



PROVINCE NEWSLETTER

Edmund Rice Christian Brothers North America

A PROVINCE OF THE CONGREGATION OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS

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November, 2011

Brother Joseph Bertrand Darcy, CFC Seventy-five years a Christian Brother



**Br. George
Fitzpatrick**

The day started off as one of those unpredictables that St. John's is known for at this time of year. Partial rain and cool breezes. To brighten up this particular Tuesday, Brother Joseph Bertrand Darcy celebrated his 75th Anniversary as a Christian Brother. And glad that we are that he did. Brother Hugh O'Neill, Province Leader, represented the PLT and, along with Brother Hugh Slattery, joined the community for the occasion. Bert's family and relatives were well represented for the liturgy and banquet. Bad weather? Who cared? The day was one of great rejoicing and happiness.

The Mass, concelebrated by the Most Rev. Martin Curry, Archbishop of St. John's, and Father Charlie Kelly, Pastor of the Basilica parish, was held in the house chapel which Brother Bosco Wakeham had tastefully readied. God smiled upon the faithful Brother whose life was truly consecrated and enduring. Bert's many gifts are known to all and his use of his talents has been a source of strength in every area of his many ministries. In his homily, the Archbishop took liberties with "homily" and spoke about Bert and his religious commitment and the use of his many talents for religious life, the local diocese, and the Church. The Liturgy, as one visitor commented, was the most meaningful, personal, and inspiring and right for the occasion.



Br. Bert Darcy, CFC

The dining room at the old MON was alive with good food and good cheer. Hugh spoke bringing congratulations from the province. He, too, spoke of Bert's many contributions to the Congregation. It was indeed a celebration, one of those "missa and mensa" (from Mass to the Meal) occasions.

On this particular occasion Mrs. Sandra Chafe (the cook at Mount St. Francis) and Brother Joe Manning made sure the kitchen was at its culinary best. And it was. Bosco surprised everyone with his singing of "One Moment in Time" for which he received a standing ovation.

The last words of the celebration were for Bert. In grateful form he expressed his views of the opportunity to be allowed to serve the Lord for 75 years. The unpredictable weather did nothing to dampen this wonderful, well deserved celebration.

In this issue:

Action Workshop ... p. 3
 School Leaders p. 4
 Gathering Place p. 5
 Chicago Memorial.. p. 6
 Salinas Memorial.... p. 7
 Mount Sion..... p. 7
 Tampa Memorial p. 8
 Aging Gracefully p. 9
 Associates..... p. 10
 Iona College p. 11
 Guadalupe..... p. 13
 ACND..... p. 15



The Eucharist is an ineffable mystery that embraces the untold depths of divine love, and in which God bestows upon us all blessings and graces.

Saint Francis de Sales



(l to r): Br. Hugh O'Neill, Br. Bert Darcy,
Archbishop Martin Currie

Br. Bert Darcy and his brother, Dr. Jim Darcy



Br. Bosco Wakeham

SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS

(Dedicated to Brother J.B. Darcy)

Seventy-five years a Brother
and he is still going strong,
Keeping his youthful demeanor,
and he says, "It doesn't seem long."

Seventy-five years he's been a faithful
son and brother of Edmund Rice;
When we said that we should celebrate,
he said, "That would be nice."

Seventy-five years of hard work and study,
and often in a leadership role;
His was an unselfish labour,
but of course it did take its toll.

Seventy-five years of growth in the Spirit
as he lived his religious life,
And it wasn't always easy,
there is no way of life without strife.

Seventy-five years, and for them we thank him,
his example we may not be able to match;
His faith and work are inspiring,
we will be unable, up to him, to catch.

But we'll keep on running as he does,
even if we can't beat him in chess,
And we'll celebrate seventy-five years of devotion,
And him, God will surely bless.

E.B. Wakeham, CFC

2011 ACTION STUDENT LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP St. John's, Florida



**Sr. Ona
Bessette**

The annual ACTION Student Leadership Workshop was held at Marywood Retreat Center in St. John's, Florida, September 29 – October 2. Sunny and warm days provided the perfect setting as 61 student leaders and 30 moderators and team members gathered for the program. The team was composed of Sister Ona Bessette, CND (Office of Educational Services), Mr. Carlos Freire (Vancouver College), Brother Jason Ford, CFC (Archbishop Curley-Notre Dame), Mr. Thane Hall (Br. Rice, MI), Brother Jim Hamilton, CFC (All Hallows), Mr. Doug Romanik (Archbishop Curley-Notre Dame), Brother Tim Smyth, CFC (St. Laurence), and Ms. Francesca Tambone-Puzio (Bergen Catholic).

The spirit of the weekend is best captured in the reflections of Marco Rodriguez, a junior at St. Laurence High School. Enjoy Marco's speech to the student body on the occasion of a school-wide Mass to celebrate the beatification of Edmund Rice.

“For those of who you who do not know me, my name is Marco Rodriguez and I am currently a junior. Over the past weekend, Patrick Haugh, Michael Hyc, and I had the honor of taking part in the ACTION 2011 Student Leadership Workshop in St. John's Florida. I wish I could fully express in words what this workshop has done for me. The workshop included student leaders from Edmund Rice Schools across all of The Americas. There were schools represented from all over the two continents, from Uruguay and Argentina to Canada, and from Hawaii to Rhode Island. In any other place, we would have been a bunch of strangers to each other; but not here. At the very beginning, we all felt connected to each other in some way, but this became evident in our first prayer together. At the end of this prayer, our famous words “Live Jesus in Our Hearts” were spoken. It truly was something to behold to witness 60 kids whom you have never known before all say “Forever” at the exact same time. From that moment on, we knew we were all brothers and sisters in Christ.



Over the course of the workshop, we went through a number of different experiences, all of which brought us closer together. We learned about advocating for social justice in the world and how each school incorporated the teachings of Blessed Edmund Rice into their respective schools by creating programs to help the people in our society in need. All of the students there, from all over the Americas, were true leaders. Never in my life have I met such wonderful, inspirational, and truly good-hearted people. We shared many laughs, many serious and intimate times, but most importantly, we shared so many treasured moments together.

All of us probably were operating on three or four hours of sleep, but that did not stop us from waking up each day two hours before the required time, just to walk down to the pier together and spend extra time with each other. Moments like these, such as enjoying the early Florida sunrise

out on the pier and staying up late into the night talking in groups was what ACTION was all about. These people became my role models and my inspiration. This has been the greatest experience of my life. I have made truly great friends and created memories that I will never forget. These people will forever be with me through my entire life. We have all become the best of friends and have been on the phone with each other ever since it ended on Sunday morning. I am not afraid to admit that throughout the entire weekend I cried. I was crying tears of joy to be in such a great place with such great people. I cannot stop thinking about and praying for all of the students and moderators.

We were never strangers at all. We were connected student leaders of Blessed Edmund Rice Schools right from the start. All of us here at St. Laurence and in the other Edmund Rice Schools are brothers and sisters who are called to live lives of service and to be advocates of world justice. We are all tomorrow's leaders. Anyone of us could have been chosen for this workshop. We are all leaders of our community in some way. So I challenge all of you here today to reach your full Christian and Leadership potentials. Go out into the world and do service in any way you can. I can assure that all of you will find what true happiness feels like once you meet new people and help those in need. And let me tell you from my experience, it's a happiness that will always stay with you, no matter where in the world you go."

EDMUND RICE CHRISTIAN BROTHERS SCHOOL LEADERS RETREAT Henderson, Nevada

School Leaders Pray at Desert Retreat



**Sr. Grace
D'Amico**

Twenty-seven school leaders, representing 17 Edmund Rice Christian Brother schools, participated in a retreat titled "The Business of Prayer in the Midst of Leadership." Brothers Peter Dowling, CFC, and Jack Mostyn, CFC, of the Congregational Leadership Team, led the retreat.

Presidents and principals from Honolulu to New York, from Rochester to Tampa, and for the first time to Buenos Aires, gathered in Henderson, Nevada, October 10 -14, 2011 for the annual School Leaders Retreat sponsored by the Office of Educational Services. They were joined by Brother Raymond Vercruysse, CFC, of the Provincial Leadership Team, and by Brother Tom Murphy, Director of the Office of Evangelization.

During the four main sessions of the retreat, Peter and Jack presented new ways of looking at prayer and explained how a habit of deep prayer can inform and enlighten professional relationships and decision-making. The use of a case study about a businessman who had developed a habit of centering prayer, and a video titled, *How Big is Your God?*, featuring Jesuit Father Paul Coutinho, grounded the theory in practical experience.

The heart of this "retreat in the desert," however, was the praying. Jack and Peter had asked the participants to come to the retreat having identified four real events, decisions, or issues drawn from their lives as school leaders. During each of the first three sessions, the presenters invited the leaders to practice a different prayer method, namely, centering prayer - human experience of God prayer - and *lectio divina*. The Brothers encouraged them to enter into a structured process of sharing the issue with one other person, praying, and then sharing the experience of praying as a way to foster integration of their spiritual and professional lives. For the fourth session, the leaders invited them to choose the method that seemed best suited to them.

The mild weather and the beautiful setting on Lake Las Vegas offered a conducive - if somewhat ironic - atmosphere in which to pray, journal, and share with colleagues, and possibly puzzle the other guests in the

shadow of the casino at the Ravella Hotel and Resort. While many participants cited the “great location,” it was evident that they had entered wholeheartedly into the process. Afterward, on the evaluation forms, participants mentioned that they really appreciated the input, the time to pray, reflect, and share with their colleagues.

Specifically, one person mentioned that they had been given “genuine spiritual exercises for growth - with lots of time to practice them.” Others mentioned the challenge of shifting from a very active school life to prayer practices that were new to them as well as their appreciation of the “quiet time.” “I found this process helpful,” wrote one participant, “in ‘stretching’ my spirituality beyond my limits.”

Sometimes the conversation turned to how to use the prayer methods learned back at school. At the closing session, Jack cautioned the participants not to make any “resolutions,” because resolutions tend to remain unfulfilled. Rather it is important to cultivate their “desire,” because from desire will flow the actions of setting aside time for prayer, reflection, journaling, and sharing.

As is always the case at ERCB gatherings, there was a strong spirit of camaraderie and enjoyment of each other’s company. In their evaluations, participants wrote about the value of “coming together with colleagues, to learn and to share,” and expressed appreciation that members of the Congregational Leadership Team had facilitated the retreat.

At the last session and on the evaluation forms, participants offered concrete suggestions for next year’s retreat, as well as other services that the OES can provide. Sister Ona Bessette and Sister Grace D’Amico will take all suggestions into account as they begin planning for next year.



Mrs. Maureen Kiers, President of Iona Prep in New Rochelle, and Mr. Michael Motyl, President of Guadalupe Regional Middle School, Brownsville, Texas, in a sharing session.

THE GATHERING PLACE St. John’s, Newfoundland



**Br. Bosco
Wakeham**

The Gathering Place on Military Road in St. John’s is jointly sponsored by the Presentation Sisters and the Mercy Sisters of Newfoundland, and is located in the former Mercy Convent School. It serves as a community service center that promotes community spirit by helping those who deal with isolation and loneliness. It provides meals for people in need and other services to alleviate poverty.

The Sisters on the staff of the Gathering Place are supported and assisted by over 100 volunteers, most of whom spend a day or two a week, helping out in the kitchen, the dining room, or the social rooms. In the social rooms the guests watch TV, play cards or pool, or just chat with the volunteers.

Brother Bosco Wakeham is a volunteer. He organizes pool and card tournaments, the winners of which receive “Tim Horton’s” gift certificates. Bosco enjoys his “one-twenty” ministry. He says it is easy to see and serve Christ in those who hunger not just for food but for kindness. At the Gathering Place respect for one another is the order of the day.



The Gathering Place, St. John's, NL

HOLY SEPULCHER CEMETERY

Worth, Illinois

On Saturday, October 14, 2011 a beautiful Indian Summer day, Edmundians, Brothers, families, and friends gathered at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Worth, IL, to remember and pray for the 35 Brothers buried there. Brother Jerry Messick led the prayers, and the names of the deceased were read by those in attendance.

After the cemetery service the group of 50 + drove to the Br. Rice H.S. chapel for a Mass celebrated by Father Norm Trela, chaplain at St. Laurence. During the Mass Brother Tom Collins gave a homily, using snippets of the lives of several of the deceased. He also had pictures of each deceased enlarged and hung around the chapel. Bob Kman read the names of the Edmundians who had passed away during the past year, and Edmundian Mark Quinn read the general intercessions.

After Mass, all adjourned to the Br. Rice foyer for pizza and wine/beer/soda. It was there that the stories were told, friendships renewed, and an all-around "joie de vivre" resonated.

The Edmundian Society would like to thank Brother Bob McGovern for his generous and gracious hospitality, Brother Jerry Messick for his assistance in preparing the ceremony, and Brothers Tim Smyth and Dave Lucas for their design of the program.

The Society would also like to thank Edmundian Board Member, Jack O'Keefe, for all the work he did in coordinating and organizing a memorable day.

Edmundians in attendance were: Jim (Edward) Clemmons, Jim (Leo) Collins, Pete (William) Doyle, Bob (Gerard) Kman, Bill Kramer, Ray (John) Mackey, Jim (Thaddeus) Marque, Fred (Anthony) Mason, John (Patrick) McGraw, Marty McLaughlin, Jack (Denis) O'Keefe, Mark (DePaul) Quinn.



(l to r): Jim (Thaddeus '62) Marque, Peter (William '59) Doyle, Fred (Anthony '71) Mason



(l to r): Br. Lou Stanich, Jim (Leo '57) Collins, Bill Kramer

(l to r): Peter (William '59) Doyle, Bob (Gerard '59) Kman, John (Patrick '59) McGraw, Dr. John (Denis '59) O'Keefe



ERCBNA
Justice Peace Integrity of Creation
 Promoting social justice and eco-justice



MASS OF REMEMBRANCE Salinas, California

The following was submitted by Edmundian Mike (Raphael '57) Trujillo

We could not have asked for a better day, weather-wise! It was clear, bright, sunny, and warm. Nine of us gathered for Mass in the Brother Edmund Rice Chapel at Palma HS. It is a beautiful place of worship. Brother Dennis Dunne made arrangements for the school chaplain, Father Manning, to celebrate the Mass for us. At the last minute, we had some cancellations because of health, distance, or other reasons. Speaking of distance, Mike Sciaraffa and his wife Karen drove 7 hours from San Gabriel (South CA) to join us. They arrived a few minutes after the Mass started.

All Edmundians present and Brother Dennis, had a role in the service, as Lector, Responsorial Psalm (led by Brother Dennis), Reader of the names of Deceased Edmundians (from the list you provided). Brother Dennis read the names of the deceased Brothers who taught at Cantwell, Palma HS, and St. Patrick's HS in Vallejo. After Communion, I made a few remarks about the Edmundians.

Lunch was at a local restaurant as guests of Brother Dennis. The small group made it easier to meet each other and to carry on a conversation. A couple went with Brother Dennis to the cemetery where the Brothers are interred.



Karen and Mike Sciaraffa, Yolanda and Mike Trujillo



Br.Dennis Dunne and Frank Sherlock

MOUNT SION COMMUNITY Elizabeth, New Jersey

Brother Hugh O'Neill, our Province Leader, has had a successful operation to remove his gall bladder. He has returned home to continue his recovery. His recovery period is expected to last about four weeks. Hugh would like to thank all the members of the Edmund Rice Family for their prayers and good wishes while he was in hospital and hopes that you will continue to remember him in your prayers.

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

TAMPA CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Tampa, Florida

Memorial Mass at Tampa Catholic HS



Front Row: Mrs. Lemoi (red jacket), Lucy Morton, Lois Boomgaard, Carol Carney, Jim Knowles
Middle Row: Gerry Duggan, Shirley Duggan, Brian Lemoi, Marilu McGoldrick, Patricia Smart, Juan Serra, Bill Roche, Br. Ben Donough
Back Row: Br. Chris Burns, Larry Fischer, Irene Fischer, John McGoldrick, Bill Smart, Patricia Shanley (almost hidden), Brian Shanley, Betty McLoone, Ken McLoone, Br. Jim VanKoolbergen
Missing from our photo: Br. Tom Draney, our celebrant - Msgr. Daly; and our photographer- Br. Jim Fagan



Jericho House, Wainfleet, Ontario

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

Info: Jericho House 10845 Rathfon Road, Port Colborne, ON L3K 5V4;

P: 905-834-0553, F: 905-834-5230

www.jerichohouse.org

The Jericho House Team:

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

OFFICE OF PROVINCE LIFE AND RENEWAL New Rochelle, New York

Aging Gracefully Conference

Facilitator: Brother Cornelius Hubbuch CFX

Christian Brothers Gather at Iona Prep



**Br. Seán
Whitty**

On Saturday, October 1, 2011, four Christian Brothers gathered in the community room at Iona Prep to spend a day reflecting on the topic of what it means for us as vowed men to age well. Brothers Cornelius Hubbuch, CFX, facilitated the sessions. The Brothers who attended felt that the day was well spent discussing how we stay healthy physically, intellectually, spiritually and sexually.

Christian Brothers Gather at St. Joseph's Care Center

On Sunday morning October 2, 2011, Brother Cornelius Hubbuch, CFX, met with the residents of St. Joseph's Care Center to facilitate the Brothers in a shared reflection of their experience of growing older in wisdom and grace. There were three sessions, with input by Cornelius followed by time for reflection and sharing. The morning session concluded with a prayer service and lunch. Brother Cornelius was delighted to have the opportunity and the privilege to be with the Brothers of St. Joseph's.

Christian Brothers Gather in Vancouver College

On Saturday, October 15, 2011, 15 Christian Brothers from Vancouver and Seattle gathered at Vancouver College for a day's reflection on how we age gracefully as religious vowed men. Brother Cornelius Hubbuch, CFX, from Baltimore, facilitated the day. In the morning session, Cornelius led us through a shared discussion about what it meant to care for our physical bodies and how we stimulate our intellect as we grow and mature into our senior years. I have attached a summary of what was discussed for your own reading and reflection. In the afternoon session, we reflected deeply on what it meant to live chastity as a consecrated male celibate in our world today in light of all the sexual scandals that surround us.

We were reminded to stay focused continually on God's unconditional love for us and stay connected to our needs, wants and deepest desires and be able to distinguish them, one from the other.

As well, we were challenged to develop Brothers' communities of love and support. We were encouraged to develop broad and deep interpersonal relationships both within and outside the religious community. He suggested that we continue to develop the skills of effective communication, leading to deeper "connection" with others which ultimately ends in deep "communion" with those with whom we relate and love.

Finally, we considered the role of normal everyday stress in life and how we might recognize the stress and the destructive patterns that could develop if stress is not resolved in a healthy manner.

It was a very relaxing day and there was some deep sharing by the Brothers who attended. All of us were very pleased with the wise and honest words that came from the presenter, Br Cornelius. The day ended with the Eucharist and a meal.

Summary of the Presentation on Aging Gracefully

"If I want to be a flourisher in life, I need to balance personal needs with my work in ministry."

Physical Wellness

- Do I find the time to exercise my body?
- What is preventing me from doing some exercise?

- Do I have regular check-ups with my doctor?
- What is my diet like?
- Do I take care of my body?

Intellectual Wellness

- Am I well versed in contemporary theology and what is happening in our world?
- How open am I to new ideas and possibilities?
- How do I stimulate my intellectual life?
- Do I have friends with whom I share my thoughts?
- Do I have a vent partner in the community?

Spiritual Wellness

- What do I do with the fire inside of me?
- How do I channel my eros?
- The disciplines and habits I live by will either help or hinder my integration in the ways we are related to self, others and God. How do I experience the unconditional love of God in my life?

Emotional Wellness

- Am I aware of what is happening in my relationships?
- Do I attend to the feelings I experience in response to any event, situation or encounter?
- Have I developed appropriate personal relationships for companionship and intimacy?
- Am I aware of my basic needs and deepest desires in my life?



Brother Cornelius Hubbuch, CFX, served as a high school teacher, principal, Provincial and Vicar General of the Xaverian Brothers. He chaired several boards of the Xaverian Brothers Sponsored Schools and was the Director of Formation for the schools. He was an Assistant Professor and co-director of the Institute for Spirituality and Worship at the Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley and served on the staff at the Southdown Institute in Canada. He is currently on the Leadership Team of his province.

THE ASSOCIATES OF EDMUND RICE Chicago, Illinois

Christian Brothers Associates Discuss Heart-Centered Spirituality

On October 3, 2011, the Chicago area Associates gathered at the Brothers' 87th Street community. There were about 15 in attendance. Brothers Raph McDonald and Jerry Messick ran the meeting, and Brother Sean Hayes helped our cook Alice with a delicious lasagna dinner.

The discussions on Heart-Centered Spirituality were vibrant and inspiring. Topics included prayer of the heart, generosity and compassion, sharing our faith life, our response to God's call, and our personal relationship with Jesus.

Many associates sent thank you letters to the Brothers. They found the discussions creative, interesting, and well facilitated. One note mentioned that the Associates hunger to pursue and share a deeper spirituality, and that the open and honest discussions provided the perfect forum for this search. The Brothers who attended were inspired by the deep spiritual insights of the Associates. We learned that with the Holy Spirit's guidance, the wider Edmund Rice Family both shares and adds to our Heart-Centered Spirituality.

IONA COLLEGE
New Rochelle, New York

Inauguration of Joseph E. Nyre, PH.D
As the Eighth President of Iona College

The following was presented by Br. Kevin Griffith, deputy province leader, during the inauguration of the new president of Iona College



Br. Kevin Griffith

As a native of New Rochelle, who grew up but a short walk from Iona College, I have the fondest of memories of a childhood that in the 1970s often included playing baseball on what is now Mazzella Field...playing basketball in the old gym that is now Amend Hall...and playing stickball in the now torn down handball courts that were adjacent to where we are presently gathered today.

I must confess, that to my dismay, as often as my friends and I made our way to the college campus, we were chased off by either campus security or the Christian Brothers who staunchly protected and defended their turf.

Thus, in 1979, upon my graduation from Blessed Sacrament High School here in New Rochelle, I joined the Christian Brothers and have enjoyed legal access to Iona College ever since.

In 1983, I graduated from Iona with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English – a degree that has served me well in my life as a Christian Brother...and a degree that has paved the way for a lifetime of learning and thirst for knowledge.

For me, Iona will always be the college in my backyard.

Dr. Nyre...it is my tremendous privilege today on behalf of the Edmund Rice Christian Brothers throughout North America to thank you for accepting the role of President of this great institution. Be assured that we Christian Brothers welcome you to Iona College. We pledge our steadfast support to you and your family...and we offer you our heartfelt prayers through the intercession of our beloved Founder, Blessed Edmund Rice...that your tenure at Iona College will be a graced time for you and for all who call Iona home.

May God's blessings be with you today and every day...and may you have the courage and compassion to lead the Iona College community in the way of the gospel.

Again, thank you...congratulations...and welcome to this treasure that is Iona College.



Joseph E. Nyre

For more information on the new president, go to <http://www.iona.edu/news/releases/1011/0215nyre.cfm>

A Conversation on The Great Work



The Thomas Berry Forum for Ecological Dialogue is grateful to participate in the 2011 Week of the Peacemaker events at Iona by sponsoring an evening with **Doug Demeo**.

A GreenFaith Fellow and Religious Environmental Leader,

Mr. Demeo holds his B.A. in economics from Holy Cross College and has a Masters in Christianity and Culture from Gonzaga. For six years, Doug has served as coordinator of retreats in campus ministry at St. Peter's College, and retains a growing interest in the "greening" of Jesuit College and Universities.



Mr. Doug Demeo

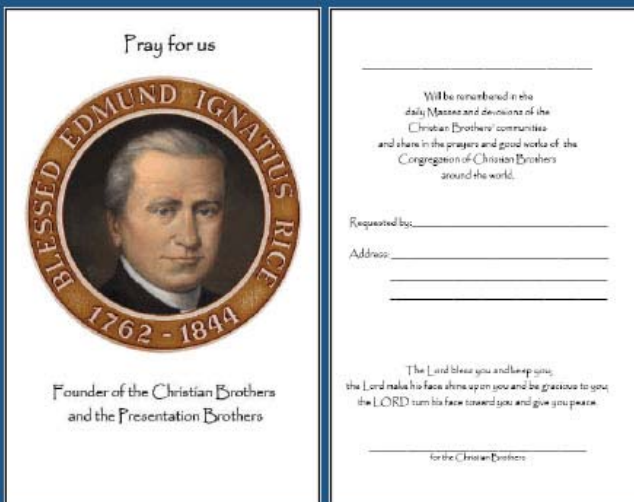
Doug formerly worked as a socially-responsible Investment Advisor and an economic development aide to Congressman Barney Frank in Newton, Massachusetts, and has published several articles on business ethics, the latest of which appeared in *America* magazine.

Doug lives in Trenton, NJ, where he enjoys gardening, and volunteering as a lay minister at the New Jersey State Prison.

Join us in welcoming Doug Demeo who will engage us in conversation about the economic features of The Great Work of environmental transformation, and the role of 'the worker' in this momentous challenge.

When: Wednesday, November 9, 2011, 7 pm
Where: Romita Auditorium of Ryan Library at Iona College
Offering for guests: \$5.00
RSVP: [914 633 2590](tel:9146332590) or kdeignan@iona.edu

Blessed Edmund Rice Prayer Cards



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The benefactor's donation (payable to the Christian Brothers Foundation) benefits the ministries of the Christian Brothers.

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

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Christian Brothers Foundation
33 Pryer Terrace
New Rochelle, NY 10804

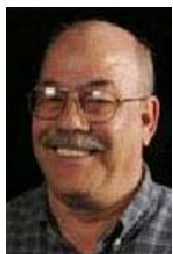
alb@cbinstitute.org

GUADALUPE REGIONAL MIDDLE SCHOOL

Brownsville, Texas

Guadalupe Regional Middle School celebrates 10 years of providing Catholic education

The following appeared in *The Brownsville Herald* and was written by Gary Long:



**Mr. Gary
Long**

Guadalupe Regional Middle School is celebrating 10 years of providing quality Catholic education to students for whom private schooling is almost always beyond reach.

The school, at 1214 E. Lincoln St. on the grounds of Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church in Brownsville, opened its doors to 30 sixth-grade students on August 19, 2002. It is one of only 64 tuition-free Catholic middle schools in the country, the only one in Texas and part of the Nativity Miguel Network of Schools serving students from economically disadvantaged families.

“Because of the school model, we’ve closed a lot of opportunity and achievement gaps,” school President Michael Motyl said Tuesday. “The classes are so small that the students get a lot of attention and they make a lot of progress.”

The school demands rigorous study. Its mandatory extended school day lasts more than nine hours. The student-to-teacher ratio is approximately 10 to one and there is an evening study hall from 5 to 7 p.m. two nights a week. GRMS has 87 students in sixth through eighth grades for the 2011-2012 school year which began August 17.



On Friday (August 19th), students celebrated Guadalupe Regional’s 10th anniversary with a cookout, birthday cake and sodas in the school courtyard. Mayor Tony Martinez, president of the original GRMS Board of Directors, delivered special remarks for the occasion. Current board members and other school supporters also attended.

Later, Raymundo Peña, bishop emeritus of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Brownsville, celebrated a 10th Anniversary Mass at Sacred Heart Church. Peña had celebrated the school’s first Mass at its dedication 10 years ago. A reception followed at Martinez’s law offices in the “Old City Jail” at 1201 E. Van Buren.

“I can’t speak enough to the wonderful program that this is,” Martinez said Tuesday morning during a break between meetings.

“The kids do a superb job most everywhere they go. They’ve established a culture of success, a culture of service, a culture of leadership.”

The original 30 sixth-graders from 10 years ago by now have graduated from high school and are juniors at colleges and universities across the country. The schools they attend range from Boston University to Texas A&M, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Alaska Pacific University, Saint Edward’s and Saint Mary’s

universities in San Antonio and the Rio Grande Valley's two University of Texas campuses, UT-Brownsville and UT-Pan American in Edinburg.

All students from the first three classes have graduated from high school and 95 percent of them are attending college, the school said.

Motyl attributed much of their success to a graduate support program that tracks alums and provides academic, social and spiritual support to them through high school and college.

He said about half of GRMS alums go on to St. Joseph's Academy under tuition assistance programs, with many of the rest attending the South Texas School District's Med Tech in San Benito and Med High and Science Academy in Mercedes.



Guadalupe Regional Middle School 8th Grader and member of the student council, Aldo Hernandez, blew out candles on the 10th Anniversary Cake at the school. The private school celebrated with cake, sodas and hotdogs provided to the students. Capital One Bank employees, Kierra Ledsema, Crystal Sanchez, Cynthia Calapa Graham and Sabrina Snell helped collect school supplies for the give away to underprivileged students. Photographed Friday, 2011-08-19.

Photo by Brad Doherty, *The Brownsville Herald*.

“Our kids come in here with big dreams and we want to make sure they have a chance to make them happen,” Motyl said. “They can do great things.”

He added that because attendance is not tuition-driven, GRMS relies entirely on financial support from the community, individuals, foundations and other organizations.

“People don't know us fully. We're tuition-free for low- to modest-income families and we're unique. That's why our alums keep coming back to help with tutoring and other things,” he said.

Three religious congregations sponsor GRMS: the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament, the Congregation of Christian Brothers and the Marist Brothers.

Motyl, who has led GRMS for the past four years, encouraged community members to get involved with the school as well.

“Anyone interested in helping with their time, their talent or their treasure is certainly welcome to do so,” he said.



Christian Brothers community in Brownsville:
I to r: Brs. Dave Concannon, Tony Quinn, Arthur Williams

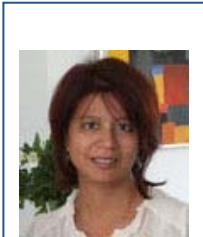
Editor's Note:

I am calling this the November newsletter because it is published in November. But the news is from October. Previously, I called it by the month of the news, i.e. the October newsletter would have been distributed in November. Thus there is technically no October newsletter.

ARCHBISHOP CURLEY NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL

Miami, Florida

Teaching Artist Exhibit Demonstrates an Appreciation for Teaching Artists and Their Ability to Cultivate Creative Expression



Ms. Lisa Morales

The ACND Gallery of Art at Archbishop Curley Notre Dame 6 to 12 Prep opened its 2011/2012 season with a show of paintings and sketches by six teaching artists who work at Archdiocese of Miami elementary and middle schools.

The six artists whose works are on display are: Kerry Ware, Vivian Macia, Wilma DeVoe, Catherine Wichmann, Don Clerveaux, and Yunier Cervino Oliver representing Broward and Miami-Dade Catholic Schools.

Catherine Wichmann, an art teacher at St. Anthony's Catholic School in Fort Lauderdale, commented:

"Teaching Artists – A Catholic Tradition was a varied, well-organized exhibit which provided a very rich experience for me as an artist and teacher. Lisa Morales [ACND Public Relations] did a wonderful job putting all the varied elements together, and the curators were adept at selecting works that complemented each other and told a story about each of the artists. The exhibit worked on many levels. It provided fellowship and an exchange of ideas with fellow teaching artists, as well as an introduction to the active art community at the ACND Gallery of Art. The Miami art scene was well represented by art journalist Anne Tschida, who gave an excellent speech and provided a forum for the artists to expand upon their works. Principal Brother Patrick Sean Moffett then summed it all up with an inspiring talk on the importance of the arts in education, in our society in general, and of the Roman Catholic tradition of continuing commitment to the arts."



l to r: South Florida Art Journalist, Anne Tschida was guest speaker at the opening reception of Teaching Artists – A Catholic Tradition held in September at the ACND Gallery of Art. Ms. Tschida stands with: Yunier Oliver Cervino (ACND 6 to 12 Prep); Kerry Ware (St. Patrick); Catherine Wichmann (St. Anthony); Vivian Macia (St. Agnes); Daniela Blanco (ACND Gallery Intern); and Wilma DeVoe (St. Agnes.)

The exhibit was curated by Stefano Campanini who owns two fine art galleries: Etra Fine Art and Wine By The Bay. Campanini brought to this exhibit gallery and international art fair experience, as well as first-hand wisdom in advancing teaching and learning through the arts as board member for Arts for Learning (A4L.)

He explained, "We wanted to bring the teachers to the fore and give them the possibility to express themselves before a larger crowd than the one they have at school. They deserve it; we wanted to give them the opportunity to teach all of us their skills, their insights and show us their sensitivity. At the end they'll get an 'A' from all of us."

Daniela Blanco, a Florida International University art major and ACND Gallery of Art intern, is assistant curator.

Wichmann concluded:

“I believe as many schools as possible throughout the Archdiocese of Miami should participate at this and other events at Archbishop Curley Notre Dame 6 to 12 Prep. The participating schools and artists will gain much from the experience, as well as having the opportunity to contribute their own insights, ideas and talents. I believe that it is vitally important for art teachers to continue to develop their professional skills as artists, as they need to nourish their own art and professional growth to be able to inspire their students.”

The ACND Gallery of Art at Archbishop Curley Notre Dame 6 to 12 Prep seeks to serve its immediate community (Buena Vista, Design District, Upper Eastside, Midtown, and Wynwood) by promoting the value of the arts in education and providing an opportunity for enrichment and development.

On Saturday, November 5, 2011 at 7:00 p.m., the gallery will hold an opening reception for a photography exhibit titled “Faces of China.” Professional photographer, Tom Salyer will presents 32 photographs documenting annual trips to China since 2004. This unique and vibrant display of cultural color is complemented by natural, field-recorded sound. For more information on this exhibit, visit www.acnd.net.



Are you on Facebook?

If so, “Like” the new “Edmund Rice Network North America” community. Follow the link below or when you are on Facebook, search for: Edmund Rice Network North America. Be sure to click on the “Like” button.

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Edmund-Rice-Network-North-America/120375644703385>

Also, look on the left for the “Share” link to share the “Edmund Rice Network North America” community page with all your friends.

The purpose of the Edmund Rice Network North America Facebook community is to share news and information about and with all members of the Edmund Rice Network in North America. This includes, but is not limited to Brothers, Edmundians, Associates, colleagues, students, alumni, and friends. In essence, anyone in North America (and around the world) touched by the charism of Blessed Edmund Rice.

The Edmund Rice Network North America Facebook community is a project of the Edmund Rice Network Office of the Edmund Rice Christian Brothers North America. The Edmund Rice Network Coordinator is Brother Jim McDonald. You can contact him by e-mail at: bromaccfc@yahoo.com

**Isn't it time?
You've been thinking about it.
You have nothing to lose and a lot to gain.
Give it a try...**

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:

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