

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



*Collaborate and Share Responsibility for the Mission.*

*(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.

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**Shared Reflection:**

*What thought would you like to share with your fellow Board members?*

*(Fifth Reader)*

**A quotation from the Declaration on Christian Education:**

*“Between pupils of different talents and backgrounds the school promotes friendly relations and fosters a spirit of mutual understanding; and it establishes as it were a center whose work and progress must be shared together by families, teachers, and the entire human community.”*

*(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, Creator of us all, you have provided each member of our school community with gifts that benefit the whole community. Grant us to wisdom to encourage everyone to use the gifts received in the service of the whole community. We pray this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

(Second Reader)

**A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew:**

*Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits to drive them out and to cure every disease and every illness. He sent out the twelve after instructing them thus,*

*“As you go, make this proclamation: ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, drive out demons. Without cost you have received; without cost you are to give. Nothing is concealed that will not be revealed, nor secret that will not be known. What I say to you in the darkness, speak in the light; what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. Everyone who acknowledges me before others I will acknowledge before my heavenly Father. Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me. Whoever receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and whoever receives a righteous man because he is righteous will receive a righteous man’s reward. And whoever gives only a cup of cold water to one of these little ones to drink because he is a disciple—amen, I say to you, he will surely not lose his reward.”*

(Third Reader)

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

**Collaborate and Share Responsibility for the Mission.**

This is accomplished in our school when we ...

- empower all members of the community to share in the mission
- work with parents who are the primary educators
- collaborate with Edmund Rice Christian Brother ministries on local, regional, and international levels
- foster a deeper understanding of the vision of Blessed Edmund
- promote active participation in governance by boards and diocesan officials

(Fourth Reader)

**Reflection:**

Jesus provides our mission, it is the Mission of the Church -  
Proclaim: “The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.”  
Give without cost.  
Acknowledge me before others.

How do we collaborate to fulfill the mission of our school?  
How often do we include parents in consultations?  
How well do we affirm the gifts we see in others?  
When do we seek to collaborate with those outside our school community?

**Your thoughts:**

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