



PROVINCE NEWSLETTER

Edmund Rice Christian Brothers North America

A PROVINCE OF THE CONGREGATION OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS

Volume 6, Issue 5

January, 2011

Brother Denis Wright's 90th Birthday

The psalmist tells us that "70 is the sum of our years, or 80 if we are strong," but what then does one say about someone who achieves 90? Is that person super strong?



Br. Denis Wright (left) and Br. Jerry McCarthy, Community Leader at All Saints' Community

If it's Denis Wright, the answer is a resounding, YES! Denis still tutors at the Rudin Center at Iona College, is faithful in visiting Brothers in hospitals or nursing homes, eager to do repairs around St. Joseph's, and is an active member of the IHOP 7.

To honor this outstanding Christian Brother, 25 of his colleagues from around the New York City Metropolitan Area gathered, with the All Saints Community at 21 Pryer Terrace, New Rochelle, on the afternoon of January 2, to share brotherhood, banter and blessings.

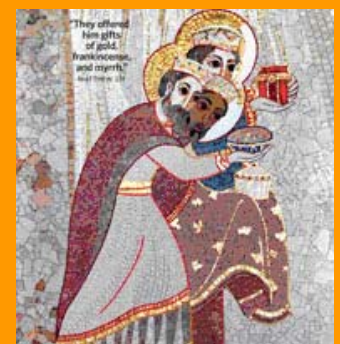
After Denis gave a "short" speech, the group sang a hearty "Happy Birthday" and wished him *AD MULTOS ANNOS!*



(l to r) Brs. Denis Wright, Ray Vercruyse, Michael Colasuonno, Jude Mooney, Jim Fagan, (1 to r) Brs. Denis Wright, Kevin Bernard, Charles Haynes, Buddy Bechner

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Peace is a gift that God entrusts to human responsibility to be cultivated through dialogue, respect for the rights of all, reconciliation and forgiveness.

Benedict XVI

ST. JOSEPH'S ACADEMY

St. John's, Antigua, The West Indies

BLESSING AND DEDICATION OF THE BROTHER PATRICK PAUL MCNIVEN WING

During the administration of Brother Paul McNiven of St. Joseph's Academy in Antigua, the Father Albert Rutten Hall was built. Father Albert was the Redemptorist priest who worked with the School Committee to prepare for the arrival of the Christian Brothers in January, 1958. When Albert Hall was built, provision was made for a second floor to be constructed at a later date. Little did Brother Paul realize that the second floor would be blessed and dedicated as the Brother McNiven Wing in January, 2011.



(l to r) Brs. Paul McNiven, Conan Armstrong, Harry French, Bosco Wakeham, Mr. Rudolph Davis, Principal of St. Joseph's Academy Davis. The steel band played "Give Thanks."

Invited to the ceremony, which took place on the 53rd anniversary of the school, were two former Principals, Brother Harry French and Brother Bosco Wakeham. Also invited was Brother Conan Armstrong, known as "the Antigua Brother" because he was on the staff for 43 of the 45 years the Brothers were in Antigua. Harry and Bosco flew from nearby Dominica, Conan from Florida, and Paul from Grenada where he is working in collaboration with the Presentation Brothers. All four Brothers enjoyed meeting old friends and benefactors, ex-pupils and pupils of the Academy.

On Thursday, January 13, a School Mass was celebrated in Holy Family Cathedral. It was attended by the staff, the students and their parents, and "old boys." The celebrant was Father George Williams, Parish Priest. All enjoyed the singing of the students led by the Principal, Mr. Rudolph

At 4:30 P.M., on Friday, January 14, the special guests arrived. Mr. Rudolph Davis welcomed all, especially Brother McNiven and his confrères who had contributed so much to the growth and development of the school. The Prime Minister, the Honourable Dr. W. Baldwin Spencer, spoke in glowing terms of the success of the Academy in educating and forming men of integrity and congratulated Mr. Davis and the present staff for continuing the great work so well begun 53 years before.



The keynote address was given by Mrs.

Jacinta Pringle, Chief Education Officer, who had known Brother Paul during his

two terms as Principal of St. Joseph's.

She lauded Brother McNiven for the wonderful work he had done at the Academy, for his work with the Catholic Teachers' Association of Antigua, and for his cooperation with and support of the Ministry of



Br. Paul McNiven being introduced

Education. She was intent on Brother Paul's being given "his flowers" while he was still able to appreciate them and insisted on his taking a bow then and there.

The Most Reverend Gabriel Malzaire, Bishop of Roseau and Administrator of the Diocese of Antigua, blessed and dedicated the new wing. The Governor-General, Dame Louise Lake-Tack, and Brother McNiven together cut the ribbon to the second floor and accompanied the Bishop as he blessed the rooms, one of which will become the new computer centre.



The glee club, sang, the steel band played, and the students marched as part of the entertainment for the celebration. An evening of pleasant socializing followed. No doubt that Bishop Boghaert, Father Albert Rutten, Brother Gerry Driscoll, former Brother Pat Walsh, and the members of the original School Committee were already receiving their reward for the part they played in the foundation and development of St. Joseph's Academy in St. John's, Antigua. To God be the glory!

BROTHER RICE HIGH SCHOOL **Bloomfield Hills, Michigan**

Community Recognizes 50 Years With Three-Day Celebration

Dignitaries, famous alumni and five decades' worth of families and friends converged on Brother Rice High School and the surrounding area the weekend of Oct. 8-10 to celebrate the renowned college preparatory institution's 50th anniversary.

Brother Rice, which was dedicated in 1960 by Cardinal John Dearden, has established a proud history of success in and out of the classroom. Roughly 9,000 graduates and a community of about 20,000 were invited to celebrate "A Powerful Legacy, A Promising Future," the slogan for the Golden Jubilee Weekend event.

On Oct. 8, Cardinal Adam Maida presided over a Mass of Thanksgiving at St. Regis Parish. One of the most touching aspects of the Mass was an acknowledgment by those present of the Brothers and their contributions to the school since 1960. The Cardinal said of the brothers:

It's historical; you've got a niche in this Archdiocese. You are a jewel that shines among so many other institutions that we have. But nonetheless, I want to, in a very heartfelt way, thank the Christian Brothers for the way they have shared their charism, their methodology, their dedication and their lives, in forming our young people here at this school. Wherever you go, throughout the Country and the World, the Christian Brothers are there. You can count on them to have the best product in the end. So I thank you and the whole community for your dedication and love and for what you have done here at Brother Rice in the Archdiocese of Detroit.



(l to r) Brs. Ross Wielatz, Ben Favero, Mike Segvich, Hugh O'Neill, Sean Hayes, Dave MacIntyre, Dennis Crimmins, Mark Murphy, Tim Smyth and Fran Murray

The Brothers attending were treated to a standing ovation! Following Mass, the Cardinal and a selection of nearly 30 Catholic Priests and Irish Christian Brothers, the religious order that founded Brother Rice, rededicated the school.

The following evening, the school hosted the largest alumni gathering in its history. Nearly 750 graduates from all 47 graduating classes, current and past faculty and staff and other prominent supporters gathered at the Centerpoint Marriott in

Auburn Hills for the All-Alumni Reunion.

On Oct. 10, Brother Rice squared off against archrival Novi Catholic Central in the "Warrior Classic" football game at Wayne State University's Adams Field. It was the 54th contest between the two state powers, which have combined to win 18 state championships, and drew a capacity crowd of 7,500.

Other weekend activities included the Great Debate Oct. 8, between the top debaters from the current Brother Rice team and a select group of alumni from a program that has won state, national and world championships. The moderator for the event was Chris Hansen, a 1977 graduate of the school and one of the faces of the award-winning *Dateline NBC* television news program. The event took place in front of the entire Brother Rice student body.



The all-alumni reunion on Saturday, October 9, 2010 at a local hotel near Bloomfield Hills.



Father Joseph Grimadi and Al Fracassa (longtime football coach).

Local radio personality Ken Calvert of the Brother Rice Class of '69 hosted his WCSX-FM (94.7) morning show Oct. 8 from the school's gymnasium. Calvert was Brother Rice's first Warrior mascot during his time on campus, and has been an ardent supporter of the school since. His guests included Hansen and Dave Morrow, a 1989 graduate and the President of Troy-based lacrosse equipment and apparel giant Warrior Sports.

In addition, alumni participated in a series of events on campus throughout the day Oct. 9. Activities ranged from alumni athletic contests — such as baseball, basketball, flag football, soccer and tennis — to a morning Mass, a pancake breakfast and more.

ST. LAURENCE HIGH SCHOOL Burbank, Illinois

FORMER FACULTY SOCIAL A BIG HIT

On Sunday afternoon, December 5, 2010, St. Laurence High School in Burbank, IL, hosted a former faculty – current faculty social in the school’s library. This social was part of an ongoing series of events and get-togethers celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Christian Brothers school. Approximately 35 former faculty and staff were guests of the school, and they mingled with some 30 present-day faculty. The former teachers were treated to a variety of food and drink and a delicious commemorative cake for dessert. Everyone had the opportunity to tour the facility and reminisce about their days at the school. Some returnees had not visited the school for over twenty years.

“It was great to see so many faces I hadn’t seen for years,” commented Br. Chuck McKenna. “It was a great turnout, and I know that all thoroughly enjoyed themselves.” Br. McKenna holds the distinction of being the only faculty member on staff for the school’s opening in 1961 who is also currently working at the school.



Mr. Gene Smerz (left), a former faculty member, and Br. Dave Lucas remembering the past.

ARCHBISHOP CURLEY NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL Miami, Florida

“OPENING DOORS TO THE FUTURE BY REMEMBERING THE PAST. “

Archbishop Curley Notre Dame High School - First South Florida School To Integrate 50 Years Ago.
Students Hold 'Living History Day' interviewing alums from the early 1960's.



Ms. Lisa
Morales

AP History Juniors at **Archbishop Curley Notre Dame High School** will offer an important history lesson through a ‘living history day’. A symposium for students, teachers, alumni, and the media titled “**Opening Doors to the Future by Remembering the Past**” will include representatives of the Notre Dame Academy and Archbishop Curley High School Classes of the 1960’s, including **Paul H. Wyche**, a retired corporate communications executive, and one of the school’s first admitted black students. The event will take place on Wednesday, February 9, 2011, at Archbishop Curley Notre Dame High School.

A living history day provides an opportunity to turn students into teachers and challenges them to think historically. Since November, ACND’s AP History Juniors have been researching and studying the period in South Florida history where school integration would slowly take place. They will design a series of questions to present to the guests which will help all school students achieve a greater understanding of this process which began in 1960.

Following the leadership example of Archbishop Michael Joseph Curley, who in 1916 led a vocal public campaign to ensure the release of three Sisters of St. Joseph who were imprisoned for teaching in “negro schools,” Archbishop Curley High School and Notre Dame Academy (now merged as a co-ed school) became the first schools in Florida to admit African-American students. They would do so ten years before Dade County public schools complied after receiving a federal court order.



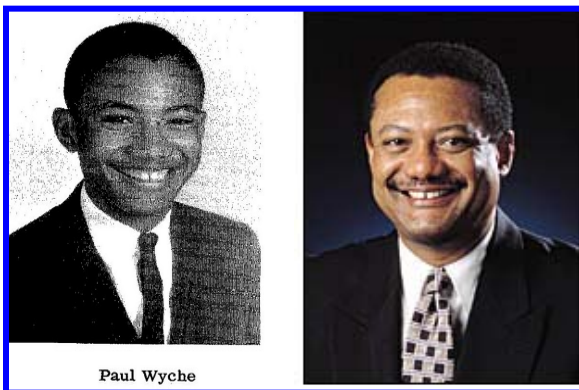
Archbishop Curley Notre Dame High School AP History Juniors lead by their teacher, Mr. David Monaco.

Brother Keric Dever, C.S.C., who served as School Principal from 1959 to 1965, wrote about this year in a memoir titled, *Miami Images: A Story of the Brothers of Holy Cross at Archbishop Curley High School in Miami, Florida, 1959-1965*:

On September 9, when the freshmen reported for the first day of orientation, television cameramen were on the campus early to follow around the single ninth grade Negro student as he waited in line for his schedule and moved through his abbreviated class sessions. The timid freshman attraction was Paul Wyche, a talented boy who was to become a prominent member of the student body as a debater, writer for the school paper and yearbook, correspondent for two local radio stations, member of the Knights of St. Joseph, sports statistician, student body vice-president, and county-wide runner-up award winner of a Silver Knight trophy as a 1964 graduate. After high school, he went on to the University of Miami where he was to become a sports writer for the college paper and urban affairs reporter for the Miami News.

Although the school tried its best, it was impossible to avoid a media fuss and Archbishop Curley quickly became associated with the headline: “The First Catholic high school in Florida integrates.” Five African-American students would be admitted to ninth and tenth grade that year.

Among guests representing this period in school history will be **Paul H. Wyche** – the Curley freshman referred to in Br. Dever’s writings. Wyche states, “This was such a huge success by Curley and Notre Dame in the days when integration was barely mentioned in the South – and then with disdain. Wow! That was really 50 years ago. Where has the time gone? It was a wonderful time of my life and Curley played a major role in preparing me for my future successes.”



Paul Wyche

Paul H. Wyche, a retired communications executive and one of the school’s first admitted black students, will be among those returning to the school on February 9th.

Today, Wyche serves as the founder and principal of Wyche & Associates, a communications and marketing firm based in Orlando. He is a nationally known communications executive whose 35-year career has included positions managing all phases of corporate communications and public affairs. Prior to

founding Wyche & Associates, he served as vice president, communications; chief communications officer and

a member of the Executive Committee of NorthWestern Corporation, a FORTUNE 500 provider of energy and communications; vice president, global communications and community affairs at Whirlpool Corporation; and vice president, corporate public affairs and government relations of Safety-Kleen Corporation. Earlier in his career, Paul held management positions with the DuPont Company; the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and he was on the legislative team of several members of the U.S. Congress. He has also directed the National Black News Service. Paul has been active in a number of local and national professional, community, and civic organizations. He has served as chairman of the Board of Governors of the African American Chamber of Commerce of Central Florida; served on Boards of Directors of the Orlando Regional Chamber of Commerce and Junior Achievement Orlando; and has been a long-time member of the National Society of Professional Journalists.

Wyche's late parents both played a major role in desegregation and community social change in Miami. Paul H. Wyche, Sr., worked for years as a mail handler, but, later and without any formal education or experience, would persistently study and pass the test that eventually allowed him to become the first African-American United States Customs Chief Inspector. Wyche, Jr., lovingly remembers his father as the parent who would balance the roles of both a professional and caregiver. Upon retirement, kids from their North Miami neighborhood would flock to the family's home to talk to him. Wyche, Sr., was also remembered for his role in raising money for scholarships for inner-city schools for black Catholics through his work with the St. Martin de Porres Association in the Archdiocese of Miami.

Paul's mother, Gracie Wyche, who passed away on November 8, 2010, was a nursing pioneer in Miami-Dade County. Mrs. Wyche helped pave the way for African Americans in the nursing and health professions in South Florida. She began her career working on the "colored wards" of Dade County Hospital and Jackson Memorial Hospital and then as a public health nurse at the Dade County Health Department, working in infectious disease and providing essential services to the African-American community in Miami. She would retire after more than 30 years of service as a Head Nurse of the outpatient clinics at the Veterans' Administration Hospital. Mrs. Wyche was a devoted member of St. James Catholic Church and the Missionaries of Charity organization.

Wyche will be joined by other members of the Classes of the 60's, along with alumni who represent these same classes and came to South Florida through 'Operation Pedro Pan.' Today, Archbishop Curley Notre Dame High School still stands by its school mission that states: "By word and practice, interaction and experience, we foster acceptance and appreciation of different cultural, religious, and economic backgrounds, preparing each person to be a responsible, involved, and compassionate citizen in a global society." Last year, ACND welcomed 34 displaced students from Haiti. As in the past, these students were welcomed and received the proper support so that they could adjust to their new environment.

THE ASSOCIATES OF BLESSED EDMUND RICE Bonita Springs, Florida

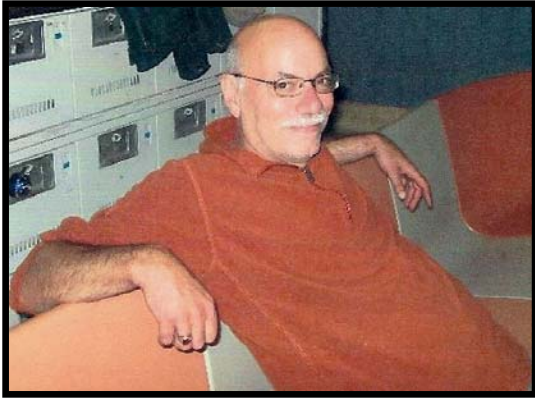
There is an excellent article about the Associates in Bonita Springs on the Congregational website at: <http://www.edmundrice.net/> When you open the website, find the title of the article (**The volunteer-power of the retired in Bonita Springs**), click "read more".

**Who have you spoken with
about becoming a Brother?**



THE BROTHER T.I. MURPHY CENTER St. John's, Newfoundland

On November 11, 2010, the Brother T.I. Murphy Center lost one of its first staff members, Mr. Jeff Steiner, who passed away at his home in St. John's. On December 14, the Murphy Center held a memorial service in his name. Many current and former students joined the staff of the Murphy Center, the Steiner family, and friends to share memories of Jeff Steiner.



Jeffery G. Steiner
April 15, 1953 – November 11, 2010



Representing the students of the Murphy Center were Ms. MacKenzie Lee and Mr. Ryan Collins, standing in front of a memorial to Jeff Steiner which now hangs in the hallway of the Murphy Center.



Mr. Tim Thorne, Co-Director of the Murphy Center, welcomes guests to the memorial service.



Br. Raph Bellows, Mt. St. Francis Community (left), and Deacon (Edmundian) Cecil (Dominic '72) Critch



(l to r) Three of Jeff's children: Riognach, Courtney, and Alan



Jericho House, Wainfleet, Ontario

Jericho House Youth Leadership, Justice & Spirituality Center, an ecumenical and interfaith retreat center in the Catholic tradition, opens this month. An ideal location for retreats, meetings, conferences, and seminars.

Info: Jericho House 309 Beatrice St., Welland, ON L3B 2Z9; tel: 905-732-1868; fax: 905-732-1894; www.jerichohouse.org.

The Jericho House Team:
Sister Jacque Keefe, cssf
Brother Bill Carrothers, cfc
Mr. Gary Bowron

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www.edmundrice.net

your global net for your global network

Below is link to an interview given by Brother Philip Pinto, Congregational Leader, in India at Christmas time.

www.ucanews.com/2011/01/05/keep-the-dangerous-memory-of-jesus-alive-christian-brother/
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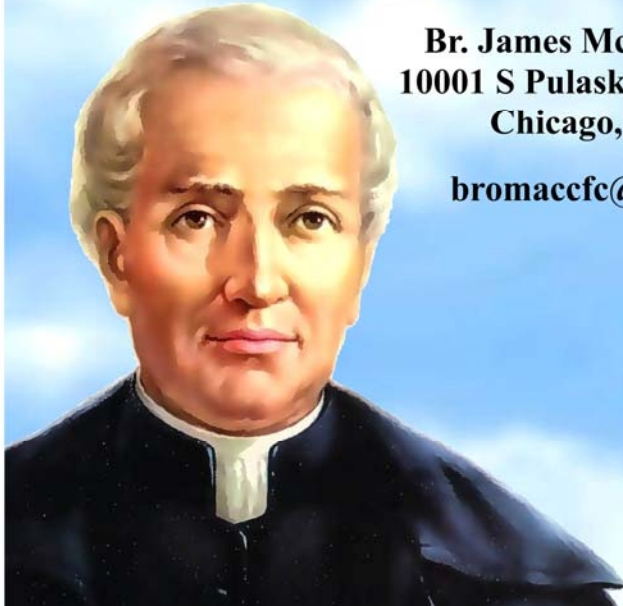
250 Invitations for Edmund's 250th Birthday

June 1, 2012 will mark the 250th anniversary of the birth of Blessed Edmund Rice.

Between now and then, help us invite
250 men to consider becoming Brothers.

You know someone who you think might make a good
Christian Brother.

Send his name and address, or e-mail address to:



Br. James McDonald, CFC
10001 S Pulaski Road, Rm 111
Chicago, IL 60655

bromaccfc@yahoo.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
Edmund Rice Christian Brothers NA
Edmund Rice International
Christian Brothers Vocations
Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation

www.edmundrice.net
www.ercbna.org
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www.cfcvocations.org
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