



PROVINCE NEWSLETTER

Edmund Rice Christian Brothers North America

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Three Christian Brothers Celebrate Their Golden Jubilees

On October 9, 2010, three Christian Brothers of the Edmund Rice Christian Brothers North America, celebrated their 50 years of religious life and dedicated service: Brothers Richard Joachim DeMaria, Leonard Antonio Quinn and John Barry Lynch.



Brother Richard DeMaria has spent 36 years out of his 46 years in ministry in positions of academic, religious and spiritual leadership. During the 17 years he spent ministering at Iona College, Brother DeMaria became the Superior of the Brothers' community, Dean of Students, Acting President for one year and Executive Vice-President. Having a desire to directly serve the poor, he joined the Los Hermanos community to work with the migrant farm workers in Bonita Springs, Florida. He was assigned to help the volunteer program as its Director. In 1993, Brother came to Archbishop Curley-Notre Dame High School as its Principal and as the Community Leader. The Archdiocese asked him to serve as

Superintendent of Schools and currently as Director of Christian Formation. "How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of him who brings glad tidings." This is what Brother DeMaria has been doing all of his life.

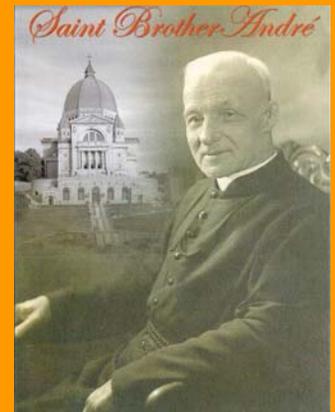


Brother Tony Quinn spent his elementary and high school years at All Hallows where the influence of the Brothers brought him to West Park, graduating from Iona College with a B.S. in Science Education. Tony went to Chicago, Illinois, for his first mission but returned to the greater New York City area to teach for the next 31 years. His longest ministry was 14 years at Blessed Sacrament - St. Gabriel's High School, with his last six years as the Superior of the B.S.-S.G. community. In 1997, Tony moved south to St. John's Parish, North Charleston, South Carolina, to minister in the parish and school. He next moved to Phoenix, Arizona, to be near his sister, Sarah. Currently Brother

Quinn is bringing his talents, time and treasure to the Guadalupe Regional Middle School, Brownsville, Texas, and to the Brothers' community, Comunidad Juan Diego. "You have been told what is good...Only to do the right, to love goodness and to walk humbly with your God." Tony teaches all who know him the truth of God's message given through the prophet Micah.

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Saint Brother André, we celebrate your presence among us. Your loving friendship with Jesus, Mary and Joseph makes you a powerful intercessor with God, our Father.

Compassion carries your words straight to God's heart, and your prayers are answered and bring comfort and healing.

Through you, from our lips to God's ear, our supplications are heard. We ask to be made a part of God's work, alongside you, in the spirit of prayer, compassion and humility.



www.ercbna.org

Compassion and liberation
in the spirit of
Jesus and Edmund



Brother Barry Lynch was educated by the Brothers all through his early schooling at St. Bonaventure's College, St. John's, Newfoundland, and through his religious formation and college career. He graduated from Iona College in 1964, earning a B.A. in history and was assigned to Vancouver College, British Columbia, completely across continental Canada from Newfoundland. After three years he returned not only to St. John's but also to his alma mater, St. Bon's. Leadership recognized his qualities and strengths and appointed him Principal of the school. Barry was effective as a school leader, and he next became Principal and Superior of the community at Regina High School, Corner Brook, in Western Newfoundland. During his last year at Regina High School, the congregation appointed him a Province Councillor. Barry would serve in dual leadership roles such as Novice Master (1979-1985), Superior and Administrator of Mount Cashel and later Director of the Murphy Centre in St. John's. In 1994, Barry was appointed Province Leader of St. Joseph's

Province, Canada and the West Indies; he served in this position for nine years. In 2007 he worked on the Congregational Renewal Team and now is a Province Councillor for the Edmund Rice Christian Brothers North America Province. His wealth of experience in leadership and his deep personal spiritual growth have given so very much to the growth of the Brothers in North America and in the world. "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit..." Barry has been "going out to all the world and telling the Good News."

OFFICE OF EDUCATIONAL SERVICES New Rochelle, New York



**Sr. Grace
D'Amico**

On October 19-22, 2010, twenty-nine faculty members from Edmund Rice Christian Brothers' schools attended a *Called and Gifted* Workshop, held in Rhinebeck, New York. This retreat was an opportunity for select faculty and staff members from the Christian Brothers' educational sites to come together to reflect on their call to mission in the tradition of the Congregation of Christian Brothers.

The *Called and Gifted* program, begun in 1984, focuses on the charism of Blessed Edmund Rice, the founder of the Christian Brothers, and how that charism affects all who work with the Brothers in the ministry of education. Br. Chris Burns (Tampa Catholic School Community) and Mrs. Melanie Anchukaitis, facilitators of the program, reminded participants that they are called to serve the Church and have been gifted with the blessings of God to complete that service.

The program was sponsored by the Edmund Rice Christian Brothers North America (ERCBNA) Office of Educational Services.



The participants of the *Called and Gifted* 2010 Workshop

ELIZABETH, NEW JERSEY

Brother Tom Draney, C.F.C., was a speaker at the rally in front of the Elizabeth, New Jersey, Detention Center on Sunday, October 10, 2010. The demonstration was sponsored by the Sojourners, volunteers from Riverside Church, the First Friends, a group composed of Quakers from New Jersey, plus a contingent from the Catholic Workers in Manhattan. It was to protest the inhuman and un-American treatment of the people held in the facility, a warehouse without windows, with no space for recreation, no provision for religious services, no law library and lacking many other things required by statutes.



Br. Tom Draney addresses the rally

Tom's message was that the energy present at the demonstration was of the Holy Spirit, and should not be squandered; it should be directed towards meaningful activities, primarily making the facts known to the general public. He pointed out that the ones victimized most were those who were seeking political asylum, because they were held for the longest time, sometimes months and even years, and often lacked the access to a law library and to attorneys. Tom also shared with some Franciscan Sisters the history and role of Christ House in taking care of hundreds of asylum seekers over its 29-year history. These good women want very much to establish a similar residence for women.



RUAH 2011



For some years the Christian Brothers, Presentation Brothers, and Presentation Sisters have provided a spirituality and renewal program for their members and associates. It has been based in Ireland. Previous programs were called TÓIR (Irish language meaning “Quest”) and TRASNA (Gaelic for “Transitioning”). These programs were one month in duration, usually took place during the school holidays in Ireland, and were residential at a single location.

Responding to a call for a new type of program and for widening the audience for it, the inter-congregational group involved assembled a team to draft a new and more inclusive experience that would correspond more closely with the spiritual search of contemporary believers.

The new program, RUAH, intends to meet this challenge by offering an exciting and challenging set of experiences that offer opportunities for a new kind of spiritual quest. Ireland, with its rich spiritual and cultural heritage, forms the backdrop for this new spiritual adventure.

Are you a person who would like to deepen your spiritual journey? Is your heart drawn to the possibility of journeying with others in the awesome mystery of the unfolding Universe Story? Has your way of life been touched in some way by the stories of Nano Nagle and Edmund Rice? Do you feel a passion to become involved in shaping a new story of Jesus and of Church?

To find out more about this program, go to the website www.ruah2011.net and click on ‘invitation’ and then on ‘downloads’ where you will find a brochure, application-form, etc. Applications close on 31 January 2011. Further enquiries: ruah2011@gmail.com. This e-mail address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it.

Please note this is a community/ministry expense and not a provincial expense.

A graphic with a yellow background. On the right side, there are silhouettes of seven men standing in a line, casting shadows on the ground. On the left side, there is text: 'They were about 17 when they first considered a vocation.*' and '78% were encouraged to consider the priesthood by a priest.*' Below this text is the question 'Who have you spoken with about becoming a Brother?'. At the bottom left, there is a small footnote: 'From The Class of 2009: Survey of Outcomes at the Priesthood, an annual national survey of men being ordained priests, conducted by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA), a Georgetown University-based research center. The survey was commissioned by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). We know of no similar survey from Canada.'

PROVINCE LIFE AND RENEWAL



**Br. Seán
Whitty**

The Province Life and Renewal Committee met at All Hallows in the Bronx on Saturday, September 18, 2010. Present at the meeting were Brothers Barry Lynch, Jim Hamilton, Peter O'Loughlin, Tom Collins and Sean Whitty (Chair). (Regrets were sent by Brother Jim DePiro).

We would like to thank the community at All Hallows for their welcome and hospitable presence to us during the weekend.

We did discuss some topics that would be of interest to all Brothers in the Province. The first discussion revolved around the two retreats which were given during the summer. Judging from the evaluation by the participants all were very pleased and very supportive of the effort made by the facilitators in planning and executing the retreats.

The response to the Communication seminars set for October was not what we hoped it would be. However, they will be offered as Brother David Gibson is coming, and we hope that some good things will emerge from the efforts of all involved.

Sean Whitty, in partnership with Br Bill Carrothers and Sr. Jacquie Keefe, will be offering a symposium in St. John's on November 19, 2010. The symposium is called "Awakening the Dreamer: Changing the Dream" and is being held at The Lantern. The whole day revolves around developing an environmentally sustainable, spiritually fulfilling and socially just presence on the earth. It is hoped that this symposium will be available for communities and schools in the province.

The Summer Retreat 2011 Brochure has been distributed to all Brothers in the Province. It is our hope that eighteen Brothers will sign up for each retreat since that is the number of rooms available in each centre. The two facilitating the retreats, Br Mark McDonald and Fr. Dan O'Leary are two of the most respected religious men in the United Kingdom. We are delighted to have them with us in July, 2011. It was also discussed how we could financially help Brothers, who live at the extremes of the Province and who find it very difficult financially to travel to these retreats.

Most of the time at our meeting was spent addressing what this office could do to help communities in the province grow and develop as healthy, vibrant communities. Here are some suggestions the Office of Province Life and Renewal could address:

- Listing the spiritual directors who are available in the various areas of the province.
- Resourcing the communities who continue to use the Liturgy of the Hours in ways and methods to make the praying of the morning and evening prayer a more meaningful experience. Sean will continue to offer prayer services to the communities centering around the major liturgical feasts and holy days.
- Invite the community leaders at our next meeting next fall to share what their community is doing re prayer, community meetings and monthly retreats which they find nourishing and helpful. We are aware that many communities are doing some wonderful things and these could be shared.
- As a committee we need to be open to suggestions from the Brothers as to what they need from the Office of Province Life and Renewal.



(l to r) Brothers Seán Whitty, Barry Lynch, Jim Hamilton, Tom Collins, Peter O'Loughlin

The Province Life and Renewal Committee exists to serve the needs of the Brothers' communities. If any Brother has any suggestions, comments both negative and positive, and ideas about what we need to address, please do not hesitate to speak with and/or e-mail Sean Whitty at fswitty@hotmail.com.

We want to thank all the Brothers for their support and encouragement in what this Office is attempting to do.

SAINT LAURENCE HIGH SCHOOL Burbank, Illinois

Saint Laurence High School Fiftieth Anniversary Mass



President Mr. Tom Ondrla provides the welcome

The Fiftieth Anniversary Year of Saint Laurence High School, Burbank, Illinois, began September 12, 2010, with the celebration of a Mass in the school gymnasium. Alumni President, Mr. Tom Ondrla provided the introduction to the Mass which was celebrated by long-time chaplain, Father Norm Trela. Father was assisted by graduates: Fathers Paul Lipinski, Mark Walter, and Michael Foley. Alumni seminarians Chris Kerzich and Matt O'Donnell were servers.

Representatives of the school community ministered throughout the liturgy. Alumni and members of the current classes participated in the procession by carrying lit tapers to the altar. Readings were done by faculty members Nancy Ploskonka and Brother Tim Smyth, and parent club presidents, Nick and Sandy Janeteas, while alumni parents served as gift bearers. Instrumental music was provided by

a mix of current and alumni band members under the direction of band director, P. J. Henning. Members of the Saint Christina Parish Choir, under the direction of Mary Kay Notter, provided the vocals. In his homily Father Trela summarized the fifty-year history of the school not only by recalling the past, but also by reverencing the present and embracing the future.

Following the Mass a reception was held in the school cafeteria. Various social events are planned throughout the school year and will culminate in June with a banquet at Chicago's famous Shedd Aquarium on the Lakefront.



Br. Tim Smyth proclaims the Second Reading.



Representatives from each class (1965-2014) gathered in the Chapel

ARCHBISHOP CURLEY NOTRE DAME

Miami, Florida

Archbishop Curley Notre Dame Students Join Forces with Students from Uruguay and Argentina in Developing Leadership Skills.



Ms. Lisa Morales

Students from Archbishop Curley Notre Dame High School hosted a group of students from Colegio Cardenal Newman, Buenos Aires, Argentina; and Colegio Stella Maris, Montevideo, Uruguay; and traveled with them to the ACTION Student Leadership Workshop held in St. John's, Florida, from Friday, October 1, to Sunday, October 3, 2010. Brother Jason Ford, CFC, ACND's Coordinator of Campus Ministry, Douglas Romanik, VP of Student Services, and a teacher, representing each of the South American high schools, accompanied the students.

This year approximately 90 students from schools operated or staffed by the Edmund Rice Christian Brothers North America and Latin America gathered to celebrate the charism of Blessed Edmund Rice, Founder of the Christian Brothers. The workshop focused on leadership development, advocacy, community building, and communication among the schools. Representing ACND were Christina Blanchard, Randy Schutt, Megan Romanik, and Celine Wassaf.



Celine Wassaf (ACND) presenting Cameron Ivey (St. Laurence HS, Chicago) at the Christian Brothers' Action International Student Leadership Workshop

another in friendship as children of God. The ACND family strives to be a model of justice and harmony to South Florida, in gratitude for this gift of God. By joining forces with the students from Colegio Stella Maris and Colegio Cardenal Newman, the ACND student leaders will have an opportunity to further develop this appreciation.

ACND Principal, Br. Patrick Sean Moffett, CFC, Ph.D, noted that the school has actively participated in the annual ACTION gathering of student leaders for the past 25 years. He said, "The skills developed by the students have significantly contributed to the life and spirit of the school, fostered engagement in the larger community, and

The ACTION program is designed for the leaders of tomorrow's Church and society. Br. Ford states, "It is a powerful weekend experience that inevitably touches the lives of all those involved. When the students return to ACND, they will be able to utilize the skills which were discussed, illustrated and developed during the workshop."

Since 1985, the Congregation of Christian Brothers has administered Archbishop Curley Notre Dame High School. Through the decades, ACND has been a place where young people of different cultures and ethnicities have

learned to know one



**Front Row (l to r): Celine Wassaf (ACND), Megan Romanik (ACND), Maria Fynn (Colegio Stella Maris), Ms. Ximena Beyhaut (CSM), Mr. Tomas Nicholson (Colegio Cardenal Newman), Mariano Sioli (CCN)
Second Row (l to r): Christina Blanchard (ACND), Randy Schutt (ACND), Carols Pfeiff (CSM), SSantiago Azambuja (CSM), Marcos Perez Mendoza (CCN), Mr. Douglas W. Romanik (ACND), Santos Aguirre (CCN), & Br. Jason Ford, CFC (ACND)**

impacted the student governance in the colleges and universities these students have subsequently attended. The presence this year of the Christian Brothers' schools from the southern hemisphere affirms the international scope of ACTION's student leadership agenda."

More information on "the Essential Elements" of an Edmund Rice Christian Brothers' education can be found on the school's website www.acnd.net. More information on Edmund Rice Christian Brothers North America can be found at <http://www.ercbna.org>.

CHRISTIAN BROTHERS Vanderhoof, British Columbia

People of Vanderhoof Lend Support to NeighbourLink *Best Moms Program*



**Br. Charlie
Hancock**

On Friday night, October 22, 2010, some 250 people packed the Gospel Chapel Hall in Vanderhoof, BC, to support NeighbourLink's *Best Moms Program*. The event was sponsored by NeighbourLink and organized by coordinator Brother Henry (Louis) Bucher, with the assistance of local member church volunteers. A full spaghetti dinner was served which included Louis' famous pizza-bread, as well as an array of assorted salads, followed by an auction, which also featured a children's auction for the younger set. Musical entertainment was provided by several local artists and bands.

In his welcoming remarks, Louis highlighted the theme of the evening, stressing that "every child has a right to a fair chance at life." He reminded those assembled that they had come to support this particular group of young mothers in their determination to overcome obstacles, to beat the odds and to provide a stable, safe, healthy, nurturing environment for their

children.

The *Best Moms Program* is an initiative of NeighbourLink and has been in operation for over a year. The participants are, for the most part, aboriginal and have come with a host of unresolved issues and problems, including alcohol and drug dependency, abusive and victimizing relationships, poverty and malnutrition. These young moms and moms-to-be meet several times each week at the facility to participate in various activities, to engage and to interact with each other as well as to grow in knowledge and self-confidence. They receive support and gentle guidance towards making healthy choices for themselves and for their children. Louis manages the program which has two facilitators and avails of the resources of seven additional local agencies.



**Dave and Sean,
NeighbourLink
volunteers from Living
Waters Ministries,
prepare strawberry
shortcake for dessert**



Br. Louis Bucher welcomes assembled guests at recent NeighbourLink fundraising dinner in support of Best Moms Program

The evening concluded with Louis offering an expression of gratitude to the people of Vanderhoof for the extraordinary support that they continue to give to NeighbourLink in its efforts to help these women provide their children with a fair chance at the life God has given to them.

THE MURPHY CENTRE St. John's, Newfoundland



**Mr. Tim
Turner**

The Murphy Centre continues to strive to fulfill its mission. As an alternative learning environment, the Murphy Centre provides academic, career and life skills education opportunities to its participants. This September 150 participants were accepted into the academic program. The majority of these participants are completing the High School Credit Program, while a small number of participants are completing the Adult Basic Education Program. A common thread amongst these participants is that they are individuals who have not met with full success in the regular school system and have decided to re-engage with learning in order to complete their high school requirements.

The September semester has gotten off to an excellent start with a positive tone. Participants are demonstrating a seriousness of purpose. Staff members are excited and, as always continue to put in 110 percent to assist the participants to achieve their academic goals. Our June 2010 academic results were very good. Participant grades and graduation rates were on par with and, in many cases, in excess of Provincial results.

The demand for the academic services at the Murphy Centre is always high. We can expect to receive well over 300 applications to consider for acceptance on an annual basis. Presently, we have 150 academic registered participants and an additional 160 applicants on the academic wait-list. This demand has necessitated the hiring of a half-time Intake Coordinator to oversee the application and intake process. Our other services are equally in demand.

The Murphy Centre also provides a variety of comprehensive career and employment services ranging from outreach, career and employment counselling, employability skills, paid work placement experience, essential skills and general goal setting services for those participants who are uncertain about their career goals. Well over 400 participants are being accommodated annually within the Murphy Centre career services programming.



**The Murphy Centre on the
Campus of the College of the
North Atlantic, St. John's.**



**Teachers (l to r): Carol Myles,
Br. Dave Murphy, Eileen Hébert**

The Murphy Centre recognizes that many of our participants have faced complex issues and situations in the past, and that they frequently continue to encounter significant challenges in their lives. Our philosophy recognizes the immeasurable worth of all participants and believes in their ability to make positive changes in their lives. Consequently, the life skills services of the Murphy Centre play a critical and integral role in providing supports to participants to help them to overcome these challenges and to achieve their academic, career and life goals. Emphasis on the development of the whole person is at the heart of the mission of the Murphy Centre.

Considerable effort is also directed to the promotion and development of social justice awareness among participants, and the creation of a cohesive and supportive Murphy Centre community. To that end, opportunities are found to celebrate and to recognize and respond to various social issues.

September, 2011, will recognize the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Murphy Centre. A committee is in the process of being established to plan how to recognize and honour this significant milestone. Reflecting on the evolution of the Murphy Centre over the past 25 years, one can easily be in awe of the growth and impact that has resulted. Thousands of young people have been provided with a second chance and have gone on to live

productive and successful lives. Additionally, the growth of the Murphy Centre has seen the expansion to four sites within the City of St. John's and a staffing complement of over 30 dedicated employees. Clearly, the Murphy Centre has become a recognizable leader in the community.



Students (l to r): Desiree Day, Amanda Stewart, and Christina Byrne use some of their non-class time for study.

The evolution of the Murphy Centre is a credit to the vision and commitment of the Congregation of Christian Brothers and the original staff members when its doors first opened in 1986. Truly, the spirit and vision of Edmund Rice continues to be embodied on a daily basis at the Murphy Centre.

The Murphy Centre is very appreciative for the support that the Congregation continues to provide. This support is made tangible in the generous service of Brother David Murphy (Mount St. Francis Community) who faithfully and expertly continues to teach at the Murphy Centre. In addition to David's invaluable contribution, Brother Mark Murphy (PLT) serves on the Murphy Centre Board of Directors where his expertise and experience have proven to be a tremendous asset to the organization.

FROM THE POSTULATOR'S DESK

Edmund Rice Cause and Miracles



**Br. Donal
Blake**

People keep enquiring about the progress of the Edmund Rice Cause and the role of miracles. I am very conscious that because of recent bouts of ill-health I haven't been as attentive as I would have liked. My present term as Roman Postulator comes to an end next summer and I will then have to consider my future role in the Edmund Rice Cause. Returning to miracles, there is both encouragement and disappointment in this area. There is encouragement in the number of people from all over the world who write in to claim that through the intercession of Blessed Edmund Rice their prayers have been answered. Many indeed claim to have experienced a physical or spiritual healing through such prayers. All of this is encouragement that there is true devotion to Blessed Edmund out there. Monsignor Robert Sarno, my mentor at the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, Rome, keeps reassuring me that everything, bar the approval of a miracle, is now in place for Edmund's canonization. He says we should bombard heaven, being always mindful that there is our time – and God's time. We should, too, be mindful of the saying: "Act as if everything depends on you; pray as if everything depends on God."

The disappointment comes from the fact that the vast majority of 'cures' that we have on file do not generate sufficient medical evidence to convince the Congregation for the Causes of Saints in Rome, despite the fact that the people involved are convinced that there has been an exceptional answer to their prayers. Thus, we have had reports of 'cures' in Cork, Waterford, Callan, St Lucia, Buenos Aires, Melbourne, Liverpool, Toronto, India, to name but a few locations. An added disappointment is that I only hear about some possible cures, merely by accident, despite the many requests to Provinces and Regions to forward all information. One Region (whose blushes I wish to spare) has still not forwarded details of a supposed 'cure' that occurred over two years ago, despite several requests from me and promises from them! Maybe we don't wish to have Edmund canonised? As we all know, miracles do not grow on trees.

The advance of medical science makes it more difficult to prove that what has happened is indeed a miracle. Blessed Dominic Barberi (1792-1849), the Passionist who received Blessed John Henry Newman into the Church in 1845, was beatified by Pope Paul VI in 1964. Since then, nothing! I see from an old newspaper clipping of mine (1984) that his then Postulator, Fr Eugene Keenan CP, stated with a sigh: "Miracles are always

a problem.” Fr James Walsh SJ, another Postulator from the 1980s, claimed 25 cases for miracles for one particular Cause – and all were turned down! When a journalist put it to him that miracles are becoming hard to come by, he replied: “You could say that having to go through these astringent tests sorts out the men from the boys! It is a big claim one is making after all. What might happen is that miracles will change from the physical to the moral type; a hardened non-believer becoming converted could then be considered.”

I suppose, at one level, the greatest miracle is that good works arising from the inspiration of Edmund Rice continue hundred of years after the time he lived and worked in our world. Anniversaries often trigger off a surge in enthusiasm. The date, 1 June 2012, will mark the 250th anniversary of the birth of Blessed Edmund Rice. I suggest that we set about a vigorous campaign of prayer for an accepted miracle between now and 1 June 2012.

2012: 250th Anniversary of the Birth of Blessed Edmund Rice

As mentioned briefly above, 1 June 2012 marks the 250th anniversary of the birth of Blessed Edmund Rice in 1762 at Westcourt, Callan. Without this wondrous event in the family of Robert and Margaret Rice 250 years ago in the troubled Penal Days of Ireland’s past history, Irish educational and religious history might have panned out differently. True, the Servant of God, Nano Nagle, had taken up the challenge to Ireland’s Catholic laity to provide appropriate Catholic education for girls, by founding the Presentation Sisters in Cork in 1775. But if there were no Edmund Rice, to whom would she have passed on the torch for the Catholic education of boys? Recent research I have undertaken connected with the bicentenary of the founding of the North Monastery, Cork, in 1811, suggests that Bishop Moylan of Cork would have encouraged the foundation of a congregation of Presentation Brothers without any connection with Edmund Rice’s venture in Mount Sion, Waterford.

Which brings me back to the celebrations in 2012. I am sure that Christian Brothers and Presentation Brothers and various manifestations of the Edmund Rice Network will wish to honour the occasion in a meaningful way. But at the moment there are so many different groupings and organizations sharing in one way or another in the life and heritage of Blessed Edmund Rice (Just look at the many websites that are listed if one types in ‘Edmund Rice’) that I wonder at times if the whole Edmund Rice ‘thing’ is in danger of being diluted. Despite my best efforts, I am not always informed of what is being planned by various groups. Where does the Edmund Rice Postulator fit in to all of this? I speak merely as being anxious not to lose the window of opportunity in the promotion of Edmund as Saint that could and should be provided by a well-thought out plan of campaign for the celebration of 2012. By the way, I have not the slightest ambition (or, indeed, ability or energy) to wish to take over any of the functions of the many excellent Edmund Rice-connected organizations that are already achieving excellent results for young people and others in today’s world and today’s Church. Any suggestions? Please get in touch.

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NEWS FROM THE LATIN AMERICAN REGION



Hon Diego
Glos

The following was sent by Brother Jim Glos, C.F.C., Casa Hermano Edmundo, Canto Grande, Lima, PERÚ.

This story is part of a series of features on sustainable development by IPS - Inter Press Service and IFEJ - International Federation of Environmental Journalists, for the Alliance of Communicators for Sustainable Development (www.complusalliance.org).

PERU: Water Isn't for Everyone

By Blanca Rosales

LIMA, Apr 18 (IPS/IFEJ) - The melting of glaciers resulting from climate change and the lack of adequate water management policies seem to be the main causes behind the water shortages that are fuelling conflicts in Peru.

This warning is being sounded from a variety of sectors. Nearly 50 percent of the 218 social conflicts recorded by the national ombudsman's office as of February, 2009, were triggered by socio-environmental problems, many of them related to water management issues, states the report "Water Faces New Challenges: Actors and Initiatives in Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia," published by the international anti-poverty organization, Oxfam, on March 20.

Two southern departments, Moquegua and Arequipa, are at loggerheads over water. And rural communities in the Andean highlands region along the Yauca River have experienced violent clashes that have even claimed lives.

The Chavimochic and Chincas irrigation projects in the northwest have given rise to ongoing disputes over water resources. Chavimochic irrigates some 155,000 hectares, 66,000 in what is otherwise desert, and encompasses Trujillo, the principal city in the region of La Libertad.

Chincas, in the Ancash region, has expanded irrigation on 24,000 hectares and pushed the agriculture frontier 10,000 hectares into previously unfarmed areas.

The regions of Piura and Lambayeque in the north are fighting over the use of the Huancabamba River, which originates in the former, but is used for irrigation in the latter.

Water is not only in short supply in Peru, but it is also poorly distributed in relation to the population. Seventy percent of the people live in the arid strip along the Pacific Ocean, where just 1.8 percent of the country's freshwater supply is found.

Lima, on the coast, is home to eight million people, or 30 percent of the total population. It is the world's second largest city located in a desert, after Cairo in Egypt. It is estimated that between one million and two million people in the city do not have potable water.

Carmen Felipe-Morales, an engineering expert with the Institute of Water Promotion and Management, underscores the fact that Lima does not have a large enough water supply for its inhabitants.

At one point in his first term (1985-1990), President Alan García proposed moving the enormous population of Lima to another site, but that idea has not been mentioned again during his current term.



Marco Zapata on the shrinking Pastoruri Glacier in the Blanca range in the Andes. Credit: Courtesy of Marco Zapata

Instead, he turned his campaign promise of "water for all" into a strategic program of his administration, which proposes hefty investment in 185 piped water and sanitation projects.

The stated objective is to expand potable water services from 76 to 88 percent of households; sanitation from 57 to 77 percent; and sewage treatment from 22 to 100 percent by 2015.

This would achieve one of the targets set under the Millennium Development Goals, adopted by the international community in 2000: Halve the proportion of the population without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation, by 2015 on 1990 levels.

But the question remains about the limited supplies of water that are available.

"If we don't put the brakes on the growth in the population of the capital, the problem will get worse, not only due to the demand, but because of a very serious aspect: water pollution," said Felipe-Morales in an interview for this article.

According to the Oxfam report, more than half of Peru's rivers with highest demand for use are severely polluted: the Chira, Piura, Llaunaco, Santa and Huallaga rivers in the north; the Chillón, Yauli and Mantaro in the central region; and the Chili River in the south.

In Felipe-Morales's view, water management seems to be missing from the government's policy agenda.

"Appropriate management is especially about prevention and education, and compliance with standards, because in Peru we have many, many laws and rules about the environment, but they are unevenly enforced," she said.

The Law on Water Resources, enacted on March 30, has been challenged by citizens and politicians alike, because "very clearly it opens the doors to the privatisation of water administration," said Nationalist Party lawmaker, Yaneth Cajahuanca.

Meanwhile, a crucial source of fresh-water is melting before the very eyes of Peruvians. The massive glaciers in the Andes Mountains are disappearing as a result of global climate change, warn experts.

Of the world's glaciers found in tropical latitudes, 71 percent are in Peru, 22 percent are in Bolivia, four percent in Ecuador, and three percent in Colombia.

Peru's total glacier-covered area has shrunk from 2,042 square kilometres to 1,596 square kilometres in the last 30 years, says engineer Marco Zapata, head of the Glaciology and Water Resources Unit of the National Water Authority, in the northwest province of Huaraz.

That is 446 square kilometres fewer glaciers, which represents an estimated seven billion cubic meters of water - the equivalent of 10 years of water consumption in Lima.

In the Cordillera Blanca, the highest and most extensive mountain range of its type, situated in Ancash, glacier coverage shrank 187 square kilometres between 1970 and 2003 - a 26 percent decline in 33 years. But 10.5 percent occurred just in the last six years, between 1997 and 2003, noted Zapata, who has been studying the phenomenon for more than three decades.

"In 1989 the first national inventory of glaciers was published, based on aerial photos from the years 1970 and 1974, encompassing 18 snowy ranges or large glacier areas. The volcanic range of Arequipa was not inventoried because the photographs had many clouds, nor was the Barroso de Tacna (both in the south), because its glaciers had already disappeared," he said.

In 2007 "we started working on a new inventory of glaciers and high Andean lakes or proglacial lakes, beginning with the Cordillera Blanca," said Zapata.

This latest inventory was based on satellite images from 2003. While in 1970, the Cordillera Blanca glaciers covered 723 square kilometres, the results from 2003 showed just 535 square kilometres.

That range holds a quarter of the world's tropical glaciers, says the study "Alpine Lakes and Glaciers in Peru: Managing Sources of Water and Destruction", published by Edward Spang in 2006.

The rivers of the Peruvian coast originate in the mountains and are fed by the glaciers, yearly winter snowmelt and other precipitation at higher altitudes. "When the glaciers disappear, we will only have the water from rainfall," warned the expert.

Peru has some 12,200 lakes and "those will have to be used, as will the valleys that have the conditions to store water during the rainy season," he said.

Crops will have to be determined based on the availability of water, according to Zapata, adding that irrigation systems must be improved and leaks in the channels must be reduced, because that loss is 70 percent of the water from the sierra.

CHRISTIAN BROTHERS ADVANCEMENT OFFICE New Rochelle, New York

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Brothers are asked to consider using our Remembrance Cards to help support our Advancement efforts. The new cards focus on educating about and promoting devotion to Edmund Rice, supporting his cause for canonization, request the Brothers to pray for the deceased, the honored or the intentions recommended and ask for an increased level of donation.

Prayer for a Special Favour Through the Intercession of Blessed Edmund Rice

Lord God,
who through the Holy Spirit inspired Blessed Edmund Rice
to glorify you by the true Christian example of his life,
grant through his intercession the petition
I now make and so hasten the day
when his name shall be honored
among those of your Saints.
I ask this through Christ, Our Lord.
Amen.



Prayer for the Canonization of Blessed Edmund Rice

Heavenly Father,
through the inspiration of your Holy Spirit and
because of your love for your family,
you chose Blessed Edmund Rice to be
a husband, father, and Religious Brother,
to work with the poor, to comfort the sick, and
to establish new families of Religious Brothers in your Church.
Look favorably on his life, we ask you,
and if it be for your glory,
hear our prayers that he may soon be declared a Saint.
This we ask, as we ask all our prayers, through Christ, Our Lord.
Amen.

Pray for us



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