The Centenary of the Presentation Brothers in Canada has been celebrated in style at Brebeuf College School in Toronto. Friends, past pupils, colleagues, Associates, and students attended the festivities. The day began with a welcome by Brother Francis Schafer, F.P.M., Province Leader, and a Mass of Thanksgiving in the school chapel. At the end of Mass, Edmund Rice Medals from Mount Sion were blessed and the Edmund Rice prayer recited.

Following the Mass, the public got its first glimpse of the mural painted by Brebeuf students to mark the Centenary.

A luncheon was then held in the school’s atrium. The guest speakers included Brother Martin Kenneally, F.P.M., Congregation Leader; Brother Hugh O’Neill, C.F.C., Province Leader of the Edmund Rice Christian Brothers; Michael Da Costa, Co-Chair of the organising committee and Associate; Keith Rodrigues, student; and the Keynote Speaker, Brother Denis Claivaz, F.P.M.

Some special presentations were also made. To honour its Presentation connection, the staff of Brebeuf have decided to name the staff lounge after Brother Lawrence Maher, F.P.M., the last Presentation Brother Principal. The students of the school announced a scholarship to send a student from Presentation JSS in Logre, Ghana, to secondary school. The alumni unveiled a statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary to mark the Centenary.

Brother Francis Schafer, F.P.M., announced that the Brothers will be sponsoring one student to participate in the school’s Ghana immersion trip in March 2011.

The day ended with the distribution of a history souvenir booklet and a slideshow to show the Brothers’ history in Canada since 1910.
The Presentation Brothers have much of which to be proud in their hundred years of work of the Lord in Canada. Thousands of students have benefitted in their academic, spiritual, and social lives as a result. Montreal journalist Eric Durocher perhaps sums up their legacy best when he notes that the Presentation Brothers excelled in dedication and service, provided continuity and follow-up, and upheld Christian values. Education wasn’t run on an 8:30-to-3-o’clock basis. Teaching wasn’t a job, it was a vocation. And many of us, including our parents and grandparents, had the benefit of such a formation.

(Eric Durocher in “Well Done, Brothers” in the Catholic Times, Montreal, 2001.)

Congratulations to all those involved in organizing this hugely successful commemoration.
EARTH CARE RESPONSE

We recently received a letter from Brother Philip Pinto, our Congregation Leader, on our need to care for the Earth, and in it we were asked to educate ourselves on sustainable living. We in the North American Province have already taken several initiatives forward in this regard.

We have been engaged in a process of education on these issues following our Province Chapter in 2008 where we affirmed the Chapter outcome of “sustainable living” as a means of our commitment to the poor and the Earth. We further committed all members and all ministries to become educated about Care of the Earth. Elizabeth Johnson reminds us, “Since the reign of God is especially attentive to the needy and outcast, then solidarity with the poor encompasses the earth and its distressed creatures.”

Through the province Bulletin, we receive links to J/P Alert, a monthly electronic publication from the Conference of Major Superiors of Men on justice and peace issues as well as articles dealing with ecological and sustainable-living issues. Brother Seán Whitty has sent out such articles at The Earth Literacy At Home Program; Brother Bill Carrothers and Sister Jacquie Keefe have also presented Earth Care Programs.

Our own Justice Peace and Integrity of Creation office, headed by Brother Kevin Cawley, issues periodic reports, in particular, The Carbon Rangers Newsletter, which is published electronically on a monthly basis. The October 2010 edition had fascinating information on the state of our planet’s oceans. The November issue described the current threats to biodiversity. The Newsletter attempts to provide timely information on Earth care in the context of what science is telling us about current conditions around the planet and how human activity must be modified if we are to be just stewards of God’s creation. Currently 80 professed members of the province have subscribed to the Newsletter. It is also available on Facebook on Kevin Cawley’s page for those who are not regular subscribers but who wish to be informed on these questions.

A visit to the JPIC website http://edmundriceinternational.org/jpic/ will yield a host of ecological resources and links to other sites like http://www.350.org/ whose mission is to inspire us to a new sense of possibility for our planet. The JPIC website also has a link to http://earth911.com/ containing area-specific information on recycling. The links are arranged in categories to simplify searches for particular topics. For every-day, around-the-house ways to green up your life, go to www.simplesteps.org.

Some may not have ready access to the internet and here are suggestions for reading material. Recent books on Earth care include The Great Work by cultural historian and priest, Thomas Berry. He describes the human challenge in the 21st century: to foster a mutually enhancing human - earth relationship. The Bridge at the Edge of the World, by James Gustave Speth, presents a thoughtful diagnosis of the root causes of planetary distress. Plan B 3.0, by Lester R. Brown, investiagtes the most significant of environmental issues; argues passionately for action steps to be taken now and critiques a number of the current alternatives to supplying energy for human activity. James Hansen’s most recent book, Storms of My Grandchildren is an urgent and provocative call to action to turn back the current heating of the atmosphere if we are to avert a catastrophe.

One very promising possibility for education is a new Lenten program developed by the Passionist Earth & Spirit Center called LENT 4.5 – CHRISTIAN SIMPLICITY. This is a seven-week faith formation program of conversion for Catholic communities. It inspires and informs Christians on how to use the traditional Lenten disciplines of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving to care for God's creation and bring forth a just society. It offers practical opportunities for people of faith to apply the church’s teaching on Gospel simplicity to their everyday lives. The program was specifically designed for parishes, schools, and religious communities. More information is available at www.lent45.org.

Pope John Paul II wrote in 1999 that “respect for life and dignity of the human person extends to the rest of creation.” Pope Benedict XVI in 2009 and elsewhere has spoken forcefully of care for creation: “It is essential that the current model of global development be transformed through a greater, and shared, acceptance of
responsibility for creation: this is demanded not only by environmental factors, but also by the scandal of hunger and human misery.”

We are encouraged by these words of Church leadership and by our Chapter commitments to deepen our understanding of these issues and take up the changes in our living that will begin to enhance our relationship to creation and all fellow creatures.

PROVINCE LIFE AND RENEWAL

Living the Vision in Community

*Brothers to commit themselves to heart-centered spirituality and to deepening their relationships with one another in community and in ministry.*" (Christian Brothers' Chapter 2008)

During the month of October, Brother David Gibson, CFC, from Dublin, was in our North American province facilitating three sessions on skills of effective communication in community. These sessions focused on developing healthy and effective ways to connect and communicate well in community. Each session was different because David followed the wishes and goals of those who attended. During the day, there was input on how we break down the barriers to community communication.

The Brothers who came, although wary at the beginning, became very relaxed, enthused and enlightened by what was being shared as the day unfolded. During the day there was a growth in personal awareness of who we are and why we do what we do in the area of communication. All felt the day was very worthwhile, life-giving and helpful to them personally as well as communally. Many shared the idea that we need a few more days like this to benefit fully from what he was presenting.

David shared with us some practical approaches of developing the skill of observation of another person’s unhealthy behavior and sharing that observation with the other without using judgment words, then expressing how that other person’s behavior makes one feel. The expressed feeling is then linked to a need one has in that situation and a personal request for a change in the behavior pattern.

Brother David will be returning at the end of January 2011 to facilitate some sessions with the Brothers in the Vancouver/Seattle area and in New Jersey with the Province Leadership Team. While in the New York/New Jersey area, there may be another opportunity for an additional session with Brothers if there is an interest shown.

I thank David for coming among us as Brother to share with us his wisdom and considerable expertise in the “how” of effective communication. It was worth the effort.
Brothers inducted into STMC Hall of Fame

On November 6, 2010, several hundred people gathered at the Roma Hall in New Westminster, British Columbia to celebrate St. Thomas More Collegiate's (STMC) Fiftieth Anniversary and to induct five new members into STMC’s prestigious Hall of Fame.

His Grace, Archbishop Michael Miller, presided and in his speech spoke of the critical importance of Catholic education. He congratulated the STMC community and the Christian Brothers in particular, for their outstanding contributions to Catholic education in the Archdiocese of Vancouver.

Brothers Mark Murphy and Ray Vercruysse represented the Province Leadership Team (PLT) and Mark brought greetings from the Province and stressed how delighted all the Brothers were with the wonderful work going on at STMC. He stated how impressed the PLT was with the superb job being done weaving the Essential Elements into the everyday life of the school and extended community.

Brother Ron MacKenzie and Brother Owen Cassidy were inducted into the STMC Hall of Fame. Dr. Cliff Smith of the staff of STMC introduced Ron while Mr. Mich DesLauriers, a grad of STMC, presently on the administrative team at Vancouver College, introduced Owen.

Brother Ron MacKenzie’s plaque reads:

*Inducted for his lifelong service as a Christian Brother, his important contributions to STMC as principal (1970-1972), and his continued example of the charism of Blessed Edmund Rice through ongoing service at soup kitchens and correctional institutions.*

Brother Owen Cassidy's plaque reads:

*Inducted for his dedicated fifty plus years of service as a Christian Brother and his unique and permanent contributions as a devoted teacher, coach, missions coordinator and photographer extraordinaire.*

The STMC Jazz Band and the STMC choir performed and received rave reviews. There were also numerous pictorial displays and Power Point displays throughout the evening.

All agreed that it was a wonderful, inspiring evening and a fitting celebration for a Christian Brothers school that has grown from a struggling little entity...
into a dynamo of Catholic education on the Lower Mainland of British Columbia.

Archbishop Curley Notre Dame High School celebrates its ‘field of dreams’ made possible through the generosity of a grant awarded by the Baseball Tomorrow Fund (BTF), along with the support of school alumni and benefactors. An official dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony was held at the school on Saturday, October 30, 2010 at 4949 NE 2nd Avenue, Miami, FL 33137.

A large turnout which included ACND baseball players and coaches dating back 50 years, plus current students and their families, alumni and benefactors, faculty and administrators. Ms. Cathy Bradley, Executive Director of the Baseball Tomorrow Fund; Alfredo Mesa, Executive Director Florida Marlins Community Foundation, each offered encouraging words of support for the school’s present team and acknowledged the efforts of all involved to help realize a dream that has been in progress for many years. Archbishop Emeritus John C. Favalora blessed the new field and Tony Segreto, retired NBC6 anchor and school alumnus served as Master of Ceremonies.

The grant has supported the repositioning and renovation of the ACND baseball field. Formerly located in the far northeastern corner of the ACND campus, the repositioning of the field has moved the baseball diamond to just east of the gym making it closer to the school’s facilities and parking lot, and eliminating the hazard of batting into a setting sun. As well as making the baseball facility more accessible to fans and players at ACND home games, the new field will also be available for use by the school’s immediate community.

“The completion of this project marks the realization of a dream for ACND and the community as a whole,” says school Principal Br. Patrick Sean Moffett, CFC, Ph.D. “Thanks to the significant contribution from MLB’s Baseball Tomorrow Fund, a laser-graded field carpeted with the highest quality Saint Augustine sod provides area youngsters the opportunity to play baseball like the pros, while their families delight in this green oasis between second avenue and Federal Highway.”
Baseball at ACND has an extensive history. In 1955, Archbishop Curley High School (the boys’ school prior to the 1981 merger with Notre Dame Academy) formed its first team and by 1958 construction began on the school’s first on-campus baseball field. In 1970, three of Curley’s hitters ranked in the county’s top ten: Bill Frohbose, Rolando de Armas, and John Bush. In 1983 a new field was placed on the northeast corner of the campus to accommodate the building of tennis courts, relocate the football field and add a track. Recently in 2007, ACND team player Joseph Pagan was drafted by San Diego in the 2007 Major League Baseball Draft.

ACND Baseball Coach Jerry Yeash has headed the school’s program since 1981. He concluded his address stating, “I would like to mention each and every player over the last 30 years. The rosters through the years evoke a treasury of memories of the young players whose energy, enthusiasm, and spirit have made this a field of dreams – dreams rich in history, enlivened in a new reality, fertile with the hopes of each new generation of Knights. Play ball!”

ACND offers to its students a full range of athletic activities on a 14-acre campus. It also offers the community an affordable summer camp that provides training in all sports for community, middle and high school age youth, and provides its football field for use by the Little Haiti Optimist Club.

Br. Jason Ford, ACND’s Coordinator of Campus Ministry, and Archbishop Emeritus John C. Favalora bless the new baseball field as current baseball team members wear uniforms from past and present teams.
All Hallows High School – One of Top 50 Catholic High Schools in the U.S.

All Hallows is the only high school in the Archdiocese of New York to be recognized as one of the country’s top 50 high schools by the Catholic High School Honor Roll. This is the seventh year in a row that All Hallows has been recognized by the Honor Roll. Criteria used to judge the top 50 Catholic schools include high academic standards, an upholding of Catholic identity, and preparation of students to actively engage the world.

From the National Catholic High School Honor Roll:

On October 15, 2010, the National Catholic High School Honor Roll announced its selection of the best 50 Catholic secondary schools in the United States. The purpose of the Honor Roll is to recognize and encourage excellence in Catholic secondary education. It is a critical resource that distinguishes for parents and educators those schools that excel in three categories: academic excellence, Catholic identity, and civic education.

To see a list of the top 50 schools, as well as lists of the 10 honorable mention schools in each category, visit www.chshonor.org.

The Honor Roll is an independent project of the Acton Institute, an international research and educational organization. It is produced in consultation with an advisory board comprised of Catholic college presidents and scholars. Advisory board member Very Rev. David M. O’Connell, President Emeritus of Catholic University of America, said the Honor Roll’s evaluation method is indispensable. “Catholic schools must examine themselves on a regular basis using a well-rounded approach that assesses adherence to the Church’s educational calling,” he said. “The Honor Roll strengthens schools by encouraging high standards and vibrant Catholicism.”

They were about 17 when they first considered a vocation. Seventy-eight percent were encouraged to consider the priesthood by a priest.

Who have you spoken with about becoming a Brother?

Check out Christian Brothers on YouTube at:
http://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=edmund+rice+christian+brothers&aq=f
Each year, the Student Council at GRMS plans a special week of activities for students and faculty. Spirit Week focuses the attention of everyone on campus toward everything great and wondrous about the Guadalupe Regional community. The Spirit Week provides the school community with the opportunity to remember and celebrate why we have all come together as a learning community: to share, grow, and pray. The Student Council takes the initiative to plan and supervise a number of fun activities geared toward the interests of the student. Faculty, in turn, supports Student Council’s efforts in any number of ways.

This year Spirit Week consisted of the following themed days: Heritage Day, Pajama Day, Sports Day, and Halloween. On Heritage Day, students dressed in clothes representative of their culture. There was a morning Grito Contest and an afternoon folkloric dance demonstration. On Pajama Day, students wore their favorite sleep wear and spent time in the afternoon watching a movie, eating popcorn, and playing video and board games. Sports Day was fun for all students, as there was a Sports Carnival in the afternoon and a faculty versus student volleyball game.

Spirit Week ended with an unforgettable Halloween celebration. The school kicked off the day by unveiling its new mascot image painted at the center of our courtyard. Almost all students were in costume. Over 20 of them entered the fiercely competitive costume contest. And Spirit Week ended with an exceptional Haunted House that was designed and set-up by a handful of Eight-Graders who far exceeded every expectation for their final tribute of every kid’s favorite holiday. In all, this year’s Spirit Week was enjoyable and memorable for all students, and a very high bar has been set for next year’s Student Council and their Spirit Week planning.

Left: *Heritage Day's Grito Contest*. Graduates Angela Smith '05, Melissa Sandoval '10, and Lili Martinez '05 work with Mrs. Jennifer Rose-Segrest to paint the school's mascot in the center of the basketball court Thursday night. **On the right**: Tony Martinez, President of GRMS's Board of Directors, gives a reflection to students at the unveiling of the mascot mural on the basketball court Friday morning.
Peer Ministry News

The 26 students who were selected to be Peer Ministers for their senior year have been kept busy since August by their Campus Ministers, Pippa Bianco and Sr. Stephania Walcsak. A retreat day at Camp Stella Maris, in Livonia, NY, with the freshmen they mentor, saw great bonding and emerging leaders early in the school year.

The selected students were commissioned at the opening Mass by Fr. Thomas Wheeland, and blessed by Bishop Matthew Clark later in October. Peer Ministers prepare and participate in all school liturgies, as well as plan and lead prayer services in our small chapel twice a month before school. This year they will lead our Advent penance service with the freshmen.

Community service is a big part of our Peer Ministry class and later this month the students will pledge an organization they will individually volunteer with until May.

Fund-raising for our Missions has been a great success, ‘costume-up’ for Halloween brought in over $600, and the Peer Ministers continue to encourage their freshmen groups to bring in pennies, nickels and dimes to fill their mission cans each week; the group that collects the most will be awarded a pizza lunch.

The Peer Ministers will be presenting a Nativity play with a difference during Advent. They will portray the birth of Our Lord from the animal’s perspective! Rehearsals will begin next week. Costumes must also be made. We are sure that much fun will be had by all.

From Brother Tom Draney regarding Christ House:
Christ House, like other non-profit ministries, is trying to cut costs. We have decided to send out our newsletter by email to any of the Brothers who would like to receive it. If you want to receive it, please email newsletter@christhousebronx.com and we will capture your email. Thanks so much. God bless you and your work.

EDITOR’S NOTE

For the December issue, please submit articles and/or photos by December 19, 2010. I would like to publish the December newsletter before Christmas. Please send materials to me at wrfowlemnj@gmail.com. Reminder: for photos please identify the people and/or places in the photos. Thank you.
The excitement is building for Sister Jacquie Keefe and Brother Bill Carrothers as the construction of Jericho House nears its completion and their dreams become a reality.

They have been fund-raising and planning for years and they're about six weeks away from the completion of construction to the 1,300-square-metre facility on Rathfon Rd. in Wainfleet, where local groups and organizations, business or church groups can take advantage of the facility for retreats or overnight stays.

In mid-December, Keefe and Carrothers will take over the facility, decorate and outfit it with beds, chairs, kitchen equipment and all the extra details and will welcome guests to the 6.6-hectare property for the first time in January.

"The weather has been perfect and very few days have been lost to the weather," Carrothers said.

Overnight retreats or events for adults, teens or children will be accommodated with two wings -- one for men and one for women, with nine bedrooms in each wing -- a supervisor's room and lounge area.

Each bedroom features an ensuite bathroom and bunk beds to sleep one to three people.

The bungalow-style retreat features a game room, great hall, dining room, conference area, offices, living quarters for Carrothers and Keefe and a chapel/meeting area.

"We want people to realize the versatility of Jericho House," Keefe said, noting the facility is ecumenical, interfaith and welcomes people of all religions. "We can facilitate retreats, conferences or workshops on leadership, ecology, life skills or staff days."

Carrothers was happy to receive calls from schools and community groups interested in renting the facility for events. A feasibility study also determined there was a need for a facility like Jericho House in Niagara.

"It's a phenomenal resource for people of the region, especially for youth for their personal growth and development. They come, do planning and self-evaluating and go back to their schools or churches to implement projects."

About $2 million was raised through fund-raising events and cash donations, while interested companies provided in-kind donations to help with the construction of the $2.5 million facility.

It replaces the current Jericho House facility on Beatrice St. in
Welland, which has eight bedrooms and offices.

Keefe's Franciscan Sisters are hoping to sell the Beatrice St. facility to a non-profit group.

"The design of the building is meant to be organic so it fits in with the landscape instead of dominating it," Carrothers said of the house, inspired by Frank Lloyd Wright's prairie style design.

Residential rates for Jericho house are $19 for a day retreat from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., with one meal and two snacks; $50 for an overnight retreat with 4 meals; $136 for a three-night retreat with 10 meals for youths.

Rates for adults are $30 for a day retreat with a meal; extended day retreat from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., for $40 and $74 for an overnight retreat with 3 meals.

Their website, http://jerichohouse.org/index2.html, offers this information: "Jericho House is a youth leadership, justice and spirituality centre. We have welcomed Christians and seekers with retreats, conferences, and peer ministry workshops since 1988. Jericho house is ecumenical in the Catholic tradition."

**JUSTICE, PEACE AND INTEGRITY OF CREATION**

There is a link below to help in discussion re: DREAM ACT legislation for undocumented young people to continue their education. We are still hopeful that the lame duck US Congress now in session might find a way to pass the legislation. There is a far-right conservative push-back to prevent passage of this legislation, using inaccurate information to scare away votes. Please keep the pressure on your US representatives. Canadian citizens, please keep us in prayer.

For those who are unable to get to the whole link, a good summary comment is here:

**The DREAM Act sends the message that although American immigration law in effect tries to make water run uphill, we are not monsters. It says that we will not hobble the prospects of young people raised and schooled in America just because we were so perverse to demand that their parents wait in a line before a door that never opens. It signals that we were once a nation of immigrants, and even if we have become too fearful and small to properly honor that noble legacy, America in some small way remains a land of opportunity.**

p.s. DREAM Act = Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act

Link:

JPIC North America website: http://edmundriceinternational.org/jpic/

Brother Kevin Cawley publishes a monthly Carbon Rangers Newsletter. If you would like to receive this publication, drop him a line at kcawley1@mac.com
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.

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

- Global Edmund Rice Network: www.edmundrice.net
- Edmund Rice Christian Brothers NA: www.ercbna.org
- Edmund Rice International: www.edmundriceinternational.org
- Christian Brothers Vocations: www.cfcvocations.org
- Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation: www.edmundriceinternational.org/jpic