

**A Reflection on
The Fifth Essential Element
of an Edmund Rice Christian Brother Education**



***Celebrate the Value and Dignity of each Person and
Nurture the Development of the Whole Person.***

(First Reader)
Introduction:

Blessed Edmund Rice was given the grace to respond to the call of Jesus by identifying with Christ in the poor. His example evoked a deep awareness of God's loving presence in all with whom he came in contact. He also awakened within them a consciousness of their dignity as children of God. He invited his followers to share the Gospel insight to reach out to the needy, especially the materially poor.

Shared Reflection:

What thought would you like to share with your colleagues?

(Fifth Reader)

A quotation from Pope John Paul II:

“Human persons are willed by God; they are imprinted with God's image. Their dignity does not come from the work they do, but from the persons they are.”

(Leader)

Closing Prayer:

Creator God, we thank you for the life of Edmund Rice. He opened his heart to you present in those oppressed by poverty and injustice. May we follow his example of faith and generosity. Grant us the courage and compassion of Edmund as we seek to live lives of love and service. **Amen**

(Leader)

Opening Prayer:

God, our Creator, you have given each of us a unique set of gifts and talents. Help us to use these gifts and talents to provide a school community where our students can develop what you have given them. May we all use our gifts and talents in service to the communities in which we live. We pray this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

(Second Reader)

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke

“To you who hear I say, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. To the person who strikes you on one cheek, offer the other one as well, and from the person who takes your cloak, do not withhold even your tunic. Give to everyone who asks of you, and from the one who takes what is yours do not demand it back.

Do to others as you would have them do to you. For if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do the same.

If you lend money to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, and get back the same amount. But rather, love your enemies and do good to them, and lend expecting nothing back; then your reward will be great and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.”

(Third Reader)

The Essential Elements of an Edmund Rice Christian Brother Education calls educational ministry sites and those working in them to . . .

Celebrate the Value and Dignity of each Person and Nurture the Development of the Whole Person.

This is accomplished in our school when we ...

- promote respect for each individual as created in the image and likeness of God
- value the diversity of the human family and seek to reflect diversity among the students, faculty, and staff
- promote strong programs for personal, professional, and pastoral care
- offer co-curricular activities and programs that are important to a student's holistic education
- strive to provide just remuneration for faculty and staff

Reflection:

(Fourth Reader)

Jesus provides our mission, it is the Mission of the Church -
Do to others as you would have them do to you.
Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

Do we support all activities with equal enthusiasm?
Do we promote non-sports activities?
What does our school community celebrate? How?
How do our celebrations reflect our values?

Your thoughts:
