

Christian Brothers Today

Edmund Rice Christian Brothers
North America Province

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TOGETHER WE WALK AS BROTHERS

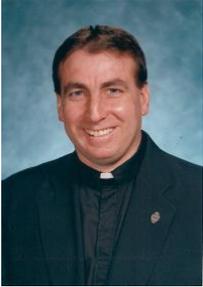


Edmund Rice Christian Brothers North America

A Province of the Congregation of Christian Brothers

September 2019

Dear Companions in Blessed Edmund Rice,



**Br. Kevin
Griffith**

Throughout the North American continent, Labor Day marks the unofficial end of the summer season. With this, the 2019-2020 school year will now have begun in all parts of our Edmund Rice Christian Brothers North America Province. I hope you have had a blessed summer that has allowed ample time for rest, relaxation and reflection. With the *Essential Elements of an Edmund Rice Christian Brother Education* as our guide, the new school year beckons and challenges us to bring the Gospel message of Jesus Christ to all those we encounter.

The Preamble to the *Essential Elements of an Edmund Rice Christian Brother Education* reads in part:

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...The life of Blessed Edmund Rice – businessman, husband, father, widower, religious Brother, teacher and Founder – challenges all involved in Christian Brother education to live and teach Gospel values.

During the past five years, as issues that affect our students have arisen, our Province advocacy efforts have attempted to draw attention to topics such as: race relations, immigration, gun control, restorative justice, prison reform, child sexual abuse and climate change. It seems this past summer that many of these topics have converged in dominating the news cycle in one way or another. As Catholic Christians who have been called to educate the minds and hearts of the young, we simply cannot ignore the impact that continued racial discrimination, inhumane treatment of immigrants, violent mass shootings, prison injustice, child sexual abuse and lack of care for our good Earth have on the impressionable lives of our students.

In March of 2014, more than seventy men and woman inspired by the charism of Blessed Edmund Rice gathered in Nairobi, Kenya to together listen for the voice of the Holy Spirit in our midst. The prophetic statement below was made at that time and surely is still most apropos today.

The world is expressing unprecedented human population growth with demands on food, housing, water and energy. There are inequities in people's access to power, wealth and resources whereby the rich are getting richer and the poor are being made poorer. With increasing areas of unrest and military intervention, religious conflict and persecution,

there is a surge in the number of people seeking asylum. Rampant human consumerism is leading to increasing levels of pollution and the extinction of species which could lead to the destruction of the Earth.

It is the agenda of the world that sets the mission direction of the Church and our Congregation.

My friends and colleagues, I believe that as Edmund Rice educators, we are called to respond to the injustices that surround us. Our students have an inalienable right to live in a world that promotes healing and reconciliation, rather than hatred and division. That recognizes the dignity

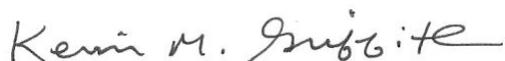
of each person, regardless of race, ethnicity, creed, etc., rather than demonizing them for being people of color. That is safe wherever they go, rather than one where they have to fear coming to school, walking in a mall or going to Church. That welcomes those seeking a better life, rather than detaining them for being from a foreign land. That values the family unit, rather than separating children from their parents for seeking asylum. That protects and cares for our Earth, rather than denying our role in its destruction. That provides healthcare for all, rather than taking it away for political gain. That rehabilitates those who have been imprisoned, rather than perpetuating an endless cycle of incarceration. That stands up for the rights of children who have been abused, rather than seeking to protect large institutions from bad publicity. That seeks to live up to the ideals of the Gospel of Jesus, the charisma of Blessed Edmund, the non-violence of Mahatma Gandhi, the Dream of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr, the exhortations of Pope Francis, etc.

As Edmund Rice Christian Brother schools, let us lead the way in teaching our students that God's unconditional love knows no bounds, discriminates against no person, welcomes all peoples, respects all cultures, embraces all human life and embodies all creation. In doing this, we will be faithful to *Essential Element # 3* by "standing in solidarity with those marginalized by poverty and injustice" – and *Essential Element # 5* by "celebrating the value and dignity of each person."

Let us respond to the agenda of the world with a resounding faith that trusts in God's plan for humanity and creation, that holds out hope for a future with great promise for all God's people and that exhibits a love that permeates all aspects of our precious lives.

May the 2019-2020 school year be one of hopeful expectation in giving witness to the Good News we proclaim with faith, hope and love.

God bless,



Bro. Kevin M. Griffith

Edmund Rice Christian Brothers North America, Province Leader

Tutti Fratelli Rome 2019



Br. Peter
O'Loughlin

From September 8 to October 5, 2019, I had the privilege of travelling to Rome, Italy to share Brotherhood with 60 Brothers, from 14 Congregations representing 35 countries and three major language groups: English 50%, French 25% and Spanish 25%. **Tutti Fratelli** (We are all Brothers) was held at the De La Salle Generalate a scant few miles from St. Peter's Square and the Vatican. The hospitality of the De La Salle Community made for a smooth transition as we settled into a routine of presentations, small group discussions, prayer experiences and experiences of Liturgy in three languages.

The core of the program enabled us to explore the deeper meanings of what it is to be a Brother in the 21st century. The presenters challenged us to look at our vocation as consecrated religious men with new eyes and open hearts. We were challenged to reflect on the charism of our various founders, and we were encouraged to try and apply that information to our present realities. We had an opportunity to unpack the meaning and role of fraternity and the unique witness we as Brothers can give to the world.

One of the highlights of our time together was the depth of creativity shown by the various small groups as they led the larger group in different prayer experiences. We prayed together in our own languages and that sharing of gifts and talents enriched each one of us. While language barriers were a challenge at times, our willingness to accommodate each other's languages and customs was a wonderful exercise of interculturality.



Early in the program we had the opportunity to learn about the 14 Congregations attending Tutti Fratelli. This sharing of history, charism and mission highlighted for me that we Brothers have far more in common than we may have previously thought and that we are very consistent in the way we present Jesus's message of love and fraternity to our various constituencies. It also showed the power of the

many cultures that exist in the world.

We travelled as a group, at different times, to a Papal Audience, to Assisi and many of us were in St. Peter's Square where Pope Francis led us in a Mass celebrating Migrants and Refugees and where he unveiled a very powerful new statue depicting migrants and refugees. All of these experiences helped us to forge a closer bond with each other as we unpacked the meaning of Brotherhood in today's world.

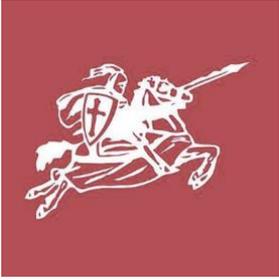
Tutti Fratelli provided us with the opportunity to live in an intercultural way while exploring themes that bind us as Brothers. These themes included: The Identity and Mission of the Religious Brother in the Church; Personal Transformation to follow Jesus; Leadership and Identity; Leadership Challenges; Formation; and Child Protection to name a few. The presenters didn't hide from the present realities facing our Church and our Congregations, but encouraged us to be open and honest about our past, while inviting us to live in the present as we continue to grow in our understanding that there are many exciting possibilities for the future.

I left Rome with a deeper awareness of what it means to be a Brother and to be a Brother in a world that is hungering for love, tolerance and understanding. Our vocation presents us with opportunities to be bridge builders, intermediaries, and conduits for compassion and change. Our fraternal lifestyle is a constant example of Jesus' call to build the Kingdom of God on Earth. As Brothers we have a unique opportunity to show by example what living the Gospel on a day-to-day basis can mean.

I pray that all Brothers will continue to be beacons of hope throughout the world.



**Representing our Congregation: Back (l to r): Phil Joyner (Oceania), Ackim Simasiku (South-Central District, Africa), Paul Luseni (West Africa), Jorge Tavera (Latin America), Senan Ryan (Europe), Maurice Fernandes (India)
Front (l to r): Peter O'Loughlin (North America), Brian Monaghan (Europe), Peter Dowling (Tutti Fratelli Committee), Gerald Mgalula (East Africa).**



Catholic Memorial High School
West Roxbury, MA



The Catholic high school that holds funerals for homeless veterans
Michael Kotsopoulos
May 26, 2019



**Student at Catholic Memorial School in West Roxbury, Mass.,
serve at the funeral service for U.S. Army Veteran Timothy Fowl in January 2019
(Photo provided by author)**

I am greeted by a wooden casket hoisted on the shoulders of eight high school basketball players as I enter the lobby of Catholic Memorial School in early January. An American flag covers the casket. At 8 a.m., I expect a tired expression across the face of each young man and wonder how they will navigate the halls to the narrow chapel.

But, stoic and calm, the boys looked at ease. They walked tall, proud and surefooted. Their composure surprised me as they made their way into the school chapel. Following the procession, I scanned the room to find an open seat. But the school's theology classes packed every pew.

I stood in the back-left corner next to the tabernacle and watched the scene unfold. The mood felt different from most funerals. Every person in the room, faculty member and student alike, seemed to

know their surroundings. If anything, it gave the school's fifth funeral service for a homeless military veteran more of a welcoming mood than that of a somber "goodbye."

A little unsettled, I kept thinking back to my first day of work at Catholic Memorial School. I remembered Vice Principal Tom Ryan giving the school's new faculty a sound piece of advice: "If you want to let a student know that they're loved, call them by their name," he said to us. "After all, someone loved them enough to give them one."

When a person calls someone by their name, it shows the person that they matter — that they exist in the eyes of at least one other person. But what happens when nobody knows their name? And what happens when those who knew it no longer exist? Who reminds them of their own dignity then?

The questions began to flood my mind in the middle of Father Peter Stamm's opening prayer. At the sound of the deceased's name, U.S. Army Veteran Timothy Fowl, I remember thinking, "Who?"

Nobody knew Mr. Fowl at Catholic Memorial School. Few people outside of the school's all-boys West Roxbury, Mass., campus did either.

In the days leading up to the New Year, a homeless Army veteran named Timothy Fowl passed away at the Brockton VA Hospital—miles away from the Grove Street shelter in Worcester where records show he used to reside.

He deserved better, really. The man sacrificed six years of his life to serve his nation as a medical specialist in the 1980s. He worked as a welder in the years that followed before falling on hard times. Years later his trail went cold.

At the time of his death, Mr. Fowl left behind no known friends or family. He received no heartfelt goodbyes. Still, Mr. Fowl's remains, given to Lawler and Crosby Funeral Home, needed a proper burial.

Kevin Durazo, the director of campus ministry, began the tradition of providing funerals for veterans with no known living friends or family two years ago when the C.M. hockey team laid to rest veteran John Fitzmaurice.

The school considers it a part of its mission to welcome those on the margins into their community—an active and engaging way for an adolescent to understand the concept of empathy. At C.M., serving means to walk with, not ahead of, another. Though students collectively complete over 15,000 hours of required service work each year, they do not receive hours for their participation in the funeral.

Whenever Mr. Durazo receives a phone call from Lawler and Crosby, he invites a different student group to host the service. At past funerals, the hockey and football teams volunteered to service as pallbearers. The school partners with Lawler and Crosby to coordinate the casket, hearse and transportation needed for the burial at the veterans' cemetery in Winchendon.

This time, Mr. Durazo asked eight members of the basketball team to collectively serve at the funeral for Mr. Fowl, a man who gave up a part of his life to serve others.

During these funeral services in the chapel, our students learn what it means to welcome someone on the margins into their family.

Back in the chapel, I stood still and listened to our school president, Peter Folan, end the service with a eulogy.

"Here at C.M., we're a family," he said. "A proud family. We're a community that welcomes people in and accepts them for where they are. We ask them to join us on our journey toward being more, doing more and caring for others.

“Timothy Fowl, welcome to our family.”

I thought back to Mr. Ryan’s mantra. At the time of his death, few knew Mr. Fowl. But as Mr. Folan listed off his military service and the significance of his duty, a room full of young men began to understand what the name Timothy Fowl meant. To them, it meant sacrifice for one’s country. It meant service. It meant bravery. With that, every student left school that day keeping Mr. Fowl’s memory alive.

After a final blessing, the basketball team resumed its duties. In front of the altar, they hoisted the casket and escorted Mr. Fowl back to his hearse. An honor guard presented Mr. Fowl with full military rights before loading him into the vehicle. Then, with the flag at half-mast, the boys said their goodbyes to their new brother to the playing of taps.

Looking back on the day, it strikes me how this service leaves such a profound impression on the minds of our boys. As an Edmund Rice Christian Brothers school, C.M. prioritizes Jesus’ seven corporal works of mercy in its active service to others. These works instruct us to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, shelter the homeless, visit the sick, visit prisoners, give alms to the poor and bury the dead. Each originates from Matthew 25, the Gospel chapter where Jesus tells his disciples to look for him in the least of their brothers.

The order’s founder, Blessed Edmund Rice, dedicated his life to providing a value centered education for marginalized boys. He hoped that, with this education, they grew up into men of character who passed on their gifts for the betterment of the world.

During these funeral services in the chapel, our students learn what it means to welcome someone on the margins into their family. They give shelter, visit the sick and bury the dead. They learn how to empathize with the suffering of others and to see a stranger as their brother. And it starts with learning his name.



Mike Kotsopoulos is the assistant director of communications at Catholic Memorial School, where he plays an active role in the campus ministry department’s peer ministry program. He attended Boston College and writes as a correspondent for The Boston Globe. His work has appeared in the Huffington Post and the Vineyard Gazette.



All Hallows High School Bronx, NY

For Faith & Country

*By Tom Deignan, Columnist, Irish America
May / June 2019*

All Hallows High School, a Catholic boys' high school in the South Bronx, has a colorful history, from the sons of Irish immigrants who it was opened for to the minority students it now serves. Principal Seán Sullivan has made sure over the years that it is still one of the top Cathc



All Hallows High School student Brandon Bello.

When you walk through the doors of All Hallows High School, the first thing you'd better do is turn right. Or turn left. But you'd better turn, or else you'll step on the beloved golden seal which bears the school's name and motto – Pro Fiede et Patria... "For Faith and Country."

As generations of graduates will tell you, walking on the seal is frowned upon. "I remember my first year as vice principal," current principal Seán Sullivan said during a recent visit to the school. "This poor freshman walked [across the seal], and I told him, 'Don't you see what that is? That's the grave of All Hallows, he's buried there,'" Sullivan recalled with a laugh – before adding that the following day, the deeply remorseful boy returned with his mother, who was bearing flowers.

Which pretty much sums up what All Hallows has been about for over a century: families, respect, and a reverence for the past. "I've seen the first Irish Christian Brothers school," Sullivan says, referring to the one opened by Edmund Rice on Waterford's New Street in 1802. "It's eerily similar to this one."

Walking the halls of All Hallows can be a touch jarring: there are rows of blue lockers and classroom doors swung open, all familiar enough. But then there is the imposing, life-size marble statue of Blessed Edmund Rice at the end of the hall. (The case for Rice's sainthood is currently being made at the Vatican.)

When the bell rings, the mostly black and Hispanic students in dress shirts and ties move quietly to their next class – occasionally stopping to shake hands with Principal Sullivan. But as they move, they walk past rows of photos of past school principals and presidents – almost all of them Irish or Irish-American.

Yet despite such obvious contrasts, Sullivan and other leaders at All Hallows note that today's students have much in common with past graduates. And though you might think today's students would have little interest in history in general, and Irish-American history in particular, a visit to the school proves otherwise.

"These kids really understand the historic ties," notes Sullivan, whose office is teeming with photos, posters, statues, and other assorted knick-knacks reflecting his passions for Ireland and baseball – which is fitting since, after stepping off the 4 train at 161st Street, you have to walk past Yankee Stadium to get to All Hallows.

The school's current building has been operating on 164th Street since 1930, located across from a park named after poet and journalist Joyce Kilmer – a high-profile supporter of the Irish independence movement which culminated in the 1916 Easter Rising. If you look closely at the building's exterior, you will see images of George Washington as well as Saint Patrick. School sweaters bear the school's mascot (the Gael) and colors (blue and white, reflecting the traditional sporting colors of Waterford), as well as a shamrock.

And when former Irish president Mary McAleese visited the school in 2012, she was understandably impressed by the school's chapel: the altar's marble is from Connemara, and the stunning stained-glass windows, by celebrated Irish artist Harry Clarke (1889-1931), are essentially priceless.

Two of the school's annual highlights are also deeply Irish. First, of course, is the staff-student march up Fifth Avenue in the Manhattan St. Patrick's Day parade. And second is the annual summer trip to Ireland. Up to 12 All Hallows students – typically those who are most dedicated to their schoolwork as well as community service – go to Maynooth University every year to attend a 10-day conference on leadership.

"We always tell the kids: 'Look, there's going to be a culture clash,'" says Sullivan of the conference attended by students from all over the world – including troubled spots like Belfast and Palestine. "But very quickly...they find the commonality." He adds: "There's just an ocean between them. That's all." One All Hallows graduate, named Robert Rivera, liked Ireland so much he decided to attend college there. He's currently enrolled at Maynooth University.

Sullivan's parents came to the U.S. from Cork, and his mother was actually in Ireland while pregnant with him. But she flew back to have the baby in the U.S. "I don't think she trusted the doctors over there," Sullivan says with a laugh.

Aside from fundraising, Sullivan says the biggest day-to-day challenge is simply getting the students into the building every day. Adversity comes in many forms on the streets of the Bronx. All Hallows serves as a refuge from all that.

Along the same lines, one thing that has changed over the years, Sullivan notes, is the level of social and emotional guidance students receive, to go along with healthy doses of academics and discipline.

"[The students] know they have people here who are going to listen and who are going to help," says Sullivan.

While visiting All Hallows, we also encountered a group of seventh-grade students from a charter school who may one day enroll at All Hallows, learn about Edmund Rice, and perhaps even visit Ireland. If they looked closely at the walls, they would have noticed not only Kelly-green shamrocks, but also photos honoring "students of the week." And amidst the many students with first names like "Kaheem" and last names like "Rodriguez," they might also have noticed a name that could well have belonged to one of the former, white-haired principals – but in fact belongs to a current student: Phillip O'Flynn.

Immigrants: Then and Now

Martin Daly – "Marty" to everyone, with the exception of his Kerry-born parents – grew up in the Bronx, at a time when many of his neighbors and classmates also had parents from in Ireland. "So many of our parents were immigrants or first-generation," says Daly, 67, a retired VP & director at CBS Network Sales. "Nobody had a whole lot of anything. But immigrant parents – I think you can make this generalization – they knew how important education was."

Daly first attended St. Simon Stock grammar school on Valentine Avenue. Then, like so many fellow Bronx Irish Catholics, he went on to All Hallows High School on 164th Street, in the shadows of Yankee Stadium. “All Hallows had a lot to do with helping me navigate those incredibly difficult mine fields everyone faces during the ages of fourteen to eighteen. And growing up in the Bronx, maybe there were even more,” Daly says with a laugh.

Daly graduated from All Hallows in 1970, yet remains active at the school. For the past decade, he has served on All Hallows’ board of directors, including the past five years as chairman. Daly – and many other Irish-American alumni who volunteer at the school – has watched as All Hallows’ neighborhood and student body changed drastically.

Currently, the 500-plus students at the all-boys school are over 95 percent African-American or Hispanic. And yet, in other ways, things have not changed all that much.

“We’re still serving the sons of recent immigrants to America... and still putting 98 percent of those young men in colleges,” says Daly.

“They’re just from different islands...Puerto Rico, the Caribbean...It’s a bit of an educational miracle, really.”



Despite sitting in the poorest congressional district in the country, All Hallows has consistently been named as one of the top 50 Catholic high schools in the United States. It is the only city school in the Archdiocese of New York to have earned this distinction.

The school routinely places its entire graduating class in four-year colleges. The Wall Street Journal has called the school’s success in this area “stunning.”

If there is a “miracle” here, it’s not that schools such as All Hallows are

Students of All Hallows are encouraged to dress for success. doing this in 2019. The miracle is that they’ve been doing it for over a century.

And at a time when immigration is such a hot-button topic, All Hallows – whose sports teams are still known as the Gaels – reminds Irish Americans that, not so long ago, it was their own grandparents who were “high-needs.”

Ultimately, All Hallows illustrates all that can be accomplished when the dedicated children of yesterday’s immigrants work to harness the energy and passion of today’s.

“All Hallows is really true to the mission of Edmund Rice,” school president Ron Schutté (Class of ’74) said. “I grew up right around the corner,” adds Schutté, who also attended All Hallows grammar school. “When the Bronx was burning, we were still here...All Hallows really became my entire life.”

Across the decades, Schutté says, the one constant has been taking “the Edmund Rice mission and putting that into action.”

The Christian Brothers of Ireland

In order to fully appreciate the work that students and staff at Catholic schools such as All Hallows do, you need to go back in time to a farm in Kilkenny, to a time when America did not yet exist, and practicing Catholicism in Ireland was more or less a crime under the notorious Penal Laws.

That's the culture into which Edmund Rice was born, in 1762. He was the fourth of seven sons, whose mother died in an accident – one of two tragedies that would profoundly alter his life and vocation. Rice initially became a successful merchant, and even got married. But then his own wife died, likely in an accident. (Many details of Rice's early life have been lost to history.)

Adrift, Rice turned to religion, at

first planning to go to continental Europe. But legend has it that, one day, Rice was talking to the sister of an Irish bishop, when they came upon a group of impoverished Irish boys.

“Would you bury yourself in a cell on the continent,” Rice was asked, “rather than devote your wealth and your life to the spiritual and material interest of these poor youths?”

Rice decided to devote himself to serving the poor and needy in Ireland, founding what would become known as the Christian Brothers of Ireland. During the first decade of the 19th century, Rice oversaw the opening of schools in Waterford, Dungarven, and Carrick-on-Suir.

Two centuries later, now known as the Congregation of Christian Brothers, the schools founded by Rice have served millions of “poor youths” in the U.S. and throughout the world.

All Hallows was the first Irish Christian Brothers high school to open in the U.S. in 1909. By then, the Irish in America had been through painful debates over religion and education. In the 1840s, powerful New York Archbishop “Dagger” John Hughes demanded government funding for a separate Catholic education system, in part because Irish immigrants faced such severe bigotry in New York's supposedly nondenominational public schools. The message was clear: “Education was a way out of poverty,” as John Loughery writes in his recent book *Dagger John: Archbishop John Hughes and the Making of Irish America*. According to Loughery, Hughes once wrote that “the time has almost come when it will be necessary to build the school-house first, and the church afterward.”

In short, if immigrants and their children faced unprecedented adversity on the mean streets of New York, Boston, Philly, and Chicago, then only an unapologetically Irish and Catholic educational system would do.



All Hallows alumnus and board member Bill Wheatley, writer Tom Deignan, Principal Seán Sullivan, alumnus and chairman of the board Martin Daly, and the school's president Ron Schutté.

Soon enough, Catholic elementary schools became the cornerstones of daily parish life. By the early 20th century, high schools such as All Hallows were thriving academically as well as athletically.

“Our job is to try and emphasize what is best about Catholic education...and stay true to our mission, which is to serve the poor and the marginalized,” says Schutté.

Or to use the precise words of what the school considers “Essential Elements of a Christian Brother Education”: to stand “in solidarity with those marginalized by poverty and injustice.”

And whether a student’s family hails from a small farm in Kerry, or the impoverished district along the Rio Ozama in Santo Domingo, All Hallows is now entering its second century of doing just that.

Learn, Earn, and Return

Now – as in the past – graduates of All Hallows serve as the best ambassadors for the school.

“An older kid would tell your mother and father what a great education you could get at All Hallows,” said Marty Daly. “The guys you played with on the street, [in] stickball or basketball... Word of mouth about the school is strong still today among, say, the Dominican community in the South Bronx or Harlem.”

“People who went to All Hallows tend to think very highly of it,” says Bill Wheatley (Class of 1962), a former executive at NBC News and current chairman of the All Hallows Foundation, which is charged with fundraising for the school. This is a crucial challenge, since most students are from modest backgrounds and receive financial assistance. (It costs All Hallows almost \$11,000 to educate students, but the school only charges about \$6,600 in tuition. Alumni, friends of the school, foundations, and other sources bridge that considerable gap.)



The annual New York City Saint Patrick’s Day parade, where students and alumni proudly carry the Gaels’ banner.

Wheatley grew up in the Parkchester section of the Bronx, where there were two parishes, St. Helena’s and St. Raymond’s, and monsignors were the “most powerful men in these very large communities.” He attended Catholic grammar school, where nuns taught classes with sometimes as many as 60 students.

“It was a very big change for me, going from the nuns to the Christian Brothers,” recalls Wheatley, who ultimately came to appreciate the, uh, stern discipline at All Hallows.

“I wasn’t an out-of-control kid, but I could use the discipline,” he said, adding, “[All Hallows] was instrumental in me having a sense of purpose. Teaching me...I could do well, as well as good, [and] make a contribution to society.”

Recently, All Hallows kicked off a new fundraising campaign, reminding potential donors of its mantra: “learn, earn, and return.” If that’s not convincing, school Principal Seán Sullivan has always remembered similarly precise words from a mother who explained why she chose to send her son to All Hallows: “You’re small. You’re safe. You’re successful.”

Edmund Rice could not have asked for more.

Editor’s Note: Mr. Sean Sullivan completed his tenure as principal of All Hallows at the end of the 2018 - 2019 school year.

Ms. Susan Natale was appointed to succeed Mr. Sullivan as principal.



Msgr Farrell High School
Staten Island, NY

Farrell TV station marks 21st anniversary with visits to 'Good Morning America,' \$100,000 Pyramid and Fox News

By Carol Ann Benanti | benanti@siadvance.com | Posted May 24, 2019 at 08:05 AM



Robin Roberts, anchor of ABC's 'Good Morning America,' and Brother Paul Hannon with Farrell TV Students. (Courtesy/Brother Paul Hannon)

As a way to celebrate the 21st anniversary of Monsignor Farrell's TV station WFBN, students at Farrell and at St. Joseph Hill Academy's TV studio and faculty were guests of three popular TV shows.

For starters, station students ventured over to the "Greg Gutfeld Show," the FOX News comedy and politics show modeled after traditional late-night talk shows.



Monsignor Farrell TV Students and St. Joseph Hill TV Students at the Greg Gutfeld Show.

(Courtesy/Brother Paul Hannon)

After dinner at the studio, students got to witness firsthand the upfront of and behind the camera production of the show. Farrell junior James Chierchio said, "Going to FOX Studios was an interesting experience. It gave us the opportunity to see how a professional broadcast is done."



Impractical Jokers: Brother Paul Hannon, James Murray, Nick Diaz, Asher Abraham, Matthew Giacobbe and Joe Gatto.

(Courtesy/Brother Paul Hannon)

And St. Joseph Hill's Christie Chahwan said, "This has been an unforgettable and amazing experience to see the behind the scenes of the show."

Next up was a trip to ABC's "Good Morning America."

On the day of their trip, Farrell students were required to arrive at the Oakwood school by 4:30 a.m. in order to get to the studio in Times Square, where they were named "VIP" guests of the popular program and seen on the national broadcast several times during the show.

After the segment, co-host Robin Roberts met with the Farrell entourage to chat and snap photos.

And because the students were such a big hit, they were invited to a taping of the "\$100,000 Pyramid Show" with host Michael Strahan.

But it wasn't until the show began that students learned why they ventured to that particular show.

WFBN-TV, Brother Paul Hannon, who grew up in Boston and is a big New England Patriots fan, wanted to see Super Bowl MVP Julian Edelman and superstar and recently retired Rob Gronkowski.

Students were delighted to interact with the Super Bowl champion players and take in the game show set, to air June 9 on ABC-TV.

The 21st anniversary show brought back "Fuzz on the Lens" founder and director Michael Leavy to co-host the show. Michael is a 2008 Farrell alum and was previously a co-anchor before being named lead anchor during the 2007-2008 school year.

A cake cutting ceremony immediately followed with Farrell's new principal, Lawrence Musanti.



WFBN lead anchor Matthew Giacobbe, left, co-anchor Matthew Sullivan with Michael Leavy.
(Courtesy/Brother Paul Hannon)



Farrell Principal Lawrence Musanti and Michael Leavy with Matthew Sullivan, left, and Matthew Giacobbe, right.
(Courtesy/Brother Paul Hannon)



Iona Preparatory School New Rochelle, NY



Confirmation was held on Thursday May 16th at Iona Prep. 25 boys from Iona Preparatory Lower School received the sacrament of confirmation by Archbishop Auza, Nuncio to the United Nations. Permission was received from their Pastors for the boys to receive the sacrament at Iona Prep.



Check out our website – Click the graphic above.



The Immersion Groups Program started in 2006 as a collaborative way among the North American Province and the Latin American Region. Brother Stephen Casey (ERCBNA) and Brother Paul Keohane (LAR) lead the program



More than a hundred immersion groups, and more than a thousand people have lived this experience in Lima and Cochabamba.

In Lima, each immersion group builds a prefabricated house for a family in extreme poverty. The families live on the hills in Canto Grande or Jicamarca, two neighborhoods hit hard by poverty. Building a prefabricated house costs approximately \$ 1,500. Each immersion group gathers sufficient amount of money to build a small house and to make small donations of school supplies or used clothing for families.

In preparation, Brothers Stephen and Paul visit the families on the hill of Canto Grande and Jicamarca, together with the neighbors decide which families should receive a prefabricated house. All families who receive a house live in extreme poverty. Thus, the family contributes in kind, with work, for the construction of the prefabricated house. Afterwards, it is painted with the preferred color of the family.

The Brothers do a follow up with the families through visits, accompanying them to solve small difficulties related to the education of their children, health or sanitation.

The immersion program changes lives not only of the families who now live in better conditions but also of the participants who experience life from another perspective.

An essential part of the immersion program is having time to reflect on the service.

It is a time of personal reflection, group sharing and community prayer. The purpose is to awaken the social consciousness in the participants of the immersion group.

IMMERSION GROUPS 2019

Jan 02 – 12	Iona College, NY	May 22 – 29	Newman 4,- Teachers
Jan 23 – Feb 01	Bergen Catholic, NJ	May 31 – Jun 08	Newman 5, Mothers
Feb 13 – 19	Hendricken, RI	Jun 09 – 16	Edmund Rice, Michigan
Feb 20 – 26	Catholic Memorial, Boston	Jun 14 – 22	Palma, Salinas, California
Mar 02 – 09	Saint Laurence, Chicago	Jun 29 – Jul 06	St Thomas More, Burnaby, BC
Mar 15 – 22	Vancouver College	Jul 10 – 16	Iona Prep, - Fathers & Sons
Apr 10 – 16	Iona Prep, - Pupils	Jul 17 – 24	Pilgrims in Perú - North America
Apr 12 – 20	Lewisham College, Sydney	Aug 07 – 14	Stella Maris, Montevideo - Adults
Apr 23 – 30	Newman 1, - Pupils	Aug 21 – 28	Stella Maris, Montevideo -Pupils
May 03 – 10	Newman 2, - Pupils	Oct 04 – 13	Fremantle College, Perú
May 13 – 20	Newman 3, - Fathers & Sons	Nov 03 – 10	Newman 6, - Board Members



Editor's Note: It is with sadness that we report, that since this article was written, Brother Paul Keohane passed away in Ireland on September 19, 2019. We fondly remember Brother Paul and all he contributed to the immersion program. May he rest in peace.

