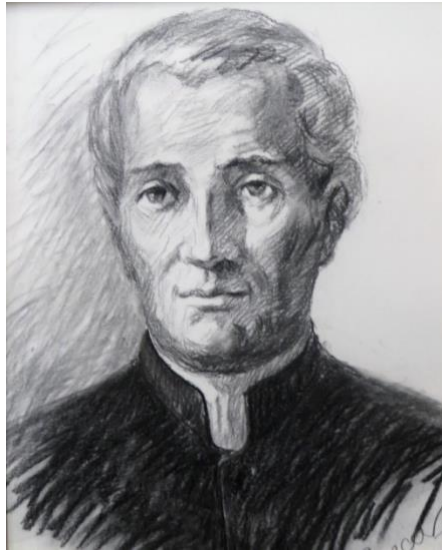


COMMUNITY PRAYER

25TH ANNIVERSARY THE BEATIFICATION OF BESSED EDMUND RICE

WE GIVE THANKS



Call to Remember

Leader: Today we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the beatification of our Founder, Blessed Edmund Rice. We recall his long life, the gift and charism given to him and his legacy to our world.

All: We now give thanks and praise to our God for all the followers of Blessed Edmund on whose shoulders we stand as we now discern our way forward in the great vision of Edmund. Glory to you, Source of all Being, Eternal Word and Holy Spirit as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be world without end. Amen.

Hymn: Now Thank We All Our God

***Now thank we all our God
with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
in whom his world rejoices;
who from our mothers' arms
has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.***

***All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given,
the Son and Spirit blest,
who reign in highest heaven
the one eternal God,***

*whom heaven and earth adore;
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.*

Readings From the Life of Blessed Edmund Rice
The Beginning

Edmund's mind was made up.

“Everything was adverse; everywhere was difficulty; but in Edmund Rice there was that happy combination of those noble qualities which eminently fitted him for gigantic action, and made him less consider the magnitude of obstacle than the means of overcoming them.

It was at this critical stage in his vocation that he showed the unbounded trust in Providence that became such a feature of his spirituality in later years. He sold his business and with a worldly imprudence, reproved by his brother, Father Rice, and with no group of disciples to assist him opened his first school in a stable in New Street.”

The Result

“With Edmund Rice's great gifts and his large fortune, he could transform the lives of these poor broken people from destitution to some human comfort and to hope for their children. Recently in my studies, I have established that in his early curriculum in the schools around Waterford, Blessed Edmund prepared his pauper students for entry into white-collar positions as clerks in “offices and counting-houses.” This was human transformation that empowered these boys to take their parents and family out of squalor and despair into circumstances which would make it easier for them all to live a decent and a Christian life at a higher level.”

ARTICLES ON BLESSED EDMUND RICE

By John E. Carroll

REFLECTION AND SHARING

How can we today, as Christian Brothers and followers of Edmund, continue to be “real instruments” of his vision of Compassion, Presence and Liberation:

In our personal lives

In our community living

In our ministries?

Edmund's Message to Us

“Let us do ever so little for God, we will be sure God will never forget it, nor let it pass unrewarded.

How many of our actions are lost for want of applying them to this end.

Were we to know the merit of only going from one street to another to serve a neighbour for the love of God, we should prize it more than gold or silver....

One thing you may be sure of, that whilst you work for God, whether you succeed or not, God will amply reward you.”

INTERCESSIONS

Brothers, we are gathered together to celebrate the anniversary of the beatification of our Founder, Bl. Edmund Rice. Let us ask God that his charism may permeate our lives, our communities and our ministries throughout the world..

1. For all who follow in the footsteps of Blessed Edmund Rice: the Presentation and Christian Brothers, and all members of the ER Network, that they may respond with the same courage and generosity to the call of Christ to the marginalized and outcast of our own day. We pray to the Lord...Lord, hear our prayer.

2. For each us, called to one Discipleship, that the life of Blessed Edmund may encourage and inspire us to love one another as Christ has commanded us. We pray to the Lord ... Lord, hear our prayer.

3. For the young, to whom Blessed Edmund devoted his life, especially those on the fringes of our educational system, that they may hear Christ's call to grow and bear fruit through the witness and ministry of others, We pray to the Lord ... Lord, hear our prayer.

4. For all who suffer disability and illness, that they may find healing through the love and care of others and may the compassion they awaken be a source of renewal in our world. We pray to the Lord ... Lord, hear our prayer.

5.. For all the faithful departed, especially for the deceased members of the congregations founded by Blessed Edmund, that the Lord may reward them with eternal life. We pray to the Lord ... Lord, hear our prayer.

God our Creator, hear the prayers of your people. Grant us what you inspired us to ask of you for in faith. We pray this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father

Closing Prayer

*Creator God, to live in your Spirit is not to be complete but to be open,
not to be perfect but to be growing, not to have arrived but to be firmly on the way.*

*Help us to continue on the path of Jesus in the way of Blessed Edmund
and to be faithful to the gift and spirit he has left us.*

We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

***BLESSED EDMUND RICE PRAY FOR US!
LIVE JESUS IN OUR HEARTS FOREVER!***