

## Shared Reflection:

*What thought would you like to share with your colleagues?*

*(Fifth Reader)*

A quotation from *the Papal document*

***“Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment”:***

*“In accompanying another person, one needs hard, personal experience of interpreting the movements of the heart to recognize the action of the Spirit.”*

*(Leader)*

**Closing Prayer:**

Creator God, we thank you for the life of Edmund Rice. He opened his heart to you present in those oppressed by poverty and injustice. May we follow his example of faith and generosity. Grant us the courage and compassion of Edmund as we seek to live lives of love and service. **Amen**

## ***A Reflection on The Second Essential Element of an Edmund Rice Christian Brother Education***



***Proclaim and Witness to Catholic Identity.***

*(First Reader)*

**Introduction:**

Blessed Edmund Rice was given the grace to respond to the call of Jesus by identifying with Christ in the poor. His example evoked a deep awareness of God's loving presence in all with whom he came in contact. He also awakened within them a consciousness of their dignity as children of God. He invited his followers to share the Gospel insight to reach out to the needy, especially the materially poor.

*(Leader)*

**Opening Prayer:**

God, Our Father, throughout the history of the Church you have provided men and women of faith who have taught us, by word and deed, what it means to be your followers. Inspire us through the lives of these saints that we might teach and demonstrate that same faith to the youth placed in our care. We pray this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

*(Second Reader)*

**A reading from the Acts of the Apostles**

*When they had gathered together they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" He answered them,*

*"It is not for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has established by his own authority. But you will receive power when the holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

*When he had said this, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight. Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. When they entered the city they went to the upper room where they were staying. They devoted themselves with one accord to prayer.*

*(Third Reader)*

The Essential Elements of an Edmund Rice Christian Brother Education calls educational ministry sites and those working in them to . . .

**Proclaim and Witness to Catholic Identity.**

This is accomplished in our school when we ...

- give priority to religious instruction with opportunities for faith development and theological understanding
- participate in the sacramental life of the Church and model a living faith through the use of rituals and symbols
- foster devotion to Mary and the communion of saints
- ensure that Catholic identity permeates all endeavors: all classes and activities, procedures and policies, services and programs

*(Fourth Reader)*

**Reflection:**

Jesus provides our mission, it is the Mission of the Church -  
You will receive power (of the Holy Spirit)  
You will be my witnesses.

How does our school express the power of the Holy Spirit?  
How are we witnesses of our Catholic faith...  
To all our constituents?  
To the wider community?  
What do we do that is uniquely Catholic?

**Your thoughts:**

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