Community Leadership Meeting
Jacksonville, Florida

Theme: “Reorganization: Time of Challenge … Time of Hope”

The gathering of our Brothers involved in community leadership in the Edmund Rice North American Christian Brothers took place in Jacksonville, Florida, from November 11 – 14, 2011. We were blessed to have Brothers Philip Pinto, Jack Mostyn, Peter Dowling and David Gibson from our Congregation Leadership with us during our days of reflection and deliberation.

As our thirty-nine Community Leaders and Contact Persons and our Province Leadership Team came together, there was time set aside for presentations on our Province Financial Reorganization (Brother Hugh O’Neill), for the Process of Chapter 11 Bankruptcy (Brother Kevin Griffith) and for Health and Wellness Updates (Brothers Bob McGovern and David Lucas). Given the process of Chapter 11 Bankruptcy that our North American Province is experiencing, the updating as well as the sharing of the Brothers’ questions and concerns were appreciated by all who gathered in Jacksonville.

Brother David Gibson was present throughout the days of the Community Leadership Meeting and facilitated the group discussions that centered on affective living of community life. Topics that the community leadership reflected upon and discussed included: effective communication, managing differences and conflicts within community, compassionate listening and living relationships with integrity.

Toward the end of our Communities Leaders’ Meeting, Brother Philip Pinto spoke to the Brothers. Philip reflected on the themes that the Brothers had discussed and the concerns that had surfaced during our days together. Philip also encouraged the Province Community Leadership to continue to trust in the wonder and wisdom of our God who calls us to live our Brotherhood amidst the many challenges of our world, our Church and our Congregation.

The Brothers who gathered in Jacksonville are grateful to Brother Sean Whitty for the preparation and facilitation of the communal prayer during the Community Leadership Meeting. As well, our sincere gratitude to Brother Rick Fowler for all the detailed planning he did for the gathering and for the arranging of the transportation.

“Providence is Our Inheritance”
MEMORIAL MASS FOR DECEASED BROTHERS AND EDMUNDIANS
St. John’s, Newfoundland

On Thursday, December 1, 2011, a Remembrance Liturgy was held in the Brothers’ chapel at Mount St. Francis (St. John’s, Newfoundland) to commemorate those Brothers and Edmundians who had died and were buried in St. John’s. Attending were nine Brothers and 18 Edmundians. After the liturgy a reception was held at Mount St. Francis. The event was organized by Edmundian Harold (Matthew ’61) Stapleton and Brother Rick Fowler. Harold summed up the feeling of everyone when he said:

“I again want to thank each of you for attending and to the Brothers' Community for hosting the Mass and Reception (25 attendees in all). Speaking for myself and for several others who passed on their comments: the whole evening was a worthwhile and enjoyable endeavor on several fronts, including the opportunities to remember some of our deceased friends and to socialize with each other. I thank Fr Joe Schuck, SJ, and Edmundian Ray (Stephen ‘61) O’Brien who provided wonderful music without which the Mass would not have been the same.”
On October 25 – 28, 2011, the Called & Gifted Workshop was held at Linwood Spiritual Center in Rhinebeck, New York. This workshop was an opportunity for twenty-six faculty and staff members from Christian Brothers' educational sites throughout North America to come together to reflect on their “call to mission” in the tradition and charism of the Congregation of Christian Brothers. Participants came from Archbishop Curley-Notre Dame (Miami, FL), All Hallows (Bronx, NY), Bergen Catholic (Oradell, NJ), Bishop Hendricken (Warwick, RI), Br. Rice HS (Bloomfield Hills, MI), Br. Rice HS (Chicago, IL), O’Dea HS (Seattle, WA), St. Thomas More Collegiate (Burnaby, BC), Tampa Catholic (Tampa, FL), Trinity Catholic (Ocala, FL), and Vancouver College (Vancouver, BC). Br. Chris Burns, CFC, (Tampa Catholic) and Mrs. Melanie Anchukaitis (Notre Dame -Bishop Gibbons) lead the workshop. Participants were reminded that they are called to serve the Church and have been gifted with the blessings of God to complete that service.

Participants shared these reflections:

* I found this program very effective as it helped me open up my eyes in seeing how we share the same mission as well as reflecting on myself as a person and an educator.

* The workshop was a vehicle of connectedness – connections to colleagues, friends, and the greater Edmund Rice Christian Brother network.

* This experience has changed me; helped me to rekindle the fire of love that I have for teaching. People came from far and wide, yet one piece weaves us all together: Blessed Edmund Rice.

Row 1 - Michael Kane (Trinity Catholic); Christian Travieso (Archbishop Curley – Notre Dame); Michael Gerrety (Bishop Hendricken); Alex Lara (O’Dea);

Row 2 - Mike Doyle (O’Dea); Elaine Palacios (Iona Prep); Silvia Santo (All Hallows); Jasmine Urzo- Travaline (Bergen Catholic); Jennifer Vojnic (St. Thomas More); Dayna Lottridge (St. Thomas More); Tiffany Hill (St. Thomas More); Kat Costales (Vancouver College); Melanie Anchukaitis (Team – Notre Dame Bishop Gibbons); Rosanna Amicone (Br. Rice – Bloomfield Hills); Sal Giacomazza (Vancouver College);

Row 3 - Larry D’Amico (Bergen Catholic); Reed DeMarco (Br. Rice- Bloomfield Hills); Lou Curcio (Tampa Catholic); Jenalisa Zummo (Tampa Catholic); Ryan Abel (Trinity Catholic); Bill Perry (Archbishop Curley Notre Dame); Davin Reyes (O’Dea); Cliona Ryan-Glennon (Vancouver College); Amy Dahill (Br. Rice – Chicago); Jeremy Graney (Bishop Hendricken); Wade Anderson (Vancouver College); Brian Sullivan (Iona Prep); Br. Chris Burns, CFC (Team, Tampa Catholic).

The “Called and Gifted” program, begun in 1984, focuses on the charism of Blessed Edmund Rice, the founder of the Christian Brothers, and how that charism influences all who work with the Brothers in the ministry of education. Br. Chris Burns CFC, facilitator of the program, reminded participants that they are called to serve the Church, and have been gifted with the blessings of God to complete that service.
ACND Friends Reunite for a Special Story time Event

New York Designer and Author, and Miami Book Fair International Participant Patricia Intriago Visits High School Friend and Teacher at St. Rose of Lima Catholic School, Miami Shores

On Monday, November 21, 2011 longtime friends Patricia Intriago, designer and founder of Intriago Design, New York City and Nancy Smith, kindergarten teacher at St. Rose of Lima Catholic School, Miami Shores, shared Archbishop Curley Notre Dame memories and their love for inspiring young children at a special story time for St. Rose prekindergarten and kindergarten students.

Intriago and Smith graduated from Archbishop Curley Notre Dame High School, Miami, in 1982. Although Intriago has live and worked in New York City since completing her BA in Fine Arts from the University of Pennsylvania, the two women have remained friends.

Smith explained, “We have reconnected in the last couple of years through social networks and I was so excited to find out that she has written a children's book. As a kindergarten teacher, I love reading stories to my students that make them think. Dot is one of those books.”

The young students were delighted by their special visitor. Smith, whose own teenage children attend ACND, was also excited about the educational opportunity offered to her kindergarten class. She comments, “Children don't always get a chance to connect a book with an author. Having Patricia visit our school to read her book will help the students realize that authors are real people. I am so thrilled that she is able to come read her book to our St. Rose students.”

Dot is the perfect book for a beginner reader and design-minded adults alike. Using the simple shape of a dot, Intriago is able to express a range of opposite relationships. For example, some dots are loud and some are quiet; some are happy and some are sad. The book has garnished praise from book reviewers and well-known figures such as Caldecott Medal winner Lane Smith, Christopher Niemann, creator of the hugely popular I LEGO NY, and graphic designer Milton Glaser.

Inspiration for her book resulted from nightly story time with her two sons. On nights when it was difficult to hold their attention, she would take out a pad and paper and play guessing games based on spontaneous drawings. The drawings were then eventually generated into a collection of computer-generated images that eventually resulted in a book idea.
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.

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

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