With the proroguing of our Congregation Chapter this past March in Lima, Peru due to the coronavirus pandemic, the Congregation Leadership Team is offering a virtual opportunity for all Brothers To Rekindle Our Brotherhood by engaging with one another in generative conversations via ZOOM. We encourage all of our Brothers in North America to participate in this international forum that has the potential to help reinvigorate our journey together as Christian Brothers.
National Religious Vocation Awareness Week

This year's National Religious Vocation Awareness Week will take place from November 1-7, 2020. We encourage all of our Brothers, school and outreach ministries and Companions of Blessed Edmund Rice to help us in promoting the vocation of a Religious Brother, as we seek to invite spiritual and service-minded young men to journey with us as Christian Brothers. For more information about how you can be involved in promoting vocations, visit the National Religious Vocation Conference website at NRVC - National Religious Vocation Conference.

Fratelli Tutti

On October 3, 2020 the Vatican released Pope Francis’ most recent Encyclical Letter, Fratelli Tutti, on Fraternity and Social Friendship.

In Fratelli Tutti, Pope Francis presents the social teachings of the Church in a context of relationships of fraternal love. He explores the parable of the Good Samaritan inviting personal and communal reflection on each of the characters in the story. Uniting the emerging vision, he offers challenging questions for individuals and for society. Francis has provided a vital resource and educational tool for Christian educators. The English version can be accessed at:

Fratelli tutti (3 October 2020) | Francis

OES Sponsors Zoom Meetings for School Leaders

The Office of Educational Services recently sponsored two ZOOM meetings with school administrators. The first, on October 7th, was for presidents and principals from the Consortium of Edmund Rice Schools. Administrators had the opportunity to share with their colleagues on what was happening in their schools relative to the present reality of the COVID-19 pandemic. Presentations on the Anti-Racism Curriculum, Portrait of an Edmund Rice Graduate, and the Essential Elements validation process were also part of the meeting. Feedback indicated a
willingness on the part of school leaders to meet regularly to discuss topics of interest to them. Our thanks to Dr. Cristiana Ritchie-Bonomo, Director of OES, for coordinating this important event.

On October 8th, Bro. Tom Murphy conducted part one of a meeting for new presidents. The theme centered on relationships of the schools and their presidents with the Province, local Church, Members/Trustees and Sponsor Councils. Presenters included Brothers Tom Murphy, Kevin Griffith, Peter Zawot and Tim Smyth and Dr. Cristiana Ritchie-Bonomo. A second part focusing on the president’s relationships with in-school personnel will be scheduled in the near future.

Mission Frère – Advocacy
Antiracism Curriculum

As part of the school leaders ZOOM on October 7, 2020, Mr. Sean D’Alfonso (Province Advocacy Coordinator) and Bro. Kevin Griffith (Province Leader), rolled out a tool kit of lesson plans and resources that speak to antiracism in our society. The video in the below link introduces the initiative and leads you to the toolkit. Sean and Kevin wish to thank all those Edmund Rice Educators from throughout the Province who provided materials and contributed resources in helping us promote racial justice in our schools and neighborhoods. It is our hope that as the 2020-2021 school year unfolds, conversations around race will take place in our schools and more resources will be added to the toolkit on a regular basis.

ERCBNA :: ANTIRACISM IN ERCBNA SCHOOLS
Brother Rice (MI) – A National Blue-Ribbon School of Excellence

On behalf of everyone in the Consortium of Edmund Rice Schools, we offer congratulations to Brother Rice High School in Bloomfield Hills, MI on being named by the United States Department of Education as a National Blue-Ribbon School of Excellence. We thank Mr. Tom Reidy (President) and Mr. Ed Okuniewski (Principal) along with the entire Brother Rice school community on this tremendous achievement. Click on the below links to see the school’s press release on receiving word of their great accomplishment.

https://www.facebook.com/217689714925465/posts/3823635364330864/

ERCBNA :: Bloomfield Hills Brother Rice Recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence
On October 13, 2020, the Most Reverend J. Michael Miller, CSB, Archbishop of Vancouver, officiated at the blessing and rededication of Lannon Hall at Vancouver College. The rebuilding of Lannon Hall is part of the school’s Next Century Campaign began by the recently retired past President of Vancouver College, Mr. John Nixon. The ceremony was live streamed and can be accessed by the link below. The school’s Principal (Mr. Daryl Weaver) served as emcee, and speakers included Mr. Johnny Bevacqua (President of Vancouver College), Bro. John Gale (Leader of the Christian Brothers’ Community now residing in Lannon Hall) and two very well spoken sixth grade students. The ceremony included prayers, reflection and song that highlighted Vancouver College’s legacy of faith, service and learning. We congratulate all who had a hand in making this such a successful venture.

Click below to view the ceremony.

https://youtu.be/SSiSufwfwlU
Iona College Mission and Ministry Award

Congratulations to Brother Robert Droel who on October 16, 2020 was one of the recipients of this year's Iona College Mission and Ministry award in recognition of Rob’s exemplary commitment to Faith, Justice and Service.

Bro. Robert Droel

Brother Ken Chapman “Tree of Life”
© Edmund Rice Christian Brothers Art Foundation, LTD
Edmund Rice Education Beyond Borders convoked leadership from the global network of Edmund Rice schools. Presidents and Principals from Edmund Rice schools in North and South America were well represented in the ZOOM session on October 15th. Pre-Coved, the gathering had been scheduled to take place in South Africa. The website of EREBB provides a summary of the session and a very usable video of an inspiring reflection by Reverend Mpho Tutu. Educator, peacemaker, faith leader, Rev. Tutu offers a vision of “Hope Leadership in Education during the Pandemic.”

Click the following link to listen to Rev. Mpho Tutu’s talk: Leading during COVID-19 | EREBB

“Blazing Trail” Immersion Art

“Blazing Trail” is an artistic photo created by Bergen Catholic alum, Henry Hughes, while on immersion in Lima, Peru. It is a stunning photo of the area in Canto Grande where students from Edmund Rice schools help build homes for the poor and marginalized. Please click on the below link for an explanation of the photo.

ERCBNA :: Gallery of Student Art
October 28 - 31, 2020  Virtual Convocation of the National Religious Vocation Conference.
October 31, 2020  Province Life and Renewal Team Meeting.
November 01 - 07, 2020  National Religious Vocation Week.
November 02, 2020  Pierre Toussaint Virtual Dinner, Archdiocese of NY.
November 05, 2020  Brothers Think Tank.
November 07, 2020  Partners in Education Workshop (NY).
November 13, 2020  Congregation Leadership Group ZOOM Meeting.
November 14, 2020  Initial Formation ZOOM Retreat.
November 14, 2020  Partners in Education Workshop (Chicago).
November 17 - 20, 2020  PLT Meetings in Elizabeth, NJ.
November 19, 2020  CMSM Region 2 ZOOM Meeting.
December 12, 2020  PLRT – Advent ZOOM Reflection.

Please Pray For

- Brother Willie Harris (Iona Prep Community), being treated for a serious health issue.
- Brother Dominic Garduah, Liberia, who remains a missing person with his whereabouts being unknown since 26th September.
- Brother Tony Quinn (Bergen Catholic Community), recovering from recent hip surgery and other health issues.
- All of our ill Brothers, family members and colleagues; especially those impacted by COVID-19.
- Kevin Dormody, Associate in St. John’s, NL, who has been diagnosed with cancer of the esophagus.

Repose of the Soul of ...

† Maryann Segvich, aunt of Brother Mike Segvich (Mount Sion Community)
† Mr. Matthew Edwards, nephew of Brother Kevin Griffith, Province Leader
† Mr. Eugene Menezes, father of Brother Gerry Menezes (Iona Prep Community)
† Mrs. Eileen Wakeham, sister-in-law of Brother Bosco Wakeham (Mt. St. Francis Community)
† Mrs. Paulin Fernandes, mother of Brother Steve Fernandes (India Province Leader)
† Mr. Thomas Hales, Iona College Trustee Emeritus
† Mrs. Olivine Brown, former Principal of the former Rice High School in NYC.
O Loving and gracious God, Father of all, you bless your people in every time and season and provide for their needs through your providential care. Your Church is continually in the need of priests, sisters and brothers to offer themselves in the service of the gospel by lives of dedicated love.

Open the hearts of your sons and daughters to listen to your call in their lives. Give them the gift of understanding to discern your invitation to serve you and your Church. Give them the gift of courage to follow your call. May they have the spirit of young Samuel who found fulfilment in his life when he said, “Speak Lord, for your servant is listening.”

We ask this through Jesus Christ,