

NorAm

*The Edmund Rice Christian Brothers North America
Mission Frère-Advocacy Newsletter*



December 2018

Cover: Brownsville, TX Immersion (photo Br. Steve Casey)



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Participants from 10 ERCBNA schools descend upon Chicago for the 2nd ERCBNA Advocacy Workshop.



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The recent U.S. Catholic Bishops' letter on racism echoes the Essential Elements of an Edmund Rice Christian Brother education and challenges us to fight against racism in our world.



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Students and staff from four ERCBNA schools learn about immigration during the 4th annual Brownsville Immersion trip.



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Inspired by their participation at this year's ACTION Workshop, students from Iona Prep create a project to advocate for immigrants.



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Students from Bishop Hendricken's SABER Advocacy group use Veteran's Day to advocate for Rhode Island veterans.



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PALMA SCHOOL
KNOWLEDGE • SERVICE • LEADERSHIP

Students from schools around the ERCBNA Province find ways to serve and advocate for the marginalized in their communities and beyond.



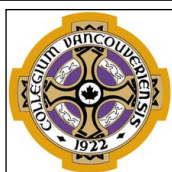
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Brother Rice Chicago's Love Without Boundaries program allows its school's students to learn about the needs of children in Cambodia and to sponsor their schooling.



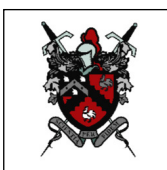
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Members of the All Hallows school community raise awareness and advocate for others in a variety of ways this fall.



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Students from Vancouver College's Action Team raise awareness and advocate for Cancer victims.



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2018 ERCBNA ADVOCACY WORKSHOP



The second ERCBNA Advocacy Workshop was held from October 18-21, 2018 at the Cabrini Retreat Center in Des Plaines, Illinois. 13 participants (teachers, administrators and staff members) representing 10 ERCBNA schools shared their experiences with and knowledge of advocacy at the workshop. The weekend was spent learning about and exploring the idea of

advocacy and what it means for our schools and communities in the ERCBNA Network. This exploration included a number of specific topics to illustrate the ways in which our network can build upon our charitable efforts with the marginalized to work towards advocating to change the systems that create the injustices we encounter.

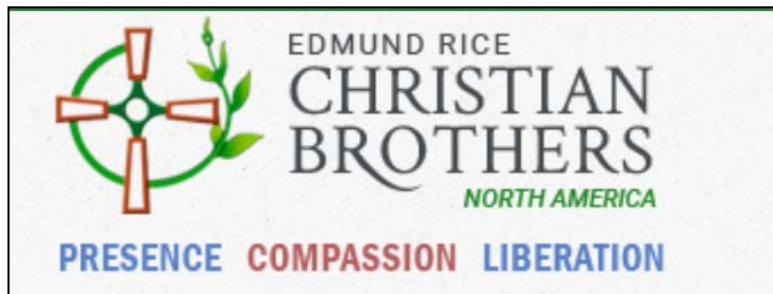
The group was blessed with the opportunity to hear from two members of Palma School's community, Jim Micheletti and Mia Mirassou, who shared their work in supporting and advocating for those imprisoned in California. (Click here to hear one of the men they've worked with extensively, Johnny Howe, speak: [LINK](#))

The group also brainstormed and created ways in which they can implement specific advocacy projects in their own schools and communities. From the workshop, the group hopes that all schools in the ERCBNA network will participate in a project surrounding advocacy. More information on this project, and how your school can get involved is featured on Page 5. Thank you to the participants who traveled so far to attend and for their wonderful insights into finding ways to advocate in our communities.



(above): Participants from 10 different ERCBNA schools pose for a picture at the 2nd Advocacy Workshop in Chicago.

(below): Palma School's Jim Micheletti (first on left) and Mia Mirassou (2nd from left) present on their work with restorative justice, prisoners and the Palma School community.



Dear Fellow Advocates,

On the link below, please find the recent document from the US Catholic Bishops entitled: ***Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love, A Pastoral Letter Against Racism***. Please take the time to read and reflect on this important pastoral letter on racism from our Bishops that has the potential to have a great impact on our Church, our schools and our world. This document comes at a time in our history here in the United States and throughout the world when we are divided on issues such as: race, immigration, nationalism, patriotism, etc. Let our schools heed the message of our Bishops and serve as healers in bringing peoples together, rather than separating and pulling them part. Let our Edmund Rice Christian Brother schools in North America give witness to how peoples from different backgrounds can come together and thrive in supportive environments that recognize and celebrate the dignity of all peoples. Let us boldly and loudly proclaim our ***Essential Elements of an Edmund Rice Christian Brother Education*** which state in part:

We celebrate the value and dignity of each person, and we nurture the development of the whole person.

We promote respect for each individual as created in the image and likeness of God.

We value the diversity of the human family, and we seek to reflect diversity among our students, faculty and staff.

Let us be beacons of hope in the area of promoting racial equality for all peoples, and let us lead the way in giving witness to our students that we can live in a world where all are valued and celebrated for who they are.

God bless,

Bro. Kevin M. Griffith

[OPEN WIDE OUR HEARTS](#)

2018 BROWNSVILLE IMMERSION TRIP



For the fourth straight year, the ERCBNA Province and students and staff from Bishop Hendricken, Brother Rice Michigan, Catholic Memorial and Iona Preparatory traveled to Brownsville, Texas for the fourth annual Brownsville, Texas immersion trip. Here, participants served at a number of sites in order to learn about the realities of immigration in Brownsville, across the United States, and beyond. With immigration again at the forefront of daily discussions in the United States, a total of 21 students and 5 staff members from these schools traveled to the U.S.-Mexico border in Brownsville, Texas to learn about the realities of immigration, from “ground zero” of the immigration debate.

The group learned about immigration through a number of activities, including spending time at the Catholic Charities Respite Center. This center is the first stop for immigrants after receiving temporary asylum and being released from Immigration and Customs (ICE) at the border. Students learned about the incredibly difficult circumstances that immigrants face and provided them with a hot meal and clean clothing. Students also spent time at La Posada, a residence for migrants and their families who are seeking asylum in the United States from all parts of the world. Students here completed a number of different projects, tutored residents in English, and spent time playing with the many children living there. Students also learned about the complexities of the current immigration debate from their teachers, who presented each day on various immigration topics, such as state laws on immigration and DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) stipulations.

In Brownsville, the immersion group also visited Guadalupe Regional Middle School, an ERCBNA school and the only tuition free Catholic middle school in Texas. Here, the group repainted the school’s basketball court, completed a number of different projects for the school, and hosted Guadalupe’s 8th grade students at a BBQ in the courtyard. The students had the opportunity to share conversations at lunch about their commonalities as ERCBNA students. The immersion group also had the opportunity to hear from Guadalupe’s President Mike Motyl over an authentic Mexican dinner provided by the school.

The immersion trip was an incredible experience for the group and opened the eyes of students and staff members to the truths of immigration that aren’t often reported on the news. The group thanks Br. Steve Casey for organizing the trip, Guadalupe Regional Middle School for hosting the group and to the many recent immigrants who shared their stories with complete strangers. The group’s prayer is that the immigration debate in the United States changes to one of compassion and understanding.



Guadalupe President Mike Motyl (left) accepts a gift from the immersion trip group, given by Hendricken teacher Tom Gambardella (right).

2018 BROWNSVILLE IMMERSION TRIP PHOTOS



(left): Students from the immersion trip pose with students from Guadalupe Regional Middle School. (right): Students pose at the border wall separating Brownsville from Matamoros, Mexico.



(left): Students play with children living with their families at La Posada, a residential and educational program for asylum seekers coming to the United States (right): Students from the four ERCBNA schools pose for a picture after Sunday Mass in Brownsville, TX.

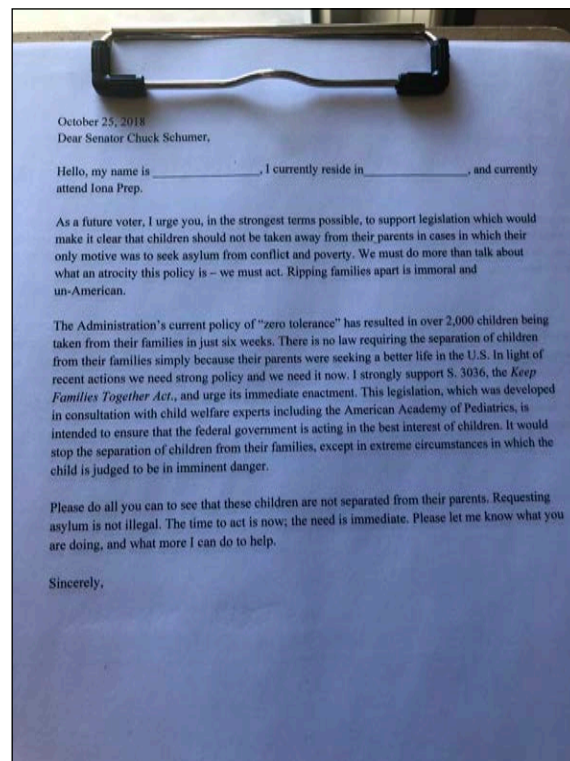
ADVOCATING FOR IMMIGRANTS AT IONA PREP



After attending the ACTION Student Workshop in Florida, Iona Prep's students returned back to school invigorated and full of new ideas. Inspired by the advocacy ideas of their brothers and sisters from other ERCBNA Network schools, Iona Prep students Jordon Gyapong, Angelo DelToro and Conor Lane created their own project aimed at advocating to change the injustices they learned are occurring at the U.S.-Mexico border. As many stories have covered in recent weeks, after being processed by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials, families are being separated after seeking asylum at the border. Iona Prep's ACTION student participants crafted a letter that they used to have other students sign in support of advocating for immigrants. Students signed the letters, which were sent to New York State Senators in late-October. The students are encouraging all ERCBNA schools to get involved with the campaign throughout the 2018-2019 school year. Please see the links below to get involved.



(above): Members of Iona Prep's Human Rights Club (including ACTION participant Jordon Gyapong (far left) collecting signatures for their letter writing campaign. (right): The letter students created to send to Senators in support of immigrants.



To see a video detailing the letter-writing project, click here: [VIDEO](#)

To get a copy of the letter to be used in your own community, click here: [LETTER](#)

VETERAN'S DAY ADVOCACY AT HENDRICKEN



Students at Bishop Hendricken honored those who have served in a number of ways this Veteran's Day. The school hosted its annual Pancake Breakfast for Veterans at the school ([Pancake Breakfast](#)). Hendricken also celebrated a Mass at the school by inviting veterans to attend. The Mass was celebrated in honor of veterans, particularly for those members of Hendricken's school community who have served. Bishop Hendricken's SABER (Student Advocates of Blessed Edmund Rice) group spent Veteran's Day hosting a petition drive by collecting signatures from the school community in support of Rhode Island veterans. The signatures were sent to Rhode Island State leaders in support of advocating for better holistic health options for veterans around the state. Pictured below: (top +bottom left) SABER members collect signatures for veterans. (top right) Veterans enjoy Hendricken's Pancake Breakfast for Veterans. (bottom right) A Veteran's Day Mass was celebrated to honor veterans, including the family of 2LT Richard D. McKenzie '63, pictured below.



ADVOCACY ACROSS THE ERCBNA PROVINCE



Students at Palma School collected toiletries, blankets, sleeping bags, clothes, jackets, and socks. These items were collected all week from November 5th-9th. All items were donated to the Veterans Transition Center in Marina, CA. Thanks for spearheading this idea for us ALL to participate and honor our Veterans.



Students at Tampa Catholic have been busy serving and advocating for the marginalized. (left): Students serving the poor at Metro Ministries (bottom left): Students created "boxes of joy" for students in poor Haitian parishes. (bottom right): Students make blankets to distribute to the homeless in Tampa.



Love Without Boundaries/Believe in Me Program

Mike Dolan, Br. Rice Chicago



Love Without Boundaries is a charitable foundation sponsored by Brother Rice Chicago alumni Mr. Paul Duggan. We are working through Love Without Boundaries to have each homeroom sponsor a child in their Believe in Me program.

Mother Teresa used to refer to the most marginalized, and most vulnerable in our world as “the poorest of the poor.” We have the ability to give some of the poorest children in the world the ability to rise out of poverty, and help provide a better life for children in small villages of Rangsei and Sokhem in Cambodia. Many of the children are often left alone while their parents are off finding work. By sponsoring a child in Rangsei or Sokhem to go to school, we not only pay for the education, but give them a safe ride to school, and feed them lunch while there. For some of these children, the lunch we help provide for them may be the only meal they eat that day.

We have the ability to not only help a child’s present and future by giving them an education now, but we have the ability to change generations. With an education, many of these children will have the chance to better their lives and perhaps find better work when they grow up, due to their schooling. Then as grown-ups, they will in turn raise their own children to get and use their own education to better their own lives and the lives of those in their communities. This is the vision of Blessed Edmund Rice. Education is liberation and justice. Education will change generations.

This traditional education system in Cambodia was originally changed by the French occupation beginning in 1863 before their eventual withdrawal in 1953. The French left a more formal, western style education system which was later developed and combined with the traditional system to suit the Khmer people in the independence period circa 1960. The Khmer Rouge and the civil wars that followed in the 1970’s would prove to be the most infamous and horrific time in Cambodia’s history. During this time a functional and productive education system that was the result of hundreds of years of fine tuning was destroyed much like the rest of the country and its people. Pol Pot, the infamous leader of the Khmer Rouge, purposely murdered teachers and destroyed the schools in Cambodia. In the 1990’s the education system would be reconstructed from virtually zero and is gradually being developed and improved all the way up to the current day.

Cambodia is struggling to throw off the shackles of its past in education and in many others ways. Although education is theoretically free enrollment fees may vary inversely according to parents’ position in society and hence the poor are often still deprived of their rights. The young children we sponsor in Rangsei and Sokhem are among the poorest of the poor.

We can give them the chance to rise out of poverty. There is still a considerable way to go, to catch up to the standards prevailing before the days of Khmer Rouge, but we believe our small efforts can go a long way.

We ask each homeroom to donate just one dollar per person to help sponsor just one student. That homeroom would then receive updates from the Love Without Boundaries organization about how that particular child is progressing in school. Each homeroom has picked the child they want to sponsor, then on one day a month we collect the money and give any updates. The Brother Rice Advocacy Club then made small posters that are up in every homeroom with a picture and a small description of the child they are sponsoring. The same posters are put up in the school’s cafeteria; that way, the children stay in the minds of our students. Brother Rice (Chicago) students, teachers, faculty, and staff have sponsored one year’s education for twenty eight children in the villages of Rangsei and Sokhem, Cambodia.



Students from Br. Rice Chicago’s Life Without Boundaries Club display the names and photos of the children they’ve sponsored through their Advocacy Club.

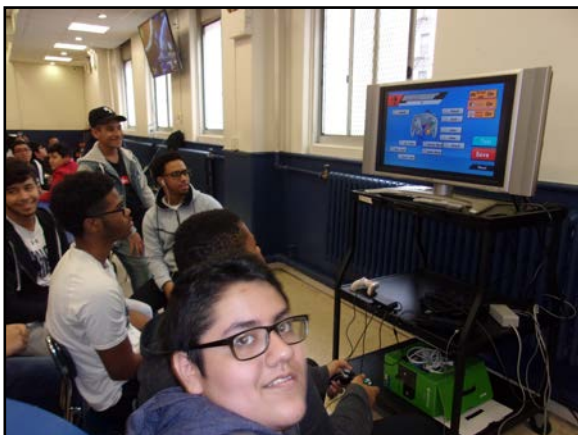


ADVOCACY AT ALL HALLOWS

-BR. JIM HAMILTON



On Saturday, October 13, over one hundred current All Hallows students and twenty recent graduates gathered to honor the memory of Joshua Baluyut, All Hallows class of 2017, who died from liver failure on Oct. 12, 2017. The group was joined by Joshua's mother and father as well as fifteen relatives, all of whom came together to honor Joshua and remember his legacy. It was Joshua's parents' wish that a memorial service be held and that a small fundraiser be held in Joshua's memory. Because Joshua was very involved in the "Gamer's Club" and the Blessed Edmund Rice Society, it was decided that we would have a gaming tournament and 5K walk in his honor, with the proceeds of the event supplementing the All Hallows Thanksgiving Food Drive and the Christmas Toy Drive. During his time at All Hallows, Joshua was very instrumental in organizing the food drive and toy drive and so it was only appropriate that his spirit would continue with these various events. The day began with a very emotional memorial prayer service in Joshua's honor followed by the gaming tournament and the 5K walk around Joyce Kilmer Park for the rest of the participants. \$1,200 was raised in Joshua's memory by the spirited group and that money has been used for the food and toy drives.



(top left): Joshua's parents and several of his colleagues from the class of 2017.

(top right): the entire group of participants in the front of the school, including Joshua's family members in the center of the photo.

(bottom left:) All Hallows students participating in the gaming tournament.

ADVOCACY AT ALL HALLOWS

(CONTINUED)

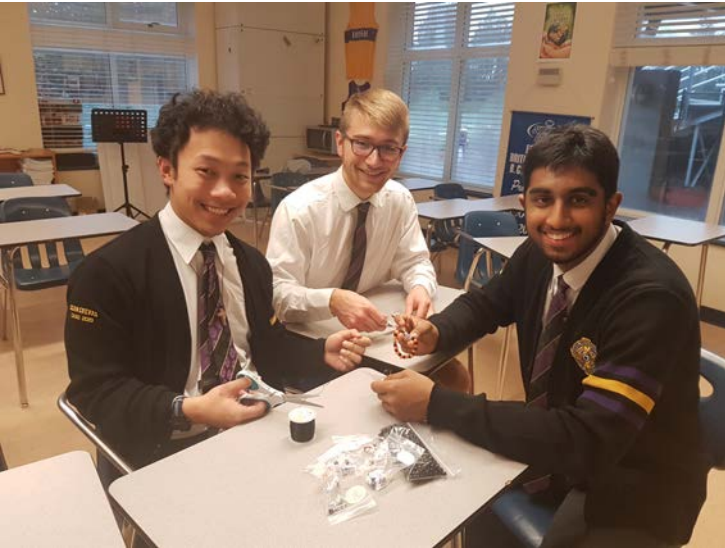


This year, All Hallows held its Breast Cancer Awareness Walk on Friday, Nov. 2, 2018. On a rainy and damp day, 130 students, family members and faculty members walked a 5K around the adjacent Joyce Kilmer Park to raise funds and bring awareness about breast cancer. Several students' mothers and other relatives, some of whom are survivors, gave testimony about the severity of this disease. Some local residents asked why an all boys Catholic high school was raising funds to battle breast cancer. The young man eagerly answered that they were doing their part to support all those who suffer from breast cancer. The event raised \$800.00 for breast cancer awareness.



FEAR THE BEARD

Lilian Vernier -Vancouver College



Pictured above: Student members of Vancouver College's Action Team, Sean Ryan, Marcus Saldanha and Sean Cuevas. Pictured Right: Flier from Vancouver College's Fear the Beard Campaign (adopted from Brother Rice Chicago) which seeks to raise funds for the Kristian Domingo Foundation. The foundation is named in honor of a Vancouver College alumnus who passed away from cancer.



This November, the Vancouver College Action Team -- Sean Ryan, Marcus Saldanha, Sean Cuevas, and Mrs. Lilian Vernier -- was proud to run our first ever Fear the Beard campaign. For a minimum donation of \$5, students received a bead bracelet on to which they could add the initials of a person they were taking part in the initiative for. The proceeds went to the Kristian Domingo Foundation, a charity created by the family of a Vancouver College alumnus who passed away from cancer. Not only was this about cancer awareness but also about furthering a sense of solidarity among the staff and students of our school through a sense of shared struggle and loss. The team picked up on the idea at the Christian Brother's 2018 Action Conference that they attended earlier in the year. We look forward to concluding our initiative at the end of November, and are excited to use this initiative as a launch for our new school leadership and service club, Seeding Hope."

THE VANCOUVER CARE PROJECT

-ST. THOMAS MORE COLLEGIATE



Rachel Way (pictured below) is a 17-year-old high school student from ERCBNA network school, St. Thomas More, who reaches out to connect with people living a very different life than her in the Downtown Eastside. The Vancouver Care Project brings dignity to people experiencing hardship, homelessness and poverty. All it takes is a little care.

(Article and Video Courtesy of Breakfast Television Vancouver)



To see Rachel's interview with Breakfast Television, click here: [INTERVIEW](#)

To learn more about the Vancouver Care Project, click here: [WEBSITE](#)

Jessica Dewhurst's North America Visit



During September, the ERCBNA Province was honored to host Jessica Dewhurst at a number of events in the United States centered around human rights and advocacy. Jessica is the Director and Co-Founder of the Justice Desk in Cape Town South Africa. Jessica has worked as part of the Edmund Rice Network for many years, and is a champion of human rights and justice, particularly in her home country of South Africa.

On Sep. 18, Jessica was the keynote speaker for Iona College's Second Annual Br. William B. Cornelia Lecture. Her talk, "Everyday Activism: The Struggle for Justice in an Unjust World," introduced students to her work in activism and justice and challenged them to seek out ways to be involved in their own everyday lives. Along with being the keynote speaker, Jessica also had the opportunity to tour Iona College's campus and visit a number of classrooms. Just up the street in New Rochelle, Jessica also visited Iona Prep, and spoke with students there about human rights issues. She challenged Iona Prep's students to take their charitable acts a step further, and to look for ways to advocate for the marginalized. Jessica also spent time visiting with Iona Prep's Human Rights Club after school.

Jessica also joined participants in this year's ACTION Student Leadership Workshop in Jacksonville, Florida. The more than 40 students from 15 ERCBNA schools greatly benefitted from listening to Jessica's extensive knowledge and experience in the field of human rights and justice.

The ERCBNA Province thanks Jessica for graciously spending time at our schools with students and community members. We are grateful for sharing your experiences with us and hope you will visit again!

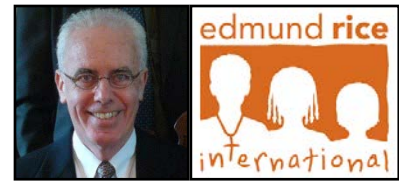


Jessica Dewhurst speaks to the Iona College campus community during her keynote speech. Seated on stage (l-r) are Dr. Joseph Nyre, Iona College President, Br. Kevin Griffith, ERCBNA Province Leader, Carl Procario-Foley, Ph.D, Director of Iona College Mission and Ministry, and Iona College SGA President Hannah McGowan.



Jessica (far right) poses with student members of Iona Prep's Human Rights Club, ERCBNA Province Leader, Br. Kevin Griffith (far left) and Iona Prep Instructor and Human Rights Club Co-Moderator, Christine Chana (2nd from left).

Care for Earth Updates -Br. Kevin Cawley



December 10th, 2018 is the 70th anniversary of the U.N.'s Declaration on Human Rights.
Please click below to learn more about the UDHR: [70th Anniversary](#)

(From the October Issue of Carbon Rangers)

Dear Reader,

The news is not good at this time. The UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has released its latest summary report for policymakers at the beginning of this month.

Summary for Policymakers. The IPCC Report serves as a set of guidelines from the science community. It is called the Summary for Policymakers. The policymakers will be in Katowice, Poland in December for the 24th meeting, known as COP24. Meetings since Paris (COP21) were held in Marrakech- (COP22), and Bonn- (COP23). These acronyms serve to keep track of the discussions and mark the different locations. The people at the COP24 will not be scientists, they will be political leaders and diplomats sent to negotiate agreements on behalf of their respective governments.

Over 6,000 References. The Report looked closely at the differences between a warming of 1.5 degrees Celsius compared to a warming of 2 degrees Celsius. The report includes more than 6,000 scientific references cited and reflects the dedicated contribution of thousands of expert and government reviewers worldwide. Ninety-one authors and review editors from 40 countries prepared the IPCC report.

Dig Deeper. I encourage all to read the journalists collected here with their efforts to render the technical jargon of the IPCC accessible to the rest of us. I have included several brief notes from climate specialists in the scientific community who have some encouragement to share. There are a number of good "translations" now of the official UN report which is necessarily dense and technical. I encourage all to dig deeper if you are able and inspect even briefly the documents of the UN panels where you can. Remember, the IPCC Summary for Policymakers is only 33 pages but related documents comprise 6 chapters with hundreds of pages of supporting material.

I have included a word as usual from Thomas Berry and also a piece from Pope Francis in *Laudato Si: On Care for Our Common Home*.

Let me hear from you if you have ideas for improving the Carbon Rangers.

Email: kcawley1@mac.com

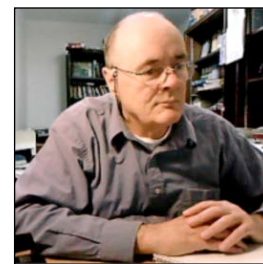
Edmund Rice International is attempting to spread the word on the recent report of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

Students and others might find it easier to approach the IPCC Report via several journalism efforts which have been posted on the Edmund Rice International web page below. Simply paste the link in your browser and the posts appear on the first page of the site.

There are now about a dozen articles posted reporting on the IPCC document.

<http://edmundriceinternational.org/jpic/>

Restorative Justice Updates -Br.Michael Maher



Below is the latest offering to the Smart Justice Network Canada. Though Canadian in context, I suspect that it has some very powerful and visionary potential for a US audience as well. Though the video is 2 hours long it is extremely succinct and flows very well, it can be divided up for short presentation and discussion, individually or in a series. — Michael Maher

Under the co-chairmanship of Retiring Senator Art Eggleton, and Senator Raymonde St. Germain, the Senate of Canada sponsored an open forum to help define the government role in the expansion of restorative justice in both the criminal justice system and the broader general population. The video of the forum can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FRIP0kv8Xdw> and what follows the introduction by Senator Eggleton is nothing short of quite extraordinary for its visionary impact, especially those of us struggling with the 'bits and pieces' approach. The video is just over two hours long. The structure of the forum consists of five individual speakers for about 10-12 minutes each followed by a Q/A directed by the Senators assembled to the various panelists. The video is well worth a pot of coffee or a glass of wine and the two hours to view it! Excellent for a series breaking down the contributors one-by-one as well since the five individual panelists each speak to a different pre-occupation. First, the participating Senators: Eggleton, St. Germain, Munson, Joyal, Christmas, Pate, Bernard, Sinclair, Mercer, Woo, Bellemare.

The five presenting panelists were:

Jennifer Llewellyn, Professor at the Schulich School of Law, Dalhousie, NS: Her contribution is powerfully succinct and most visionary; it begins at the 7 minute mark and continues to 18 minutes; Llewellyn is also a powerful contributor to the answers to questions posed by the senators, passim along the video. Her presentation casts an RJ net as a model of relationship within all social agencies, including the family.

Chantell Barker, Deer Clan, Southern Manitoba Chiefs' Justice Development Officer: Chantell is a 10 year former parole officer who speaks to RJ practices in the system. She established a RJ program for the Southern Chiefs following a decision that she could no longer work in a system harming her Indigenous people, drawing a strong distinction between punishment and healing. Her presentation starts at minute 18 until 33.

Ryan Beardy is a young Cree and a university student in political science. Ryan acknowledges a lifetime involvement in the criminal justice system as an inmate and youth offender. He attributes RJ principles for his turn around and offers ten ways to improve what he experienced and to make it easier for inmates to find a way back to balance and wholeness. His presentation starts at minute 34 until 47.

Johanne Valée is a former deputy commissioner for Corrections Canada in Quebec who is now an Ambassador of the Restorative Justice Services Centre (Centre de services de justice réparatrice). Johanne speaks to the six conditions to pursue for greater restorative justice public education. Her presentation begins at minute 47 until 61.

Jo-Anne Wemmers is a professor of criminology at the University of Montreal who specializes in victimology and reparational justice – justice centered on victim reparation from a Human Rights perspective.

Collectively, these five (note four ladies, one man) offer an opportunity to switch onto a new track for the development of restorative and reparational justice. The Indigenous people have two reps, academia two reps and one rep who life has deeply touched the worst of the system. But the question / answer session is also very helpful in clarifying the parameters of both the role of government and the potential for broader visionary social development.

So says Lorraine Berzins of Smart Justice Network:

Questions from some Senators and from the floor led to an emphasis on a broad approach and support for the notion that Restorative Justice is not just the work of the criminal justice system, it requires collaboration with other systems, and some deliberate choices by a country around how people in conflict with the law are perceived.

Much thanks to all whose wisdom and pain has brought us to this perspective.



Mission Frère-Haiti Update



One goal of the Province's Mission Frère-Haiti initiative is to support good works taking place in Haiti wherever possible.

In early November, the Center of Hope Haiti (COHH) held its Annual Gala at the Bryant Park Grill in New York City to raise funds for its mission in Haiti. COHH is a not-for-profit corporation that provides cultural, economic, social, financial and advisory resources to develop and maintain the Center of Hope, an orphanage and school for children in Hinche, Haiti. The orphanage and school is dedicated to fostering livelihood and hope for the future of orphaned children in Haiti by providing shelter, education, nutrition, emotional security, healthcare and life skills to the children and their caregivers. Robert Micera, a graduate of Bergen Catholic High School in Oradell, NJ, serves as treasurer for COHH and was one of this year's gala honorees in recognition of his outstanding volunteer service at COHH. Congratulations, Bob! The Edmund Rice Christian Brothers North America Province was represented at the gala by Brothers Kevin Griffith (Province Leader) and Peter O'Loughlin (Province Leadership Team). Brother Chris Hall accompanied a contingent of representatives from Bergen Catholic. Following the dinner, the Province made a \$300.00 donation to COHH to help with the support of educating orphans. To see a video of COHH's work in Haiti, click here: [VIDEO](#)

Also in early November, the Office of Black Ministry (OBM) for the Archdiocese of New York, under the direction of Bro. Tyrone Davis, sponsored its annual Pierre Toussaint Fund Awards Dinner at the New York Athletic Club in New York City. The Pierre Toussaint Scholarship helps fund young men and women in the Archdiocese of New York to participate in activities such as: World Youth Day, an annual spiritual development retreat and a pilgrimage for an annual day of reflection. The fund also helps to provide text books for the Pierre Toussaint Scholars, as well as professional career advisement. Brothers Kevin Griffith, Sean Moffett (Province Leadership Team) and Billy Sherlog (Cardinal Hayes High School and the Christian Brothers Rice NYC Community) attended the dinner in support of Bro. Tyrone's impactful ministry with OBM and the Pierre Toussaint Scholars. Following the dinner, the Edmund Rice Christian Brothers North America Province made a donation of \$300.00 to the Pierre Toussaint Scholarship Fund. The OBM sponsors College Pierre Toussaint in Sassier, Haiti.



At this year's COHH Dinner: Br. Kevin Griffith, ERCBNA Province Leader, Br. Chris Hall, Bergen Catholic, Br. Peter O'Loughlin, ERCBNA Province Leadership Team, Marge Quinn, Bergen Catholic and Joe Branciforte, Bergen Catholic

The Sisters of Jesus and Mary in Jean Rabel, Haiti operate ministries that support schools, orphanages and mobile health clinics in the remote area of Northwest Haiti. For the past two years the Edmund Rice Christian Brothers North America Province and Iona Prep in New Rochelle, NY have coordinated with Iona College to sell art work created by Haitian artisans in Jean Rabel. The art work is on display at the Brother Kenneth Chapman Art Gallery at Iona College and is available for purchase. To date, we have sent nearly \$1000.00 from the purchase and sales of the art to the Sisters in Jean Rabel in support of their ministries.

We thank all those who have generously supported our Mission Frère-Haiti initiative, as we continue to seek new and creative ways of responding to the needs of the poor and marginalized in our midst.

2018 ERCBNA ACTION STUDENT LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP



In late September, students, staff members, and Edmund Rice Christian Brothers from 15 different ERCBNA schools traveled to Jacksonville, Florida for the annual ACTION Student Leadership Workshop. Here, participants shared their commonalities as Edmund Rice schools while describing the various programs that make each of their schools unique. Each school shared an “Advocacy Project” from their school and learned from one another during the workshop’s advocacy fair. Below are photos from various schools, as well as a photo of all participants in attendance.





ADVOCACY LINKS



Edmund Rice Christian Brothers North America Province Website

The ERCBNA Province encompasses Canada, Dominica and the United States- with strong links to the Latin American countries of Peru, Argentina, Bolivia and Uruguay. Click below to view the latest news from the ERCBNA Province.

[ERCBNA Province Website](#)



Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM)- Justice and Peace Alerts:

An association of the leadership of men in religious and apostolic institutes in the U.S. The link below is to the CMSM publication "Justice Alert," which highlights areas where justice is needed and proposes direct action through advocacy. The ERCBNA Province is a member of CMSM.

[CMSM ALERTS](#)



Carbon Rangers:

An e-newsletter published by Bro. Kevin Cawley, CFC, ERI Team and Executive Director of the Thomas Berry Forum for Ecological Dialogue at Iona College. Carbon Rangers creates awareness for climate change and advocates for responsible environmental stewardship.

[Carbon Rangers](#)



Edmund Rice School Network (ERI):

This is a link to the School Network, which comprises schools from the ERCBNA Province and the Latin American Region. This link contains information regarding schools and the various programs and activities in which the Office of Educational Services (OES) is involved.

[Edmund Rice Schools](#)



Edmund Rice Latin America (LATAM):

The link below is to LATAM, the Edmund Rice Christian Brothers' Newsletter in Latin America. The Latin American Region and North American Province work closely together to promote justice in the Americas. Click below to see the great work being done in Latin America

[LATAM](#)



Edmund Rice International (ERI):

Click below to access the most recent issues of Edmund Rice International's newsletter. This newsletter highlights the various areas of advocacy that ERI is involved in at the U.N. and beyond. Mission Frère-Advocacy works in concert with ERI.

[ERI](#)



Edmund Rice Education Beyond Borders:

EREBB advocates for the rights of children to receive quality Catholic school education and brings together Edmund Rice Christian Brother Schools from around the world. Click below to access their website.

[EREBB](#)



Smart Justice Network of Canada:

Brother Michael Maher works with this organization to bring awareness to the criminal justice system. Brother Maher and his colleagues advocate for both offenders and victims through Restorative Justice, which advocates for the criminal justice system to address the harm(s) done through mechanisms of support, accountability and healing. Click below to learn more:

[SMART JUSTICE](#)

CONTACT US



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ADVOCACY SPOTLIGHT

Members of Bishop Hendricken's SABER (Student Advocates of Blessed Edmund Rice) have worked for the past three years to advocate for Rhode Island veterans in numerous ways. From collecting and donating essential items, to hosting breakfasts and fundraisers for veterans, to writing letters to local legislators to advocate for veterans' needs, students have worked tirelessly in this endeavor. But this fall, students had the opportunity to take their work a step further. Students hosted and spoke with with Rhode Island Senate Majority Leader (Hendricken Class of 1981) Mike McCaffrey regarding their efforts to advocate for Rhode Island veterans. Senator McCaffrey spoke very highly of the group and its work, and hopes that student members will have the opportunity in the future to visit a session of the Rhode Island State Senate to voice their concerns for veterans.

SABER WITH THE SENATOR



Student members of Hendricken's SABER group pose with Rhode Senator and Hendricken alumnus Michael McCaffrey (far left) and Hendricken Principal Mark DeCiccio '03.

UPCOMING EVENTS



**MISSION-FRÈRE HAITI ART GALLERY
BROTHER KENNETH CHAPMAN ART GALLERY, IONA COLLEGE
ONGOING IN 2019**



**ERCBNA SCHOOL LEADERS MEETING
IONA PREP, NEW ROCHELLE NEW YORK
APRIL 8-12, 2019**

