Brother Ed Bergeron, CFC

The following appeared in The Catholic Miscellany
(a publication of the Diocese of Charleston).
It was written by Christina Lee Knauss.

Back in high school, Edward Bergeron was, like every other kid his age, trying to discover his place in the world. He ended up finding the answer in the lives of the men who taught his classes and led his Catholic high school in Schenectady, New York. They were members of the Congregation of Christian Brothers, an order founded in 1802 in Waterford, Ireland, by Blessed Edmund Ignatius Rice.

“T includes a study of the particular charism that they exemplified. It was very impressive by them, and I wanted to be like them,” he said. “As a young child I had thought about joining the priesthood, but then I saw these men. They were so accessible; I admired how they reached out to us. They were great role models.”

He began formation right after graduation, and 50 years later, “Brother Ed,” as he is known, is celebrating his jubilee year.

He currently serves as parish life facilitator at St. John Church in North Charleston, where he arrived as part of a team of three Christian Brothers who established a new ministry there in 1997.

Since he first professed vows, Brother Ed has spent much of his life in a classroom, teaching everyone from high school students to adults learning about the faith. He also works with the poor. Both charisms are central to his order.

Back in the early 19th century, Blessed Edmund Rice wanted to provide quality education for the poor. He initially established Catholic schools for

Easter is for us all a dying to sin, to passion, to hatred and enmity, and all that brings about disorder, spiritual and material bitterness, and anguish. This death is indeed only the first step toward a higher goal — for our Easter is also a mystery of new life.

St. John XXIII
poor boys in Ireland, which were illegal at the time. As he realized the importance of providing for all the needs of the poor, the Brothers’ work expanded.

The Christian Brothers were working around the world by the end of the 19th century and first came to North America with ministry in Newfoundland in 1876. They arrived in the United States in 1906. Today, they serve on six continents in a wide range of ministries, from education to parishes, missions and serving the homeless.

Brother Ed went through formation in New York and New Jersey; he also completed a degree in Spanish at Iona College, New Rochelle.

After professing final vows, he taught for one semester at Essex Catholic High School in Newark, New Jersey, before being sent on an adventure that would take him far from his roots in the northeast.

The Brothers sent him to Peru, a country where everything was new to him except the Spanish language.

He would spend the next 17 years there, teaching at a high school in Chimbote, leading adult education and parish ministry in the town of Monsefu, and working with other brothers in formation in Lima. His living quarters ranged from rural villages to an all-inclusive Catholic community in Chimbote, which included its own parish church, school, convent and the brothers’ residence.

“It was different, so thoroughly and totally different that I wouldn’t know how to describe it, but I loved it,” he said.

After Peru, he was called back to the U.S. where he spent six years as director of cross-cultural work at a center for mission studies run by the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, and then five years as director of lay formation in the Archdiocese of New York.

In 1996, the Christian Brothers were seeking new places to work with the poor. Brother Ed and two others visited dioceses around the Southeast.

When they came to South Carolina, Bishop David B. Thompson suggested a visit to St. John in North Charleston. They saw the potential for ministry there, and the bishop asked the Christian Brothers to stay.

“Eighteen years later, I’m still here,” Brother Ed said.

Brothers Bill Cronin and Tony Quinn, part of the original group, have moved on. Christian Brother Spencer Tafuri currently teaches eighth-grade religion at Christ Our King-Stella Maris School.

Meanwhile, Brother Ed said he doesn’t want to be anywhere else.

“This place is heaven,” he said. “I know I am a northerner and when I first came here it took a while to gain people’s trust, but the people in North Charleston have been wonderful and welcoming to me. They’re very supportive and very engaged with the parish.”

He loves every facet of his work at St. John, he said, and is especially proud of a dedicated group of parish volunteers who “do everything from secretarial work right down to vacuuming the church,” said the man who also mows the lawn.

Brother Ed is also proud of St. John’s involvement with the Charleston Area Justice Ministry, an
interfaith organization dedicated to making Charleston a more just place to live. The parish has served on a series of projects to improve early childhood education, reduce incarceration of youthful offenders and local unemployment, and prevent “wage theft,” which occurs when workers aren’t paid overtime or are forced to work without pay.

“Without a doubt there have been moments of challenge in my life as a Brother, but right now I couldn’t be happier,” he said. “God willing and the creek don’t rise, I’m going to be where I am for a long time.”

**JERICHO HOUSE**
**Wainfleet, ON**

In February, fifty high school students and their teachers gathered at Jericho House to participate in Jericho's Fifth Annual Leadership Symposium. This year's keynote speaker was Sarah Lukaszczyk, who spoke of her involvement in environmental issues - local, national and international. She urged the participants to discover their own passion and to follow that passion through practical and helpful means of engagement with the wider community. During the Q & A and small group sessions, participants were able to interact with each other and Sarah, share best practices and encourage one another in their efforts to improve the Niagara Falls' environment.

During the day's final session, Jericho House made a donation in Sarah's name of $500.00 to "Greening Niagara" to help in its efforts in eco-education and community involvement in environmental issues relating to Niagara. In closing, all were thanked for their attendance and enthusiastic participation.

**Left:** Brother Bill Carrothers, CFC, presents cheque to Ms. Sarah Lukaszczyk.

On Easter Sunday, the Christian Brothers from Ontario, along with our recent visitor, Brother John Holden (from Sierra Leone), joined with the Presentation Brothers and Sr. Jacquie Keefe, a Felician Sister, in welcoming a Capuchin Friar, an Atonement Friar and a Presentation Brothers' candidate to Jericho House and Easter Sunday dinner. It was a wonderful occasion in which five expressions of religious life joined to celebrate the Risen Christ and the Year of Consecrated Life.

(1 to r) Br. George, ofm Cap, Br. Francis Schafer, fpm, and Br. Ivan Villegas, fpm
Recently, the ACND Drama troupe presented an exciting adaptation of the popular musical, *Little Shop of Horrors*. The students operated and shared the stage with many sizes of the Audrey II plant puppets, making their version look just like a Broadway performance.

In the story, the meek floral assistant, Seymour Krelborn, stumbles across a new breed of plant he names "Audrey II" - after his coworker crush. This foul-mouthed, R&B-singing carnivore promises unending fame and fortune to the down and out Krelborn as long as he keeps feeding it blood. Over time, though, Seymour discovers Audrey II's out-of-this world origins and intent towards global domination.

"The hard work of our student actors, singers and musicians is a tribute to Catholic education and the importance of the arts in our society," commented Douglas Romanik, ACND Principal. "Archbishop Curley Notre Dame has always taught and will continue to educate the whole person, spiritually, intellectually, and creatively. The cultivation of the arts is and will always be a priority here at ACND. During this Lenten season, let us take a cue from this story.... Let us push away feelings of greed, lust and envy, the 'plant' inside each and every one of us that pushes us away from God."

The ACND Prep student performance of *Little Shop of Horrors* includes professional stage production versions of the Audrey II puppets used on Broadway.

(I to r): Back row:  Sean Smith (12), Iran Perez (10), Staika Chenet (10), Tracey Dominique (11), Edner Derival (11), Kevin Valladares (10), Kingin Boileau (11), Daniel Briz (12), Tajmara Antoine (9), Breanna Corsair (12)  Front row:   Samantha Jean (12), Clermondo Erisme (11), Maniola Mompremier (12), Hedwyn Lamy (11), Keyanna Francois (12), Cindy Blanc (10), Chelsey Pierre (11), Alexandra Laroche (11), Esperanza Cadena (11), Serge Andre (10)
Record Breaking Year for ACND Prep’s 19th Annual HungerFest

Students from Archbishop Curley Notre Dame Prep broke a new record raising funds to help feed Miami’s homeless while raising awareness of world poverty at the 19th Annual HungerFest. Each year, students abstain from food and drink (other than water) for 27 hours while bagging and delivering lunches to homeless shelters.

This year’s HungerFest raised $4,076.56 through sponsorship and car wash contributions, and a new record of 3,943 complete, plus 652 partial, lunches were distributed to: Better Way, Camillus House, Chapman Partnership and Assistance Center, Miami Rescue Mission, the Missionaries of Charity Mission, Pass It On, Safe Space and St. Vincent de Paul Food Bank at St. Patrick Church.

At the end of the fast, there was a presentation for the HungerFest group by Monica Lauzurique of Amor en Accion (a Catholic lay missionary community of the Archdiocese of Miami, involved in short term missions and long term projects that respond to urgent needs, currently in the Dominican Republic and Haiti); an Agape Mass was followed by a dinner sponsored by KC Healthy Cooking located in North Miami.

A video is also available at: http://www.acnd.us/HighSchool.asp?op=PR20150217#.VO6BhPnF-zo

Blessed Edmund Rice Prayer Cards

Pray for us

Edmond Rice was born in 1790 in Galway, County Galway, Ireland. After completing his education, he entered St. Vincent’s and was appointed as a minister to the poor in Galway. In 1837, he established Mary House, a mission for the education of the poor, to which he dedicated his life. In 1840, he received his Doctor of Divinity degree from St. Vincent’s. In 1840, he founded the Christian Brothers. In 1850, he founded the Presentation Brothers.

Edmund Rice was made a canon and was canonized as a saint in 1862. He is the patron saint of educators, schools, and students.

Founder of the Christian Brothers and the Presentation Brothers

To order email: dsa@cbfoundation.org

Edmund Rice Christian Brothers Foundation
260 Wilmot Road, New Rochelle, New York 10804
37 Bergen Catholic Student-Athletes Part of Commitment Day

Bergen Catholic High School had a record number of senior student-athletes participate in the school's annual Commitment Day event on Wednesday morning in Hoehl Gymnasium, as 37 Crusaders represented eight different BC sports. All of these seniors are committed to continue their careers as student-athletes at the college level next fall.

Baseball:
DeAngelo Descorbeth ... St. Thomas Aquinas College
Donny Gherardi-Stevens .... Institute of Technology
Michael Martinez .................. Rutgers University

Michael Pizzuto .................. Bard College
Justin Salem .................. Hofstra University
Kyle Weiner ........ Misericordia University

Basketball:
Ryan Matthews .......... University of New England
Pierfrancesco Oliva .......... St. Joseph’s University

Football:
Mike Adzima ........ US Naval Academy
Mike Aniello ........ Johns Hopkins University
Kyle Cook ........ Bryant University
Corey Gaarn ........ Temple University
Jonathan Koch .... Hobart & William Smith College
Corey Russo .......... University of San Diego
Matt Sherlock .......... University of New Hampshire
Tim Andrelczyk .... American International College

John Bowers .......... Rutgers University
Kyle Ellerson ........ Yale University
Dan Halligan .......... Fordham University
Jack Reilly .......... Union College
Joe Woerner .......... Temple University
Golf:
Tyler Balkema .......... Stevens Institute of Technology
Brendon Kim............... Iona College

Lacrosse:
Harry Caufield ..................... McDaniel College
Brendan Hamm ..................... Drew University
Brendan Mackie ..................... Yale University
Matt Haemmerle ... University of Scranton
Zach Larsen ............. St. John’s University
Brendon Kim ..................... Iona College
Doug Pula ..................... Yale University
Zach Rich ..................... University of Scranton
Alec Talarico ........... Bucknell University

Swimming:
Anthony Bradshaw ... Stevens Institute of Technology
John Om .................... Pennsylvania State University

Track & Field:
Matt Morano .......................... Boston College

Wrestling:
David Brennan .............. Franklin & Marshall College

ASSOCIATES OF BLESSED EDMUND RICE
Bonita Springs, FL

In February the Brothers and Associates met at the Brothers’ house on Noble Lane to share a meal and celebrate. This annual gathering is an opportunity to thank the Associates for their ministry to the poor of the area. The Associates teach at the Juan Diego School, located on the parish grounds of St. Leo’s. They also distribute food at the church food pantry and distribute clothes to the migrants at the Brothers’ house.

In appreciation for their work, the Brothers and Associates gather to thank God for the privilege to serve the poor of the area and to recommit themselves to another year of Christian ministry as Associates of Edmund Rice.

First row (l to r): Juan Rivera, Lucia Morton, Evelyn Fedor, Leticia Rubio, Patty Kieran, Mary Ann Clukey, Michael Clukey
Absent: Br. B. McDonough, Lois Boomgaard, Charles Kuluza, Jim and Mary Loughran, Rigo Rodriguez
Note: This event has already taken place, but you might be interested in publications listed.

2015 Scholarship Award Gala Diamond Jubilee Celebration
Celebrating 75 Years of Iona College

On Friday, April 10, 2015, Iona College and the Board of Trustees will host the 2015 Scholarship Award Gala and Diamond Jubilee Celebration at the Waldorf Astoria New York. This upcoming gala is unique as we are honoring two deserving individuals while also recognizing the institution’s 75th anniversary. The 2015 Legacy Award will be presented to Mr. James P. Hynes ’69, ’01H and the 2015 Blessed Edmund Rice Humanitarian Award will be presented to His Eminence, Timothy Cardinal Dolan ’14H.

Plans are being made for more than a year’s worth of celebration of Iona’s 75th birthday, starting in spring 2015. The commemoration officially kicks off with Heritage Week in mid-April and will extend into spring 2016, in honor of Iona’s first year, 1940-1941.

Other events and projects being planned to celebrate this important milestone include the Loftus Dinner, service and service-learning efforts, a music festival and a special Mass. Additionally, video and timeline projects along with other exhibitions on Iona history will be featured in the celebration year.

In honor of this important milestone, we hope you will consider purchasing a commemorative 75th anniversary alumni e-journal ad. Your ad will be displayed upon receipt and throughout 2015 on our gala website, http://www.ionascholarshipgala.org.

We are asking for your consideration in purchasing one of the following:

**Alumni E-Journal Listing - $75**
Alumnus name and class year as a text listing on a group page

**Alumni Brick E-Journal Advertisement - $275**
Advertisement includes alumnus name, class year, city and state

We greatly appreciate your consideration of supporting Iona’s 75th anniversary. You may finalize your participation level by visiting http://www.ionascholarshipgala.org/, completing the a registration form found here, or contacting Christina Nassayan, assistant director of advancement & presidential
events, at (914) 633-2003 or events@iona.edu. Thank you in advance for your consideration in supporting Iona College and the students we so proudly serve.

Vancouver College
Vancouver, BC

Congratulations to the Junior Lacrosse Team for winning the Tier 2 Provincial Championships!

![Junior Lacrosse Team](image)

After a slow start and being down in the first quarter, the Juniors were neck and neck with rivals South Delta going into the fourth. The team demonstrated their composure and disciplined play by capitalizing on a number of penalties, scoring early in the final quarter and eventually pulling away to shut out their opponent to end the game. The victory gave VC Lacrosse its first Provincial Title in its 11-year history!

Also, congratulations to Senior School Students Antonio Balogh, Adam Cicek, Matthew McFarlane, and Ciaran Molloy who represented VC well at the recent Debate Provincials. The team of Antonio Balogh and Adam Cicek made the Finals and finished 2nd out of 40 teams, and advanced to Nationals in Toronto.

Edmund Rice Christian Brothers North America
Vocations - Please direct inquiries to:
Br. James McDonald, CFC
815.272.7742
The following appeared in the New York Post on March 14, 2015.  
It was written by Zach Braziller

The third Sunday of March often was a special day for Rice High School alumni, fans and supporters.

It was the day of the Catholic League city championships, and the powerhouse Raiders had a habit of getting there, dotting Fordham’s gym with its patented green and gold.

It will be special this year, too, but for a different reason. There is no Rice anymore — hasn’t been since the Harlem school closed its doors in 2011 because of financial woes and plummeting enrollment — but the famed boys’ basketball program remains relevant this time of year.

On Selection Sunday, five players from Rice will carry on its legacy, and will find out where their respective teams will be going for the NCAA Tournament.

“It speaks to what we had going on at a little school in Harlem,” said Dayton sophomore point guard Scoochie Smith, who had to finish high school elsewhere when Rice closed. “It was a great tradition. There are schools that don’t have even close [to that number], even the best schools in the country.”

Two proud alums — forwards Emmy Andujar of Manhattan and Jermaine Sanders of Cincinnati — will be part of college basketball’s biggest party, and three other former Rice players — Andujar's teammate Tyler Wilson, VCU sharpshooter Melvin Johnson and Smith — will join them.

Success is nothing new for the troika. They all have played in the NCAA Tournament before. Smith has gone the furthest, reaching the Elite Eight as a freshman last year.

Andujar emerged this year as Manhattan’s best player — the team leader in points, rebounds and assists — and ignited the Jaspers to a surprising upset of Iona in the MAAC final.

“They’re still keeping the name alive,” said Dwayne Mitchell, the last head coach at Rice who has moved over to Scanlan High School in The Bronx. “Rice pride is still there.”

Johnson said, “I take a lot of pride in knowing when I play, that’s where I came from.”

Smith, Wilson and Johnson were forced to find new schools when Rice closed, all going their separate ways — Smith to Putnam Science Academy in Connecticut, Johnson to St. Benedict’s Academy in Newark, and Wilson to Cardinal Hayes in The Bronx — and Andujar was a senior on the final team, which lost in the city championship game. Sanders graduated a year earlier.

They remain close, as most Rice players do, connected through social media and working out together in the summer.

There is a brotherhood among them — a phrase often repeated if you ask anyone with ties to Rice what made their time there so special — a lasting bond although the school no longer exists.

Odds are long any of the Rice teammates will face each other in the tournament, though it isn’t impossible.

“That would be amazing, playing on a big stage against each other,” Andujar said. “It’s a little more than basketball. We’re brothers.”
Rice was a national powerhouse, a team many identified as a typical New York City team: tough, hard-nosed and guard-oriented. The Raiders pressured the ball like few teams would, and never let up.

Coaching was its bedrock. Moe Hicks won six city championship in just 16 years — still the most of any Catholic coach in the city — after taking over for another expert tactician, Lou DeMello.

The Harlem school churned out one Division I prospect after another — players like Felipe Lopez, Andre Barrett, Kemba Walker and Dean Meminger.

Then there were the guys who couldn’t hack it there and became scholarship players elsewhere. The two best players from the 1994 PSAL championship team, Martin Luther King Jr., were former Rice kids.

“There are some great coaches and great talent in New York City right now, but the Rice brand is definitely missed,” said Rasheen Davis, a Manhattan assistant coach who spent two years on Hicks’ staff and attended Rice.

There were strict rules at the all-boys school — no cursing, a dress code that demanded a shirt, tie and slacks. Discipline was of the utmost importance.

“For me personally, I really learned how to be a man,” Davis said. “Things to this day I still value.”

There was talk in recent years about raising enough money to bring the school back, talk that has since faded. If there is hope of Rice ever re-opening, it’s faint. Andujar has driven past his old stomping grounds a few times.

“It’s sad,” he said. “That school really helped a lot of people, saved a lot of kids.”

It isn’t forgotten, and for those with ties to Rice, memories will be rekindled with the return of March Madness. The Harlem powerhouse doors remain closed, but the connections haven’t been extinguished.

“It’s a good tradition to carry on, and I’m proud to be a part of it,” Smith said.

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

CAST YOUR NET WIDER
www.edmundrice.net
your global net for your global network
A hive mounted inside glass panels in their science lab affords the girls and boys of St. John Catholic School, North Charleston, South Carolina, a vibrant perspective on the life and work of their busy guests. Teachers are delighting in the dynamic visual aide. The whole school community is coming to appreciate the valuable by-product of their study. The sale of honey from the hives has in the course of a couple of months produced four hundred dollars that will be contributed to buying a hive as a gift to another school.

The initial hive came from an organization known as Bee Cause with a mission to “stimulate curiosity in young people about the importance of honey bees in our lives and the need to understand and embrace them and to care about their well-being through the installation of bee hive.”

http://www.thebeecause.org/

St. John teacher, Courtney Leonard, reports:

Saint John Catholic School applied and was chosen to be one of the 1,000 schools to receive a bee hive the 2014/2015 school year. The school can use the hive to stress the importance of honey bee awareness through ecology and natural science. The bees and equipment came free of charge, but the school has been selling honey from the Savannah Bee Company, with 100% of the profit going towards the installation of another bee hive to a different school. Our school community has been selling honey since October 2014 and raised $400.00 so far.
The students made a banner to welcome the bees’ delivery. To progress with the project, Saint John, with a donation from the Edmund Rice Christian Brothers, has begun to plant flowers to help the bees assimilate to the area. A wide variety of flowers and plants have been growing through Earth Boxes. The school has also continued with a “Bee Club” open to anyone in the school who is interested in helping learning and helping the environment.

Brother Ed Bergeron, CFC, Administrator of St. John Catholic Parish and School, has acknowledged a contribution of $800 from the Edmund Rice Christian Brothers North America Province Leadership Team. The monies are a carbon offset contribution, calculated on the basis of their air plane travel for annual visitation of the communities and ministry sites of the Province.

The funds are being used to plant and develop a garden on the side of the school with the entry-exit portal of the bee hive. The garden will nourish the bee colony and constitute the outdoor station for the students’ observations of the bees and their role in pollination.

St. John Catholic School serves the Diocese of Charleston by affording individualized and small group Catholic education for special needs as well as gifted children. The Brothers came to North Charleston in the mid-1990’s, drawn by the challenges of poverty afflicting the area. They have contributed significantly to reviving the parish, developing the school and promoting community engagement in the justice issues.

---

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
Dear Brothers and Edmundians:

We would like to invite you to a celebration of the men in the Group of 1955 who are celebrating their Diamond Jubilee and the men in the Juniorate in 1955 who resided at St. Joseph’s Juniorate. All Brothers and Edmundians are invited to join in the festivities.

The date is:
Saturday, July 11, at 21 Pryer Terrace, New Rochelle, NY 10804
Starting at 12:00 noon and the cost is $40 per person; $20 for spouses and friends.
Check payable to:
Edmundian Society, 21 Pryer Terrace, New Rochelle, NY 10804.
Mail check and registration form NO LATER THAN JULY 3RD.

Looking forward to hearing from you,

Sincerely,
Reunion Committee
Al Rottino, Tony Naclerio, Denis Shea, Jerry McCarthy

ALL INCLUSIVE REUNION CELEBRATION AND
THE DIAMOND JUBILARIAN GROUP OF 1955
REGISTRATION FORM

Please mail this form with your check, payable to the EDMUNDIAN SOCIETY.
Canadians are to use an international money order.

NAME ________________________________
Please print

GUEST’S NAME (IF APPLICABLE) ________________________________

If you are interested in staying over please check one of the following. Information will be sent to you in May.

___ I will need accommodations for _____ people at the Iona College Dorm at $50.00 per night per person.

___ I would like information on the special hotel rates at the Radisson or Marriott Residence Hotels in New Rochelle. You can also check the rates online.

___ I am unable to attend the celebrations.

___ Enclosed is donation to the Edmundian Society to cover reunion expenses.
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
  - [www.edmundrice.net](http://www.edmundrice.net)
- Edmund Rice Christian Brothers NA
  - [www.ercbna.org](http://www.ercbna.org)
- Edmund Rice International
  - [www.edmundriceinternational.org](http://www.edmundriceinternational.org)
- Christian Brothers Vocations
  - [www.cfcvocations.org](http://www.cfcvocations.org)
- Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation
  - [www.edmundriceinternational.org/jpic](http://www.edmundriceinternational.org/jpic)