



PROVINCE NEWSLETTER

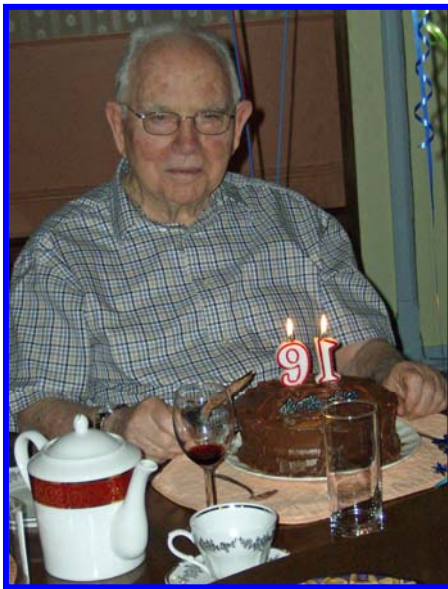
Edmund Rice Christian Brothers North America

A PROVINCE OF THE CONGREGATION OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS

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Brother Bert Darcy celebrates 91 years



On Thursday, March 3, 2011, the Brothers in St. John's, Newfoundland, gathered to celebrate the 91st birthday of Brother Joseph Bertrand Darcy. Bert is the third oldest man in the province by age and the second senior by profession.

Bert "retired" to the Mount St. Francis community in St. John's in 1994. However, retirement is a relative term. Upon returning to the city of his birth, Bert volunteered at the archdiocese of St. John's and found himself as the Chair of the Board of Directors of the Basilica Museum. During that time he helped organize and develop the Museum which is now a permanent addition to the Basilica and open to the public. At the same time he was a

regular contributing author to the Archdiocese of St. John's Catholic paper, *The Monitor*. Bert wrote a monthly historical column for this publication.

Since his "retirement," Bert has written four books, the first three of which are published and the fourth is currently at the printers:

Fair Or Foul The Weather, the story of the Christian Brothers taking over St. Bonaventure's College in 1889.

Noble To Our View, the history of St. Bonaventure's College from 1856 to 2006.

Fire Upon The Earth, the biography of Bishop Fleming, OFM, the man responsible for the construction of the Basilica of St. John the Baptist in St. John's, Newfoundland.

Out Of The Past, a compilation of the articles he wrote for *The Monitor*, while that newspaper was in circulation.

Bert has also written the script and all the music for a musical drama celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Basilica of St. John the Baptist. This two hour drama was performed live at the Basilica for a standing-room-only crowd and is available on DVD.

In his "spare time" Bert has also written several hymns.

The birthday celebration started with a liturgy in the Brothers' Chapel, with Father

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"If we share with the poor, out of love for God, whatever God has given to us, we shall receive according to God's promise a hundredfold in eternal happiness. What a fine profit, what a blessed reward!"

St. John of God

Bill Browne, SJ, as celebrant, followed by a social and dinner in the Brothers' dining room. It was a very good evening and thoroughly enjoyed by all. *AD MULTOS ANNOS, Bert!*



The Over 80's group in St. John's. (1 to r): Brs. Raph Bellows, Hugh Slattery, Bert Darcy, Bill Howard. Missing Br. John Batterton who is in hospital.

(1 to r): Mr. Jim McGrath (a good friend of Berts' and the Brothers), Bert, Dr. Jim Darcy, Bert's brother.

VANCOUVER COLLEGE Vancouver, British Columbia

The following appeared in the Vancouver Sun by reporter Mike Beamish



**Ms. Ronith
Cogswell**

Christian Covington sounds like a wise old Owl, even though he has yet to turn 18 or participate in his first football practice with Rice University, whose sports team is named for the great, avian symbol of mortal wisdom.

Covington, a Grade 12 student at Vancouver College, chose Rice, a leading research university in Houston, Texas, over more formidable football powers such as Arizona State when it came to declaring his intentions on National Signing Day, a U.S. tradition on the first Wednesday in February the U.S., when high school seniors formally sign scholarship papers binding them to the college of their choice.

Covington is the first for Vancouver College since 2008, when Trey Henderson, Brody McKnight and Dan Cordick scored a college football trifecta for the Fighting Irish on National Signing Day.

"I've been brought up to think that football is maybe only 10 per cent of an athlete's life," Covington explained. "God forbid, if anything should happen to me, that college degree is going to help me for the rest of my life. Football is not the end-all and be-all."

"Arizona State is a very good football school. But I do want to pursue medicine. I've wanted to be a doctor ever since I was a little kid. I want to be a football player/cardiologist."

Not exactly what you expect to hear from the son of Grover Covington, a Canadian Football Hall of Famer whose 10-year career mark of 157 sacks as a defensive end with the Hamilton Tiger-Cats still stands as the all-time CFL record. Christian grew up in Surrey, BC, in a household where he could simply pop a video of his into the player, showing his dad playing in the 1986 Grey Cup game at BC Place and watch him fly like a bird of prey toward the quarterback.

“My family wanted me to play football of my own accord. They didn’t want me to play simply because of who my dad was,” Covington said. “They even told me, if I was to play football, that the Covington name would be a big burden on my shoulder, having to live under his shadow. I wasn’t the greatest player in grade eight or grade nine. I really wanted to be a quarterback. But my dad told me, ‘Son, don’t be a quarterback; chase quarterbacks.’”

He did well enough for the Fighting Irish last season — 15 sacks and 89 tackles in 14 games — to be named BC’s high school football’s most valuable defensive player.

“Every Canadian university contacted him,” explained Grover Covington, a North Carolina native who settled in the Vancouver area after his CFL career was done. “The Washington Huskies were looking at him, Cal, Arizona State. But Rice was a good fit for him. The classes are small and 90 per cent of them are taught by profs. What really impressed my family is when the coach told us, ‘Your son has great penmanship.’ I’m thinking, ‘What did he just say?’ He’s not talking about his rip, his spin, his tackling abilities. He’s talking penmanship.”

Perhaps it’s a different way they recruit at Rice, studying a football prospect’s handwriting to determine his chances of success. But Owls head coach, David Bailiff, did make the long flight from Houston last week (and, boy, were his arms tired) to meet with the Covington family and sell them on the virtues of the Houston school. Rice will represent only the second school Christian has ever attended. He has been a student at Vancouver College since kindergarten.



Christian Covington

AAA Football Champions

Congratulations to the Fighting Irish Varsity Football Team who won the British Columbia Provincial Championship on December 4, 2010, defeating the previously unbeaten and #1 ranked Terry Fox Ravens 28-15 before over 5,000 fans at Empire Field. The Irish were led by game MVP, Adam Konar, who scored three running touchdowns and intercepted the Fox quarterback twice. The other College score came from Charlie Thorpe, who also led the team on defense with 15 tackles. Jeff Tichelman passed for 191 yards with his favourite targets being Justin Sanvido (four catches for 76 yards) and Reiner Theil (four catches for 53 yards). Patrick Cotterall was named the games Most Outstanding Lineman and Jeff Tichelman, the Most Outstanding Back. The win for VC marked its 4th provincial crown but its first since 1994. The win for the Varsity team improved their season record to 12-2. Over the course of the season, they averaged 32.0 points per game and had only 9.8 points per game scored against them.

On December 9, the AAA Championship Banner was raised and many VC Alumni attended this momentous occasion ... one shared by the entire VC Nation.

This year marked the first time since 1994 that the Irish had teams in all three championship games. The Grade 8's lost a heartbreaker to Lord Tweedsmuir, 28- 22. They were up 22-8 at the half but could not contain Tweedsmuir's offense in the second half. The Irish's Ovie Odjegba was named the game's Outstanding Back.

The Junior Varsity Irish were unfortunately defeated by a larger, more physical, Mt. Douglas Rams squad (43-28). The Irish were led by Liam Mahara who scored all four Irish majors (giving him 14 touchdowns in his last 3 games) and was also



L to R: Coach Bernett, Mike Tchao ('05), Michal Martinka ('07), Steven Brooke ('03), Richard Conlin ('06), Andy Roy ('03), Marc Blancaflor ('01), Frank Gnupp Memorial Trophy, Pawel Martinka ('03), Coach Kozikowski ('94), Konrad Wasiela ('03), Shea Emry ('04), Jon Conlin ('03)

named the Most Outstanding Back.

All in all it was an outstanding year for Irish football and all the players and coaches are to be congratulated.

ASSOCIATES OF BLESSED EDMUND RICE Brownsville, Texas

Brother Jerry McCarthy (All Saints Community) was in Brownsville recently to induct two of the four candidates into the Associates. In the photo seated (l to r). Patricia Flota and Alma Marinez made their Associate commitment after one year of candidacy. Behind them are (l to r) Matthew Wilsey and Laura Cassel who attended their first Associates' meeting. The Regional Coordinator is Brother Dave Concannon (Comunidad Juan Diego). They have monthly meetings consisting of a prayer service, a period of sharing their gifts and discussion of a Scripture passage assigned the previous month.



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 10845 Rathfon Road, Colborne, ON L3K 5V4; P: 905-834-053

www.jerichohouse.org

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

EDMUND RICE INTERNATIONAL HERITAGE CENTER

Mount Sion, Ireland

Catholic Schools Week Launch:



**Br. Steve
Hale**

On Monday, 24th January, the Edmund Rice International Heritage Centre, along with the Mount Sion schools, hosted this year's launch of Catholic Schools Week in Ireland. We welcomed over one hundred Catholic school educators and administrators to our Centre. The theme for Catholic Schools Week 2011 was "Catholic Schools Week – Rooted in Jesus Christ." The theme is inspired by the Pastoral Letter of Pope Benedict XVI to the Catholics of Ireland where he addresses the young people of Ireland to, "*Keep your eyes fixed on Jesus and his goodness, and shelter the flame of faith in your hearts.*"

The day began with a student assembly for the Primary School where the students performed a very clever and creative presentation of the Parable of the Sower and the Seed. Following morning tea, the participants gathered in the Edmund Rice Chapel where they were welcomed by Br. Pat Madigan, Presentation Sister Elizabeth Maxwell and Bishop William Lee of Waterford & Lismore Diocese. Two major addresses on Catholic education were given by Bishop Brendan Kelly of Achonry and Ms. Helen O Murchu. The morning concluded with a prayer service based on the same parable as the opening presentation, followed by lunch and adjournment.



It was a great day for the Centre as many of the participants had not been here since the building of the new chapel and the renovations around the property. It was a good opportunity to showcase our Centre and provide hospitality to our colleagues in Catholic education.

On Sunday, 30th January, the community and friends gathered to celebrate Brother Peter Hardiman's Golden Jubilee as a Christian Brother. It was exactly 50 years ago on the 30th, which is also Peter's birthday, that he boarded the train in Perth for the long journey to Melbourne to begin his formation. *Ad multos annos, Peter!*

February proved to be another busy month for life at the Edmund Rice Centre as well as the Brothers' community.

On Friday, February 4th we welcomed the American students from Iona College, New Rochelle, New York who are spending time this semester studying at Marino. Accompanied by Br. Leo Kelly, they were given a tour of the Chapel and museum by Peadar Gleeson and visited with members of the Brothers' community. That evening, our monthly celebration of Taize Prayer was held in the Edmund Rice Chapel.

On February 9th, the Centre, in conjunction with the Integration and Support Unity for New Communities (ISU), sponsored the now annual Combined Choirs Celebration in the chapel, involving 12 secondary schools from the Southeast region, with over 100 students performing various musical styles and presentations. RTE News covered the event, a copy of which can be found on our web site, www.edumundrice.ie.

The Brothers' community once again met with facilitator Sr. Antoinette Dilworth, rsj, on February 14th to review ministry at the Centre. The use of the Centre has increased greatly over the past year. Over 80 groups regularly use our facilities, morning through evenings, seven days a week; from prayer groups to dance classes, from Irish language classes, creative writing classes and classes from the Waterford Institute of Technology

(WIT), to the English language classes and computer classes sponsored by the ISU, from the Waterford Stroke Support Group, to the Ballybricken Seniors Citizens (The Young at Heart Club!), the Toastmasters, Garden Clubs, Edmund Rice Chorale and African and Brazilian Mass Groups, just to name a few.

On February 19th the Brothers' community were happy to host the Brothers from Carrick, Wexford, and Callan for prayer and dinner, followed by an afternoon of relaxation and visiting. We hope to have this as a regular occurrence for our communities here in the Southeast of Ireland.

The community was happy to welcome the Province Leader, Br Kevin Mullan, for the annual visitation during the final days of the month.

CAST YOUR NET WIDER
www.edmundrice.net
your global net for your global network



Edmund Rice Christian Brothers North America
Please direct inquiries to:
Br. James McDonald, CFC
815.272.7742
bromaccfc@yahoo.com

Becoming a Brother

The Edmund Rice Christian Brothers welcome you as you seek to discern God's call in your life. We hope and pray that this will be a time for great insight into who you are and where God is calling you.

You are already on the journey toward becoming a Brother: you have a strong faith, no doubt you have thought and prayed about becoming a Brother, you have contacted us for more information.

The formal process of becoming a Christian Brother is done in five stages:

- Contact,
- Candidacy,
- Residency,
- Novitiate, and
- Annual Profession.

These all offer opportunities for you to grow in your understanding of religious life. You will have numerous opportunities to experience prayer, community and ministry with the Christian Brothers.



Throughout your journey you will receive support and encouragement from the Brothers, who welcome the willingness of each individual to explore the Brothers' way of life in prayer, community and ministry.

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
www.edmundriceinternational.org
www.cfcvocations.org
www.edmundriceinternational.org/jpic