of Jesus' experience of God that transformed his view of people and of the whole world;
4. A commitment to a community of compassion that recognises interdependence with all life and respects the dignity of each person especially the vulnerable peoples and those in need of healing;
5. An attraction to the particular way Edmund Rice discerned his calling and responded to it through liberating the minds and hearts of those made poor;
6. A passion for justice and truth that transcends social and economic boundaries and advocates for the rights of all life by challenging injustice and oppression.

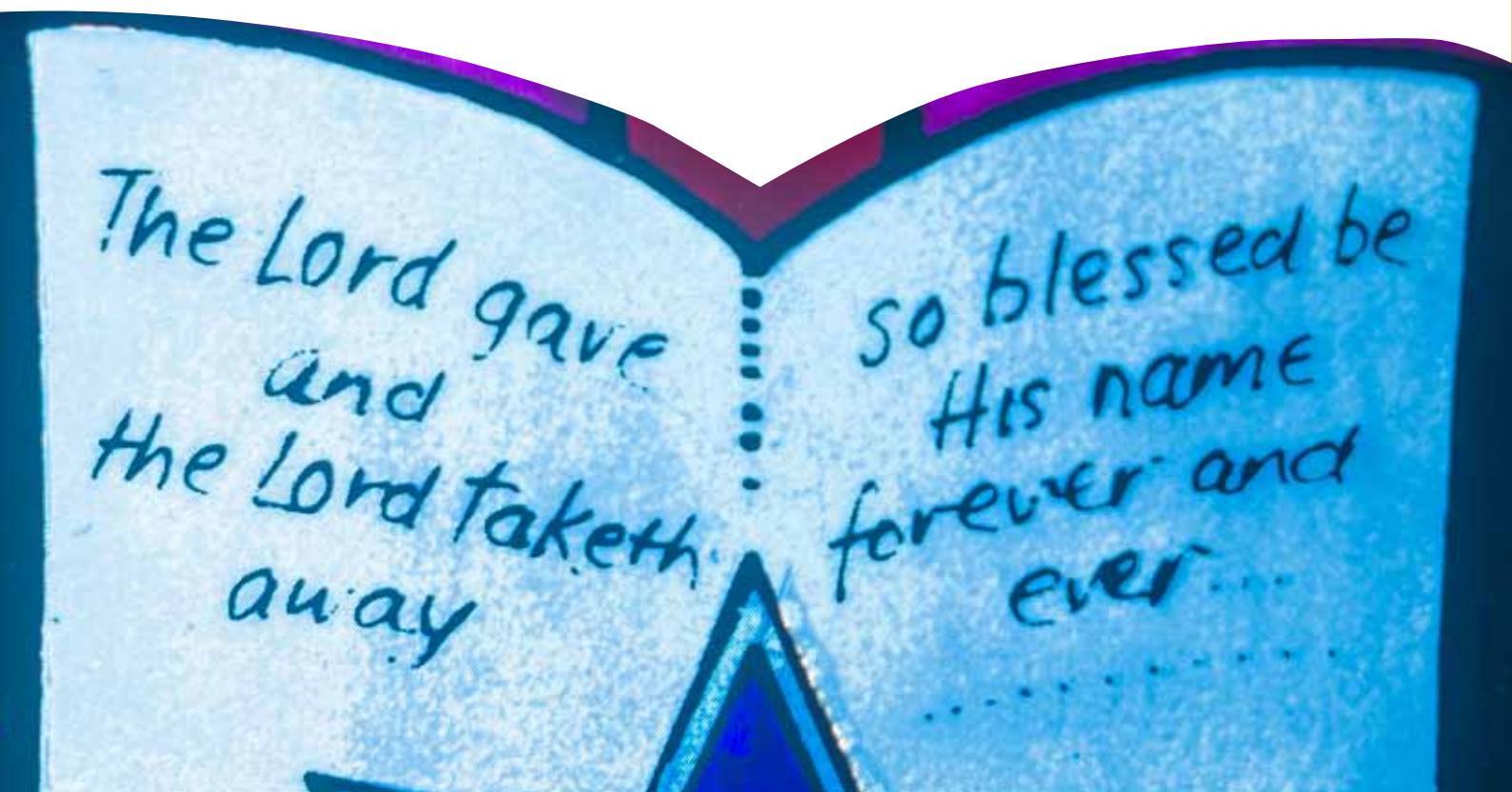
THREE DIMENSIONS OF THE MISSIOLOGY FRAMEWORK



The first two entry points relate to an awareness and acknowledgement of the Mystery that connects all life at the deepest level of human experience. We open our hearts to the awe-inspiring diversity of life and the possibilities it holds. Therefore we are moved by the Spirit into a **CONTEMPLATIVE PRESENCE**.

The next two entry points relate to an affirmation of Jesus' life and commitment to participate in the healing and reconciling processes that dignify and nurture all life. Therefore we are moved by the Spirit to a **COMPASSIONATE PRESENCE**.

The final two entry points relate to the passion for advocacy and liberating action in our world as we respond to the human, ecological and cosmological crises of our time. Therefore we are moved by the Spirit to a **LIBERATING PRESENCE**.



FIVE PRINCIPLES OF PRAXIS

The Missiology Framework promotes five principles of praxis for discerning mission engagement and mission effectiveness, each with practical implications.

1. *Dialogue and Discernment Processes*

This principle is about seeking wisdom from people and sources that present alternative perspectives about mission.

Implications:

- Engage in dialogue and discernment sessions with people who are evaluating and/or exploring opportunities for ministry work;
- Support visionary initiatives and partnerships that encourage new mission possibilities.

2. *Critical Analysis and Creative Thinking*

This principle is about critiquing, interpreting and creating relevance for mission by energising traditional and contemporary concepts and practices.

Implications:

- Provide forums for critical analysis and evaluation of current practice within ministry work and cross-cultural engagement;
- Ensure programs are informed by the missiology framework;
- Develop courses to explore the implications of the missiology framework.

3. *Integrative and Inter-Cultural Approaches*

This principle is about respecting the diversity of wisdoms and the richness of global influences upon mission.

Implications:

- Explore new possibilities when synergies and passions align across boundaries;
- Train ministry workers in the use of inclusive processes, facilitation and dialogue processes to achieve clarity of thought and unity of vision and purpose for mission.

4. *Contextual and Congregational Significance*

This principle is about continually refining, enriching and amplifying mission concepts to reflect new insights and respond intelligently to specific contexts.

Implications:

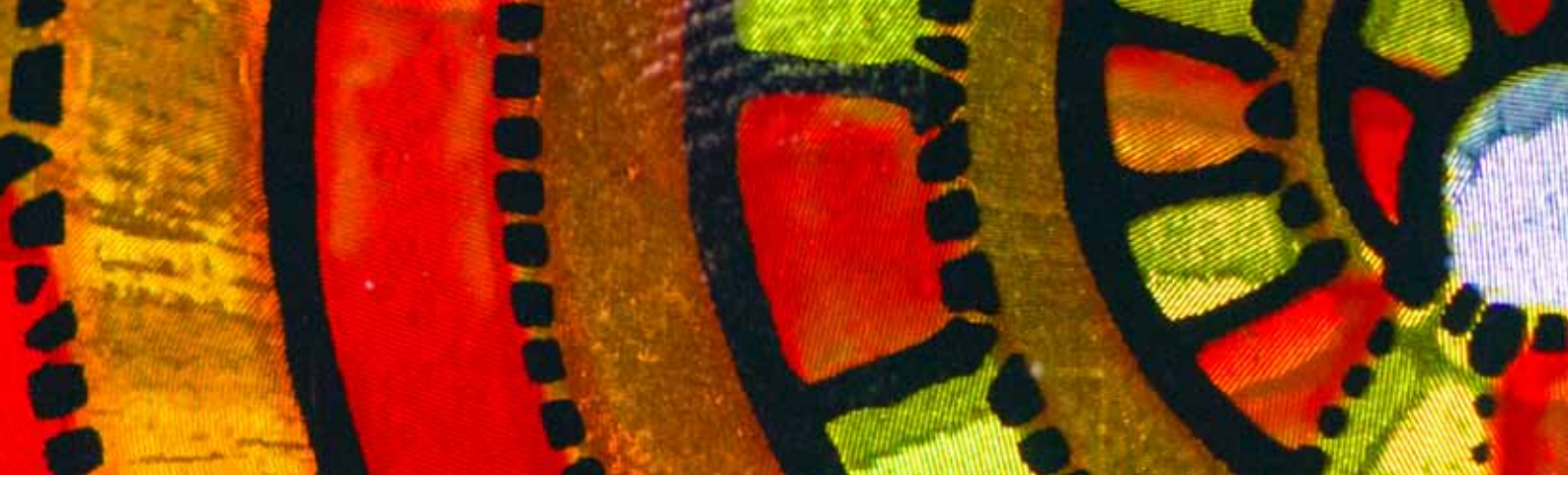
- Embrace the possibility revealed in the insights of the Edmund Rice Charism and the multi-cultural nature of the Oceania Province;
- Explore new ministry work, new partnerships and new pathways of commitment that are integral to mission development.

5. *Openness to Spirit*

This principle is about accepting challenges, even discomfort, associated with the process of generating clearer articulations of meaning and relevance for mission.

Implications:

- Deal with challenges respectfully and live creatively with the questions;
- Name the tensions and accept the fragility of ourselves and the planet;
- Listen for God in the stillness and the signs of the times and respond courageously when moved by the Spirit to Christ present and appealing in the poor.



ADVANCING MISSION I - OUR WAY INTO THE FUTURE

The invitation and challenge of the Congregation are reflected in the preceding Mission Statement and Missiology Framework. The Mission Directorate exists to give practical expression to these insights and directions. The following Principles provide the guiding lenses through which to view the authenticity of current and future mission.

NEW UNDERSTANDING FOR MISSION

The missiology of the Congregation advances a new way of understanding and collaborating in mission. It is an understanding that recognises the pervasive and consistent presence of a gracious and transforming Mystery of love and truth which we name as God. In this light, mission is viewed as no longer being sent out to do, but being in communion with, to and for people in processes of mutual transformation. It is a commitment to a theology and ecclesiology where people are active participants, co-creators, in God's dynamic mission already present and continuously active and transforming all of creation.

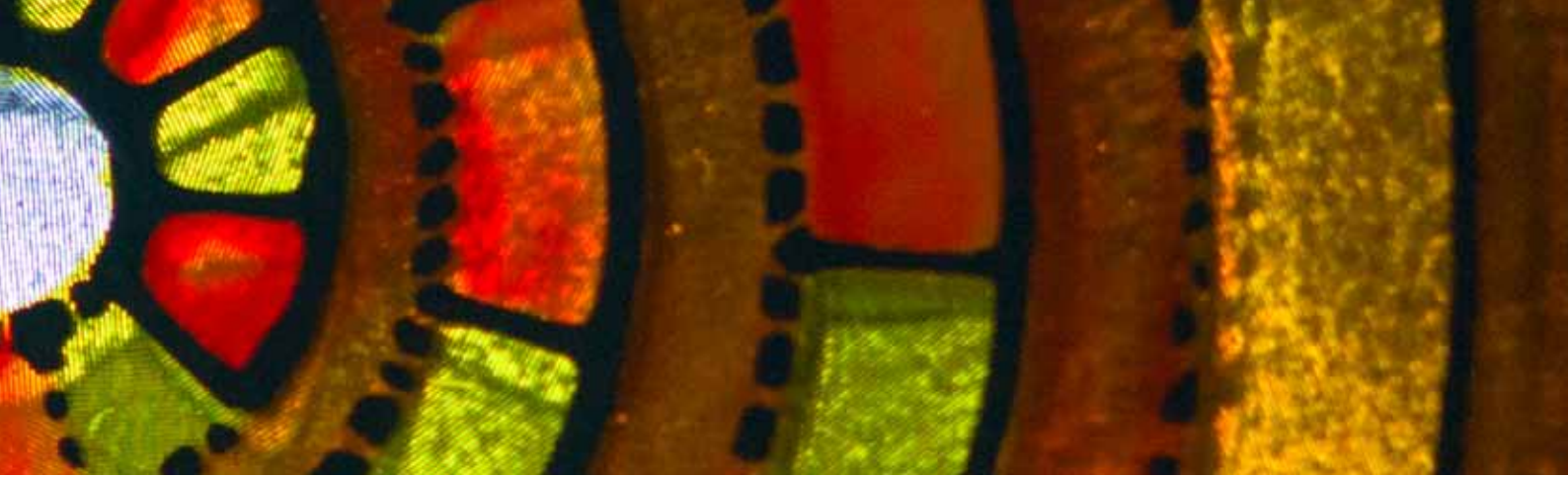
MISSION OF JESUS

The invitation to follow Jesus involves a liberating vision of life and living, actualised as a transformation of mind, heart and will at personal, community and organisational levels. It is joining in the Paschal Mystery of life, death and resurrection where continuous renewal is a touchstone for growth and development. It is a response which draws life and meaning in light of the Gospel. It is being in relationship with Christ and embracing a vision which calls all into mission and communion. It is a way of being in the world that is life-giving, life-wide and life-long.

SPIRIT OF EDMUND – CHAPTER CALLS

The Munnar Congregational Chapter (2008) encouraged a deeper level of discipleship through a personal response to Jesus and the Gospel that is counter-cultural, open, inclusive and risks daring to be different. Such a mission response is exemplified in the life and witness of Edmund Rice who opened his whole heart to all people of his time and culture, especially those made poor. It is a call to action that the Chapter articulated as: *"The time is now! The Place is here! You are the people!"* This offers an invitation to live out the Spirit of Edmund in ways that manifest the deep story that motivated him and the sharing of the charism that the community that he founded was called to enact.

The Nairobi Congregational Chapter (2014), affirming the Spirit of Munnar, committed the Congregation to a mission articulated as *'Drawn by Mystery, Destined for Life'* within the 'agenda of the world'. Interaction with this (agenda) enables one to identify and then challenge the elements of prevailing culture that do not lead to life to the full for the most vulnerable. This mission was expressed in Chapter Calls of: Personal Discipleship; Joyful Communities; Culture; Right Relationship; Advocacy; Collaboration; and Inclusion.



TO THE POOR

The invitation to follow Jesus in the Spirit of Edmund is an invitation to discipleship through the opening of a whole heart to Christ, particularly to those who are made poor. It is the call to be authentically present with the disadvantaged, for it is through this presence with those made poor that the heart is moved with compassion and where the Spirit of Jesus is so profoundly felt. It is with the poor where love is shared, liberation is desired and where trust in God is nurtured. It is with the poor that mutual transformation arises from relevant and respectful relationships. It is discipleship that engages those who are culturally different, to build bridges not walls, and to move from places of comfort to places of the 'frontier'.

COMMUNITY PRESENCE AND ENGAGEMENT

The implications for mission within communities that are most in need involve significant skills and behaviours. This community engagement is characterised by being present (living with); engaging (seeing and listening); growing together (being mutually transformed); and connecting with traditions (cultural and Congregational). While not comprehensive, and in keeping with characteristics of mission nominated earlier, skills and processes for community presence and engagement include:

1. Recognition and affirmation of skills and talents already present in community;
2. Recognition of mutual transformation in light of the Gospel;
3. Networking in support of community solidarity;
4. Partnerships which maximise efforts and minimise duplication;
5. Cultural priorities that register the significance of needs, processes and traditions;
6. Outreach practices which include advocacy, empowerment and service;
7. Language which speaks universally of God's love;
8. Continuous reflection and renewal which enables and accepts life cycles of ministry;
9. Prayer and witness which sustains Mission through relationship with God;
10. Appropriate professional training for those engaging in cross-cultural experiences.

QUALITY SYSTEMS

The application of integrated and quality systems nurtures mission in ways that support sustainability, builds resilience, nurtures accountability and allows for connection and development. These all exist within a framework, in that they use the primacy of subsidiarity and appropriate delegations. Systems in support of overall Mission Directorate functions include but are not restricted to: Mission and Strategic Planning; Ministry Accreditation; Formation; Networking and Communications; Policy Formulation; Personnel Management; Finance and Resources Management; Reporting and Accountability; Administration and Record Keeping; Information and Communication Systems; Asset Management; Research and Development; Compliance and Risk Management; and Service Agreements (Sponsorships and Partnerships).

ADVANCING MISSION II – ORGANISATIONAL RESPONSE

MISSION DIRECTORATE

The Mission Directorate exists to interpret and enact the Congregation's continuing participation in mission which incorporates three dynamic dimensions: Identity, Community and Ministry. Accordingly, through Formation, Networking and Communications, Ministry Support and Animation, and Executive Support, the Directorate aims to align and connect the diversity of Province works that enable the charism of Edmund Rice to find contemporary expression.

The Directorate vision proclaims discipleship with Jesus inspired by the Spirit of Edmund. Central to this is the mutual transformation of all people (Formation), the celebration of shared beliefs, values and ideals (Networking and Communications), the expression of a personal and collective commitment to engagement, service and renewal (Ministry Support and Animation), and provision of executive leadership in support of these core functions.

DIRECTORATE FUNCTIONS

1. **Formation** plays an integral role in developing and sustaining individuals, communities and entities to live in response to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Inspired by Edmund Rice, this formation emphasis is on promoting solidarity with those marginalised and those made materially poor by our society.
2. **Networking and Communications** supports the development, implementation and review of processes and practices designed to nurture a web of connections inclusive of all who promote the Edmund Rice Charism or operate in ways authentic to it.
3. **Ministry Support and Animation** is expressed via collaborative support and partnership with ministry engagement focused on sector responses inclusive of: Education and Community Development, Justice and Advocacy, Refugee and Asylum Seeker Support, Indigenous Engagement, Youth and Family Empowerment and Spiritual Accompaniment.
4. **Executive Support Services** that exist to enhance:
 - Vision, Mission and Strategy;
 - Research and Development;
 - Policy Development and Implementation;
 - Communication, Information and Data Systems;
 - Resource Acquisition and Management;
 - Partnerships with Church, Government and Community;
 - Formation and Professional Development;
 - Governance Relationships and Accountability.

ADVANCING MISSION III - STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

The overall Mission Directorate Strategic Goal for 2012-2014 focused on 'Nurturing Capacity for Meaningful Ministry'. Within the Directorate Report to the Province Chapter in 2014, this Goal was presented as being advanced through an increasingly pro-active emphasis on eight goal strategies described below.

Moreover, these intentions, while already in process, were proposed as being more fully supported through an integrated Project Management approach (Strategic Plan) across the period 2015-2017.

Key assumptions in progressing the Strategic Directions into the future include:

1. *Our Way Into The Future* offers the core principles for direction setting;
2. Congregational insights and Chapter directions establish benchmarks for relationships, process and priorities
3. Context parameters shaped by Brothers' presence and overall sustainability of charism;
4. Service emphasis prioritises multidisciplinary teams and local service delivery;
5. Structures and processes continue to be responsive to consultancy and working party discernment.

GOAL STRATEGIES

The following strategies were viewed as integral to the Strategic Directions registered for 2014 Chapter consideration.

Mission Foundations - The development of a position statement that articulates the basis for mission within a Theological, Ecclesial, Spiritual, Congregational and Organisational Framework.

Formation - The development and delivery of Province programs in Mission, Spirituality, Charism Engagement and Governance that support Province personnel, Mission partners, Network people and the wider Church.

Networking Development - The identification of multiple ways for engaging the charism and the establishment of systems that build Edmund Rice Network connections.

Governance - The implementation of civil and canonical structures that empower, connect and serve ministries within and beyond in-country jurisdictions within the Oceania Region.

Sustainability - The sourcing and equitable provision of resources for Mission Services and Ministry Operations

Partnerships - The confirmation of current partners, openness to forming new partnerships and the establishment of formal processes for communication and mutual support in service of mission.

Brothers in Mission - The clarification of pastoral and ministerial relationships that support Brothers and Communities in Mission.

Quality Systems - The identification and implementation of core systems of ministry support and the associated Service Agreements that clarify relationships and expectations.

ORGANISATIONAL SHIFTS

The Strategic Directions and their associated goals reflect, to varying degrees, the continuing and developmental priorities of the Province since its inception. These directions complement existing operational commitments and are naturally accompanied by three overall organisational shifts:

1. The renewed priority of serving, promoting and supporting ministry life as the principal mechanisms for advancing mission within the Province;
2. The continuing review and alignment of Mission Services to changing governance structures in support of meaningful ministry;
3. The balancing of service provision in support of ministry expressions with a changing resource demand and capacity.

Mission Directorate
Christian Brothers Oceania Province
131 Queens Road, Nudgee Queensland
PO Box 596, Virginia Queensland 4014
Ph (+61) 07 3621 9600 • www.edmundrice.org