

PROVINCE NEWSLETTER

Edmund Rice Christian Brothers North America

A PROVINCE OF THE CONGREGATION OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS

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EDMUND RICE SCHOOL LEADERS MOVE “FROM COMPASSION TO LIBERATION” AT RETREAT OCTOBER 12 - 15, 2015

Representatives from 15 of our Edmund Rice schools in Canada and the U.S. gathered at our annual School Leaders Retreat in Peachtree City, Georgia, Oct. 12-15, 2015. Br. Brian Bond, CFC, Executive Director of Edmund Rice International in Geneva, presented "From Compassion to Liberation: Advocacy in Edmund Rice Schools."

After the opening prayer, Br. Bond presented "The Universal Declaration of Human Rights" and invited the participants to take the "Human Rights Temperature" of their schools and discuss where they needed to focus future efforts. After speaking about various kinds of responses to injustice, including alleviating suffering and advocating for change, he proposed an unusual interpretation of the "Parable of the Talents" to suggest that Jesus was a Human Rights advocate. Participants reflected on the input, read additional materials, including excerpts from Pope Francis' *Laudato Si*, and then shared their ideas with their colleagues.

On the second day, Br. Brian invited the school leaders to consider two of the "Calls" from the General Chapter of the Congregation of Christian Brothers, viz. "to be in right relationships ... with people made poor and the whole Earth community" and "to engage in advocacy with the voiceless, the marginalized, and that are oppressed." He asked them to think about how these calls might relate to their schools.

Br. Kevin Griffith, CFC, Province Leader, introduced "Mission Frère Advocacy," one of the Province's responses to the Chapter Calls and encouraged the group to participate in the initiative that will be headed by Mr.



**Br. Bond presents on
Advocacy...**



**...Br. Peter Zawot reflects
on human rights**

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Let us open the doors of our hearts to Jesus, so that he will accompany us now and throughout the year that is about to begin.

Saint John Paul II

Sean D'Alfonso.

Br. Bond then introduced the group to advocacy in schools and how to engage students in advocacy. He described United Nations structures and mechanisms and the role of Edmund Rice International as a Non-governmental Organization (NGO) with consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) at the U.N. The facilitator, Sister Grace D'Amico, SSND, then invited the participants to jot down and share their personal and school experiences of advocacy. Lastly, she asked them to work in school teams to formulate three action steps to implement when they returned to their schools. At the closing prayer, a representative from each school proclaimed their action steps, and the result was an impressive indication that the schools were ready to move forward.



Tom Gambardella shares experiences of student advocacy...



Jim Muting and Ron Schutté plan future action steps for their schools...

Evaluating the retreat, participants said that they found the presentations very helpful and appreciated the time to reflect. One person said, "All the information was very useful and has sparked an excitement to create an advocacy group with students." It was also evident that once again, the school leaders found networking and relaxing together very enjoyable and helpful.

Director of Governance, Br. Anthony Murphy, and member / trustees, Br. Ray Vercruysse and Peter Zawot, also attended. The retreat was sponsored by the Office of Educational Services and facilitated by Sister Grace, Associate Director.



Edmund Rice educators relax after dinner.

OFFICE OF EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

New Rochelle, NY

Edmund Rice Educators Attend Called and Gifted Retreat in California



Sr. Grace
D'Amico,
SSND

Fourteen teachers and staff members from seven Edmund Rice Schools in the U.S. and Canada participated in a **Called and Gifted Retreat** in Los Gatos, California, October 27-30, 2015.

Through presentations by Brother Chris Burns, CFC, from Tampa Catholic, they learned more about Blessed Edmund Rice's life and then reflected on how his spirit is alive in their schools. Later, following a presentation Sister Grace D'Amico, SSND, Associate Director of the Office of Educational Services, they surfed the web to learn about

schools and ministries that embody Edmund Rice's charism and spirit all over the world and shared their new learnings with the group. The participants reflected on their spiritual journeys with a companion on an Emmaus Walk, and also came in touch with their own giftedness and how they use their gifts.



Br. Chris Burns, CFC,
conducted the retreat.



A time for praying (the Prayer
of the Four Directions)...

California this year to make it easier for folks in the western schools to attend. It was held at the Presentation Center nestled in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Participants came from St. Thomas

The group quickly became a community as they prayed, discussed, and enjoyed each other's company both at the retreat center and exploring Los Gatos, churches in San Jose, and attractions in the Santa Cruz area. As one participant later wrote, "This retreat gave me a much better understanding of Edmund Rice's call and vision. I enjoyed the activities but more the connections that we were able to make." Another wrote, "Great experience. Fantastic to get to meet and know teachers from other schools."

Usually held in Rhinebeck, New York, the Called and Gifted Retreat moved to

More Collegiate, Burnaby, BC; Vancouver College, Vancouver, BC; O'Dea High School, Seattle, WA; Palma School, Salinas, CA; Damien Memorial, Honolulu, HI; Br. Rice H.S., Chicago, IL; and Br. Rice H.S., Bloomfield Hills, MI. Brother Chris led the retreat (his 31st!), which was sponsored by the Edmund Rice Christian Brothers Office of Educational Services.



...a time for creating...



...a time for listening...



.... a time for sharing...



...a time for relaxing...



Called and Gifted Retreat 2015 Participants “on the mountaintop” at Presentation Center, Los Gatos, California, with Br. Chris Burns, (back row, left) after the Prayer of the Four Directions.

EDMUND RICE CHRISTIAN BROTHERS FOUNDATION

New Rochelle, NY

The Edmund Rice Christian Brothers Foundation was the recipient of a \$17,000 grant from SOAR! (Support Our Aging Religious) for the purchase and installation of a stair lift at the Iona Preparatory School Brothers' Residence in New Rochelle, NY. The two-story residence was built in the late 60's without an elevator. Today the residence is home to 12 Brothers. Some minister in the school, but about half of the community is made up of retired Brothers who can care for themselves, but may have difficulty accessing the second floor community room and other second floor areas. The community also assists Brothers rehabilitating after medical procedures.

The stair lift was "officially" dedicated on November 17th, 2015, with a ribbon cutting attended by Mr. Bill Smith, Board Member of SOAR!, Brother Kevin Griffith, C.F.C., Edmund Rice Christian Brothers North America Province Leader, and members of the Province Leadership Team. Also attending were members of local Brothers' Communities, members of the Province Business Office and members of the Foundation Office, including Colleen Noonan, Director.

The Brothers in the Iona Prep Community are very grateful to SOAR! for this grant, the second received from SOAR! The Foundation received a grant last year for the purchase and installation of medical software and computer hardware for St. Joseph's Care Residence.



(l to r) Dr. William (Bill) Smith, SOAR!, Board Member; Br. Kevin Griffith, Province Leader; Colleen Noonan, Director ERCBNA Foundation, with the donation from SOAR!



(l to r) Br. Kevin Griffith, Province Leader; Br. Stephen Hale, Community Leader Iona Prep; Dr. William (Bill) Smith, SOAR!, Board Member; cutting the ribbon on the newly installed stair lift.



BROWNSVILLE IMMERSION EXPERIENCE

Brownsville, TX



**Mr. Benny
Rivera**

During the week of November 7th to the 15th, 2015, Bishop Hendricken (Warwick, RI), Brother Rice HS (Bloomfield Hills, MI), Catholic Memorial (West Roxbury, MA) and Iona Prep (New Rochelle, NY) came together for the first ever Brownsville, Texas Immigration Immersion in the Rio Grande Valley. Put together by Brother Tom LeJeune (Comunidad Juan Diego) and Brother Stephen Casey (Office of Educational Service), with the help of Mr. Benny Rivera and Mr. Sean D'Alfonso, (Mission Frère Advocacy), Tom Gambardella and Vin Mancuso (Bishop Hendricken), Clarie Kreeft (Catholic Memorial) and Jay Louis-Prescott (Br. Rice HS).

The students discussed the issue of immigration through the lens of doing service with several local organizations like Catholic Charities. They interacted with people recently released from ICE, but who haven't been officially "welcomed" into the United States. They helped them feel human again after their long journey by providing food and fresh clothes.

With the Brownsville Wellness Coalition, the students helped take care of local gardens and farms that offer cheaper and fresh food for the local families. The students were also part of a special immigration class (led by Brother Stephen Casey) to further enrich them on the issues of immigration. As well, they took part in an advocacy project led by Mr. Sean D'Alfonso, the Advocacy Coordinator for Mission Frère, to help them better understand the issues of immigration that the media doesn't always show.

The students also spent a day at Guadalupe Regional Middle School where they helped with various "little" projects to brighten the school community, and met students from another school in the Edmund Rice Network.

Overall, this immersion has truly been an educational experience of the real social issue that needs to be addressed. And as a result of this immersion, the world has a few more advocates for the immigrant population.



Mission Frère

Edmund Rice Network Services



Campus Affiliates
Prayer experiences, service opportunities and social gatherings for college and university students from Edmund Rice Christian Brothers Schools.

Mission and Immersion Experiences
Short term service projects in poor and marginalized areas in the United States, Canada and abroad.

Christian Brothers Lay Volunteer Program
Year-long service in a context of Community, Prayer and Reflection with the Edmund Rice Christian Brothers in North America.

Associate and Vowed Membership
with the Edmund Rice Christian Brothers.

Presence Compassion Liberation
www.ercbna.org

ASSOCIATES

Bonita Springs, FL

The Associates were invited to dinner, December 4th, 2015, at the Brothers' house in Bonita Springs. This is the first meeting with the Brothers this winter. It gave the Associates an opportunity to share their stories that they ministered with the Brothers for many years.



First row ()
Second row (l to r) C. Kaluza, L. Rubio-Vaughn, M. Clukey, Br. J. Payne, M. Clukey, Br. R. Koppes, L. Morton, J. Rivera.

VANCOUVER COLLEGE AND ST. THOMAS MORE COLLEGIATE

British Columbia

Celebrating the Consecrated Life of the Christian Brothers Vancouver College and St. Thomas More Collegiate

On November 7, 2015, the faculty, staff, alumni, students, parents and friends of the Brothers' schools in the Vancouver area gathered to honor the Christian Brothers in the Year of Consecrated Life. The event, held at Vancouver College, was organized under the leadership of Neysa Finnie, President of St. Thomas More Collegiate; and John Nixon, President of Vancouver College.

Fittingly, the occasion began with the celebration of the Eucharist. Archbishop Michael Miller of the Vancouver Archdiocese and Bishop John Corriveau of the Nelson Diocese were the principal celebrants. Concelebrants were Father Mark, OSB (graduate of VC), Father Gary Franken (graduate of STMC) and Father Chris, OMI (VC Chaplain). The Archbishop began his homily by saying,



(L to R) Br. John Gale, STMC Past President; Mrs. Neysa Finnie, STMC President; Vancouver Archbishop Miller; Br. Anthony Murphy, VC Trustee and VC President Emeritus; Mr. John Nixon, VC President



**Vancouver Archbishop Miller and
Bishop John Corriveau Concelebrate**

deserved tribute to them. I myself am moved by this concrete sign of your affection and your indebtedness to the Brothers for the innumerable ways in which they have enriched you personally and your families by fostering their Religious charism expressed through the Essential Elements of a Blessed Edmund Rice education."

"The tone of today's celebration of the Eucharist is marked by joy and thanksgiving. Above all, thanksgiving for the gift of the Christian Brothers to the life of the Archdiocese of Vancouver at Vancouver College and St. Thomas More Collegiate for a combined total of 148 years. Together these secondary schools have graduated thousands of young men and women who, now for generations, have served the community and the Church inspired by the Brothers."

The Archbishop continued,

"Your gesture of expressing gratitude to them during this Year of the Consecrated Life proclaimed by Pope Francis is a touching and well

Following the celebration of the Eucharist, both school Presidents along with representatives from alumni, parents and faculty paid tribute to the Brothers. Speakers noted that sacrifices made by Brothers in the early years laid a foundation that has endured and has permitted both schools to flourish. They also spoke with affection of the impact that individual brothers had in shaping their lives. All speakers expressed gratitude for the generous service that the Brothers had provided in both school communities over the decades.

The morning concluded with the rededication of the Dave Hardy Gymnasium. Dave Hardy was the first non-brother principal of Vancouver College and was subsequently president of the College. A new gymnasium built during his time as president had been named in his honor and it was his wish that the gym be rededicated as The Christian Brothers Gymnasium.

Perhaps the concluding words of Archbishop Miller's homily captured the spirit and sentiment of the occasion. He said,

"At this Eucharist of Thanksgiving for the Christian Brothers during the Year of Consecrated Life, let us thank the good Lord for their presence here in the Archdiocese of Vancouver and fervently ask that he will continue to bless them and enable them to flourish in the years to come."



Br. John Gale
responding on behalf of
the Brothers

**VC Past President,
Mr. David Hardy and Ms. Linda Hardy**



Visit Vancouver College
Vancouver, BC Canada

www.vc.bc.ca

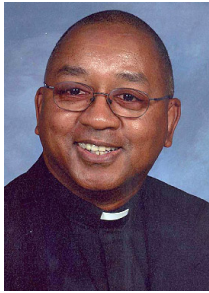


Visit St. Thomas More Collegiate
Burnaby, BC Canada

www.stthomasmorecollegiate.ca

OFFICE OF BLACK MINISTRY, ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK

New York, NY



Congratulations to Brother Tyrone Davis, the Director of the Office of Black Ministry for the Archdiocese of New York. Brother Davis and he Office of Black Ministry recently received this award.



**CATHOLIC NEGRO
AMERICAN**
MISSION BOARD

EST. 1907

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2021 H Street, NW
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Reverend Maurice Henry Sands, Executive Director

October 26, 2015

Office of Black Ministry
Brother Tyrone Davis
Archdiocese of New York
1011 First Ave, 7th Floor
New York, NY 10022-4134

Dear Brother Davis,

"How beautiful are the footsteps of those who bring good news" (Rom.10:15-17).

It is my sincere pleasure, on behalf of the Catholic Negro American Mission Board, to recognize your outstanding efforts as the Director of the Office of Black Ministry, Archdiocese of New York.

Enclosed is the 2015 St. Katharine Drexel Evangelization Award given to an organization that demonstrates:

... strong effective leadership with outstanding and on-going evangelization effort within the Black Catholic community

... faith formation opportunities, sponsors lay leadership training and develop witnesses and disciples in the faith

... a healthy Black Catholic identity and has been an extraordinary example of outreach to the Church Universal

... advocacy on behalf of the social teachings of the Church

... collaboration with the Catholic Negro-American Mission Board

"We have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us..." (Heb. 12:1)

Congratulations, Brother Tyrone!

In the spirit of St. Katharine Drexel,

Reverend Henry Sands
Executive Director

CC: Cardinal Timothy Dolan
Reverend W. Carroll Paysse

Iona Receives Its Largest Gift



Recently Iona President Joseph E. Nyre, Ph.D., announced a gift of \$15 million from Robert V. LaPenta to the Iona Forever Campaign. It is the largest gift in the College's 75-year history, and will support the redesign and transformation of Iona's School of Business.

"We are enormously grateful for this transformative gift," said President Nyre. "It will enable us to construct a facility that advances our vision, sharpens our distinctiveness, increases affordability and strengthens infrastructure."

The LaPenta gift will transform Hagan Hall, the home of Iona's business school, with a new structure connecting to the existing building -- nearly tripling the space available for students and faculty. It will house state-of-the-art classrooms, case study and meeting spaces, faculty offices, a lecture hall, a business career center and an expanded trading floor classroom. School officials point out that this construction and renovation project will create a facility that fosters the interactive learning environment critical to training 21st-century leaders.

"I am proud to support Iona's mission of creating graduates who are smart, ethical, creative problem solvers," said Mr. LaPenta. "My time at Iona prepared me well to be successful in business, and positively impact businesses and the livelihoods of others. I believe this gift will enhance Iona's strong business school performance and reputation well into the 21st century."

Iona College's business school is accredited by AACSB International, a distinction awarded to just 30 percent of business schools worldwide. In late 2014, PayScale ranked Iona's MBA program as a top-50 program nationally for return on investment.

Mr. LaPenta, an Iona alumnus ('67, '00'H) and Board of Trustee member, is one of the College's most generous benefactors, previously investing in the construction of the LaPenta Student Union Building, the Ryan library, and the trading floor for the School of Business.

"As a student it's incredible to see an Iona graduate making this sort of investment," said Tommy Severin, a senior and member of the honors program, who is also president of the Student Government Association. "It really shows how much a very successfully individual got from his education and believes in Iona College. On behalf of students today and in the future, thank you, Mr. LaPenta."

Mr. LaPenta is chairman, CEO and founding partner of Aston Capital, a private investment company specializing in secure military communication companies and companies with green technology. He also serves as chairman and CEO of Revolution Lighting Technologies and The Radiant Group. Prior to these endeavors, Mr. LaPenta founded L-1 Identity Solutions and co-founded L-3 Communications.

The Iona Forever Campaign, with a goal of \$150 million, serves as a key component to the College's comprehensive five-year strategic plan. The transformational campaign will enhance learning and living environments, advance world-class faculty and dynamic academic programs, and support a record level of student scholarships.





IONA FOREVER

True to Our Past, Committed to Our Future

To date, Iona's Board of Trustees, Campaign Cabinet, alumni and friends have raised more than \$63.7 million in philanthropic support. This extraordinary commitment underscores the belief in the critical importance of the campaign to the future of Iona College.

Learn more about the Iona Forever campaign at iona.edu/IonaForever -- and see a story about Mr. LaPenta's gift in The Wall Street

Journal and other news coverage of Iona Forever.

Catch up on Iona Alumni news at

http://www.ionaconnection.com/controls/email_marketing/admin/email_marketing_email_viewer.aspx?sid=1551&eiid=367&seiid=335&usearchive=1&puid=5a2b9ea1-7045-4cdf-9a8a-e582c8c705a1



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



ERCBNA

Justice Peace Integrity of Creation

Promoting social justice and eco-justice



BROTHER RICE HIGH SCHOOL

Bloomfield Hills, MI

BROTHER RICE AND LAWRENCE TECH PARTNERSHIP WILL BOOST STUDENTS READINESS FOR STEM COLLEGE AND PROFESSIONAL CAREERS



Brother Rice High School and Lawrence Technological University have formed an academic partnership that will significantly enhance the curriculum of Brother Rice's newly formed S²TEM Academy and give Lawrence Tech the opportunity to develop relationships with motivated college prep students that are well prepared to succeed in bachelor's and advanced degree programs.

As part of the program, Brother Rice S²TEM Academy students will have the opportunity to take courses taught by LTU instructors and receive Dual Enrollment Credits for select college-level courses. LTU students will provide mentoring support to Brother Rice students enrolled in the program, thus fulfilling their Educational Service requirements. Brother Rice students will also be able to participate in Lawrence Tech's internationally acclaimed Engineering Competition teams as well as have access to LTU campus facilities for robotics, architecture and other related STEM disciplines.

The memorandum of understanding was signed Nov. 9, 2015, by Brother Rice High School President John Birney and Lawrence Technological University President Virinder Moudgil.

"This partnership with Lawrence Technological University will greatly enhance the new Brother Rice Science, Spirituality, Technology, Engineering and Math (S²TEM) Academy which will open officially in the fall of 2016. Similar to a college within a university, our S²TEM Academy will offer students the opportunity to prepare for college and professional careers requiring STEM skills within a curriculum and culture enhanced by the Brother Rice mission to develop more complete men of spiritual faith, character and integrity. We believe the ability to take college level courses taught by Lawrence Technological University instructors will not only enhance our students' learning experience but also provide a more seamless transition to the rigors of higher education," said John Birney, Brother Rice President.



LTU President, Virinder Moudgil, said LTU welcomed the opportunity to develop relationships with motivated college prep students who will be well prepared to succeed in bachelors' and advanced degree programs.

"It is vitally important to the economic growth of our nation to increase the number of college graduates with degrees in the STEM areas. These will be the leaders and innovators of the future who will create jobs and strengthen our competitiveness," Moudgil said. "We have found that a

strong preparation in high school enables students to excel in college and then pursue advanced degrees.”

Brother Rice High School is a Catholic college preparatory school for young men. Inspired by the Essential Elements of a Christian Brother Education, the school’s mission is to develop the soul, mind and body of its students in order to produce more complete men. Brother Rice is committed to offering its students a rigorous college prep curriculum that effectively prepares them for collegiate and professional success. For more information or to donate in support of this effort please visit www.brrice.edu

Lawrence Technological University, www.ltu.edu, is a private university, founded in 1932, that offers more than 100 programs through the doctoral level in Colleges of Architecture and Design, Arts and Sciences, Engineering, and Management. The Brookings Institution ranks Lawrence Tech fifth nationwide for boosting graduates’ earning power; PayScale lists it in the nation’s top 10 percent of universities for graduates’ salaries and *U.S. News and World Report* places it in the top tier of best Midwestern universities. Students benefit from small class sizes and a real-world, hands-on, “theory and practice” education with an emphasis on leadership. Activities on Lawrence Tech’s 102-acre campus in Southfield, Michigan, include over 60 student organizations and NAIA varsity sports.

ST. LAURENCE HIGH SCHOOL

Burbank, IL

Football Season Recap



We are extremely proud of the football coaches and players for winning conference and advancing to the semifinals, but they could not have done it without your support. We thank all of you that were a part of this historic season.

Thank you to our **student section**, which was packed and loud every week. The pride and support you exhibited in your classmates' success was outstanding. Thank you to the **faculty and staff** who were supportive of the team during their magical run. Thank you to all of the **game-day workers** who made hosting an astonishing nine home games possible. Thank you to our **STL parents and families** who did so much for the program - from team meals to decorating the

stadium, to just being at every game.

Thank you to the **Fathers' Club** for working concessions and the chain gang at all home games. Thank you to **our alumni** who could not have been any more supportive of the team. The pride and commitment that you show towards STL is remarkable. You have laid the foundation for the success of our programs and we appreciate your support as we return to prominence.

Thank you to the **grade school students** who came out to our games this year. We appreciate your support and hope to see you in the Viking uniform in the years to come. Thank you to **Coach Blackmon and the entire coaching staff** for the countless hours you spent preparing your players for success. Thank you to the **varsity football players** for captivating all of our hearts with your great play this year. Not only were you winners, but you did it with the utmost class and sportsmanship that is the Viking way.

A very special thank you to **everyone who helped shovel** the snow from the field before Saturday's game. We truly appreciate everyone's effort. Seeing students, parents, and alumni all come together for the good of the school and the team is a reminder of how awesome a community we have and why it is great to be a Viking! Thank you for always being there when we need you!

Record-Setting Season

Now that the season is over, let's reflect back on how truly remarkable a season the team had:

- ✓ Overall record of 10-3, the most wins since 1979
- ✓ 4-0 in conference and Conference Champions for the 1st time since 1987
- ✓ 1st playoff win since 1993
- ✓ 1st trip to the semifinals since 1979
- ✓ 566 points scored shatters the previous record of 410 set in 1976
- ✓ 43.5 points per game is the best all-time record

As expected in a season this successful, many individual records were broken as well:

Fayezon Smart is the new single-season rushing leader with 2,046 yards, breaking Joe Martinez's old record of 2,014 yds.


Alex Martinez set the record for passing yards in a season with 2,534, breaking Adam Tapling's record of 1,898. He is also the career-passing leader with 4,024 yards, besting Bob Kelly's mark of 2,549.

Willie Walton now holds the single-season receiving record with 1,009 receiving yards, breaking Dan Capparelli's record of 738.

Mauricio Garibay set a new record with 71 extra points kicked.

Again, thank you to all for your support this year. Although the Vikings came up just short of the ultimate goal, it was still a great season. The semifinal game will be remembered for years to come for the conditions that it was played in. If anyone has pictures from the game, please feel free to share them with us. You can also check out St. Laurence in the Media by [clicking here](#).

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 shared in the prayers and good works of the Congregation of Christian Brothers around the world.</p> <p>Requested by: _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>_____</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>_____ 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

GUADALUPE REGIONAL MIDDLE SCHOOL

Brownsville, TX

GRMS Grads Take College Tours

Eighteen of our GRMS graduates who are now juniors or seniors in high school attended our second-ever round of college tours.

Most GRMS students will be the first in their family to go to college, and the process of choosing a school can be daunting. If a child leaves Brownsville for college, they are often enrolling without ever having stepped foot on campus. College tours can change that, giving students an opportunity to see what their options are and ask important questions to help decide.

We loaded up our school bus at 5:30 a.m. for the four-hour trip to San Antonio for formal tours of the University of Incarnate Word, Saint Mary's University, and the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA).

At two of the three visits, we also met up with GRMS alumni, currently enrolled at those universities, for their unique perspective. Special thanks to Judith Rock '11, Jackie Carballa '07, Jonathan Carballa '09, and Eduardo Cordova '11.

Students on the trip currently attend various high schools, including Saint Joseph Academy, Medical Academy, BETA in Edinburg, Hanna, and Porter High School.



Bishop Pena & Br. Leo Shea Honored at Society Blessing



In September, GRMS honored Br. Leo Shea, FMS, and Bishop Raymundo Pena, two individuals who were integral in the launching of our transformative school 14 years ago. Br. Leo was the school's founding president and under his passionate leadership, provided GRMS with the sturdy foundation it is built upon today. Bishop Pena is a true champion for Catholic education, and one of GRMS's most ardent supporters. Seeing the value of an all-scholarship school in Brownsville, he donated the use of our school building so that we can provide a quality Catholic education to the students in our care.

The following appeared in the Clarion Herald, the official newspaper of the Archdiocese of New Orleans on Thursday, November 05, 2015, and was written by Beth Donze.

‘Mailman’ delivers meaningful service to homeless



When people compile a mental checklist of services needed by the homeless, “a place to pick up mail” might not even occur to them, trumped by more obvious concerns such as food, housing, toilets and showers.

But Edmund Rice Christian Brother Charles Avendano knows all about what a mailing address can do for the shelterless, both spiritually and practically. He sees its stabilizing impact every weekday in his ministry as “mailman” at the CBD-based Rebuild Center, the Catholic collaborative behind St. Joseph Church that dispenses a full slate of daytime services to the homeless.

The mail Brother Charles sorts into alphabetized cubbyholes often yields crucial documents that help the homeless get back on their feet – items such as birth certificates, disability checks, veterans benefits and food stamps. Every month, 250 to 300 homeless individuals pick up their mail during the mailroom’s opening hour of 9 to 10 a.m. each weekday.

State photo ID crucial

“They’re very happy when they get their Social Security cards,” said Brother Charles, the Rebuild Center’s postmaster since 2011. “To get a state photo ID in Louisiana, you have to have a birth certificate, a Social Security card and an envelope with your name and address on it,” he explained. “You can’t do anything in Louisiana without a Louisiana ID. If you want to go to Ozanam Inn they’ll let you sleep one night, but if you don’t have an ID, that’s it.

“Or a fellow might come (to the Rebuild Center) to sign up to get mail and all he’s got is a picture ID from the state penitentiary,” he said. “Well, that’s not gonna help him get a job.”

Brother Charles works with the Rebuild Center’s social workers to help the homeless assemble the missing pieces of their ID requirements, work that sometimes involves calling schools and agencies in the person’s hometown, and delving into personal histories involving divorce, remarriage and adoption.

When important documents do arrive, a Rebuild Center volunteer notarizes and files multiple copies in the event the homeless individual loses them or has them stolen. To expedite the photo ID process even more, an NOPD officer who handles issues related to homelessness goes to the Rebuild Center twice a week to drive those who have gathered their paperwork to the DMV.

Brother Charles, who keeps meticulous spreadsheets documenting the daily influx of mail, also watches over a file of unclaimed mail that he calls “dead letters.”

“Once that file gets full, I ship (the dead letters) back to wherever they came from, because I figure if they want mail they’ll come,” Brother Charles said. “The majority of mail (overall) comes from hospitals and ambulance services,” he said. “We have one fellow who has been dead since last March. I just shipped back about eight bills to the hospital and I said, ‘Still Dead.’”

Sent with love

Brother Charles also witnesses the joy that bubbles up when the homeless receive mail from their families. The Rebuild Center has a phone service that allows guests to call anywhere in the United States at no charge.

"They phone home, give their address and their mothers will send them packages," Brother Charles said. "They wait and wait and wait for the packages – they think it's gonna be here in three or four days, but it may take two or three weeks. They get boots and socks and long woolen underwear and jackets for the winter. They're so happy!"

Sometimes the boxes contain pre-paid phones, which outsiders might assume to be frivolous, but which actually assist those trying to get off the streets.

"They'll read the newspaper and see that jobs are available, but (with a phone) they can call first," Brother Charles said. "They don't want to walk four or five miles and find out, 'Oh we filled that (job) last week.'"

Now a nonagenarian



Brother Charles, who marked his 90th birthday on Oct. 29, is one of three local Edmund Rice Christian Brothers and one of 67 religious brothers currently serving the Archdiocese of New Orleans in 22 orders. He was inspired to become a brother – following the educational charism of Irish-born Blessed Edmund Rice – at age 18, after admiring the work of the religious brothers who operated the school he attended in his native Seattle.

When Brother Charles was assigned to post-Katrina New Orleans in 2007 – following 60 years as a teacher and administrator in five states, and as an ombudsman for nursing home residents in Monterey County, California – the local Presentation Sisters were already providing the mail service, emergency groceries, daily lunch and vital records assistance at the Rebuild Center under the service umbrella of Lantern Light Ministries.

"I looked for something to do and (the Rebuild Center) was it. I met the Sisters and it was love at first sight," said Brother Charles, who spent his first couple of years slicing meat and cutting up desserts for the weekday lunch.

"They were doing a lot of things here that I knew weren't being done anywhere else in the country," he said. "Other places did a lot of *talking about* homelessness, but they didn't *do anything*," he added, describing center services ranging from medical care, to prescription assistance, to locating stable housing.

"(Most homeless people) want to get away from where they are but don't know where to start," Brother Charles said. "This is a place where they can take a shower, wash their clothes, get something to eat and then sit down and talk to someone."

Maternal role model

Brother Charles traces his special connection with the homeless back to his mother, who invited elderly boarders into her home after the Great Depression and took her children to visit indigent

families housed in airport barracks in the early 1930s. Among his earliest memories are of the "Hooverville" homeless camps that climbed the hillside near his home.

"It was covered with cardboard tents and tin-roofed buildings, and when the rains came, everything slid down the hill and they'd pick it up and start over again," Brother Charles recalls. "So I grew up being around (the homeless) and knowing their problems," he said, calling his longevity "a blessing from God."

"I've got a responsibility to use the graces God has given me for the benefit of others, not just for myself," Brother Charles said. "I figure as long as my health holds up, I'm willing to do the work."

"I just do what the doctor tells me to do," he added. "Eat less and exercise more."

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MOUNT ST. FRANCIS COMMUNITY

St. John's, Newfoundland

During the month of December the Mount St. Francis Community celebrated two significant events in the life of the community. One was the Golden Jubilee Brother David Patrick Murphy (group of 1965), and the other was the 90th birthday of Brother Raphael Bellows, whose birthday was December 10, 2015.



On December 10, 2015 Brother Gordon Raphael Bellows celebrated his 90th birthday. His first celebration was at noon when representatives of the staff and students from St. Bonaventure's College came to Mount St. Francis to congratulate him and provide lunch for the community. Raph is a graduate of St. Bon's and a former staff member. They also presented Raph with gifts to celebrate his birthday.

In the evening, the community celebrated with Raph with a special dinner and a poem composed by our community Poet Laureate, Brother Bosco Walkeham.



**Student
representatives
presenting a birthday
gift.**

Tribute to Brother Raphael Bellows on the occasion of his 90th Birthday

They say that he is ninety,
But I don't believe it's true.
He's got so much "get up and go"
That he denies it, too.

Efficient is his middle name,
And you never find him idle,
And when you think that he's at rest,
He's reading the Holy Bible.

The archives are his big concern;
No one could keep them better.
If there's anything you need to know,
You'll find it under its letter.

To the choir he's been faithful,
An example for us all,
Though he's way past retirement,
He's a tenor who'll fill the hall.

He never wastes a moment,
And he always comes on time.
He's a faithful Christian Brother.
He is your friend, and he's mine.



During the month, the community also celebrated the Golden Jubilee of Brother David Murphy. At a special dinner to celebrate the occasion, our Poet Laureate presented Dave with a poem he composed for the occasion. Brother Bosco Wakeham (on left) presenting his Jubilee poem to Brother Dave Murphy.

*Tribute to Brother David Murphy on the occasion of his Golden Jubilee as a
Edmund Rice Christian Brother*

We celebrate today
Another Golden Jubilee.
We celebrate with a man
Who's followed Blessed Edmund
For half a century.

Fifty hears of steadfast service,
Fifty years in religious life:
Who can measure the amount of
merit
Earned in what St. Paul calls
"The good fight."

As a teacher he's remembered
Just and fair and sometimes strict.
When his pupils paid their attention,
Then the math tests they all licked.

David taught in several schools;
He was principal of some:
And he is remembered kindly
As a teacher fond of fun.

The Murphy Centre was very special
In our Jubilarian's career
His last years within the classroom
Were spent in helping students there.

His teaching days had an abrupt ending
When dialysis took its toll,
But no complaint was heard from David:
It was good for his body and also for his
soul.

So thank you, Dave, our Brother,
For your years of service and care,
And for the good example
You have given to all of us here.

Thank you for your sense of humor
Which contributes to community cheer;
And thank you for the jubilee joy
Which with you today we share.

**EDMUND RICE CHRISTIAN BROTHERS NORTH AMERICA
VOCATIONS - PLEASE DIRECT INQUIRIES TO:
BR. JAMES McDONALD, CFC
815.272.7742
BROMACCFC@YAHOO.COM**

Are You Called To Be A Brother To The World? Give It A Try ...

You have nothing to lose and you can learn a lot without having to make a commitment.

If you would like to experience what life as a Brother is like, we'd be pleased to arrange for you to visit.

You may be able to spend a day or so alongside a Brother in ministry and partake in community.

We feel that getting a taste of what we call the Congregation's "spirit" is the best way to help you discern if your call is to the Christian Brothers.

Take time for prayer and discernment and let Him lead you.



Being a Brother is a rich and fulfilling way to live.

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.