

# Christian Brothers Today

Spiritual freedom and simplicity  
through humble service to the poor



*Edward Rice*

**There are signs which may indicate a call to  
Edmund Rice Christian Brotherhood.**

**A deep and abiding love for Christ  
and his Holy Church.**

**An attraction to service --  
both to the Church and  
to the entirety of humanity.**

**A willingness to devote oneself entirely  
to the service of God.**

**Know someone who might make a good Christian Brother?  
Let the Brothers know.**

**Contact: Br. James McDonald, CFC  
Call or text 815 272 7742  
[bromaccfc@yahoo.com](mailto:bromaccfc@yahoo.com)**



## Message from the Province Leader



Dear Friends,

Welcome to the latest issue of Christian Brothers Today. I hope you find this publication informative, inspirational, challenging and thought-provoking. It certainly highlights the diverse ministries of our Brothers and colleagues both in North America and around the world.

Many wonderful things are happening in our Edmund Rice Christian Brothers North America Province. As I write, our schools are in the midst of celebrating Catholic Schools Week (February 1-5). This year's theme is: Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service. It is a tribute to our schools in Canada, Dominica and the United States that we have a rich tradition of providing our students with opportunities for:

- prayer and participation in the Sacramental life of the Church;
- the pursuit of academic excellence and life-long learning that fosters the growth of the whole person;
- service that helps them to stand in solidarity with people made poor while advocating on their behalf.

Clearly, the Essential Elements of an Edmund Rice Christian Brother Education are very much in tune with these elements of faith, knowledge and service. May our schools continue to be beacons of hope for our students and the larger communities they serve!

On January 1, 2016, Brother Peter Zawot and I had the privilege of attending a New Year's Day liturgy in Lima, Peru marking the start of a year-long celebration commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the arrival of the first Christian Brothers in Peru in 1966. Today our Latin American Region consists of some thirty Brothers from Ireland, Peru, and the United States, who together with a myriad of lay colleagues, minister in schools and outreach projects in Argentina, Bolivia, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay. In October, Brother Peter O'Loughlin and I were delighted to visit our Brothers and lay colleagues at Colegio Cardenal Newman (Buenos Aires, Argentina), Centro Hermano Manolo (Cochabamba, Bolivia) and Colegio Stella Maris (Montevideo, Uruguay). Great works are being done in the names of Jesus Christ and Blessed Edmund Rice.

As you peruse this issue of Christian Brothers Today, please join us in praying for the good works of our Brothers and all who are inspired by the charism of Blessed Edmund in our global world. May the winter blessings of our loving God rest upon each of you.

God bless,

*Br. Kevin M. Griffith*

Br. Kevin M. Griffith, CFC  
Edmund Rice Christian Brothers North America  
Province Leader

# CONFIDENCE

Brother Joe Payne is a tutor who takes the opportunity to seek and inspire students to learn, and by learning grow to become more than they thought they were. Brother Joe has been teaching Sebastian (photo below) for a little more than three years. Sebastian came to this country with no English language skills. Having taught him for a year in his Tuesday class, Brother Joe decided that he needed to pull him out of that class to help him learn.



Brother Joe and Sebastian began one-on-one classes on Sunday. After about two years of these one on one Sunday morning sessions, he noticed something start to change. Sebastian started to walk more upright and make better eye contact with people. He seemed happier. Brother Joe asked him about it, and Sebastian told him that even his boss and coworkers were asking him about what had changed. It was simple: with learning came confidence.

Because of the close teacher-student relationship Brother Joe and Sebastian developed, Sebastian shared with him that he didn't use a bank. Instead, he gave all of his money to his sister to safeguard for him. According to Joe, Sebastian never thought he could do that. "Banks are for rich people, people who are smart." Joe never quit teaching. Instead, he took Sebastian to a local bank and showed him how to open a checking account.

In class, Sebastian shared how much it meant to him to have learned from Brother Joe and to have gotten his own checking account. The other students wanted to learn more about the bank, so Brother Joe asked a representative from that bank to join them for a class and share how to open a checking or savings account. Three more classmates were inspired to open checking accounts. Three more individuals who didn't know anything about what it meant to save money in a bank had the opportunity to gain confidence by taking better control of their personal finances.

Students grasping for something better, not knowing what that really means, find tutors like Brother Joe who teach them personally until they begin to understand, learn, and grow.

Adapted from: The Literacy Council Gulf Coast

# FROM COMPASSION TO LIBERATION

Representatives from 15 of our Edmund Rice schools in Canada and the United States gathered at our annual School Leaders Retreat in Peachtree City, Georgia, Oct. 12-15, 2015.

Br. Brian Bond, CFC, (photo right) Executive Director of Edmund Rice International in Geneva, presented "From Compassion to Liberation: Advocacy in Edmund Rice Schools." After the opening prayer, Br. Bond presented "The Universal Declaration of Human Rights" and invited the participants to take the "Human Rights Temperature" of their schools and discuss where they needed to focus future efforts. After speaking about various kinds of responses to injustice, including alleviating suffering and advocating for change, he proposed an unusual interpretation of the "Parable of the Talents" to suggest that Jesus was a Human Rights advocate.



Br. Kevin Griffith, CFC, Province Leader, introduced "Mission Frère Advocacy," one of the Province's responses to the Chapter Calls and encouraged the group to participate in the initiative that will be headed by Mr. Sean D'Alfonso.

Br. Bond then introduced the group to advocacy in schools and how to engage students in advocacy. He described United Nations structures and mechanisms and the role of Edmund Rice International as a Non-governmental Organization (NGO) with consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) at the U.N.



Jim Muting and Ron Schutté plan future action for their schools.

The facilitator, Sister Grace D'Amico, SSND, then invited the participants to jot down and share their personal and school experiences of advocacy. Lastly, she asked them to work in school teams to formulate three action steps to implement when they returned to their schools.

At the closing prayer, a representative from each school proclaimed their action steps, and the result was an impressive indication that the schools were ready to move forward.

Director of Governance, Br. Anthony Murphy, and member / trustees, Br. Ray Vercruysse and Peter Zawot, also attended. The retreat was sponsored by the Office of Educational Services and facilitated by Sister Grace, Associate Director.

Adapted from: ERCBNA Province Newsletter, December 2015

# NINE IS MINE



In September, students from India traveled to New York to demand inclusive policies and rights for children during the 70th Session of the U.N. General Assembly. These fifteen students from all across India journeyed to the U.N. to tell their stories and to garner support for their program and for the millions of underrepresented children across the world.

While in New York, they were hosted by Br. Kevin Cawley at Iona College and stopped at Iona Preparatory to share their stories with students in New Rochelle.



Addressing the UN (above) and visiting Iona Prep in New Rochelle, NY (right).



Originally published in: NorAm, December 2015



# Edmund Rice Education Beyond Borders

TRANSFORMATIONAL EDUCATION FOR JUSTICE AND LIBERATION

## SAVE THE DATE

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON EDMUND RICE EDUCATION

*EDUCATING AND ENCOUNTERING HUMANITY*

OCTOBER 2016 – INDIA

Members of Edmund Rice School communities around the world are warmly invited to participate in the inaugural EREBB International Congress, hosted by India, in 2016.

**DATE:** Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> – Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2016

**VENUE:** St Joseph's and St George's Colleges, Kolkata, India

### CONTACT:

Email [info@erebb.org](mailto:info@erebb.org)

Further information and registrations will be sent out later in 2015.

“India may be a land of over a 100 problems, but it is also a place for a billion solutions”.

*Kailash Satyarthi (Indian Child Rights Activist and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate 2014)*



# Edmund Rice Karibu Camps

Imagine living in the largest urban slum in Africa where electricity and running water are non-existent; where some families cannot afford to send their children to school. Despite these challenges, young people like Musila John Muisyo are overcoming adversity to change the course of their lives.

“I am a 22 year old young man born, raised and still living in the largest informal settlement known as Kibera, which is inhabited by approximately a million people today,” says Musila, “people from other places see Kibera as a slum but I will always see it as home.”

“I have managed to attend university living here, and so can everyone. I study Electrical Engineering in a local university. I have it in my mind that I will be successful in time to come.”



Kibera is the largest slum in Nairobi, Kenya, and it is the largest urban slum in the entire continent of Africa. Most of Kibera residents live in extreme poverty earning less than \$1 a day. The unemployment rate is high, and due to the scarcity of water communicable diseases related to poor hygiene are rampant.

“I joined the Edmund Rice Karibu Camps three years ago, and it has really had a positive impact on me. I have seen its impact on me, others in town and on hundreds of children in

Kibera,” says Musila, “I have developed my leadership traits by giving myself in service to others.”

“Through camps, community outreach and visits to centres I am in a unique position to appreciate diversity in life. I see many people live positively, and this inspires change.”

The Karibu Camps are well-established with a successful programme. The camps provide recreational, educational and personal development opportunities to children and young adults who otherwise would not have any. Several times a year, the camps bring together children and young adults from Kibera to explore good and meaningful relationships, and to empower them to live positive lives by focusing on their vocations.

Adapted from: <http://www.mseancara.ie/stories-of-change/living-positively-inspires-change/>



# Profiles of Edmund Rice Christian Brothers North America

## **BROTHER D. THOMAS LEJEUNE, CFC**

Originally from New Orleans, Tom LeJeune had a tour of duty in the United States Navy before entering the Brothers. He completed his bachelor's degree at Iona College and later earned a Masters in religious education from Seattle University.

Brother Tom's assignments have brought him to schools in Illinois, Seattle, Hawaii, California, and Arizona. As a member of the Brothers' community responding to the needs of Katrina hurricane victims in New Orleans, Brother Tom began a two year engagement with Catholic Charities' Operation Helping Hands. His ministry included the hosting of volunteer groups from around the country, and hands-on participation in rebuilding homes of families left homeless by the catastrophe.

Currently, Brother Tom is a member of the Brothers' Mexico-USA boarder community in Brownsville, Texas. As a teacher, a coach, and a mentor, his enthusiasm is a source of animation wherever he serves. His rich experience is being tapped to explore new ways of accompanying the growing number of high school, college and university students who seek opportunities to become engaged in direct services to peoples at the margins of society. His locates the margins in the daily invitations from the Lord to be present, here and now, with whomever shares his day, calling attention to the joy of living and serving each other as sisters and brothers.



Smiling and behind the wheel of Guadalupe Regional Middle School's new bus, is Brother Tom LeJeune. He joins the Principal Kathy Stapleton and students in expressing thanks to the benefactors who make possible this tuition free school serving children from economically challenged families on the Mexico-United States boarder.

One in a series from: Profiles of Edmund Rice Christian Brothers North America, By Brother Sean Moffett, CFC  
*Brief profiles of a few Brothers suggest where today they continue to seek out and be with those on the margins of society.*

# Mission Frère

## Edmund Rice Network Services

Edmund Rice Network Services encompasses vibrant opportunities for engagement in the building of a more just and compassionate society, being fully present to those most in need, and giving voice to the voiceless. We invite you to consider four ways you might collaborate in this graced and joy-filled effort.

### **Mission and Immersion Experiences**

Short term service projects in poor and marginalized areas in the United States, Canada and abroad.

### **Christian Brothers Lay Volunteer Program**

Year-long service in a context of Community, Prayer, and Reflection with the Edmund Rice Christian Brothers in North America.

### **Associate and Vowed Membership**

with the Edmund Rice Christian Brothers.

### **Campus Affiliates**

Prayer experiences, service opportunities and social gatherings for college and university students from Edmund Rice Christian Brothers Schools.

For more information contact:

**Benny Rivera, Coordinator**

260 Wilmot Road

New Rochelle, NY 10804

Cell: 516 589 1229

[bennyriveracbi@gmail.com](mailto:bennyriveracbi@gmail.com)

# FORMER BROTHERS GATHER IN INDIA

In December, we a group of ex-monks got together with a couple of monks at St. Augustine's Vasai. From the moment the group began to come together at around half seven in the evening, one could sense that in a way not a single one of us had ever left.

The joy at catching up with those with whom we spent an important part of our lives with was evident from the loud greetings and the great deal of back slapping. The evening began with a most beautiful prayer service conducted by Preetham in the monk's chapel. In prayer, we shared our difficulties, our joys and gave thanks to God in a special way for the gift of the Novi to all of us and how many of us are better people simply because we had Novi.



Following the period of prayer, all of us made our way up to the monk's common room. As the spirit moved us and warmed us up, the singing got louder and the laughter could be heard on the road. During the sing-song the ex's continued to catch up with those whom they had not met some for a couple of years. Lots of stories were swapped and a general feeling of warmth seemed to envelop the room. We really felt at home.

We are already talking about fixing the date for the next meet and whether it should be once a year or twice a year. Finally, I would like to place on record the gratefulness of all the ex's for the wonderful feeling of welcome shown to us by Wilfie and the community at Vasai and also to Preetham, Elias and Rahul who worked tirelessly to make the day quite unforgettable.

Adapted from: Indian Province Newsletter, December 2015, by Ralph Pereira

# FORMATION MEETING LUSAKA, ZAMBIA

Twenty-six members of various formation and leadership teams of the Africa Province are meeting at the International Spirituality Centre in Lusaka for two weeks. The meeting is the culmination of the extensive consultation process conducted throughout the Province to review the current formation program.

In the opening ritual, one of the symbols in the centerpiece is of an expectant mother, symbolizing something we hope to bring to birth during these days of prayer and reflection.

The importance of this meeting is underlined by the presence of the Congregation Leader – Br. Hugh O’Neil and member of the Congregation Leadership Team Br. Julian McDonald, Province Leader Br. Michael de Klerk together with other members of Province Leadership Team and District Leadership Team.

One purpose of having an extended period for this meeting is to identify and analyse formation issues and to provide participants with adequate opportunity to form the kind of community envisioned by our Nairobi Chapter.

Originally published in: East Africa District Newsletter, January 2016, by George Massay



Brothers processing in the meeting hall during the opening ritual



# Long-Term Volunteer?

Recent college graduate or young professional looking for more meaning and purpose?

**Aid Homeless**

**Be Jesus in Action**

**Repair Homes**

**Help Students**

**Live in a Community of Faith**

**Edmund Rice Christian Brothers  
New Orleans**

Lay volunteers commit to a year of service and community life with the Brothers. Like Jesus and the disciples, they walk together discerning the will of God for the community.

The Christian Brothers Volunteer Community would be a good fit for you and if you meet the following criteria:

- Unmarried
- Bachelor's Degree or comparable work experience
- In good physical and mental health
- A desire to work with the marginalized and those in need
- Willing to live and participate fully in community life

Contact: Brother Bob Koppes, CFC

[brotherbobcfc@gmail.com](mailto:brotherbobcfc@gmail.com)

<http://ercbna.org/EdmundRiceNetwork/Volunteers.php>

# ST. EDWARD'S COLLEGE DONATES £25,000

On Wednesday 2 December 2015, Brother Edmund Garvey, European Province Leader of the Christian Brothers visited St. Edward's College in Liverpool, England.

Head Boy Owen and Head Girl Rachel presented Brother Garvey with a cheque from the College for £25,000 (approximately \$35,500 US) to support their missionary work in Africa – the culmination of fundraising through events such as the annual Edmund Rice Runs, cake sales, non-uniform days and the Year 7 Drama Showcase over the past three years.



Head Girl Rachel and Head Boy Owen present cheque to Br. Edmund Garvey

Brother Garvey explained to Year 13 pupils during their Assembly about the valuable work the Christian Brothers perform in West Africa and the massive impact a sum such as £25,000 will have on the communities in this area of the world.



Br. Edmund Garvey talks with staff, who had previously visited Kanvilli School, Tamale, Ghana

Afterwards he met with members of staff who had visited our partner school Kanvilli High School to discuss their experiences during their travels to Ghana.

Brother Garvey spoke of his powerful first hand experiences of worldwide poverty, and its profound effects. Poverty is more than a lack of food or water; it robs people of a dignity and respect that all people deserve. Yet, poverty can be tackled and ridding it from the planet will indeed be one of the greatest challenges facing the next generation. In a room of those starting out their journey as Edwardians and those on the brink of adulthood, this message was one that all took to heart.

his summary emphasised the importance of education, and instilled the message of hard work and unity in the pupils to improve themselves and the world.

Before he left the group, he highlighted what the most important aspects to our College, and to life, are: faith, community, charity, and loyalty. Quoting Malala Yousafzai,

As poverty continues, so too will the vision of Edmund Rice and the profound work of the Christian Brothers. It was a privilege to receive just some of the wisdom of Brother Garvey and as a College, we give our sincerest thanks.

Adapted from: Edmund Rice Development; Original article author: Emma Quayle, St. Edward's College Communications

To learn more about Edmund Rice Development, visit [www.edmundricedevelopment.org/](http://www.edmundricedevelopment.org/)

# EDMUND RICE CHAPEL WATERFORD, IRELAND



The Edmund Rice Chapel with its circular shape sits dramatically on the hill of Mount Sion.

Inside is the tomb of Blessed Edmund Rice with his name etched in Ogham, the ancient Irish alphabet.

Visitors are welcome to pray and reflect. They can also just sit and admire the wonderful panoramic views of Waterford city below.

The chapel plays host to various denominations. There are also regular Taizé prayer services, when, with the help of the Waterford Peace Choir, the chapel comes alive with music and singing.

Just outside, between the chapel and monastery, is the Peace Garden, a small oasis with seasonal flowers, bench seating, cosmic walk and Stations of the Cross. It's a quiet space where people can take time out of their busy lives to sit and be still.

For more information visit: <http://edmundrice.ie/>

# Your Generous Support Makes Possible Edmund Around the World. Thank You.

**Please fill out and mail this page to the address at the bottom of the page**

Yes, I/we would like to accompany the Brothers on our faith journey and will keep the Brothers and those with whom they minister in my/our prayers. I/We would also like to support the Brothers' ministry with the following gift:

\$100    \$50    \$25    Other \_\_\_\_\_

I/We would like the gift to support:

- Wherever the Brothers believe my/our gift is most needed at this time.
- The elderly and infirm Brothers who have given their life to serve God's people.
- The Brothers' vocation and formation programs which seek and train men to follow Blessed Edmund as Christian Brothers.
- Please send me a packet of Blessed Edmund Rice Prayer cards.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Province \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime telephone \_\_\_\_\_

My/Our check is enclosed (please make your check payable to "Edmund Rice Christian Brothers Foundation")

Please charge my credit card:    Master Card/Visa    American Express

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ Security/Validation Code \_\_\_\_\_

Name as it appears on card \_\_\_\_\_

**Please mail to:**

Edmund Rice Christian Brothers, CBTsp2016  
260 Wilmot Road  
New Rochelle, NY 10804

## Brother John Ambrose Brosnan, C.F.C. (1930-2015)

Brother John Ambrose Brosnan passed away on October 26, 2015. Brother Brosnan was born on October 30, 1930 in New York, the son of Maurice and Delia Lucid Brosnan. He is a graduate of St. Elizabeth's Elementary, All Hallows High School, Iona College where he graduated with a BA in History and Gonzaga University where he received his MA in Sociology. Brother Brosnan entered the congregation on July 1, 1948 and took his final vows on June 27, 1956. His ministry took him to many positions including Iona Grammar School and Community, Vancouver College and Community, O'Dea High School in Seattle, WA, Boys Central High School in Butte, MT, Rice High School in New York, Iona Prep, Power Memorial High School in NY, Bergen Catholic High School in Oradell, NJ, and at St. Joseph's Residence Community in New Rochelle, NY.



## Brother John Adrian Reidy, C.F.C. (1931-2015)

Brother John Adrian Reidy passed away on January 23, 2015. Brother Reidy was born on December 16, 1931 in New Rochelle, NY, the son of John and Louise Taylor Reidy. He is a graduate of St. Augustine's in Larchmont, Blessed Sacrament High School, Iona College where he graduated with a BA in History and a MS in Pastoral Counseling and Fordham University graduating with his MSC in Religious Education. Brother Reidy entered the congregation on June 26, 1950 and took his final vows on September 8, 1958. His ministry took him to many positions including All Hallows High School, Cardinal Hayes High School, Rice High School, St. Laurence High School in Burbank, IL, Essex Catholic High School in Newark, NJ, Bishop Kearney High School in Rochester, NY, the Iona College Community, the Christian Brothers-Santa Maria Community and the St. Joseph's Residence-Cabrini on Hudson.



Brother Reidy is survived by his sister, Carol Douglass, brother-in-law Bob and five nieces and nephews: Carol, Bob, Patrick, Tara and John.

## Brother Francis Patrick Morkan, C.F.C. (1928-2015 )

Brother Francis Patrick Morkan passed away on October 28, 2015. Brother Morkan was born on September 17, 1928 in New York, the son of Patrick and Mary Quinn Morkan. He is a graduate of Holy Name of Jesus grammar school, Power Memorial High School, Manhattan College where he graduated with a BBA in Business and NY University graduating with his MA in Business. Brother Morkan entered the congregation on June 29, 1949 and took his final vows on June 27, 1957. His ministry took him to many positions including Rice High School in New York City where he was a faculty member and principal, Holy Cross School, Newfoundland, All Hallows, Bronx, NY as Superior , Santa Maria Novitiate as Novice Master, Iona Prep, Power Memorial Academy, Eastern American Province as Consultor, Notre Dame Bishop Gibbons Community, Schenectady, NY, Christian Brothers West Side Community in New York City, St. Joseph's Residence Community in New Rochelle, NY and his final residence at Cabrini of Westchester in Dobbs Ferry, NY.



## Brother Leo Patrick Taylor, C.F.C. (1937-2016 )

Brother Leo Patrick Taylor died peacefully at the Brothers' Residence in Delta, BC on January 16, 2016. He was predeceased by his loving parents, Leo and Mary (Tobin), as well as his brother Gerald. Leo leaves to mourn his sisters, Bernadette (Edward), Mary (Peter), Anita, Irene and his brothers Michael (Della), Dennis and the members of the Congregation of Christian Brothers. Leo was a member of the Congregation of Christian Brothers for sixty- three years and served in various roles in schools in Newfoundland, British Columbia and Antigua.



# Brother Frederick Louis Frick, C.F.C. (1926-2016 )

Brother Frederick Louis Frick C.F.C. passed away on January 29, 2016. Brother Frick was born on May 4, 1926 in Butte, MT, the son of Frederick Louis Sr. and Anne Florence Ginther Frick. After honorably serving in the United States Navy, he graduated from the College University of San Francisco where he earned his BA. Brother Frick entered the Congregation on June 29, 1948 and took his final vows on September 08, 1956. His ministry took him to many positions including Briscoe School, Kent, WA, Boys Central High School Butte, MT, Cantwell High School, Montebello, CA, Essex High School Newark, NJ, Palma High School, Salinas, CA, Br. Rice High School, Birmingham, MI, Ryan Hall Community, Lockport, IL, Leo High School, Chicago, IL, St. Patrick's High School, Vallejo, CA, Damien Memorial High School in Honolulu, HI, and St. Joseph's Residence. In 1965 Br. Frick served as the first Provincial of the Br. Rice Province, Western United States of the Edmund Rice Christian Brothers. He returned as Councilor to the Western American Province in 1975.



*Each Brother is an open letter from Christ  
-- a message written not with ink but in the  
Spirit of the living God, with a faithful  
human heart to carry it.*

*Blessed Edmund Rice*

