



# PROVINCE NEWSLETTER

## Edmund Rice Christian Brothers North America

A PROVINCE OF THE CONGREGATION OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS

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### Office of Educational Services New Rochelle, New York

#### School Leaders Learn about “Common Core” and Building Consortium

*By Sister Grace D’Amico, SSND, Associate Director, Office of Educational Services*



Sr. Grace  
D’Amico,  
SSND

Fifty-five participants, a record number, attended the Edmund Rice Christian Brother Schools School Leaders Meeting, which was characterized by increased internationality and a greater spirit of collaboration. For the first time, representatives from Colegio Stella Maris, in Montevideo, Uruguay, joined school leaders from other Christian Brother schools in Argentina, Canada, and the United States at the conference held at Brother Rice High School, Chicago, Illinois, March 18-22, 2013.

In plenary sessions, school presidents and directors general, principals, board chairs and directors, and the entire North American Province Leadership Team prayed, listened to presentations, reflected, and discussed issues related to education, governance, province reorganization, building the Edmund Rice school consortium, and faculty faith development. They also heard a report on branding & marketing, were introduced to the new Edmund Rice School Network website, and were invited to give feedback. They also joined round table discussions and divisional meetings for presidents, principals, and board members to share ideas and best practices.

Dr. Mary Jane Krebbs, Ph.D., Associate Dean for Graduate Studies at St. John’s University, New York City, gave a dynamic presentation on “The Common Core: An Opportunity and a Challenge for Catholic Education.” Noting that the “Common Core” has already been accepted by 46 states in the U.S., she emphasized it simply embodies “good teaching” and that it promotes the academic excellence that is a hallmark of Catholic school identity. She provided an overview of standards and instructional shifts in various subject areas.

Dr. Krebbs observed that the “Essential Elements of an Edmund Rice Christian



Dr. Mary Jane Krebbs of St. John’s University, New York, presented on the “Common Core.”

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“Look upon your flock, kind Shepherd, and be pleased to settle in eternal pastures the sheep you have redeemed by the Precious Blood of your Son.”

Prayer after Communion,  
Fourth Sunday of Easter

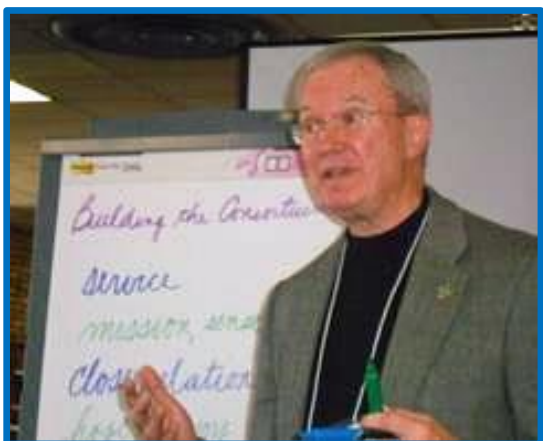
Brother Education” each contain strong verbs and nouns, which correspond to “skills” and “content,” two important aspects of the Common Core. Consequently, the Essential Elements hold great potential for developing curricular and co-curricular objectives. “Your graduates will be well prepared!” she added.

In her presentation “Edmund Rice Christian Brother School Governance,” Sister Deborah Cerullo, SSND, J.D., J. C.L., noted that Catholic schools exist in two worlds, that of church and state. As a canonist, she described Catholic ministry as expression of the Body of Christ. As an attorney, she described civil structures as the “clothes” on the body which enable a ministry to be carried out in a civil society. Consequently, we look for a “good fit” when setting up governance structures and writing bylaws. Sister Deborah, who has been working with the Province Leadership Team, developed her theme of shared governance and charism in the Church by citing Vatican II documents on the Church, the lay apostolate, and Christian education. She showed how responsibility for carrying the charism of religious congregations like the Christian Brothers has been passing into the hands of lay partners in ministry.



**Sr. Deborah  
Cerullo**

Sister Deborah described several ways of transferring governance of Catholic schools, but focused on the establishment of a new Public Juridic Person. This would involve a rather lengthy process which would initially require approval by the bishops of dioceses in which the schools are located and eventually approval by the Holy See in Rome. In addition, a civil non-profit corporation (the “clothes”) would have to be set up to correspond to the canonical Public Juridic Person. She offered two possible structures and suggested services and characteristics going forward. In her concluding remarks, Sister Deborah emphasized that communicating God’s love is at the heart of our educational endeavors.



**Br. John Casey, CFC, Director of  
Governance, leads the discussion on “Building  
the Consortium” of Edmund Rice Christian  
Brother Schools.**

Leading a discussion on “Building the ERCB School Consortium,” Br. John W. Casey, CFC, Director of Governance elicited from the group desired characteristics of the consortium. These included a “sense of mission, service, close relationships, collaboration, compromise, hope and joy.” Alluding to “brotherhood” and “discipleship,” Br. Casey further asked the group to consider new ways to collaborate and build partnerships in the network in the spirit of Blessed Edmund Rice.

Following with the practical issue of funding the consortium, Sister Ona Bessette, CND, Director of the Office of Educational Services, gave a report on behalf of the Finance Committee. She explained funding by consortium schools for FY14 and the committee’s desire to build a sustainability fund. She presented a proposal to increase the per student fee by five dollars over a five year period to \$35.00 in FY18. Don Chapin, Palma School board chair, emphasized the importance of the OES and complimented Sister

Ona and Sister Grace D’Amico for providing programs and services to the schools and the consortium.

The group approved the proposal for the increase and offered suggestions for financing and for oversight of the OES. They expanded the Finance Committee to include John Birney, and established a Program Committee to work with OES. Maureen Kiers, Tim McElhinney, Br. Mike Segvich, and Br. Ray Vercruysse volunteered for the Program Committee.

Maria Laura Methol and Diego Rodriguez showed videos illustrating how the spirit of Edmund Rice is alive in ministry among poor people in Montevideo, Uruguay. This led to a discussion on faculty faith formation, and how important it is for teachers to have experiences that will help them.

Besides numerous break-out sessions, there were many opportunities for networking and socializing, including a free evening to visit Chicago or meet with alumni. Networking, sharing ideas and best practices, and being with people from other Edmund Rice schools were frequently cited in the evaluations as “most helpful.” One participant summed it up, “It seems we have made great strides to come closer together as a faith and learning community.”

The group was very grateful to Dr. Kevin Burns, president, and Jim Antos, principal of Br. Rice High School, and their assistants, for their very gracious hospitality. A highlight of the week was a beautiful school liturgy during which all of the Brothers present were honored for their service and each meeting participant was presented with a Blessed Edmund Rice medal. The meeting closed on Thursday afternoon with a prayer service, “Partners in Edmund Rice’s Mission.” Each attendee was presented with a beaded wristband made by women and Kenya and was invited to participate in the “Beyond 250 Appeal.”



**Connie Bergadá, board member from Colegio Cardenal Newman (Argentina); Mercedes Carrau, president, and Patricia Ponce de Leon, Director General, of Colegio Stella Maris (Uruguay) were among the South American participants.**



**Mr. Jim Muting, principal of St. Laurence H.S. (Burbank, IL) posed a question.**



**Mr. Tom Reidy, principal of Tampa Catholic High School (Tampa, FL), reported for the Branding /Marketing Committee.**

The meeting was organized and sponsored by the ERCBNA Office of Educational Services. Next year’s meeting will be hosted by Palma School, Salinas, California, April 7-11, 2014.

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**your global net for your global network**



## THE FOUNDER'S CAUSE



**Br. Tim  
Smyth**

Over the last few years there have been a number of people who have asked our prayers through the Founder's intercession. I thought it might be a good time to provide an update.

Rachel Swallow is the sixth grade niece of one of the teachers at Saint Laurence. On March 20, 2012, Rachel began to exhibit flu-like symptoms, a few days later she was unresponsive. After extensive tests, Rachel was diagnosed with Acute Disseminated Encephalomyelitis (ADEM), which led to brain lesions and a coma-like state. She currently requires assistance for both breathing and nutrition but, as of her twelfth birthday, and after seven months in the hospital, she is at home slowly showing signs of recovery.

Ryan Fogarty is a 39-year-old electrical engineer and father of three who lives in Saint Petersburg. Six years ago we received a request for prayers when Ryan was diagnosed with colon cancer. Although the surgery to remove it was relatively simple and the pathology

report provided an optimistic prognosis, his young age suggested a possible complication - a genetic disposition. Ryan's mother Julie feels that the family's prayers through Blessed Edmund were the miracle they hoped for. Ryan recently had his six-year checkup and continues to receive positive reports. Three years ago, former Brother Gene Sheridan requested a relic and prayer cards for Dudley Hudgins, a friend living in Kansas City, Missouri, who had been diagnosed with cancer. After surgery and chemotherapy, his wife informed us that he was very upbeat because he was feeling the power of all the prayers that were coming his way. He is currently waiting for the results of his most recent CAT scan.

Brother Patrick Donatus McCormack first made us aware of the condition of Marissa Peebles, a junior at Butte Central, in late 2007. She had been diagnosed with a rare soft-tissue sarcoma in the area of her hip. Her parents marveled at the strength she exhibited as she faced her surgery in Seattle to remove the cancer and replace her hip. Seven months later, pathology reports were very optimistic and Marissa was on her way back to Butte. Her up-beat attitude and enthusiastic approach to therapy were fed by her desire to get back to normal. The following school year Marissa returned as a senior with a schedule that allowed her to work on junior and senior classes at the same time. Following an additional surgery to remove scar tissue at the sight of the original surgery, two and a half years earlier, the doctor proclaimed Marissa cured of her cancer.

Almost a year later, during a regular check-up, Marissa was found to have breast cancer and underwent a double mastectomy. Six months after that she was declared cancer free once again. Unfortunately that only lasted five months when doctors discovered cancerous growth at the original site. Following the removal of much of her pelvic tissue, additional cancer was discovered in Marissa's lungs. Currently Marissa is undergoing chemotherapy and continues to be optimistic that Blessed Edmund will help deliver God's merciful healing touch on her behalf.

We ask that you continue to remember these four in your prayers, particularly through the intercession of Blessed Edmund. I urge you to realize that our prayers aren't always answered in the way we expect, but that many people receive comfort from our prayers, even in spite of continuing illness.

Also, if you know of anyone that we should add to our prayers, please contact me (Brother Tim Smyth, CFC) at [brtimcfc@yahoo.com](mailto:brtimcfc@yahoo.com) and I'll provide a relic and prayer cards.

*Blessed Edmund Rice  
Pray for us*



## **JERICO HOUSE**

**Wainfleet, Ontario**

### **A Faithful and Just Daughter of Mother Earth**

The 2013 Annual Franciscan Federation Conference will take place in Pittsburgh, PA, July 19-22. The theme is Franciscan Life in Evolution.

As part of the conference, each congregation is invited to honor one of its members. This year's criteria for selecting the honoree, based on the conference theme, are:

- One who recognizes the interconnectedness of all creation.
- One who is open to change and has evolved over the years with an attitude of openness to the unknown.
- One who has started a new endeavor in response to an emerging need.
- One who has integrated science, theology and spirituality in his/her life and ministry.



We are happy to announce that SM Jacqueline Keefe has been chosen as the Felician recipient of the Franciscan Federation Ecology Award.

Sister Jacquie, as she is more popularly known, integrates science, theology and spirituality in her life and ministry by bringing sustainable processes in the organization, building and maintenance of Jericho House, a place for Leadership Formation for Youth in Wainfleet, Ontario, Canada. Describing herself as having "a heart listening to the Spirit of Creation," she sees her role in Youth Leadership Formation at Jericho House as helpful to the ministry of integration of ecology and spirituality which overflows in outreach beyond Jericho House.

A member of the Interfaith Green Faith program, Sister Jacquie offers workshops and retreats on social and ecological justice across North America including her fellow Felician Sisters. The heart of her outreach is in preparing lay and ordained leaders spiritually for a role in environmental leadership. Such caring for creation and for neighbor makes Sister Jacquie a faithful and just daughter of Mother Earth.



### **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

## ARCHBISHOP CURLEY NOTRE DAME PREP

### Miami, Florida

#### 11<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court Judge Made Interpretation of the Law and Justice Living Concepts for Students



**Ms. Lisa  
Morales**

Last week, 11<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court Judge **Adalberto Jordan** returned to his high school alma mater to speak at **Archbishop Curley Notre Dame Prep's 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Red Mass and Law Symposium**.

"The Law Symposium is important to reconnect alumni to the school and allow current students to recognize the nexus between what they are learning and what happens in the outside world," commented **Douglas Romanik**, ACND Principal. "Judge Jordan made interpretation of the law and justice living concepts for the students to understand and apply in their own lives."

Judge Jordan, the first Cuban-born judge to serve on the Atlanta-based U.S. appellate court, was nominated by President Obama on August 2, 2011 and was confirmed by the Senate on February 15, 2012 by an overwhelming 94-5 vote.

Miami Attorney, **John De Leon**, who graduated from Archbishop Curley in 1980 and has been friends with Judge Jordan since then, moderated the event. De Leon is managing shareholder of the Law Offices of Chavez & De Leon, P.A. and past President of the American Civil Liberties Union, Greater Miami Chapter.

Also known as the Lawyer's Mass, the term "Red Mass" refers to the red vestments worn by the celebrants to signify the Holy Spirit, where participants pray for wisdom as they endeavor to seek justice. The celebration was first held in the United States in 1928.

Past facilitators (all Archbishop Curley High School and Notre Dame Academy alumni) were: 2012 – **John De Leon 'AC '80**; 2011- Honorable **Cecilia Maria Altonaga, J.D. NDA '80**, Federal Judge Southern District of Florida; 2010 - Honorable **Beatrice Avgherino Butchko, J.D. ,NDA '81**, 11th Judicial Circuit of Florida; 2009 - **Dennis Ward, Esq., AC '69** Monroe County State Attorney; 2008 - **Thomas Valerius, Esq., AC '58**, Defense Attorney; 2007 - **Edward O'Donnell, Esq. AC '62**, Defense Attorney; and 2006 - Honorable **Rosemary Barkett, J.D. , NDA '57**, United States Court of Appeals, 11th Circuit.



**11th Circuit Court Judge Adalberto Jordan returns to his high school alma mater to speak at ACND Prep's 8th Annual Red Mass and Law Symposium**



**l to r – Mr. Douglas Romanik, ACND Principal, Megan Romanik, Kareen Etienne, Galisa Hyppolite, Judge Jordan, Israel Calero, Jensen Rayburn, Patrick Toomey, Brother Conan Armstrong**



# IONA GRAMMAR SCHOOL

## New Rochelle, New York



**Br. Sean  
Moffett**

"Science that makes a difference" was the theme as the middle school students at Iona Grammar School in New Rochelle engaged themselves in some of today's major health and ecology issues.

The students had worked for about three months researching their selected area of concentration, developing their hypotheses, designing the experiments and reporting the conclusions. Science teachers Mrs. Alexandria Portanova and Ms. Elizabeth Carino guided their progress.

Great variety and creativity were evident in the displays the students produced to present their projects. The projects ranged from solar powered cars to, how music affects behaviors, to acid rain and its impact on plants.

The judging for the event involved students from the prestigious STEP (Superior Talent Enrichment Program) at Iona Prep under the direction of the Iona Prep Science Chairman, James Love. The students used their tablets to complete a rubric on a Google Document. The document allowed the scores to be averaged quickly and objectively.

An award ceremony in the Iona Grammar School gymnasium was attended by school representatives, parents and guests.

Among those cited for distinction were: *Fast Food Filth* by Joshua and Frankie, *Fertilizer Frenzy* by Brendan and Mark, *Calming K-9's* by Lachlan and JJ, *Oil Spill Clean Up* by Matthew Valecce and Sean Kinnally, *Greenhouse Zebra* by Johnryan Freeman, Joseph Bruno, Vaughn Robinson, and Nick Frank, *Taming Tsunamis* by Brendan Fitzgerald, Gino Ambrosio, Gerard Ambrosio, and Peter Orłowski, *Salt Water Taffy (biodegradable candy wrappers)* by Jack Coogan, Owen Byrnes, Michael Papaleo, and Jordan Mbanefo, *No Till VS Plow Farming* by Joe Friezo and Nick Frank, *Water Power (a car that runs on water)* by John Rooney, Arden Cohen, Gregg Cramer, and Teddy Gerrity, and the overall winner went to *Effects of Household Detergents* by Anthony Lanni, Noah Abrahams, and Andrew Francella.



Founded in 1916, the Iona School soon developed into two separate institutions, Iona Grammar School now on Stratton Road in New Rochelle, and Iona Prep on the corner of Wilmot and Stratton Roads. With the opening of the 2013 - 2014 Academic year the two schools while maintaining the two campuses will join as Iona Preparatory K-12.

(L to R) Iona Grammar School students Brendan Dwyer and Mark Tiaveses present their ecology project to Science Fair judges, Kevin Abraham, Denzel Harris, and Roman Kuzmiak, Iona Preparatory advanced placement scholars.



ERCBA

**Justice Peace Integrity of Creation**

Promoting social justice and eco-justice



## ST. JOSEPH'S ACADEMY

### St. John's, Antigua, West Indies



The Diocese of St. John's Basseterre is pleased to announce that the Holy See and the Government of Antigua have appointed His Excellency Mr. David Shoul as Antigua's Non-Resident Ambassador to the Vatican City. On behalf of the Diocese and the people of Antigua Nation, we congratulate His Excellency who has been accorded this honor and responsibility. Let us pray for his Excellency and his dear wife, Lady Joan Shoul that the Lord will continue to bless them

abundantly as they serve our Country and Church.

Mr. Shoul is a graduate of St. Joseph's Academy in St. John's, Antigua.



## ST. LAURENCE HIGH SCHOOL

### Burbank, Illinois

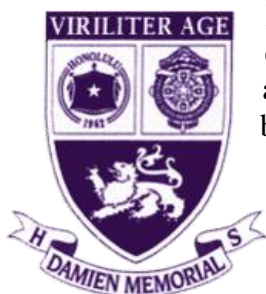


Click on the link below for the latest e-newsletter from St. Laurence High School.

<http://www.stlaurence.com/may-e-newsletter>

## DAMIEN MEMORIAL SCHOOL

### Honolulu, Hawaii




Damien Memorial School will host a special dinner on June 22, 2013. The dinner is to celebrate Damien's 50th Anniversary as well as a fund raiser. Individual tickets are priced at \$60.00 per person. There will also be VIP tables that seat 10 for \$1,000. The event will be held at the plush Oahu Country Club near the Pali Highway in Nuuanu.

For more information check out their website at <http://www.damien.edu>



# Blessed Edmund Rice Prayer Cards

<p>Pray for us</p>  <p>Founder of the Christian Brothers and the Presentation Brothers</p>	<p>Will be remembered in the daily Masses and devotions of the Christian Brothers' communities and share in the prayers and good works of the Congregation of Christian Brothers around the world.</p> <p>Requested by: _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.</p> <p>_____</p> <p>for the Christian Brothers</p>
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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 (payable to the Christian Brothers Foundation) benefits the ministries of the Christian Brothers.

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

Prayer Cards  
Christian Brothers Foundation  
260 Wilmot Road  
New Rochelle, NY 10804

[cab@cbinstitute.org](mailto:cab@cbinstitute.org)



# What is a Brother?

## An Answer to God's Call.



We connect with the poor and the marginalized in our world.

We share and reflect our experiences in the light of the Gospel.

We find our hearts transformed.

We are Christian Brothers.

*What we do with our hearts affects the whole universe.*



Are you being called to be brother to the world?

Congregation of Christian Brothers • [www.cfcvocations.org](http://www.cfcvocations.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](http://www.edmundrice.net)  
[www.ercbna.org](http://www.ercbna.org)  
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