



# PROVINCE NEWSLETTER

Edmund Rice Christian Brothers North America  
A PROVINCE OF THE CONGREGATION OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS

Volume 8 Issue 4

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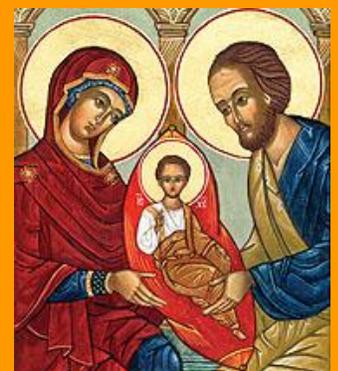
## *Christmas message from The Province Leadership Team Elizabeth, New Jersey*

To all our Brothers, Associates, Edmundians and collaborators in our life and ministry, the Province Leadership Team of the Edmund Rice Christian Brothers North America send Christmas Greetings and Blessings. May the celebration of the coming of Christ into our world and into our lives be a joyful and prayerful experience for you and for all those dear to you. May Christmas be a gift of love, a blessing of hope, and a promise of peace for you, and may it remain with you through the New Year.



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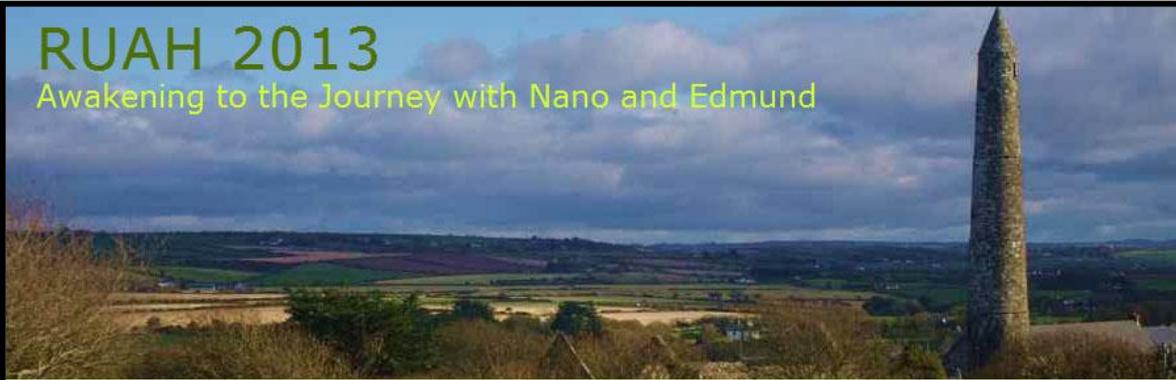
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Grant us, Lord, as we honor with joyful devotion the Nativity of your Son, that we may come to know with fullness of faith the hidden depths of this mystery and to love them ever more and more. Through Christ our Lord.

# RUAH 2013

Awakening to the Journey with Nano and Edmund



## RUAH Programme 2013

Awaken to the Heritage and Spirituality of Nano and Edmund

The RUAH 2013 Team is delighted to invite you to our programme for 2013. You can download an application form from the Downloads page here. We look forward to supporting you as you begin your journey to Ireland in June 2013.

The programme for 2013 will include the following thematic strands:

- Awakening to the Journey of Faith as we celebrate the Year of Faith
- Awakening to the Journey of the Heart
- Awakening to the Journey with the Divine
- Awakening to the Story of the Universe
- Awakening to the Call of God's Poor

The focus of this website will be to keep you informed, to take on board your comments and shape the programme as far as possible in light of your wishes. We, the team, are fully engaged at the moment in building the programme. Much of the work is very advanced and there is much that is in place.

We know that you will be excited by what is offered and you may find the programme a unique personal and spiritual challenge.



Photo: Donal Leader

Share the excitement.

The journey begins now!

More information available at [www.ruah2013.net/](http://www.ruah2013.net/)

## MOUNT ST. FRANCIS St. John's, Newfoundland



Br. George  
Fitzpatrick

In early December, 2012, the St. Bon's Junior Hockey Team (St. John's, Newfoundland) of 1962, Champions that year, hosted Brother George Fitzpatrick (Mount St. Francis Community) at a luncheon celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of that event. George was a co-coach.

The gathering was organized by Mr. Terry Stack, one of the co-captains of that team. Fourteen members attended the event. Memories rejuvenated the members.

And as they say in Newfoundland parlance, "A good time was had by all".



Mount St. Francis



(l to r) John Byrne, Joe Walsh, Barry Whalen, Bob King, Bob Smyth, Jim Power, Brian Gibbons, Gerard Healey, Br. George Fitzpatrick, Bernard Healy.



### 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](http://www.jerichohouse.org)

The Jericho House Team:

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



**In helping others, we help ourselves**



**Br. John  
Buckingham**

Third World Awareness is a registered Canadian charity that had its beginnings at Brother Edmund Rice School in Toronto. Mr. John Callaghan, a former teacher at Brother Edmund Rice and a member of Canadian finance committee, takes people with him to Haiti every year to work with the poor. Brother John Buckingham (Christian Brother Toronto Community) worked with John at Brother Edmund Rice and participated in a number of his trips. Brother John Buckingham says, "John Callaghan is an extraordinary man and dedicated to the charism of Edmund Rice." Read more about this charity at <http://www.twawareness.org/>

The video listed below shows some of the celebrations at Iona College commemorating the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the birth of Blessed Edmund Rice.

<http://youtu.be/W7p0tkiW-sQ>



ERCBNA

**Justice Peace Integrity of Creation**

Promoting social justice and eco-justice



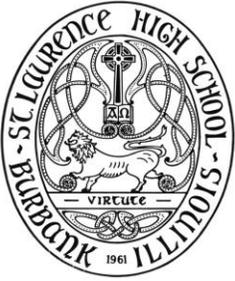
**CAST YOUR NET WIDER**

**[www.edmundrice.net](http://www.edmundrice.net)**

**Your global net for your global network**

# ST. LAURENCE HIGH SCHOOL

## Burbank, Illinois



Keegan Wetzel '09 was named a Capital One First Team Academic All-American. Click on the link below to read more about it and see the complete list of the First Team All-Americans.

<http://www.navysports.com/sports/m-footbl/spec-rel/120612aae.html>

The Student Council recently held a successful food drive, where students, faculty, and staff brought in more than 5,000 food items. They delivered the food to the Burbank Food Pantry at Our Savior's Lutheran Church. These donations will help feed many families in need during the holidays.

Pictured are (L-R) Nicholas Paneral, Patrick Haugh, and Conor Wedel loading the donated food.



The National Honor Society recently finished a school-wide toy drive, where they collected more than 640 toys. The drive directly benefited the Worth Township Youth Commission's "Christmas Care Program," which distributes these items to families with young children in the area who are experiencing financial difficulties at this time.

Pictured are (L-R) Jack Lawlor, Michael D'Andrea, and Miguel Delvillar packing the school van full of toys.



**The life of Jesus is not just for his own time and for the time that has come after him, but is for men and women of *all* time. His redeeming work has been available to every member of the human family from the beginning of the world. This perspective involves what might be called *vertical time*: the eternal values breaking into horizontal or chronological time. ... Thus, at each moment of our lives the eternal values that have come into the world through Christ are available to everyone as historical time unfolds. Our historical lifetime is given us precisely to grow into vertical time, which scripture calls 'eternal life.' ... The Word of God was always present beyond time. In the incarnation, he become present *in* time"**

Thomas Keating, "The Incarnation," [The Heart of the World](#)

## CHRISTIAN BROTHERS COMMUNITY

### Asunción, Paraguay



**Br. Chuck  
Fitzsimmons**

The Christian Brothers minister to at-risk youth in the neighborhood Bañado Tacumbú, in the capital city of Asunción, Paraguay, in a program called Youth Alive. The arrival in the last six months of a talented co-worker, Angelica Benitez, 29, a single mom from the same barrio, has allowed the program to increase its contacts and projects. This article sketches an active ten days at the end of 2012, a time not without mixed results.

Ernesto (not his real name) spent a year in the penitentiary and was fighting a drug problem when he finally exasperated his family to such an extent that he realized it was time to change. His girlfriend had just been hauled off to the women's prison. Brother Chuck Fitzsimmons (62, USA) accompanied Ernesto to REMAR, an evangelical recuperation program, in hopes that detoxification, manual work and some prayer would help. Ernesto was accepted into the program, but left after only twenty-four hours. Maybe he'll be ready the next time?



**Angelica Benitez with Pacheco and Rodrigo en  
Bañado Tacumbú**

Youth Alive wanted to attend the International Congress concerning the violence in youth prisons, to be held at the Catholic University in our own Asunción. We approached a local businessman, who donated \$125 to buy clothes for five of our youth to attend the program. The morning of going shopping for a shirt, pants and gym shoes was lots of fun, as the youth rarely enjoy enough resources to buy what they want. On the days of the Congress, however, only three of the youth showed up, the other two having sold their new clothes to make a quick profit! It was disappointing, and Youth Alive had to visit and explain the matter to our wayward brothers. But for those who did attend, it was a trip outside the barrio, to a meeting of international representatives, a chance to experience something different and unique. Brothers Michael Lynch (59, Ireland) and Jack Casey (71, Ireland) also attended the Congress.



**Two Squads of Youth, including two youth from the  
Bañado, at A Roof For My Country**

Youth Alive had better luck inviting five youth to the international program "A Roof For My Country" (*Un Techo Para Mi Pais*), wherein small squads of university students build pre-fabricated houses in two days for poor families. At the beginning, it's a stretch for our at-risk youth to fit in, for the university students tend to be rich, educated and white, where we are poor and unschooled and brown. A "universitario" might speak of his study last semester in Rome, where our youth haven't even visited "Rome Street" in Asunción!

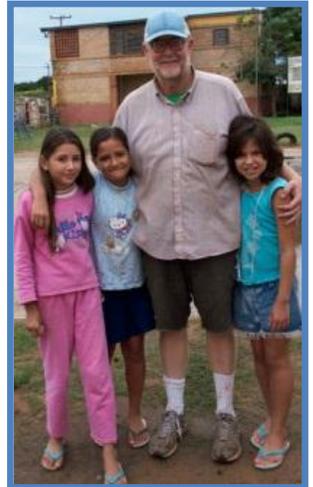
Yet, when those small squads of 4-6 youth get down and dirty in the mud and grime of building a house in two days, the differences seem to melt away as they struggle to get the house right in the steamy Paraguayan summer. In the end our five youth had a wonderful experience of leaving the barrio, hooking up with university students, taking charge of a project, and helping a poor family, even though they themselves are poor! (Full disclosure: a

week after our return we discovered that one of our youth had stolen a camera from one of the university students. Sigh.)

Other activities saw the end-of-year closure of our morning work crew program. Two crews, each working once a week, clean the lone asphalted street and public byways of Bañado Tacumbú, providing Angelica and Brother Chuck valuable contact time with our youth, and affording the youth a small job with a small salary, some good work habits and the pride of a job well done. The closure (until March 1, 2013, when Youth Alive starts up again) consists in the youth working for only an hour in the street, and then retiring for a review of our goals and accomplishments. A hot dog breakfast follows, a little extra pay in this Christmas season, and some food baskets provided by Brother Michael. It's a nice ending, in very hot weather, to a year's worth of cleaning the street and the fields.

Youth Alive also visits the three principal jails of Asunción: a bi-monthly visit to the youth prison which is 1.5-2 hours east of Asunción, and monthly visits to the men's penitentiary, which houses 3,000 men, and the women's prison. In all three jails Youth Alive visits the residents of our Bañado Tacumbú, some of whom do not receive any visitors at all.

Helping the youth with their identity papers, with medicines and sometimes with funeral expenses; visiting the hospitals where recently two of the youth were close to dying; standing with them at their trial dates: these services and others, rendered in the name of the Lord and in the footsteps of Blessed Edmund, provide us with hope for the future, even when the results are not all positive.

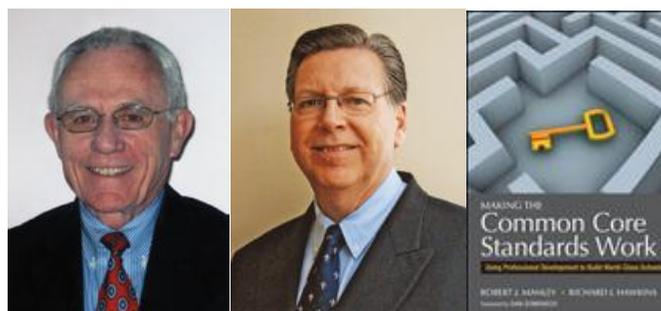


**Br. Chuck Fitzsimmons  
at the Community  
Center in Bañado  
Tacumbú**

Edmundian Bob (Gabriel '59) Manley and Richard J. Hawkins announce their new book.

***Making the Common Core State Standards Work is essential reading for school leaders!***

The authors provide a blueprint for implementing and exceeding the new Common Core Standards. This practical guide focuses on realistic strategies for lasting change within schools. Robert Manley and Richard Hawkins build an inspiring case for how individual schools can contribute to the development of a world-class education system in the U.S.

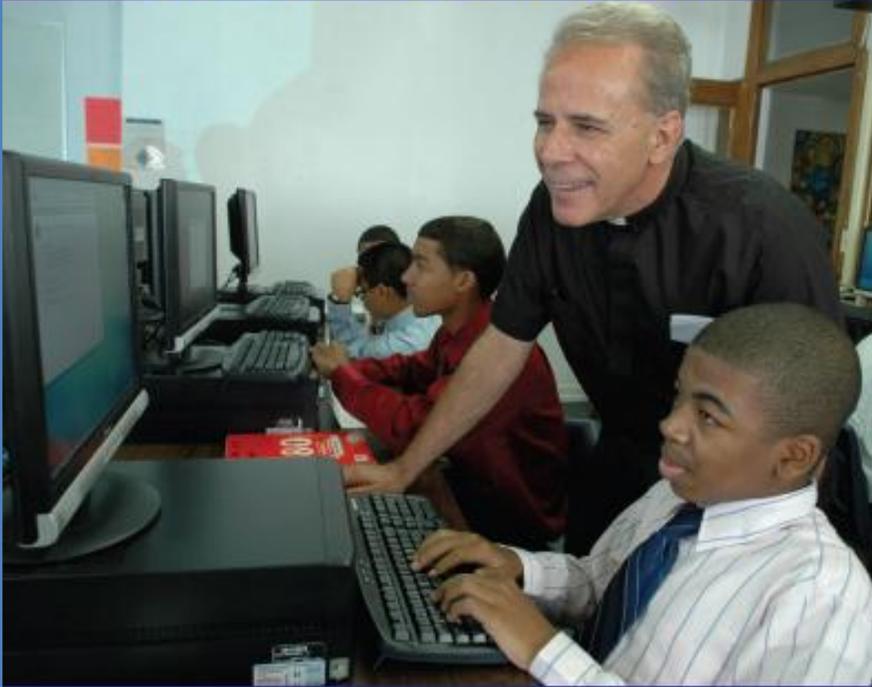


**Robert J. Manley,  
Ph.D.**

**Richard J.  
Hawkins, Ed.D.**

Robert J. Manley, Ph.D. is Professor of Education Administration at Dowling College, Oakdale, New York. Richard J. Hawkins, Ed.D. is the Director of External Programs at St. Rose College, Albany, New York and a Graduate of Dowling College Doctoral Program, Educational Administration, Leadership and Technology.

**Are You Called to be Brother to the World?**  
**Edmund Rice Christian Brothers**



**¿Es Ud. llamado a ser Hermano para el mundo?**  
**Los Hermanos Cristianos de Edmund Rice**

[www.erbrothers.org](http://www.erbrothers.org)

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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](http://www.edmundrice.net)  
[www.ercbna.org](http://www.ercbna.org)  
[www.edmundriceinternational.org](http://www.edmundriceinternational.org)  
[www.cfcvocations.org](http://www.cfcvocations.org)  
[www.edmundriceinternational.org/jpic](http://www.edmundriceinternational.org/jpic)