

IRELAND / KENYA



NEWSLETTER



Patrician Brothers



October 2014

Tragic loss of two Presentation Sisters



Sister Paula Buckley



Sister Imelda Carew

In common with all Congregations in Ireland we offer our deepest sympathy to the Presentation Congregation on the accidental death by drowning of two of their sisters, Imelda and Paula. As they had been doing over many years of committed religious living, Paula, in her various ministries, and Imelda, as Provincial Leader of the South Eastern Province and member for the last two years of the CORI Executive, were continuing to make a huge contribution to the life of the Presentation Family and to the life of the Church in Ireland.

The following is part of the homily delivered by Bishop Denis Nulty of Kildare & Leighlin during the funeral Mass for Sister Imelda:

“Enjoying the peace of the evening time and the beauty of that place in the Kerry kingdom; letting ourselves go in the freedom of the purest and freshest water ... aren't all religious and priests called to let go, how often Imelda and all of us heard those words in Luke's and Mark's gospel: “take nothing with you for the journey”.

Last Thursday both Imelda and Paula were called to the ultimate understanding of letting go, knowing that that going was into the freedom and the peace of God's presence. For colleagues, family and friends that ultimate letting go is a huge ask in terms of the shock factor, the stunned reaction, the search for meaning and words.

And so often death robs us of much more than the loss of someone we have loved, we have cherished, we have appreciated ... their death robs us of our own sense of security, our own future plans, our own sense of place and presence.”

News from Finglas

All is changed

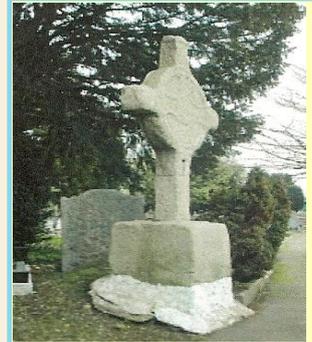
As has already been announced, Patrician College, Finglas, has been amalgamated with Mater Christi Girls' School to form New Cross College. Patrician College served the people of Finglas West for many years serving not only as a school for the boys of the area but as a focal point for many community activities. At their height the schools had about 500



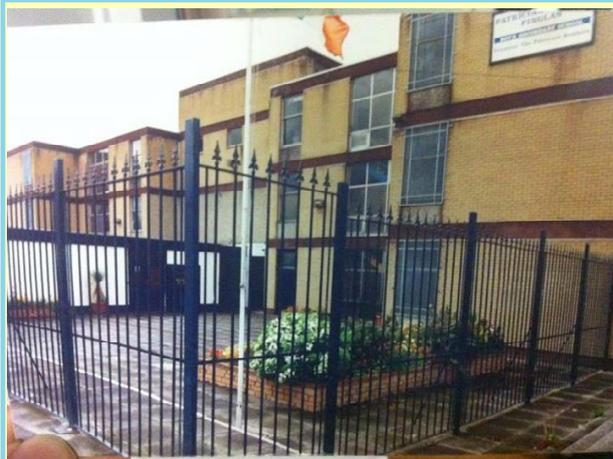
pupils each but as time passed the school-going population of the area began to decrease until both schools had enrolments of less than 200. After much negotiations by the Trustees of both schools it was decided that the best way forward was amalgamation and so in September this year New Cross College became a reality.

The buildings which housed the two schools are still in use. Mater Christi has, with renovations and additions, become New Cross College while part of Patrician College has been leased by the Department of Education and Skills to be used by St. Paul's Special School which caters for students who have difficulty settling in to the normal school environment.

Mr. Pat Carolan, former Principal of Patrician College, has been appointed Principal of New Cross College.



The historic Nethercross



Patrician College



Now St. Paul's Special School



Mater Christi Girls' School



Now New Cross College

CONGREGATIONAL ARCHIVES

What records should be kept?

This is a question often asked by Brothers and others especially regarding our own archive which we share with the Brigidine Sisters, Carlow College and the Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin.

The following article by Dr Louise O'Reilly, an expert in dealing with archives, may help in the decision-making.



Dr. Louise O'Reilly

From my experience in working in congregational archives, there are questions that periodically arise concerning records and archives. In this article the focus is on one main question that is frequently asked: "What records should be kept?" In short the answer to that is, only records that are specifically related to the organisation.

There have been many discussions regarding appraisal of records (deciding on what is thought to be worthy of preservation) and many articles written on the topic. However, the primary aim of archival appraisal is to identify and select records which, collectively, build a comprehensive but compact picture of the institute over time. Appraisal is, in short, for record-keeping purposes, a process for

deciding which records to keep and indeed which records are superfluous to the present and future needs of the organisation.

It is a selection process whereby records provide information about, and are evidence of, what an organisation, unit or an individual has done and why this activity has been engaged in, what it has achieved and its impact locally and in the wider world.

The practice of appraisal therefore reminds us that we cannot keep everything. It also puts sharply into focus the need to maintain records which are vital to an organisation's corporate identity, history and for the value they may have to the wider society as a whole. Many of the records which are in daily working usage are not necessarily destined to be preserved as archives. In fact, Terry Cook, a leading Canadian archival theorist has estimated that just one to five percent of all institutional records will survive as archives.

One of the main problems with congregational archives is that they tend to become the "dumping" grounds for all sorts of flotsam and jetsam only tangentially related to the business of the congregation itself. A good rule of thumb, therefore, in deciding whether something should be in the archive is to ask: "Is this record originally created by the congregation?" Original correspondence, annals, devotional material etc generally pass this test. In most cases the original organisation will have kept copies of their own material in their archives and future researchers will not look to your organisation for these records. In other cases the material is simply not archival. There are guidelines that may be followed in the case of legal, financial and other material considered important for retention under Freedom of Information and Data Protection.

Congregational archives of religious communities form a vitally important, but often under-



appreciated, part of the Irish archives sector. Religious archives constitute a necessary and important adjunct to the officially sanctioned record of state repositories. Religious archives material offers insights into aspects of Irish life and history which are not available elsewhere. Indeed the work of religious communities in the areas of education, health and social care means that their records are significant to wider Irish society. It is therefore

imperative that congregational archives are preserved into the future and, indeed, that work begins with the simple task of appraisal.

DOWN MEMORY LANE



*Superior General and Council, 1980, at Mount St. Joseph, Tullow.
James O'Rourke, Denis Lomasney, Patrick Lovegrove (SG), V. P. Bernard, Daniel Egan*



*Celebrations in Ballyfin in 1977
Back Row L to R: Declan Hoey, Kieran Lawlor, James O'Rourke, Camillus Regan, James Moran.
Front Row: Robert Ruane, Valerian Whelan, Bishop Patrick Lennon, Hilary Delaney, Vianney Grogan,
Vincent McCarthy*

A VISIT TO SYDNEY

Four young teachers from Patrician Secondary School, Newbridge, visited Patrician schools in Sydney during the summer. Here is their report.

Travelling to Sydney to visit other Patrician schools was an absolute privilege and hugely beneficial to our teaching careers. We arrived on a Friday and we were picked up from the airport by Jim, a member of staff at Patrician College



Deirdre Harnett, Riadhain McBride and Laura Murray at Blacktown

Blacktown. It was very exciting but we were anxious at the same time because we didn't really know what to expect. Jim brought us straight to the school in Blacktown for a welcome reception with about ten of the teachers including Santo, the Principal and Brian, the Deputy Principal. Here we got to meet the teachers that each of us would be staying with for the duration of the week; Michael, Danuta and Peter. Santo gave us a brief talk on what the coming week would involve. Each person we met that evening was warm and welcoming and it definitely helped us to get settled in Sydney very quickly.



Santo Passarello (Principal) with the visitors

The weekend that followed involved a lot of the main tourist attractions in Sydney. The teachers from Blacktown dedicated their weekend to us bringing us to the Harbour Bridge, Sydney Opera House, Botanic Gardens, the Bronte to Bondi walk and the Sydney Tower. Bringing the weekend to a close Santo took us to St. Mary's Cathedral in Sydney for Mass. It was stunning and coincidentally there was an Irish priest saying Mass that evening. Truly a lovely experience and interesting to see how similar and different their Masses are.

Monday was spent in Patrician College Blacktown. Brian had an itinerary for us which was very helpful as we knew exactly what to expect. Each Monday there is a staff meeting in their meeting room at 8.30am. The meeting room also has a kitchen and it is where teachers congregate at break and lunch time. They have a separate staff room where each teacher has a desk as they don't have a base classroom. Both students and teachers move around throughout the day. The staff meeting involved welcoming us to the school and then both Santo and Brian briefing the staff on what events were happening that week; highlighting students that may need extra support in the week and any other relevant business. To close the meeting, one

member of staff presents to their colleagues a teaching method that has been effective for them recently. A list is made at the start of the year so people are aware of when they will feature in the Monday morning meeting.

The meeting is followed by a short whole school assembly in the yard (weather!) which included prayer, information for the coming week and what is expected of the students for the week. Students attend their home room for the first ten minutes of the day. Home room is where tutors get to meet their tutor group, check journals, discuss behaviour and encourage them to perform well. The remainder of that day was spent observing classes which are fifty minutes each. A hugely worth while experience. We observed about 12-15 teachers which were all of a very high standard; carrying similar traits to the teachers in our school. Most of the classrooms have round tables with 5 or 6 per table. This encouraged a lot of group work and students were very much engaged in the lessons. Some teachers said that they preferred the typical classroom setting that we have because the round tables obviously allow for more interaction amongst students when you don't necessarily want it.

Huge similarities appeared between the boys of Patrician College Blacktown and Patrician Secondary Newbridge. They were fun and outgoing but they were also very willing to work when they were expected to. Students were also very welcoming towards us and very eager to learn more about our school and where we come from.



Marion tries her hand at the discus.

Blacktown's latest building is the Patrician Learning Centre where they have full year groups in the one area. Here, the teacher is assisted by other teachers throughout the lesson. Very much like team teaching here but on a bigger scale. iPads are available for each student in this centre along with the presence of interactive white boards. We noticed throughout the day that they weren't used hugely during lessons; they were mostly used as a resource

here in Blacktown and had not replaced the traditions of pen and paper. In fact, most of the teaching is similar to what we see in the Patrician Secondary Newbridge.

There is a huge focus on extra curricular in Blacktown encouraging all students to participate; whether it's music, sport or drama. On a Thursday there is a half day and for the second half of that day all students and teachers are involved in extra curricular activities of some kind. This is part of the curriculum in Australia and is a very positive part of their week.



*Marion Stack with two athletes during Sports Day.
Marion was on a visit to Sydney to visit relatives and took time out to visit Patrician Schools*

The facilities in Blacktown were exceptional. Everything is just on a much bigger scale compared to home. They also have the added benefit of the sunshine which allows them to spend a lot more time outside. Their pitches are part of the campus and this is what is mostly used for physical education. Classrooms were quite similar but as you moved towards the construction, music and art department they seemed to have a lot more space and equipment. They had a library which was used by all students; this was a huge asset in their improvement of literacy and a nice space to

bring students. It also allowed students to carry out independent research and the students had a huge appreciation for this.

Aside from Blacktown, we visited three other Patrician schools with Brother Aengus as our chauffeur and tour guide; Holy Cross College in Ryde, Delany College in Granville and Patrician Brothers College in Fairfield.



Students were on a school trip when we visited Holy Cross College. They all attend a trip on one day of the year so there is not as many disruptions to the school year. Nevertheless, it was very much a beneficial trip. We got a tour of the school and again the facilities were very, very good. Similar to the idea of the Patrician Learning Centre, they had partitions between class rooms so they could have an open area for a particular year at any time. In these open sessions, they incorporated

subjects such as English, History and Religion during the same period.

Students are very much involved in the construction of the school. This was common across all of the schools. If a school needed something built, students would use that as their construction project. They also had an idea of flexible furniture in some rooms which meant that there would be different types of chairs in some rooms or the library so students don't feel like they are in a typical class room setting. Ideal for a resource setting.

Again, there was a huge emphasis on the use of the library. Some year 12 students were in the library studying for their trial exams; extremely enthusiastic about the library and stated that it was a massive part of their school life every day in Ryde. They had tables which were also whiteboards where they enjoyed drawing mind maps or working out equations and then taking pictures of their work on their phones or iPads to use for study in the future. Literacy was also in focus here and they carried out a drop everything and read class every week in the school.



Enjoying a B-B-Q with Bro. Peter Higgins

The most beneficial aspect of our trip to Holy Cross College was our meeting with the resource co-ordinator who introduced us to their target setting which is carried out with every student in every subject in the school. This was their second year to implement the target setting. The idea is originally presented to parents at a parents evening in the school. Parents are involved in the set up; going home with their son for three weeks discussing targets. Targets are set and are encouraged to be realistic; there is then an end of semester report on the targets and a discussion on why students did or didn't meet targets. This allows students to be responsible for their learning and their grades. Students are rewarded for their achievements at an end of year assembly.

The main feature in Delany College was their new learning centre. Again, this was an open area of learning for a particular year group. Teachers stated that it ensured all students were involved in activities. There was a big link between subjects and in one class period they teach subjects

such as history, art and drama altogether. The class we observed here had been learning about different animals and their setting; students then went outside and drew pictures of these animals on the ground which incorporated art and visual learning. The learning centre holds about seventy students and there would be three or four teachers working together for each period. Google Docs and Google Drive was important in the success of the learning centre. Students we spoke to stressed how much they loved the learning centre adding that they felt much happier and more confident. They also said they were learning more and could easily express themselves.

Our last stop with Aengus was Fairfield where he was still involved after twenty years. There was some construction work going on here and they were looking forward to this. We didn't get to spend as much time as we would have liked here but it was great to visit and see John who we had met earlier in the year. We met with the leadership team here and discussed the use of technology. They use their time equally between using books, reading and writing and the use of technology stating that there was a study carried out in New Zealand which found that students were forgetting how to draw and write.

Our final day in Sydney was spent back in Blacktown and it must be said that it was probably the highlight of the trip. There was a whole school assembly held for us which was over whelming but a fantastic experience. The assembly started with the national anthem which was lovely for us to hear and gave us an insight to their culture. We were again welcomed by Santo who went on to speak fondly about his trip and memories of Ireland. He presented a video to the whole school which showed images of their Irish trips including Tullow, Maynooth and of course, Patrician Secondary Newbridge; giving the students a



Hard at work!!!

context of where we come from. Students were fascinated and always eager to find out more about where we originate from. We were then brought to the stage where we were interviewed by two of the students. This was daunting but once the questions started we relaxed. Students mostly wanted to know about extra curricular in our schools, how big Newbridge was and the facilities it had and generally how our school operated. It was nice to share our school life with them as they had given us such a wealth of knowledge and experience within that week. I suppose the most difficult part was the students trying to understand our accents! We were presented with some gifts on behalf of the school which was a big deal for us and will keep the memories of Blacktown with us forever. We finished the day by getting to watch a rugby league match on the school grounds which was very exciting. Blacktown have recent and ongoing success in rugby league which they are very proud of.

The appreciation for Bishop Daniel Delany was clear to see in all of the Patrician schools we visited in Sydney. Statues had been erected and pictures of him could be seen throughout the schools. Most people we spoke to expressed their interest in visiting Tullow and they were eager to know about our visit to Tullow. This gave us a greater appreciation for what Daniel Delany had achieved in the Patrician Brothers; catering for the needs of the community. It is important for our students to be aware of the foundation of our school.

We could not have been looked after any better than we were for the duration of our trip to Sydney; from our hosts, to the Patrician Brothers we met, to the students and staff with a special mention to Santo. Nothing was too much for Santo; his generosity, care and kindness towards us will never be forgotten. By the end of our trip both we and Patrician College Blacktown agreed that a strong link had been formed with both of our schools and no doubt we will all cross paths again. It was very difficult leaving everyone as genuine friendships were fostered. It was a valuable and worthwhile experience and the visit would most definitely benefit our teaching and hopefully our school in the future.

LIVING NIGHTMARE OF SOUTH SUDAN

Cormac Commins

Two Patricians, Bro Tom Muldowney and Bro Placido, have served some time in South Sudan. The ongoing civil war there has left 3.8 million people needing assistance and more than 1.5 million displaced. Emma Flaherty from Galway City works as a co-ordinator with the charity Concern in Unity State, South Sudan, and has written about her experiences there.

She says that her attitude has changed in recent times. On hearing of a crashed cargo helicopter near her base she says her reaction would have been one of shock when she first arrived there. But now it is more subdued. Bad news has ceased to be shocking in some of the most contested areas of the South Sudan civil war.

In August government and rebel forces clashed just a few kilometres from her base. The sustained shooting was aimed towards her base wounding a child who was waiting for medical care and hitting humanitarian houses and offices. "If we stopped every time something bad happened we would get nothing done. Once every two weeks or so we are told that major fighting is imminent. Sometimes it happens, sometimes it doesn't."

The Concern organisation has to be volatile so that the volunteers can continue to serve the needs of the 46,000 people who have found shelter near her base. She and her fellow volunteers spend a lot of time in bunkers at the base sheltering from the fighting. If they have time to grab their laptops they continue working and they return to



*Emma Flaherty
Knocknacarra,
Galway.
Concern Co-ordinator
based in the city of
Bentiu.*



Tom Muldowney and Placido Kaburu who have spent some time working in South Sudan

base when the UN security announces over the radio that it is safe to do so.

No two days are the same for the volunteers. They are in a war zone but as they are on a UN base there is a sense that the war is "out there." "However," Ms Flaherty writes, "events in the past three weeks have changed everything. The shooting incident a few weeks ago has shaken us all. The bullet holes in the office and housing containers are a constant reminder that we have chosen to put ourselves in the middle of a brutal and

unpredictable conflict, where respect for humanitarian principles and laws seems to be a lofty aspiration."

Ms Flaherty, in her article, explains why she and her colleagues continue to work in South Sudan. "Just a few hundred metres from where we work and sleep is the reminder why we are and should be here. There are more than 46,000 people who have fled desperate circumstances only to find themselves in a different kind of hell. Heavy rains have left the base flooded and people are living knee-deep in water - sometimes waist-deep. It is a terrible and incomprehensible thing that people should be reduced to living like this in order to feel safe from the violence and hunger. We have to be there to support them."



PATRICIANS IN DOHA



Congratulations to those involved in the expansion of the Patrician Mission to Doha. At a time when the Patrician presence in other parts of the world is contracting it is heartening to see the Delany charism reaching out to new areas especially in this bicentenary of our Founder's death.

Special congratulations to Bro. Jerome and the Principal of the new school, Bro. A.J. George. We send our best wishes to George and his staff as they begin the task of setting up *Olive International School*.

COMINGS and GOINGS

We were pleased to welcome Brothers Charles Barry, Paul Brennan, Colm O'Connell and Felim Ryan during the summer all of whom were visiting family and friends in Ireland. Bro. Gerry Bulfin had visited earlier. Felim has already returned to Kenya having fitted the visitation of the Irish Province on behalf of the Congregation Leader into his holiday schedule.



Paul Brennan



Colm O'Connell



Charles Barry



Felim Ryan

Mountrath Community School Principal Retires



Martin Gleeson

Mountrath Community School was set up in 2009 by the amalgamation of Patrician College, Ballyfin, Brigidine Secondary School, Mountrath and St Aengus' Vocational School, Mountrath. Before the school became a reality the Trustees, in drawing up the guiding principles for the school, expressed the wish that the new school "would provide a learning environment which meets the spiritual, moral, social, creative and intellectual needs of each student."

Under the direction of the first Principal, Mr Martin Gleeson, there has been a serious commitment to make these aspirations a reality in the daily life of the school. Martin has decided to retire from his position on 31 December 2014. We thank Martin for his leadership during the past five years and wish him a long and happy retirement.



*Bro. Gerard Reburn
The only Patrician on
the staff.*

You can waken people only by dreaming their dreams more clearly than they can dream them themselves. (Alexander Herzen).

THE PARABLE OF THE CHILD

A young school teacher had a dream that an angel appeared to him and said: "You will be given a child who will grow up to be a world leader. How will you prepare her so that she will realise her intelligence, grow in confidence, develop both her assertiveness and sensitivity, be open-minded and strong in character? In short, what kind of education will you provide so that she can become one of the world's truly great leaders?"

The young teacher awoke in a cold sweat. It had never occurred to him before that any one of his present or future students could be the person described in the dream. Was he preparing them to rise to any position to which they might aspire? He thought to himself: "how might my teaching change if I knew that one of my students were this person?" He gradually began to formulate a plan in his mind.

This student would need experience as well as instruction. She would need to know how to solve problems of various kinds. She would need to grow in character as well as knowledge. She would need self-assurance as well as the ability to listen well and work with others. She would need to understand and appreciate the past, yet feel optimistic about the future. She would need to know the value of lifelong learning in order to keep a curious and active mind. She would need to grow in understanding of others. She would need to set high standards for herself and learn self discipline. She would also need love and encouragement so that she might be filled with love and goodness.

His teaching changed. Every young person who walked through his classroom became, for him, a future world leader. He saw each one, not as they were but as they could be. He expected the best from his students. He taught each one as if the future of the world depended on his instruction.

After many years a woman he knew rose to a position of world prominence. He realised that she must surely have been the girl described in his dream. Only she was not one of his students but rather his daughter. For of all the various teachers in her life, her father was the best.

I've heard it said that children are living messages we send to a time and place we may never see. But this isn't simply a parable about an unnamed school teacher. It is a parable about you and me, whether or not we are parents or teachers. And the story, our story, actually begins like this. "You will be given a child who will grow up to become..." You finish the sentence. If not a world leader, then a superb parent? An excellent teacher? A gifted healer? An innovative problem solver? An inspiring artist?

Where and how you will encounter this child is a mystery. But believe that one child's future may depend upon the influence only you can provide and something remarkable will happen.

The scene is the main street in Tullow, Co Carlow. The year is 1777. A handsome young priest, Fr Daniel Delany, is walking along the street and passers by might notice that he is looking dejected and worried. If they stopped and spoke to him he might tell them that he was wondering what possible good he was doing in his parish. He had begun to reflect on all that had brought him to this place. Within this "reflection" we locate the story of the Patrician Brothers which lies deep within the context of early Patrician Irish history and in the Franco-Irish Catholic educational relationship. An Irish priest/bishop, in the clerical lineage and mission of Patrick, is the founder of the Patrician Brothers.



Mill Street, Tullow, as Daniel Delany would have known it.

A Tale of Nine Centuries: Una Collins and Sean Goan

RELIGIOUS IN EDUCATION

Cormac Commins



Cormac Commins

As another school year gets under way it is natural that one's thoughts turn to matters educational and how the Irish scene has changed over the years. I am thinking in particular about the involvement of religious in education. When I began my teaching career at St Joseph's College, Galway in 1960 there were three lay teachers on the staff and the remainder were Patrician Brothers. Today the school has a teaching staff of fifty - all lay teachers. The same applies to other Patrician schools, both primary and post-primary. There are only two Brothers teaching today. Bro Gerry Reburn is a member of the teaching staff of Mountrath Community School and Bro Pat O'Neill does part-time teaching in Scoil na Naomh Uilig primary school in Newbridge. Bro. Matthew Hayes is Chairperson of the Boards of Management of St. Fintan's Boys' School, Mountrath, Kolbe Special School, Portlaoise, and Patrician Secondary School, Fethard. Bro. Camillus Regan is Diocesan Education Secretary dealing with the Boards of Management of 169 Primary schools in the Diocese of Kildare & Leighlin while also operating the Garda Vetting system for those schools. I am involved with Boards of Management in Patrician Secondary, Newbridge, Tullow Community School and Mountrath Community School.

In Ireland today there are 375 secondary schools associated with religious congregations. For the current academic year nine of them have a religious as principal - four priests and five sisters. Fourteen years ago there were ninety one religious as principals of secondary schools. Today there are only thirty religious in full-time teaching positions in secondary schools.

Readers will be aware that Patrician second-level schools are part of the Le Cheile Schools Trust which is made up of fourteen congregations. Most congregations traditionally involved in education have established trusts to continue the tradition of their schools. Our membership of the Le Cheile Trust confirms our commitment to the future of Catholic education. The Le Cheile vision is based on Gospel values and has at its centre a philosophy of education based on the dignity of the human person created in the image and likeness of God. The establishment of trusts marks a significant moment when lay people are assuming still more responsibility for Catholic education.

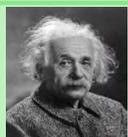
Religious in Ireland are ageing and the Patricians are no exception but we remember what our Education Vision Statement says: ***"We experience anxiety in this time of rapid change as we are beckoned beyond the bounds of safe securities. However, like the founding Patricians we will step forward in faith with the courage of our convictions and rely on the power of the Holy Spirit."***



Vision without action is just a dream,
Action without vision just passes the time,
And vision with action can change the world.
Nelson Mandela



Prayer is not asking. It is a longing of the soul. It is daily admission of one's weakness. It is better in prayer to have a heart without words than words without a heart.
Prayer is the key of the morning and the bolt of the evening.
Mahatma Gandhi



Any intelligent fool can make things bigger, more complex, and more violent. It takes a touch of genius and a lot of courage to move in the opposite direction.
Albert Einstein