# Christian Brothers Today

Spiritual freedom and simplicity through humble service to the poor



### There are signs which may indicate a call to Edmund Rice Christian Brotherhood.

A deep and abiding love for Christ and his Holy Church.

An attraction to service -both to the Church and
to the entirety of humanity.

A willingness to devote oneself entirely to the service of God.

Know someone who might make a good Christian Brother Let the Brothers know.

Contact: Br. James McDonald, CFC
Call or text 815 272 7742
bromaccfc@yahoo.com

On the Cover: The Brothers ministering in Florida. © 2016 Edmund Rice Christian Brothers Foundation. *Christian Brothers Today* is published by the Edmund Rice Christian Brothers. Please direct letters, inquiries or changes of address to:

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### Message from the Province Leader

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

As you know, the Edmund Rice Christian Brothers North America Province is part of the world-wide network of the Congregation of Christian Brothers. As such, internationality is an important component of our mission and ministries both at home and abroad.



Last fall at a meeting in Rome, the Congregation identified four pillars of our mission moving forward. These four pillars – *compassionate presence*, *community engagement*, *education and advocacy* – speak to how we relate to those we serve. By being a *compassionate presence* to others, our Brothers provide a valuable service to the Church and society in simply being present to marginalized people by offering them a listening ear and a compassionate heart. By employing a *community engagement* model when considering new ministries, our Brothers are able to more adequately respond to the needs we encounter at our ministry sites and in our neighborhoods. A continued emphasis on *education* gives our Brothers and those who partner with us enduring opportunities to provide quality Catholic school education to the youth of today. By focusing on *advocacy*, our Brothers and colleagues endeavor to bring about change in the lives of those who do not have a voice in today's society. These pillars provide us with a blueprint for bringing both the Gospel message of Jesus and the charism of Blessed Edmund Rice to new generations of young people wherever Christian Brothers can be found.

Our Mission Frère initiatives that began last year are taking shape as they seek to foster the call of the Congregation to "find new ways of being Brother" in the Twenty-First Century. Thus, our presence in Harlem, NY; our collaboration in Haiti; our volunteer efforts in New Orleans; and our advocacy thrust throughout the network are taking root and making a difference in the lives of all those committed to the mission of the Edmund Rice Christian Brothers in North America.

In September, the Congregation held a conference in Lusaka, Zambia bringing together Brothers from all Provinces to discuss our on-going formation as vowed Religious men. In October, the *Edmund Rice Education Beyond Borders* congress in Kolkata, India will bring together educators from around the world to deepen the bonds of our shared mission and to allow for opportunities to share with one another on issues relevant to an Edmund Rice Christian Brother education.

As you flip through the pages of this issue of *Christian Brothers Today*, you will read about some of the exciting things happening throughout the Congregation both locally and internationally. Let us give thanks to our loving God for the many blessings we have received and let us continue to pray for all those who generously support the work of our Brothers.

God bless,

Br. Kevin M. Griffith, CFC

Edmund Rice Christian Brothers North America

Province Leader

### **CALLING ALL 5th GRADERS**

### **New Orleans**

Wednesday, May 4th, a collaboration of ministries from the Archdiocese of New Orleans Vocation Office hosted a special vocations awareness event for 5th grade students. Studies show that at around the age of 10, young people start to think a lot about what to be when they grow up. The purpose of the event was to make



vocations to the religious life and the priesthood an option by giving them more information and to encourage these young people to think about vocations.

Over 1,400 5th graders were present at Mount Carmel Academy for this event.

Brothers Jim McDonald (below) and Sean Whitty were on the staff for the event. As a member of one of the vocation panels Br. Sean had an opportunity to talk about his experiences of Brotherhood and was available to answer questions. Br. Jim worked in the auditorium and took part in some of the group activities which included an opportunity to talk a bit about his vocation story to

those present.

The event concluded with a mass celebrated by Archbishop Aymond.





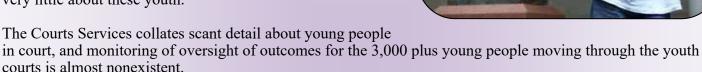
## DEARTH OF DATA AND INFORMATION ABOUT YOUTH IN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

It's interesting how stories about child protection and youth justice from different parts of the world often mirror what's happening here in Ireland.

A story from the U.S. this week reports on the dearth of data and information about youth in the juvenile justice system.

The report is called Denied Existence and calls on the authorities to implement a comprehensive juvenile-justice data collection system.

This certainly reflects the Irish situation, where we know very little about these youth.



A recent audit of the Irish youth justice states: "Currently, a centralised source of information regarding young offenders and young offending in Ireland does not exist. As outlined by the Convention on the Rights of the Child, this information is essential to establish effective systems for data collection and to ensure that the data collected is evaluated and used to assess progress in implementation, to identify problems and to inform all policy development for children."

It points out that as far back as 1985; a government report stated a "continuing need for research analysis, discussion and deeper understanding of the issue of juvenile offenders in Ireland."

As with the U.S. study, the Irish paper highlights the "need for an independent agency responsible for maintaining a centralised, contemporaneous resource of data pertaining to young offenders and youth offending in Ireland."

How long more will we be waiting?

Originally published on: Edmund Rice Advocacy a website featuring ideas, initiatives and information concerning social justice issues, Catholic Social Teaching and human rights. It is sponsored by the European Province of the Christian Brothers and is maintained by Brother Donal Leader, Advocacy Officer with the European Province of the Christian Brothers. https://eradvocacy.wordpress.com/



### MITHRA CENTRE

### Chennai, India

Mithra is a Sanskrit word meaning 'friendship'. Friendship to us at Mithra means extending a warm welcome to the physically and mentally challenged children. Having a variety of rehabilitative services, our dedicated staff is willing to give a helping hand to every child, whether it is to walk, talk or training to take care of themselves.



Mithra came into being on 19th March 1977. It was founded by Sr. Mary Theodore OAM, to commemorate the birth centenary celebration of St. Thomas the Apostle in India. A unique feature of MITHRA is that it offers the differently abled a variety of services all under one roof: Special School, Occupational & Physiotherapy, Vocational Training, Residential facility, Psychiatry Department apart from an OPD that is open to the public.

Sister Mary, an Australian Missionary, came to India in 1951. During her services in various institutions of her Congregation she was driven by divine inspiration to do something worthwhile for the most neglected section of the society - Physically and Mentally challenged children. She

decided to respond to the call, came out of the congregation and founded Mithra. She built up the institution braving heavy odds and reached out to all the less privileged in the society without any distinction of caste, creed, religion, gender or economic status. She was one among the pioneers to give a multi disciplinary care and rehabilitation to different kinds of disabilities.

Last December Chennai was inundated by the worst floods in 100 years. The flood waters devastated Mithra, causing enormous damage and destroying major buildings. The very viability of Mithra was in doubt.



Over the years, hundreds of volunteers from schools and colleges throughout Australia have spent time helping at Mithra. The children of Mithra have touched the hearts of these Australians. When word got out that Mithra had been hit by a new flood and was struggling, everyone

wanted to be involved in efforts to help. And that's how Friends of Mithra was born.



Brother Rob Callen, CFC, (left) has had a close association with Mithra for 30 years and has organised many visits by volunteers from a number of Australian schools and colleges. In January, he contacted past students, friends and well-wishers to seek advice on a possible way forward. There was much enthusiasm and encouragement to form an association of all those who wished to keep Sr. Mary Theodore's dream alive. Former students from Rostrevor, Trinity and St Ignatius' Colleges requested to be on contact lists. Helen Mahoney, Sr. Mary Theodore's niece, was keen to include all the loyal supporters from Brisbane, family and friends who have been donating to Mithra for years.

From: http://mithra.org.in

### Mary Rice Centre Nairobi, Kenya



The Mary Rice Centre is a transitional school where children with special abilities are offered an opportunity for social integration and rehabilitative care, experiences which are not available to them within their homes. Currently the Centre caters for up to 15 students.

### Vision

To create a successful transition of children with special needs through effective basic skills training and home based care. In line with the Congregation of Christian Brothers we seek to be 'brothers to all'. We strive to create an environment where parents are educated and supported in enabling their physically and mentally challenged children to attain self-reliance through challenge and the development of basic social skills that highlight the special abilities of each child.

### Mission

Mary Rice mission is to educate, heal and integrate into society children with special needs and their families. We are fired and challenged by the gospel values of Jesus and driven by the spirit of Blessed Edmund Rice to stand in solidarity with the marginalised. Hence we seek to enhance the human dignity of the physically and mentally challenged children through basic social educational skills.

After successful transition through programmes focused upon self-care, social integration and creative skills,

children are supported in accessing mainstream schools or vocational training centres through the provision of sponsorship support from generous and caring benefactors.

The Mary Rice Centre was established in February 2007, adjacent to the Kibera slum with a mission to focus on the needs of physically and mentally challenged children. After a number of 'forced moves' the centre is currently located on land adjacent to the Charles Lwanga Primary on the outskirts of Kibera. The establishment of the Centre was the work of two Christian Brothers. The identification of children with special needs who would benefit from the Mary Rice Centre was guided by one leading woman from the Kibera slum.

For day-to-day operations, the centre is directed by Br. Gerald Mgalula who takes overall responsibility

for the smooth running of the centre. Teaching is coordinated by Catherine with the help of Sharon, who volunteers regularly in the centre. Esther is a trained occupational therapist and Jerusa oversees the micro-finance program.

From: https://maryricekenya.com

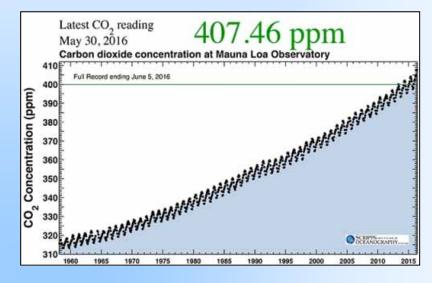


### GOT WIND? GOT SOLAR? GOT NUKES?

Some Alternatives. This edition tries to round up some of recent thinking on alternatives to fossil fuels. The

chart right is the motivator for the search for alternatives. The graph presents us with the measurements of carbon dioxide in our atmosphere taken at Mauna Loa Observatory in Hawaii beginning in 1958 until the present day. The safer measurement for CO2 in the atmosphere would be closer to 350 parts per million.

CO2 Not Coming Down Soon. The figure of 350 ppm represents the last time that the atmosphere appears to have been close to a good balance. Increasing the ppm of CO2 causes the atmosphere to warm. Currently 407.46 ppm, science tells us now that we are not likely to see the concentration get below the 400 level in our lifetimes. These are



disturbing increases that point to an ever warming planet. As the planet warms, ice melts at the poles, seas warm up and begin to rise, weather turns more severe, heat waves last longer and a host of other consequences follow. Reducing our use of fossil fuels is a necessity if we are to have any chance of getting the number below 400ppm and heading back to safe territory.

Wind and Solar. We look at solar and wind as the best candidates in the immediate future. The stories below show various settings and challenges laid out in different parts of the world. In 2013, offshore wind accounted for 1.5 percent of all electricity used in the European Union, with all wind sources contributing 9.9 percent of electricity. By contrast, wind power made up only 4.7 percent of electricity in the United States last year.

**Nuclear Challenges.** The section on nuclear energy is less optimistic. For many, the dangers of nuclear reactors outweigh the appeal of the zero carbon footprint of a functioning reactor as a source of electricity. And we have yet to figure out the safe storage of the nuclear waste at the end of the process.

**Other.** We do not look at other non-fossil fuel sources of energy in this edition; tidal, geothermal and hydropower all have their champions but that discussion will be served up in a later edition.

**Pope Francis.** In a message for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, celebrated Thursday, September 1, the Pontiff says members of the faith community should consider adding "care for our common home" to the traditional set of works first described by Jesus as part of the criteria used to determine who will go to Heaven.

Originally published in: *Carbon Rangers/Ecozoic Times*, September 2016 <a href="http://edmundriceinternational.org/jpic/?page\_id=1235">http://edmundriceinternational.org/jpic/?page\_id=1235</a>

### **OPEN DOORS MISSION**

### Belfast, Northern Ireland

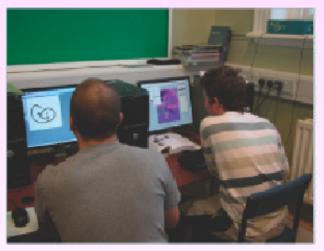
The Open Doors Learning Centre is an alternative education project, which works with those young people not attending mainstream education. The centre was established in 1998 to meet the needs of young people at greatest risk of social exclusion, experiencing difficulties with education, self-awareness and social and personal development.

The young people are aged between 14-16 years old, and are drawn on a co-education and cross community basis. Open Doors delivers a range of academic, vocational and creative qualifications and programmes to enable young people to progress into further education, training and employment.

The Open Doors Learning Centre works to provide a safe, caring and vibrant learning environment dedicated to enriching the lives of the young especially those at greatest risk of social exclusion — by offering learning and personal development opportunities. They aim to encourage young people to be confident, thoughtful, articulate and interested in their own, and their community's, social, emotional, intellectual, physical and spiritual development. They aim to work in a capacity that will meet holistically the needs of all young people who come to the centre, and provide a space wherein all our staff and young people can transcend differences of ability, sex, religious affiliation, social or ethnic background or political persuasion.

Adapted from: www.edmundrice.eu/life-centres/open-doors-belfast/









### STRENGTHENING LEADERSHIP AMONG WOMEN

### **Bolivia**

On the 9th and 10th of June, two representatives from the Centro Hermano Manolo (CeHM), Boliva took part in the first national meeting of RUN (Religious at the United Nations).

The RUN group in Bolivia is represented presently by the Oblates, Franciscans, Sisters of the Holy Spirit, Maryknoll and the Christian Brothers. These congregations organized a meeting to promote and create spaces for reflection for women. The workshop was called "Strengthening our democratic leadership among women for the full exercise of citizen participation."

Seventy women participated representing their groups from different parts of the country. Two mothers, Juana Herrera and Mery Maita represented the Centro Hermano Manolo Centre, Cochabamba. There were also representatives of Mothers' Clubs, Schools Parent Councils, various Associations and miners – a striking group.

On the morning of the first day each organization gave a presentation of their activities and in the afternoon an exchange of experiences. The methodology was very suitable starting with interest groups who answered a series of questions such as: What were your first steps to become a leader? What difficulties and challenges had you to overcome? What accomplishments have you achieved as a woman? Who and how are decisions made within the organization? There was much to learn in plenary session. After supper there was a very pleasant cultural evening.



The work of the second day started with the dramatization of a problem by each group. The members have faced many difficulties and mentioned machismo, economic factor, shyness, family, rivalry between women, conformity and impotence. Then the groups identified and planned strategies for citizen participation in the social institutions and organizations they represent – can join with other groups, form alliances, participate in OTB (neighbourhood organizations), share information (especially the amounts of allocated money for projects in Municipalities) and make decisions from the base not from the directors, and members are required to comply with what they have decided. Before finishing the mining group asked for 5 minutes to perform a k'oa – a rite, the only thing missing was some small dynamite!

Br. Eddie McArdle reported: "It has been an important event for the mothers of working children in CeHM, because they have assumed a leadership role among other leaders, have gained confidence in public speaking and have learned from the experiences of other leaders."

Originally published on: www.edmundricedevelopment.org

### **EDMUND RICE CAMPS - TASMANIA**

Edmund Rice Camps Tasmania worked again with Tasmania Police cadets. Edmund Rice Camp leaders Constable Will Smith, Josh Prichard and Constable Ryan King (Victoria) led the Cadets in providing a Camp experience for youngsters who had lived through the Dunalley bush fires. The Camp was held at Roches Beach before gathering at the Police Academy in Rokeby for the now-traditional march past.



Originally published in: Shamrock Weekly Newsletter (Newsletter of the Cluster Leaders of South Eastern Australia – Oceania Province) August 2016

### CALLAN SERVICES - PAPUA NEW GUINEA



One of the services Callan Services offers to local communities is cataract surgery. The photo show Callan Services at work in Maprik 2016.

Staff tirelessly participated from screening/consultation/applying eye drops/ preparing patients for theatre/comforting patients and serving them breakfast, lunch and dinner. Here at Maprik, the team operated on 128 cases and the Callan Maprik team has made a definite impact on eye services in Maprik.

The surgery was a collaboration between Boram General Hospital and Callan Services for Persons with Disabilies for cataract clients at Maprik in the Maprik District, East Sepik Province.

Originally published on: Edmund Rice Network Oceania Facebook page, www.facebook.com/EdmundRiceNetworkOceania/

### **EAST AFRICA - CHILD PROTECTION**

The Christian Brothers in East Africa entered into partnership with Centre for Child Protection of the Pontifical Gregorian University. The center offers distance learning for safeguarding of minors. The District in East Africa has sponsored the program and provided opportunities for our ministries and other interested

partners to enroll in the program. In total there are 25 participants who are undergoing a one-year training. We see this as an important proactive step to ensure that the knowledge about safeguarding children is properly passed on and implemented in our ministries. This weekend there was a meeting of the participants of the course who are staff members of Edmund Rice Secondary School. They shared their experience of the course so far and encouraged each other. The sharings were very helpful.

Originally published in: East Africa Newsletter, August 2016



### Founder's Cup Asansol, India

The Founder's Trophy was started several years ago in an attempt to bring together the Christian Brothers' Schools in a spirit of participation. And what better reason than a game of football (soccer to some - ed.) to bring together the schools of the community?

Founder's Cup 2016, was a tournament with a difference. In January we completed 125 years in the field of education. The Founder's Cup, normally restricted only to Christian Brother schools, was opened out in this our quasquicentennial year, to the sister schools of Asansol also. This year too, as per tradition, the tournament spanned three days; from the 2nd to the 4th of July. A record eleven teams took part in this year's edition.

Players travelled far and braved the weather to be a part of this epic contest.



The opening ceremony was a grand show as students displayed their talent through song and dance to entertain all. The closing ceremony was equally spectacular.

In an exhibition match the teachers of St Patrick's School took on the teachers of different schools of Asansol and beat them 2-1. This was followed by the grand finale under floodlights (maybe for the first time in Asansol) between – St. Vincent's, Asansol and St. Edmund's School, Shillong; with St Edmund's proving the better of the two at full time.

The smooth functioning of the organization and the high quality and standard of the games brought praises from all; not least from the visiting schools themselves.

Originally published in the Indian Province Newsletter, July 2016.

### Journeying Together Senanga, Zambia



Br. Rohan D'Souza, a member of the new Western Zambia cluster, meets with a local family in Senanga as part of his listening survey.

Edmund Rice Mission focuses on the liberation of people and communities. Edmund Rice, inspired by Jesus, responded to the marginalised of his time. Today, through compassionate presence and seeking mutual transformation, Edmund Rice Mission promotes human rights and fullness of life for all, especially those made poor.

Eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. Our world today is divided between those who are extremely wealthy and those who suffer from chronic poverty. Sadly the numbers suffering marginalisation and extreme poverty are much greater than those of the wealthy elite.

Deeply aware of the levels of poverty, vulnerability and exclusion in our world, the Brothers have pledged to move to three new areas of great need by 2020 and set up fifteen to twenty new mission communities. These mission communities will live and work within marginalised communities to address the causes of poverty, vulnerability and disregard of human and earth rights, adopting a community engagement approach in line with best practice in development.

Journeying Together is the new programme of change for the Edmund Rice Mission, through compassionate presence, community engagement, walking with communities to empower them and bring about transformation.

The first phase of *Journeying Together* has seen the start of four new Edmund Rice communities in Western Zambia, a province with immense social problems where three in every four people live in extreme poverty.

Brothers are now living in a new cluster of communities among the people of Mongu, Senanga, Limulunga and Luampa. Here, they are learning more about the reality of people's lives and the challenges they face. They have been taking lessons in the local language, Silozi, and conducting listening surveys and group discussions to identify some of the root causes of problems. In Mongu four of the brothers have even joined the local volleyball team and the 26 members of the team visited the brothers' hub. Compassionate presence is a distinctive element of Journeying Together: to live, and be in solidarity with the local community, especially those most marginalised. This allows trust to be built and equal relationships to form. In time, brothers and the communities together will seek to develop some responses to these challenges with the ultimate goal of liberating people from poverty, promoting human rights and enabling a better life for all.

The second phase of this journey will see the start of new communities in India, more specifically in the states of Assam and Meghalaya, located in the north-east. The Brothers are currently working on identifying the areas of greatest need within these states.

Originally published on www.ourwayintothefuture.org

### Your Generous Support Makes Possible Edmund Around the World. Thank You.

Please fill out and mail this page to the address at the bottom of the page

Yes, I/we would like to accompany the Brothers on our faith journey and will keep the Brothers and those with whom they minister in my/our prayers. I/We would also like to support the Brothers' ministry with the following gift:
□ \$100 □ \$50 □ \$25 □ Other
I/We would like the gift to support:
□ Wherever the Brothers believe my/our gift is most needed at this time.
☐ The elderly and infirm Brothers who have given their life to serve God's people.
☐ The Brothers' vocation and formation programs which seek and train men to follow Blessed Edmund as Christian Brothers.
□ Please send me a packet of Blessed Edmund Rice Prayer cards.
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□ My/Our check is enclosed (please make your check payable to "Edmund Rice Christian Brothers Foundation")
□ Please charge my credit card: □ Master Card/Visa □ American Express
Card Number
Expiration Date Security/Validation Code
Name as it appears on card

### Please mail to:

Edmund Rice Christian Brothers, CBTfl2016 260 Wilmot Road New Rochelle, NY 10804

### Brother Eugene Owen Carty, CFC 1936-2016



Devoted son of the late Owen and Nora Carty. Brother Carty entered the Christian Brothers after graduating from Cardinal Farley Military Academy in New York in 1955. He took his final vows in 1962. He received his BA in History from Iona College in New York. After graduating from Iona most of his religious life was spent at three Brothers High Schools, St. Patrick's in Vallejo, CA, St. Laurence High School in Burbank, IL and Brother Rice High School in Chicago, IL. Throughout most of his adult teaching life and into his retirement, some Brothers and former students would ask him which of the three high schools he liked best. The question and possible answer always remained unsaid. Most of his teaching/counseling career was here in Illinois at St. Laurence and Br. Rice High Schools. He then spent his retirement years at Br. Rice High School and most recently at The Villa in Evergreen Park, IL.

### Brother Spencer Philip Considine, CFC 1930-2016



Brother Spencer Philip Considine C.F.C. passed away on February 18, 2016. Born on July 17, 1930 in the Bronx, NY, the son of Spencer and Katherine McCarthy Considine. He entered the Congregation of Christian Brothers on June 29, 1949 taking his first vows on September 8, 1950 and final vows on June 27, 1957. After attending St. John's Elementary School in the Bronx, and Power Memorial High School in New York, he received his BA in History from Iona College and his MS in Education from Fordham University in 1960. His ministry took him to many positions including All Hallows High School in the Bronx, NY, Power Memorial High School in New York, Catholic Memorial High School in West Roxbury, MA, Bishop Kearney High School in Rochester, NY, Scared Heart Grammar School in New York and Iona Prep in New Rochelle. During various periods in his career Br. Considine also served as Sacred Heart Grammar School Superior, Councilor Eastern American Province, Treasure Eastern American Province, Iona Prep School

Superior, member of the Christian Brothers East Harlem Community and a volunteer at Terence Cardinal Cooke Hearth Care Center. He was predeceased by his parents, a brother Douglas and a sister Carol Costello. He is survived by his sister-in-law Lynda Considine.

### Brother Augustus A. Spurrell, CFC 1943-2016



Brother Augustus A. Spurrell passed peacefully away on July 3, 2016, at the Health Sciences Hospital in St. John's, Newfoundland, Brother Augustus Adrian (Ben) Spurrell, CFC, aged 73 years. Son of the late Augustus and Gertrude (née Glynn), and predeceased by his sisters Lorraine (James McGuire) and Florence (Leo Delaney), his brothers Francis and Ronald (Helen), and sister-in-law Margaret. Leaving with fond and loving memories his sister Mary (Al Rose) and brothers Raymond and Kevin (Marie); his Brothers of the Congregation of Christian Brothers, and many nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends.

### VISSION rère Edmund Rice Network Services

Edmund Rice Network Services encompasses vibrant opportunities for engagement in the building of a more just and compassionate society, being fully present to those most in need, and giving voice to the voiceless. We invite you to consider four ways you might collaborate in this graced and joy-filled effort.

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.

