



PROVINCE NEWSLETTER

Edmund Rice Christian Brothers North America

A PROVINCE OF THE CONGREGATION OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS

Volume 6, Issue 9

May, 2011

Office of Educational Services Annual School Leaders' Meeting



**Sr. Ona
Bessette**

Guadalupe Regional Middle School welcomed the Edmund Rice Christian Brothers North America (ERCBNA) School Leaders to Brownsville, TX with music and gracious hospitality. Presidents, Principals, and Board Chairs from fifteen schools participated in the Annual School Leaders' Meeting April 11 – 15, 2011 in the south most city in Texas. Tony Martinez, Board Chair; Michael Motyl, President; and Kristopher White, Principal at Guadalupe Regional Middle School (GRMS) hosted the event and shared the treasure of the school and region with participants.

The days in the Texas sun were filled with meetings and opportunities to deepen the bonds between schools and leaders.

Since GRMS is sponsored by three congregations, meetings were hosted at Incarnate Word Academy by the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament and at St. Joseph Academy by the Marist Brothers. Incarnate Word Sisters and Marist Brothers also joined school leaders for dinners.

Dr. Juliet García, President of the University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas South most College, was the keynote speaker on the opening day of the meeting. Dr. García's address, *Transforming Our World One Student at a Time*, reflected on the findings of the University of Notre Dame study of Hispanic education that resulted in the report *To Nurture the Soul of a Nation: Latino Families, Catholic Schools, and Educational Opportunity*¹. Dr. García raised many insightful questions and challenged school leaders to consider how Hispanic students and their families are welcomed and served in our schools.

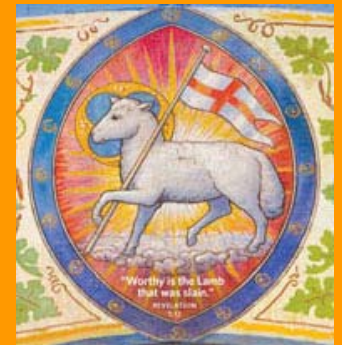
A panel of Brownsville church, education, and community leaders further challenged the school leaders and invited them to open their doors to a changing population of students. Bishop Raymundo J. Peña, Brownsville Bishop Emeritus, spoke of the calls from the Church to welcome those seeking work and a new home in our country from Latin America – they are *strangers no longer; but our brothers and sisters*. Lisette Allen, Superintendent of Schools for the Brownsville Diocese, shared the challenges of education on the border. Despite escalating violence in neighboring Mexico, many students find their way to havens of safety in the schools of the



Logo for school leaders meeting

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“But in our intention we wait for God, and trust faithfully to have mercy and grace; and this is how in goodness God opens the eye of our understanding, by which we have sight, sometimes more and sometimes less, according to the ability God gives us to receive.”

Julian of Norwich

diocese. Dr. Robert Brescia, President of St. Joseph Academy, offered his reflections on the educational efforts at his school. Dr. Rose Gowen, MD spoke about the health challenges of youngsters in the Rio Grande Valley. Of particular concern is the increasing rate of obesity and inactivity in elementary school aged students; as a result, these individuals are at increased risk for diabetes and asthma.

School leaders presented three “Best Practices” sessions on the second day of the meeting. Tom Reidy, Principal of Tampa Catholic High School, shared information on a retreat he developed for his school community that looked at the ideals of superior customer service as they can be applied to building a stronger school community. John McFarland, Principal of Vancouver College, presented a framework for preparing for an Essential Elements Evaluation. School leaders from Trinity Catholic High School, Jacquelyn Gehrsitz and Br. Dan Aubin, FSC, outlined the process of holding *Essential Conversations* with their school community. The conversation illustrated focused on human trafficking growing out of a consideration of the Fifth Essential Element: *Celebrate the Value and Dignity of each Person and Nurture the Development of the Whole Person.*

The last day of the meeting featured an address from Br. Hugh O’Neill, CFC, province leader of ERCBNA. The address reflected on the importance of gathering together to develop a deeper understanding of the charism of Blessed Edmund Rice. As animators of the charism in their schools, the leaders were encouraged to continue to grow personally in the spirit and mission of Catholic leadership so that they will enhance the formation of new members to their school communities.



As ministers of leadership in a faith and learning community, each leader is challenged to keep alive the “dangerous message of Jesus,” to model table fellowship by breaking bread with betrayers and embracing humanity in all its sins and faults. School leaders were challenged to slow down in order to take time to reflect in God’s presence and lead others to develop a personal relationship with Jesus.

An important aspect of the Annual School Leaders meeting is to deepen the collaboration between leaders and schools. The days in Texas provided time to pray, work, and play together. Other highlights of the time together in Brownsville included:

- Liturgy, celebrated by Bishop Peña, with the Middle School Community;
- Tours of Guadalupe Regional Middle School by teams of enthusiastic students;
- A concert by the Middle School Choir;
- Mariachi, Marimba and Jazz bands from UTB/TSC performed at dinners;
- Dinner at Tony Martinez’s home – an evening of gracious hospitality and wonderful food;
- Time to visit local sites: South Padre Island, Rancho Viejo, Palo Alto Battlefield, Juan Diego Academy in Mission, TX.

¹ (http://catholicschooladvantage.nd.edu/assets/19176/nd_ltf_report_final_english_12.2.pdf)

Sister Ona Bessette, CND is the Director of the Office of Educational Services of the Edmund Rice Christian Brothers North America.



ERCBNA
Justice Peace Integrity of Creation
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BLESSED EDMUND RICE CELEBRATION

Diocese of Venice, Florida

In celebration of the feast day of Blessed Edmund Rice, this group gathered at the home of Bishop Nevins for a liturgy with renewal of vows. This was followed by a wonderfully prepared dining extravaganza.



Front (l to r) Father Jack Costello, Edmundian and Rector of the Cathedral, Bishop Emeritus John Nevins, the only American bishop on the altar at Edmund's beatification. Back Row (l to r) Brs. R. Benedict McDonough, T. Michael Connolly, Thomas Draney and Paul Hennessy.

THE EDMUNDIAN SOCIETY



The Executive Board of the Edmundian Society had a conference call on May 13, 2011 to discuss issues relevant to the Society. The first was the restructuring of the Board:

Chairman	Bob Kman (Gerard '59)	Phoenix, AZ
Vice Chairman	Pete Carney (Damian '59)	Milford, PA
Member	John Murphy (Daniel '80)	Mahopac, NY
Member	Mike McAdams (Michael '47)	Ridgefield Park, NJ
Member	Tom Daley (Alphonsus '58)	Bronxville NY
Member	Jack O'Keefe (Denis '59)	Chicago, IL
Moderator	Br. John McCarthy (Jeremiah '50)	New Rochelle, NY

The Edmundian Google Group is now operational. There are over 400 member emails listed. They can be contacted at

<http://groups.google.com/group/edmundians-society?hl=en>

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ARCHBISHOP CURLEY NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL

Miami, Florida

Archbishop Curley Notre Dame High School Inducts Eight New Members into its Prestigious 'Hall of Fame' – Gala at the Surf Club, Miami Beach



(l-r) Gabriella & John Quirino; Sandra & William 'Bill' Brickman '58; Br. Richard DeMaria, CFC



**Ms. Lisa
Morales**

On May 20, 2011 Archbishop Curley Notre Dame High School inducted William Brickman '58, Nick Silverio '61, Rosemary Kelly Parnell '65, Sonia Escobio O'Donnell '70, Barney Moody '76, Br. Richard DeMaria, CFC, and John and Gabriella Quirino into the school's 2011 Hall of Fame recently held at The Surf Club in Miami Beach.

Induction into the ACND Hall of Fame is the highest honor bestowed by the school. It recognizes alumni and members of the community with outstanding lifetime achievements in society and professional life.

William 'Bill' Brickman '58, has been the Senior Real Estate Manager of Pizza Hut of America for the past 22 years. Nick Silverio '61, formed 'A Safe Haven for Newborns' in memory of his late wife Gloria. Rosemary Kelly Parnell NDA '65, for the American Red Cross as Director of Logistics in Washington D.C. and since 2010 has been stationed in Haiti managing logistics for the International Federation of the Red Cross' earthquake and cholera operations. Sonia Escobio O'Donnell '70 is a Partner in the Miami office of Jorden Burt LLP. Barney Moody '76 is one of ten children, all ACND graduates. His wife Yvonne '82 and their daughter Danielle '03 are also ACND graduates. He established Moody Electric with his brother John '70 and is founder of The Moody Manor Foundation which operates a residence for women who have sustained a traumatic brain injury. Brother Richard DeMaria, CFC recently celebrated his 50th anniversary as a member of the Congregation of Christian Brothers. He is a former ACND principal and this year retired as Superintendent of Schools for the Archdiocese of Miami and Executive Director of Christian Formation. John and Gabriella Quirino are the founders of Quirino Construction

Company which they run with their son Johnpaul '98. Since Johnpaul was an ACND student, both John and Gabriella have continuously given time, talent, and financial support towards various school projects.

Although not present at the event due to his current position with the Catholic Bible Foundation in South Africa, Br. Richard DeMaria's legacy of achievements were celebrated by many attendees. In his letter of invitation to Catholic school principals, Ricardo Briz, Principal of Our Lady of the Lakes Catholic School (and formerly a vice principal at ACND) wrote:

During his years as principal at ACND, he created a community with the faculty and staff and strengthened the religious community living on campus. From here, he went on to create a larger community at the archdiocesan level as the key leading figure in the department of Christian formation of the Archdiocese because for him, 'communion is the greatest instrument of evangelization.' We have an opportunity to celebrate Brother DeMaria's life, his friendship, his mentorship, his achievements, his role as a leader in the field of Catholic education, the community that he created and that remains even if he is far away.

GUADALUPE REGIONAL MIDDLE SCHOOL Brownsville, Texas



In January, 2011, eighth-graders at Guadalupe Regional Middle School wrote, produced, starred-in, and edited a five-minute video that focused on their personal experiences with federal and state immigration policy currently being debated by politicians in Washington, D.C., and Austin, Texas. This video was submitted to C-SPAN as part of its annual current events focused student-video contest. The video submitted by the students at Guadalupe Regional Middle earned "Honorable Mention", meaning that their video was deemed to be one of the top-25 student videos from a total pool of over 1,000 submissions.

The C-SPAN video project was organized and facilitated by Mrs. Jennifer Rose-Segrest, Technology instructor and newly-designated Director of Student Activities at Guadalupe Regional Middle School. Mrs. Rose-Segrest became aware of the contest through a direct mailing from C-SPAN which invited schools to submit student videos. Additional information was obtained from the C-SPAN website and from C-SPAN's customer service hotline.

As part of the introduction to this project, students were shown the winning video from last year's C-SPAN contest. Students discussed the aspects of the winning video that they liked and which aspects that they didn't like. Students also discussed ways in which the video could have better achieved the requirements of the contest and how the video could be more informative and engaging. Following this discussion, students began brainstorming various topics for their videos given their interests and the topic prompt provided by C-SPAN. It was at this point in the process when students collectively chose to focus their video project on immigration and how immigration impacts their daily lives.

Students spent the next class period examining the various aspects of immigration and how these aspects might lend themselves to the particular "segments" of their student video. Once segment-topics were determined, students self-selected themselves into segment-groups. Each segment-group was responsible for the writing and filming of their individual segment. Each segment-group was coordinated by a student leader who reported directly to the student directors who were chosen by the teacher. Student directors were responsible for coordinating the overall student video, particularly taking the lead in the editing process once individual segments were completed.



For the next several class meetings, students worked in segment-groups to complete their part of the student video. During this time, both the teacher and the student directors worked within and among segment-groups to assist them in their work. Segment-groups created scripts and story-boards, searched for online resources, rehearsed speaking roles, acquired the necessary props and ancillary materials, and filmed their segments using Flip Video Cameras according to a shooting schedule that each segment-group was responsible for producing. Much of this work was completed during class however, significant amounts of the actual filming required additional time outside of the regular-scheduled school day. This was especially true for off-campus interview segments and location shooting.

As segments neared completion, the student directors took the lead in the editing process. This part of the student video project took the most amount of time compared to other aspects of the video-production process. Titles, transitions, credits, additional graphics, and music were added during the editing process by the student directors. Additionally, student directors devoted a considerable amount of time ensuring that a seamless quality was present as the video moved from segment to segment.

Once finished, the final student-video was submitted to C-SPAN for review. As previously noted, the video earned “honorable mention” in the competition, meaning that the video was one of the top twenty-five videos from among the over 1000 videos submitted. In addition to submitting the video for competition, the video was also screened for the Guadalupe Regional Middle School Boards of Trustees and Directors, as well for the Board Chairs, Presidents, and Principals at the annual School Leaders’ Meeting of the Edmund Rice Christian Brothers of North America.

This student-produced video-project was a considerable success for the eighth-grade students and Technology program at Guadalupe Regional Middle School. It offered students the opportunity to produce a multi-media project using a number of skills that will be in high-demand when they step into the business world. This project also afforded students the opportunity to share their voice regarding their interests and the facts of their life. They did so creatively and collaboratively. The success of their video in the C-SPAN competition provided the reinforcement for their success that ensures that the students will continue to channel their energies in ways similar to those associated with this project. Whether or not Guadalupe Regional Middle School will continue to participate in the C-SPAN Student Video Project, the Technology program will continue to incorporate student film-making as an essential component of the Technology curriculum.



Visit them on line at <http://guadalupe.schoolfusion.us/> and watch their video on YouTube at [GRMS Lip Dub 2010-2011 > Watch Now!](#)

A number of people associated with the former Canadian novitiate at Mono Mills, Ontario have been asking about the former cook, Mrs. Shelia Metcalfe. Brother Ron MacKenzie (St. Thomas More Collegiate Community) sends along this information. After recent health problems she has become a resident of Rockwood Terrace, 575 Sadler Street East, Durham ON, N0G 1R0 (*Rockwood Terrace is a long term residence in Grey County, Ontario.*)

Shelia can also be reached by phone through the switchboard: [\(519\) 369-6035](tel:5193696035).

Her husband, Leonard, spends most afternoons with her. E-Mail messages will be printed and delivered to Shelia. Be sure to put her name in the Subject line: rockwoodresident@grey.ca



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, Port Colborne, ON L3K 5V4;

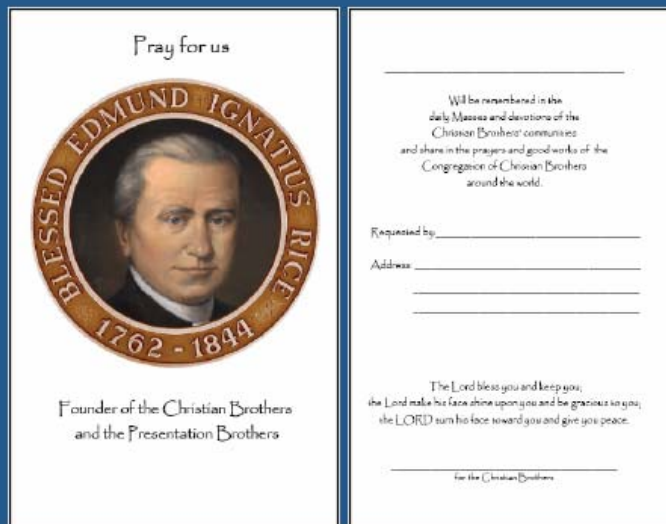
P: 905-834-0533, F: 905-834-5230

www.jerichohouse.org

The Jericho House Team:

Sister Jacque Keefe, cssf, Brother Bill Carrothers, cfc, Mr. Gary Bowron

Blessed Edmund Rice Prayer Cards



Blessed Edmund Rice Prayer Cards are a beautiful way to assure loved ones of your prayerful support. Our Prayer Card is a singular expression in honor of some special occasion or at a sorrowful time for a bereaved relative or friend.

The benefactor's donation to the Brothers benefits the ministries of the Christian Brothers.

If you would like a set of Prayer Cards, please contact:

Brother Robert Burke
 Christian Brothers Foundation
 33 Pryer Terrace
 New Rochelle, NY 10804
 914-712-7580, ext. 420
rdb@cbfoundation.org

**Isn't it time?
You've been thinking about it.
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**Call, text or e-mail me:
Brother Jim McDonald, C.F.C.
815.272.7742
bromaccfc@yahoo.com**



Being a Brother is a rich and fulfilling way to live.

www.erbrothers.org

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
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