

## **OUR ANCESTRY!**

One of the great American comedians/humorists was *Will Rogers* (1879-1935) he proudly admitted to being part of the indigenous Cherokee Indian tribe.

A woman who knew who he was, but definitely not his blood heritage once said to him with a fierce sense of patriotic pride; "*My ancestors arrived here in North America on the Mayflower in 1620.*" And Will Rogers without missing a beat and with a twinkle in his eye responded with these memorable words; "*And my dear lady my ancestors actually met the Mayflower when it arrived here in North America!*" I'm sure that the woman had no comeback to that response.

Our relationships with people definitely comprise of a physical and a spiritual dimension and sometimes their significance can complement each other and sometimes not. Just recently I read where someone wisely wrote; "*I am glad that Jesus did not have a worldly father as it has saved a lot of tension in people trying to trace his ancestry in this world.*" I think that this is a very true comment!

None of us can ever do anything about our blood and physical connections with other people but we can definitely do a lot with our spiritual and social connections with people. Perhaps this is the point that Jesus of Nazareth is making when he made this statement; "*That my mother, brother and sister are those who hear the word of God and keep it.*" (Luke Chapter 8, verse 20) Fr Martin R Maunsell