



# PROVINCE NEWSLETTER

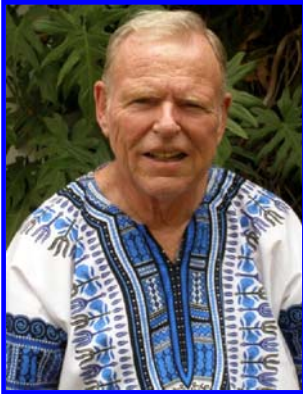
## Edmund Rice Christian Brothers North America

A PROVINCE OF THE CONGREGATION OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS

Volume 5, Issue 6

June, 2010

### Province Office in Elizabeth, New Jersey, welcomes new member



The province office of the Edmund Rice Christian Brothers North America in Elizabeth, New Jersey, will welcome Brother Jim Fagan (photo left) as the new office manager in August, 2010. The current office manager, Brother Rick Fowler, will leave to join his new community of Mount St. Francis in St. John's, Newfoundland.

We welcome Jim to New Jersey and wish him well with his new position.

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### ALL SAINTS COMMUNITY New Rochelle, New York



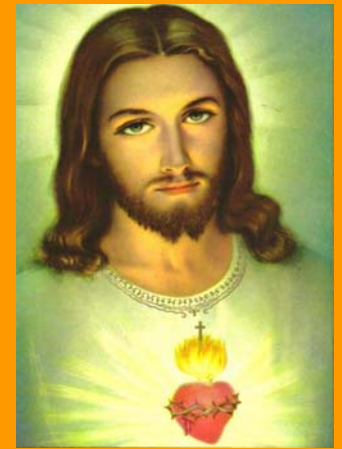
**Tim O'Brien (left) who has continued the financial work Jerry started, Sr. Herrington from San Diego who has organized west coast operations for years, and Br. Jerry McCarthy**

their finances and budgets started. Jerry was just honored for these twenty-four years of service.

Brother John Dornbos (Edmund Rice Community) and Mark and Nancy Quinn, Associates from Chicago, attended the convention.

Brother Jerry McCarthy (All Saints Community), moderator of the Associates, was recently honored with an award by the North American Conference of Associates and Religious at their convention in St. Louis. This convention, held June 4<sup>th</sup> to the 6<sup>th</sup>, ties together those involved in the Associate movement from both the religious end and Associate end of things.

Brother Jerry McCarthy was one of the founding board members of this organization about twenty years ago and did vast work helping them get



"We can thus be certain that the most Sacred Heart of Jesus, in his whole hidden life in Nazareth, always found a 'hearth' that was always burning with prayer and constant attention to the Holy Spirit in Mary's Immaculate Heart."

Pope Benedict XVI

## MOUNT ST. FRANCIS COMMUNITY St. John's, Newfoundland

### *GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATION FOR BROTHER BEN SPURRELL*



**Ben's Habit Group: (1 to r) Edmundian Doug (DePaul '60) Kenny, Br. Bill Flood, Edmundian Larry (Bonaventure '60) Warren, Br. Ben Spurrell, Edmundians Bill (Alphonsus '60) Hall and Bill (Edmund '60) Hurley.**

On Saturday, May 22, 2010, the Fiftieth Anniversary of Brother Ben Spurrell's admission to our Congregation was celebrated fittingly and joyfully in St. John's Newfoundland. With a large congregation of Christian Brothers, relatives and friends in attendance, the celebration began at 3:00 PM, with a Mass of Thanksgiving at St. Patrick's Parish Church, the original place of worship of the Spurrell family. The presider and homilist was Rev. Fr. Wayne Dohey of the parish staff, with the Most Rev. Alphonsus L. Penney, D. D., Archbishop Emeritus of St. John's, in attendance. The solemnity and significance of the Eucharistic Liturgy was enhanced by the exquisitely rich voice of the Song Leader, Mrs. Alma Singleton, the prayerful readings of the Liturgy of the Word by Readers Stephen Dicks and Larry Warren, and the reading of the Intercessions by Jacqueline Furlong. Ged Blackmore sensitively accompanied the singing on the lovely church organ. The Communion Reflection featured Alma Singleton's singing

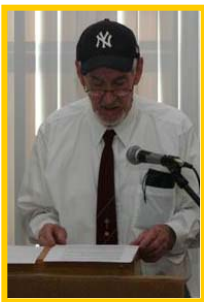
of the hymn to our Blessed Lady, "Mary, Loveliest of Maidens," with music by Brother Bert Darcy and a text by St. Alphonsus Liquori. The Closing Hymn was one of Ged Blackmore's well-known, poignant and meaningful songs, "Jesus, Brother to Us All."

Following Mass, the invited guests went to the Conference Hall of the Basilica of St. John the Baptist, where, after refreshments had been served, they sat down to "a piping hot" turkey dinner, with all the trimmings. Then, after the main course and dessert had been served, the program of tributes to the Jubilarian got underway. Brother Raphael Bellows acted as the Master of Ceremonies. The Toast to the Jubilarian was delivered eloquently by Arthur Griffin, Ben's best friend. Brother Bert Darcy followed with a warm-hearted greeting and tribute from Ben's Community of Mount St. Francis.



**The Spurrell Family Table**

A genuinely moving greeting and best wishes from Ben's family was next given by his sister, Mary Rose. Ben's niece, Colette Coady, then came to the podium to express her deep appreciation of Ben's support and kindness to her in difficult moments in her life. The final tribute was given by Arden Hall, a member of Ben's Habit Group of 1960.



**Responding to the toast.**

The Jubilarian answered the toast and greetings with a thoughtful, reflective response. What came through clearly was the depth of his spirituality and the quality and depth of his readings, the deep well of gratitude and concern he expressed towards his many relatives and friends, and the love and commitment he had for his vocation as a follower of Blessed Edmund Rice.

After the traditional cutting of the Jubilee Cake, the guests were invited to Mount St. Francis for an evening of music (with Ged Blackmore at the Keyboard) and friendship-sharing. The Jubilee Celebration was a truly heart-warming, wonderfully joyous occasion. Happy Jubilee, Ben.



**Cutting the cake**

## *Perpetual Vows of Brother Michael LaFrance*



**Br. Peter  
O'Loughlin**  
Director of  
Formation

On Saturday, May 29, 2010, family, friends, Brothers, Sisters and Priests gathered in the chapel of Archbishop Curley-Notre Dame High School to celebrate a momentous event in the life of our North American Province and our Congregation: the Perpetual Vows of Brother Michael LaFrance.

Michael has journeyed with us in Joliet and Chicago, Illinois; Roseau and Portsmouth, Dominica; and Miami, Florida, for the last eight years. We rejoice in the gifts that Mike brings to our province: his generosity of heart, his service to the poor and his desire to live the charism of Blessed Edmund Rice.

Brother Hugh O'Neill's reflection highlighted the meaning of the day when he suggested:

*To listen to the word of God, we must open our hearts to God within us and around us. The 1982 Spirituality Conference studying the charism of Blessed Edmund Rice summed up his charism stating: "Deeply aware of the Father's providential presence in his life, Edmund Rice was moved by the Holy Spirit to open his whole heart to Christ present and appealing to him in the poor."*

*Our Constitutions affirm, "We are sent by the Holy Spirit to be signs of God's love and compassion for all our brothers and sisters, but especially for the poor, the powerless, and the oppressed."*

Michael, in dedicating his life perpetually to God in the name of Edmund Rice and the Christian Brothers, has stated his willingness and desire to promote the charism of Edmund and to live as Edmund lived.



**Br. Hugh O'Neill (Province Leader), left, prays over Br. Mike LaFrance during the profession of vow ceremony**



**Br. Mike LaFrance  
cuts the cake**

Celebrating with Mike were his daughters Maria and Cecilia, his son Dan and grandchildren Noah and Quincy. Other guests included Sisters Sylvia Staples (Dominica), Marilyn Costello, Sarah Hynes (Newfoundland) and Clare Harris (Trinidad). Good Shepherd Raphael Miesvala celebrated the Eucharist with the assembled. Brother Ben McDonough shared his musical talents by playing for the ceremony and Brother Peter O'Loughlin was the cantor.

Following the ceremony we shared in a wonderful barbeque provided by a local vendor. Brother Kevin Griffith brought greetings from the Province and Mike responded by sharing his joy and gratitude to all who have journeyed with him and all who have supported him.

Our thanks go to the Archbishop Curley-Notre Dame Community: Brothers Jim DePiro, Sean Moffett, Joe DeMaria, Conan Armstrong and John Corcoran for their wonderful support and generosity. In addition to those already mentioned, thanks to Brothers Mark Murphy, Ray Vercruysse, Jason Ford, Tom Murphy, Tom Draney and Mike Connolly for their presence.

We rejoice with Mike in his life commitment and wish him many years of dedicated service and life with us.

## Archbishop of Miami Thomas Wenski presents Brother Richard DeMaria, CFC, the Lumen Christi Award



Br. Richard  
DeMaria, CFC

On Sunday, June 20, 2010, Brother Richard DeMaria, CFC, Superintendent of Schools and Executive Director Ministry of Christian Formation for the Archdiocese of Miami, received the Lumen Christi Award at the Cathedral of St. Mary Catholic Church in Miami. Since 1969, the Guild of Catholic Educators has given the Lumen Christi (Light of Christ) Award to a Catholic educator who has made an outstanding contribution to the profession.

In a Mass of Welcome for the Religious, Miami's new Archbishop Thomas Wenski recognized the work of the many Priests, Sisters and Brothers within the Archdiocese. In his homily he makes reference to John Paul II's description of religious life as an "Icon of the Transfigured Christ" and remarks, "Your lives testify to the fact that God matters."

This year marks Brother DeMaria's 52<sup>nd</sup> year since entering the Congregation of Christian Brothers. He holds degrees in science and in religious studies, including a doctorate in theology from St. Michael's College in the University of Toronto. He was a faculty member at Iona College in New Rochelle, New York for eighteen years, holding various positions including chair of the department, dean of students, provost, and chief operating officer of the university. In 1989, he worked as an educator with the Hispanic migrant people on the west coast of Florida. He then served as Principal of Archbishop Curley Notre Dame High School in Miami from 1993 to 1998. Since 1998, he has served as Superintendent of Schools for the Archdiocese of Miami and Executive Director of Christian Formation.

Brother DeMaria's work has been a testament to the dedication exemplified by his order that commit their lives to the development of education and community. In a recent contribution for the Archdiocese of Miami news he writes, "To my mind, the critical factor is whether the school provides a caring, loving community. When children are enrolled in a Catholic school, they should experience the embrace of a community that takes their lives seriously. And precisely because the teachers take each student's life seriously, they will use every skill they have to bring out the full potential of the student."

Brother DeMaria worries that Catholic education will one day only be accessible to the wealthy, and although recognizes that they do not bring enough money to balance out school budgets, supports the existence and expansion of parental choice programs such as the McKay Scholarship and Florida PRIDE (now known as Step-Up For Children). In an article written for the National Catholic Reporter where governmental support of voucher programs is questioned, Brother DeMaria sheds light on the accountability and achievement exhibited by Catholic schools. He says, "There is discipline in Catholic schools. For the teachers it's a real vocation, a commitment and a feeling that 'I'm getting something done.'"

As an educational leader he expects that all Catholic school teachers treat their role as a vocation stating, "Any member of the staff of a Catholic institution who does not have the skills to help create community is, no matter how many other credentials he has, under-qualified for a position in the school."

Without doubt, Brother DeMaria's achievements reflect the Light of Christ. By creating a caring community, leading by example, and setting high standards Brother DeMaria has successfully affirmed as stated in his own words that, "communion is the greatest instrument of evangelization."

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## CATHOLIC MEMORIAL SCHOOL West Roxbury, Massachusetts

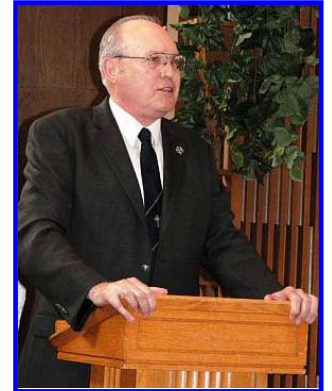


**Br. Barry Lynch (left) witnesses  
Br. Jason Ford's renewal of vows.**

On Saturday, June 05, 2010, the Catholic Memorial School chapel was the site chosen by Brother Jason Ford for the renewal of his annual vows. This was Jason's fifth annual renewal of vows. In a private ceremony, Jason renewed his vows in front of his family and his community of Brothers. Brother Barry Lynch, a member of the Province Leadership Team, witnessed Jason's renewal on behalf of the Province. Brother Dave Lucas, from the Callan Novitiate Community in Chicago, delivered a reflection on the vows. Many thanks are extended to the members of the Catholic Memorial Community, Brothers Kiril Cavet, Jeff Oxx, and Kirk Phelps, who not only hosted the visiting Brothers in their community, but also

prepared and served the reception and dinner, in the school cafeteria, following the ceremony.

At the conclusion of the summer, Jason will join his new community of Archbishop Curley - Notre Dame in Miami, Florida.



**Br. Dave Lucas**

## IONA COLLEGE New Rochelle, NY

### *Moving beyond boundaries and understandings Iona College students become immersed in Kenya*



**At the Embulbul church with Br. Francis Otieno, C.F.C., principal of Br. Beausang Education Center.**

Linking two places of Edmund Rice ministry, a group from New Rochelle's Iona College travelled to Nairobi last month to interact with people there and experience something of their life and culture.

### *Christian Brothers graduate from Iona College*

On May 16, 2010 in New York City, over 900 students received Bachelors and Masters Degrees from Iona College, New Rochelle, New York. Two of the happiest graduates were Christian Brothers Amandi Mboya of Tanzania and Titus Kallon of Sierra Leone.

For more information on both stories check the Edmund Rice Network website at [www.edmundrice.net](http://www.edmundrice.net)



**Brs. Amandi Mboya of Tanzania  
and Titus Kallon of Sierra Leone**

## REUNION OF THE 1953, 1954, AND 1955 EDMUNDIANS New Rochelle, New York

By John (Bosco '54) Murray



**FRONT ROW:**(left to right) Br. Al Killelea, Gene Farrell, Ben Walsh, Tom Murphy, Mike Hoban, Ed Muller, Larry Forde, Joe Bowe, Jerry Brooker  
**MIDDLE ROW** (left to right) Vinny Russo, Pat Maher, Br. Arthur Walsh, John Murray, Br. Gene Guihen, Don Ryan, Jack Fitzgerald, Ralph Santalis, Tom Waldron, Marty Hickey  
**BACK ROW** (left to right) Maurice Barry, Br. Justin O'Connell, Don Frenette, Phil McGoohan, John Meehan, Denis Shea, Br. Tom Higgins  
**TOP STAIRS** Br. John Dornbos, Br. Ed Pigott

On June 11-13 2010, a reunion was held at Iona College for the 1953, 1954, and the 1955 Edmundians. This was the third reunion in the past seven years for these groups. The first one was held in 2004 for the 1954 Habit day group. In 2008, and 2010, we included the 1953 and 1955 groups to join the 1954 group. The main supporter of the Edmundians is Brother Jerry McCarthy. **WITHOUT HIM, NO REUNIONS WOULD EVER TAKE PLACE.**

On Friday night, we started off with a pizza party to get things going. On Saturday, there were many things to do, for example, tour the Iona campus, visit the sick Brothers at St. Joe's Residence, take a trip to West Park, and continue to reminiscence past experiences. We had Mass, celebrated by Edmundian Father Bob (Carl '57) Post, during which the

forty-four deceased Edmundians' names were read. The Mass was followed by a cocktail party and dinner. We finished on Sunday morning after breakfast.

We have been averaging around forty people at these reunions. They come from all over the United States, Canada, and one from South America. Having three reunions in seven years shows that a great time was had by all.

The following was written by Edmundian Martin (Clement '54) Hickey after the first reunion in 2004, "It was like being united with family members that you have not seen in a long time."



**(l to r)** Br. John Dornbos (Edmund Rice Community) and Edmundians John (Joseph '55) Meehan and Denis (Leonard '55) Shea



**(l to r)** Edmundians Martin (Clement '54) Hickey, Maurice (Raymond '54) Barry



**(l to r)** Br. Tom Higgins (St. Joseph's Care Residence), Edmundians Joe (Bosco '53) Bowe and Mike (James '53) Hoban



(l to r) Edmundians Larry (Liguori '53) Ford, John (Bosco '54) Murray, Tom (Mel '54) Waldron



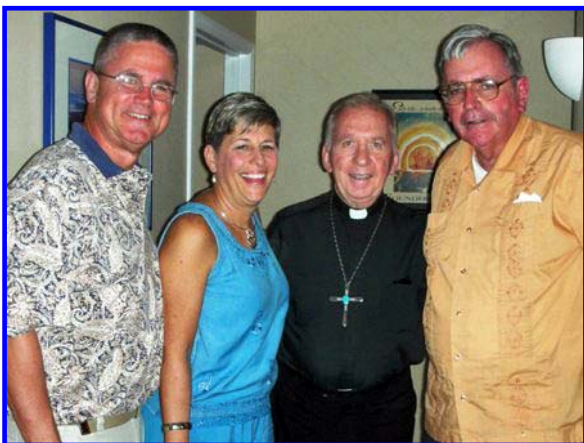
(l to r) Br. Gene Guihen (Bergen Catholic Community) and Edmundians Don (Loyola '55) Ryan, Jack (Marian '55) Fitzgerald, Pat (Columcille '55) Maher all from the Habit Group of 1955



Edmundians (left) Eugene (Patrick '55) Farrell and Edward (Marcellus '53) Muller

Read newsletters from our province and from the Latin American region on our Province website at <http://ercbna.org/News/>

## ST. MATTHEW'S COMMUNITY Phoenix, Arizona



Brother Dan Casey (left), Ms. MaryBeth Mueller, Executive Director of Education and Evangelization of the Diocese of Phoenix; Bishop Thomas O'Brien, Bishop Emeritus of Phoenix; and Brother Tony Quinn are among those in attendance at the May 16<sup>th</sup> dinner commemorating the Christian Brothers for their service to the Diocese and thanking the Diocese of Phoenix for a long and blessed relationship.

Check out what's happening at the South African Novitiates (Cape Town and Stellenbosch) at [www.cbnovitiates.co.za](http://www.cbnovitiates.co.za)

## JERICO HOUSE Wainfleet, Ontario



**Br. Bill Carrothers,  
CFC and Sister  
Jacquie Keefe, CSSF**

Construction on the new Jericho House is progressing well. Below are some photos of the progress of the construction. Both Brother Bill and Sister Jacquie have high hopes for an official opening on schedule.

For more information on Jericho House go to

[www.jerichohouse.org/donate.html](http://www.jerichohouse.org/donate.html) or <http://www.jerichohouse.org/fundraising.html>.



## PROVINCE CENTER Elizabeth, New Jersey



Brother Hugh O'Neill (right), Province Leader, and Brother Kevin Griffith (left), Deputy Province Leader, welcome Brother Gerry Menezes to our province. Gerry is from India and will be living in our province to be near his elderly parents, who live in Queens, NY.



# What is a Brother?

## An Answer to God's Call.



We connect with the poor and the marginalized in our world.

We share and reflect our experiences in the light of the Gospel.

We find our hearts transformed.

We are Christian Brothers.

*What we do with our hearts affects the whole universe.*



In the tradition of Blessed Edmund Rice, the founder, the Congregation of Christian Brothers is an international community of vowed religious brothers living and praying in community and missioned by the church for Christian education. The men the Christian brothers seek to join with them are Catholic men who sense a call to live in fraternal community and who wish to minister in the educational apostolates of the church, especially to youth. They are men with the religious inspiration and dedication necessary to live a life of consecrated celibacy and who, through vows of poverty and obedience, place their gifts, talents, and possessions at the disposal of the community in order to meet the needs of God's people. Please contact one of the Brothers listed above.

Are you being called to be brother to the world?

Congregation of Christian Brothers • [www.cfcvocations.org](http://www.cfcvocations.org)

**More information on the Edmund Rice Christian Brothers at these links:**

Global Edmund Rice Network  
Edmund Rice Christian Brothers NA  
Edmund Rice International  
Christian Brothers Vocations  
Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation

[www.edmundrice.net](http://www.edmundrice.net)  
[www.ercbna.org](http://www.ercbna.org)  
[www.edmundriceinternational.org](http://www.edmundriceinternational.org)  
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[www.edmundriceinternational.org/jpic](http://www.edmundriceinternational.org/jpic)