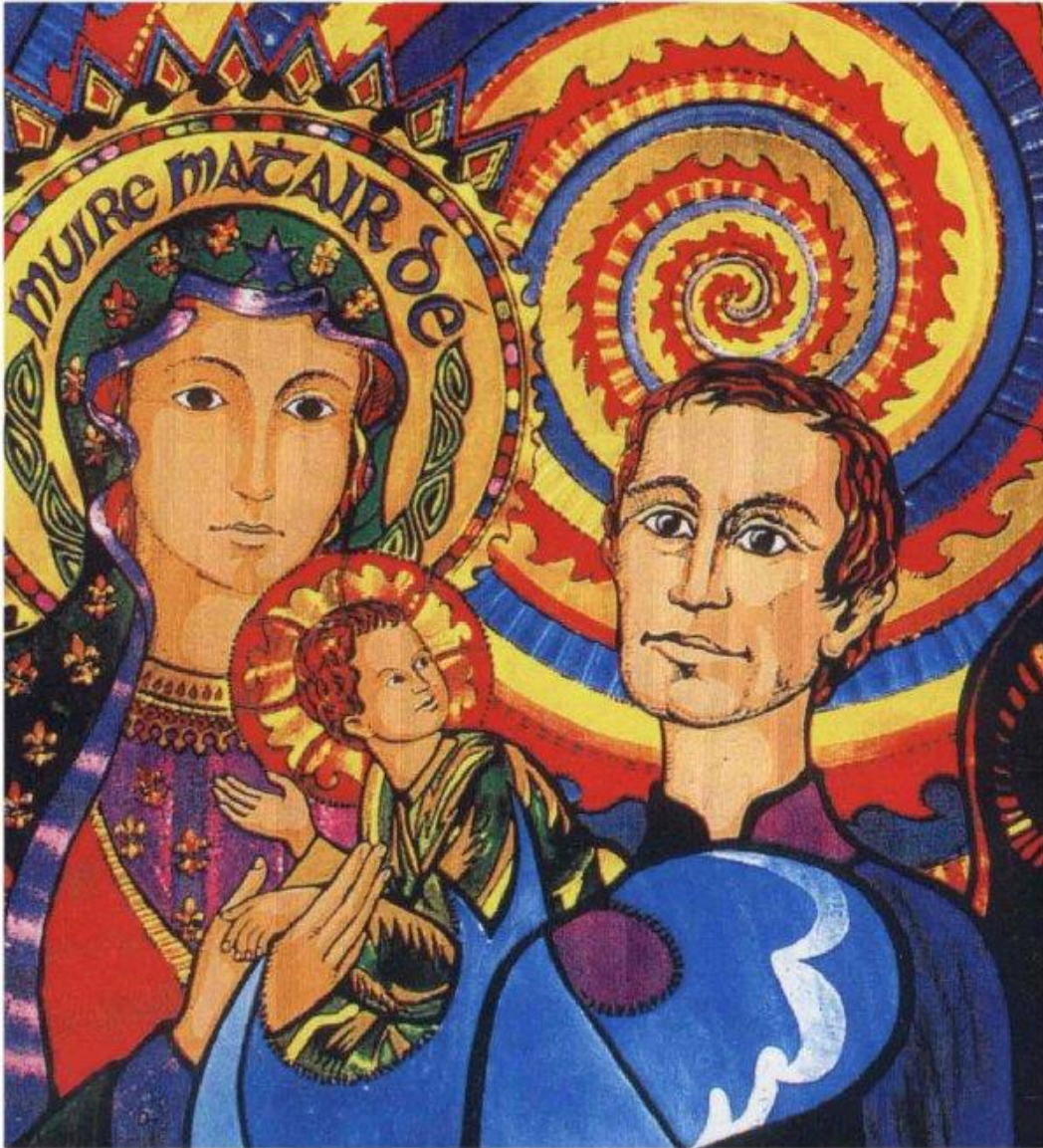




Christian Brothers Today



Edmund Rice Christian Brothers North America Province

**EDMUND RICE CHRISTIAN BROTHERS NORTH AMERICA
SCHOOL LEADERS MEETING, IONA PREPARATORY SCHOOL, NEW ROCHELLE, NY
April 08 – 11, 2019**



Presidents and principals of ERCBNA schools along with their board chairs, Sponsor Council members, members of the Province Leadership Team and of the Office of Educational Services gathered in New Rochelle at Iona Preparatory School for the annual School Leaders Meeting. They were also joined by international guests from Colegio Fe y Alegría 26 in Lima, Colegio Stella Maris in Montevideo and Colegio Cardenal Newman in Buenos Aires, as well as Brother Julian McDonald, CFC from the Congregational Leadership Team.

The meeting began with a Welcome Reception at Iona College on Monday evening. In addition to the meeting attendees, members of the boards of Iona Prep, All Hallows, Bergen Catholic and Iona College were also present. Artwork from students at the various schools was streamed throughout the evening.



Opening Session

On Tuesday the meeting officially began with keynote speaker, Tanya Stoltys, Director of Instructional Technology at St. Elizabeth's College who gave a presentation on online learning. Following that reports from Brother Kevin Griffith, Province Leader, Maureen Kiers, Co-Director Office of Educational Services, and Colleen Noonan, Director Edmund Rice Christian Brothers Foundation were given. During lunch participants were able to take a tour of the Iona Prep Upper School. Later in the day division meetings were held. Paul Sutera, Director of Advancement at Iona

College, spoke to the presidents, board chairs and Sponsor Council members on how to build an advancement culture. Principals were led by Tim McElhinney, Principal of Bergen Catholic, in a discussion on training faculty to utilize student technology. That evening participants were treated to dinner at a local Peruvian restaurant.

On Wednesday, after attending a moving talk by Thomas Awiapo from Catholic Relief Services with the Iona Prep junior class, the leaders heard from Brother Dennis Gunn, CFC on Faculty Faith Formation and from Brother Tim Smyth, CFC with a report from the Synod on Youth and Young Adults. This was followed by small group sessions on online learning led by four members of the Bergen Catholic staff. Lunch followed at the Iona Prep Lower School with tours of that campus provided by the young students there.



(l to r) Br. Kevin Griffith, Province Leader Tom Beatty, Principal Catholic Memorial, Sean Sullivan, Principal All Hallows, Neysa Finnie, President St. Thomas More Collegiate



(l to r) Dr. Alberto Olivero, Director General, Colegio Cardenal Newman, Buenos Aires, Argentina, Gaby Bravo Salazar, Principal, Fe y Alegria No. 26, Lima, Peru, Patricia Ponce de León, Principal Stella Maris, Montevideo, Uruguay,, María le Las Mercedes Carrau, President of ER Association, Colegio Stella Maris, Montevideo, Uruguay, José Rosel Santa Cruz Alarcón, Ministry Coordinator, Colegio Fe y Alegria No. 26, Lima Peru, Kieran Daly, Principal Iona Prep, New Rochelle, NY



Visiting All Hallows Institute, Bronx, NY

The attendees then went by bus to All Hallows High School in the Bronx for a tour of that school and two sessions of roundtables. Dinner followed in the All Hallows Commons.

After prayer on Thursday morning, Brother Julian gave an update on education around the Edmund Rice Christian Brothers provinces. This was followed by a conversation on what had been presented the past two days regarding online learning. Finally, one leader from each school gave an update on all the good happening at his/her school. The leaders are clearly proud of their schools and some of the examples of the activities happening were very moving.

The meeting closed with a prayer led by Brother Kevin Griffith, CFC. Participants agreed that Brother Thomas Leto, CFC and the staff of Iona Prep had outdone themselves in hosting the meeting. The opportunity to visit three campuses of ERCBNA schools was also a plus. The 2020 meeting will be held at Brother Rice High School in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan from April 20 – 23, 2020.

CHRISTIAN BROTHER HONORED

*From The Catholic Miscellany
Diocese of Charleston*



Brother Ed Bergeron, CFC

Ten people from the Diocese of Charleston were chosen to receive papal honors by Pope Francis.

Eight were honored with the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice Cross while two received the Benemerenti Medal. They are given for distinguished service to the Church.

The group, which includes men and women religious, deacons and laypeople, were formally recognized by Bishop Robert E. Guglielmone and a crowd of family and friends at a vespers service on Jan. 13, 2019 at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist.



The honors, which were bestowed on the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, recognizes the good works of the recipients.

The Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice Cross

Brother Edward Bergeron, CFC, is the parish life facilitator at St. John Church in North Charleston. He has been with the Diocese of Charleston since 1996 and is a tireless advocate for the poor and disadvantaged. He professed his vows 52 years ago, and spent 17 years in Peru teaching high school, leading adult education and working with other brothers in formation.



Brother Kevin Cawley, cfc Receives Hugh J. McCabe Memorial Award for Social Justice

April 12, 2019

Dear Br. Cawley,

On behalf of the selection committee of the **Hugh J. McCabe Memorial Award for Social Justice**, I am pleased to inform you that your colleagues at Iona College have selected you as the 2019 recipient of this award which will be conferred at the May 18 Commencement Ceremony at 11:00 am, at the Hulu Theatre at Madison Square Garden. Congratulations! A much-deserved honor.

In nominating you for this award your colleagues salute your generous leadership of Iona College's Berry Forum for Ecological Dialogue which has been recognized by the Environmental Consortium of Colleges and Universities. You have brought international notoriety to the Berry Forum through your invited participation in the Green Attica Conference in Greece (2018) as well as conferences in Rome and Assisi. You are also honored for your dedicated mentorship of Iona College student interns in your role as the Edmund Rice International/New York United Nations representative, a role for which you have worked tirelessly for the rights and protection of the child, trafficked persons, and for climate action. You have been an invaluable resource to Environmental and International Studies majors and many departments have called upon you as a lecturer to share your extensive knowledge of the climate crisis as well as Pope Francis' encyclical, *Laudato Si*. As a driving force behind Iona College's Committee for Environmental Sustainability, you have offered focused and steady leadership as this committees' efforts have evolved and expanded. For all these reasons and more you are a very worthy recipient of the McCabe Award.



Br. Kevin Cawley

Once again, congratulations!

Carl

Carl B. Procario-Foley, Ph.D.
Director, Office of Mission and Ministry
Iona College



Visit Iona College at www.iona.edu

MONSIGNOR FARRELL HIGH SCHOOL STATEN ISLAND, NY



It's no secret that throughout the years Monsignor Farrell High School WFBN-TV's media students have rubbed elbows with a number of world-class superstars.

And under the direction of Brother Paul Hannon, they've produced live shows with a professional etiquette that have captured the attention of audiences on many levels.

And after more than two decades of conducting interviews, they have interacted with some of TV's biggest bigwigs and notables from stage and screen, the world of sports, politics and religion.



Eric Eremita, right, of HGTV's "Love It or List It," is interviewed by Monsignor Farrell senior Matthew Sullivan and sophomore Michael Maher during a shoot on WFBN-TV.

(Photo courtesy of Brother Paul Hannon)

But their proudest and most memorable moments arise when interviewing Farrell alums -- those who've achieved success and received critical acclaim in their respective fields.

Wednesday morning, that proved to be true when HGTV's "Love It or List It" star Eric Eremita, a Farrell alum, graced the stage of the live TV show.

"Firstly, getting interviewed by students of WFBN-TV was a wonderful experience," said Eremita. "They were extremely professional, and I felt like I was on the Today Show."



Eric Eremita of HGTV's "Love It or List It" and students of Monsignor Farrell's WFBN-TV smile for the camera during a recent shoot.

(Photo courtesy of Brother Paul Hannon)



Then, he had breakfast with Hannon and Farrell alums, before speaking to a classroom of seniors.

"We went around the room and I asked every student what the future holds," Eremita said. "It was just incredible. And I can't wait to be invited again! Vir Fidelis! (Latin for "faithman man")

"We had a terrific morning with Eric, both on the 'live' TV show, having breakfast with some of our alumni and speaking to one of my classes," he said. "And the main anchor Wednesday was senior Matthew Sullivan and sophomore Michael Maher, who did a terrific job."

Eric Eremita of HGTV's "Love It or List It" has made Monsignor Farrell's WFBN-TV's Wall of Fame. (Photo courtesy of Brother Paul Hannon)



Eric Eremita of HGTV's "Love It or List It" and Brother Paul Hannon, executive director of Monsignor Farrell's WFBN-TV.

(Photo courtesy of Brother Paul Hannon)

Visit Msgr Farrell High School at <https://www.msgrfarrellhs.org>

**VANCOUVER COLLEGE
VANCOUVER, BC**

From The B.C. Catholic Newspaper
Vancouver, BC, April 09, 2019
By Sean Ryan



Bronx kids ‘brought Jesus’ to Vancouver volunteers



Vancouver College student Sean Ryan with a New York public school student during an outreach trip to the Bronx. "It was inspiring to see the conviction and affection these students had," Ryan writes. (Photos by Lillian Vernier / Special to The B.C. Catholic)

New York City is often known for its iconic landmarks and sights; it's easy to think of the Statue of Liberty, the Empire State or Chrysler buildings, or perhaps the Brooklyn Bridge.

However, the ever-changing people of the city truly make it the place it is. They are amazing people with stories the members of Vancouver College's Outreach Team had the honour to be a part of, if only for a short time. Ask any of the 22 young men on the March 10-18 service trip, and they will likely tell you that the best part of the trip was the time spent with the students of Public School 29 and St. Ann's after-school care program.

These great kids live and attend school in the Bronx, one of the poorest communities in the U.S. It was a huge contrast to the privileged backgrounds most of us grew up with.

Walking through the Bronx on the first day, our group realized we stood out. Local residents made comments as they passed, and by the time we made it to Public School 29, we were all feeling rather defensive. Our teacher suggested we talk with some middle school students having lunch in the schoolyard, and we followed apprehensively.

We began by tossing a football among ourselves, until a boy in Grade 8 walked up and joined us. This would eventually become an intense game of two-hand touch football that helped bring us together. Sport broke down barriers that were keeping us apart, and we developed many relationships with other students during the week we volunteered at the school.

Getting to know the kids, both at the middle school and at St. Ann's after-school care program and learning about their goals and hopes was amazing. I began to write down the names of the students I spoke with and eventually compiled a list of over 30 students.

Despite any adverse circumstances they were in, I spoke to kids who dreamed of becoming FBI agents or artists; who imagined joining the military so they could help people; who loved math and science; and who were brave enough to come up to us and make a connection rather than the other way round.



Vancouver College student Scott Brown with children at a public school in New York.

They were also very aware of their situation. After some Grade 3 girls waved us down to sit and eat lunch with them, they asked why we would come to a ghetto school. They couldn't understand why we would want to spend time in a place they, only in Grade 3, already knew people looked down on.

I was lucky to be placed in a Grade 4 classroom while serving at the school, and the affection of the kids was amazing. During lunch and other breaks, we played tag, which really consisted of multiple kids grabbing on to me

and pulling me in every direction. At one point, a teacher had to tell these Grade 4s and 3s to be less rough with the much bigger and stronger 18-year-old me.

Throughout the trip, it was inspiring to see the conviction and affection these students had, and an important reminder that no matter where we live, we are all a lot more similar than we think.

Father Gregory Boyle, a Catholic priest working in Los Angeles, was once asked whether he had ever brought any of the gang members he worked with to Jesus. He replied that it was they who brought Jesus to him. In the same way, it was those kids who brought Jesus to us and changed our lives.

Sean Ryan is a Grade 12 student at Vancouver College. The school's Outreach Team volunteered at schools in New York City March 10-18, 2019.

Click the graphic below to learn more about Vancouver College's future.



THE SISTERS OF MERCY

Newly Launched Movie about Catherine McAuley - In God alone (23 minutes)



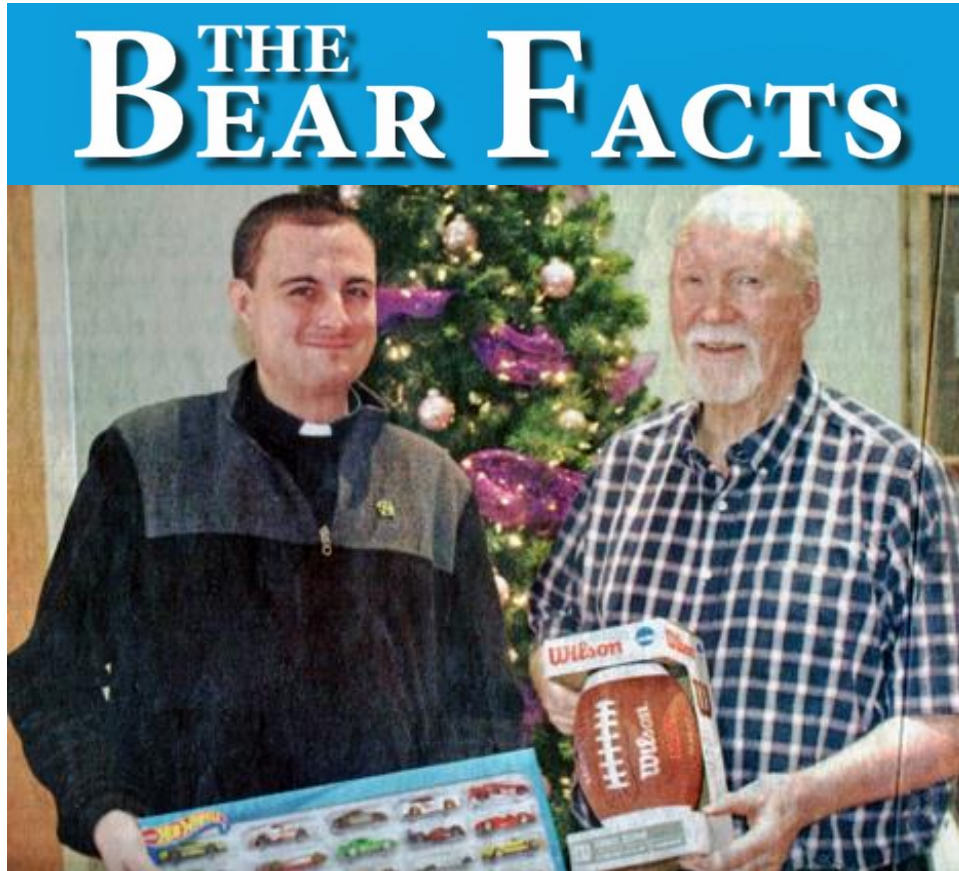
I am pointing you to a new movie about Catherine McAuley, a gift of the St. Louis, Missouri Mercy Health Care system. There are two versions, the second with Spanish subtitles.

The quickest access point is from the launch page in the Catherine section on the mercy world website: <https://www.mercyworld.org/catherine/> (click on **View the Film**, then at the bottom of the page click on **Watch the Film** with a choice for English or for Spanish subtitles and the ability to watch in full screen format.

We thank the St. Louis, MO Mercy community and all those who made this production possible – a rare gift to the Mercy world and beyond.

**ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL
MADISON, MISSISSIPPI**

MISSION TO SERVE



Left Br. Robert Droel and Br. John Brennan

St. Joe is unique in many ways, especially in its service-oriented curriculum. Nowhere is this more evident than in the work of two vowed Christian Brothers, who also teach at St. Joseph Catholic School: Brothers John Brennan and Robert Droel. The main mission of the Christian Brothers is to educate the youth and serve the poor, areas in which Droel and Brennan excel.

Droel, originally from Chicago, came to St. Joe in 2015 as part of his formation – the first stage of his journey to becoming a brother. He fell in love with the feeling of community and ministry at St. Joe, but had to return to Chicago shortly to complete the novitiate stage of becoming a brother. When he completed the stage, it was time to find out where his next assignment would be. Droel said he was “thrilled that they were even open to the idea of me returning to St. Joe.” Droel recently took his vows to officially be initiated into the Christian Brothers. But he explained the only strange adjustment is his change in title. “In coming back, people told me not to expect it to be the same. I anticipated a difficult readjustment but have found that while some things have changed, such as the classes I am teaching, many things have not.” One major change for Droel is that he no longer receives a paycheck.

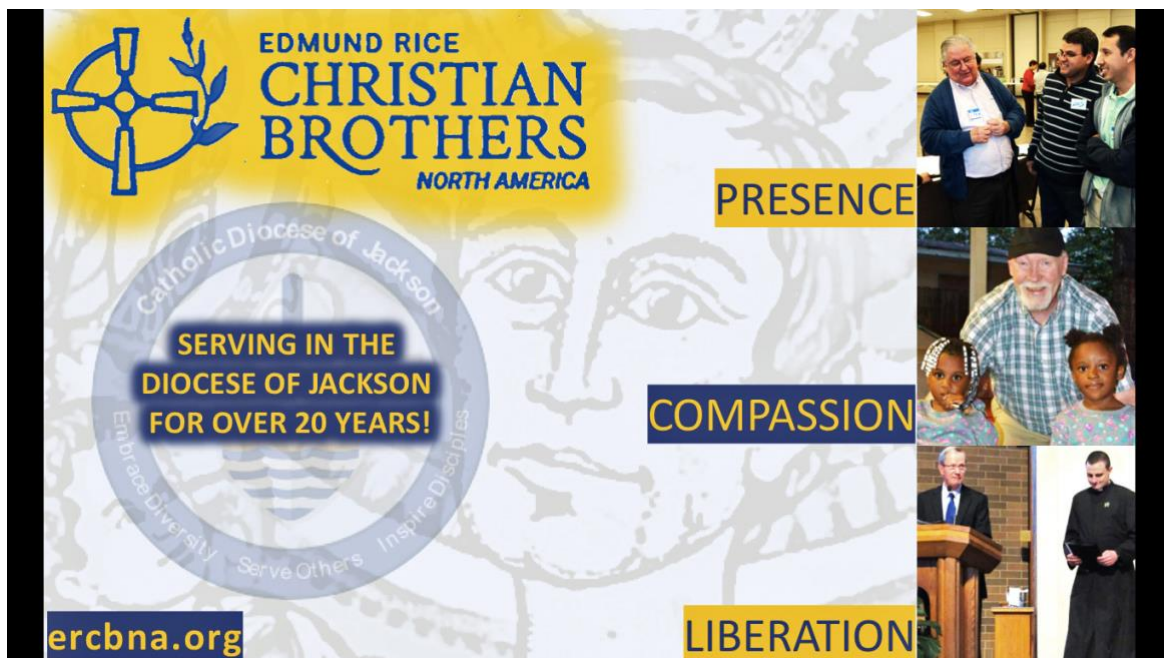
As part of the mission of the Christian Brothers, Droel and Brennan’s main responsibility is their teaching job at St. Joe. In addition to this, both brothers maintain a personal prayer life and contribute to the community in

different ways. Since Droel just recently became a brother, he is currently focusing on managing his six classes, attending school events, and helping Brother John as much as possible.

Brennan, on the other hand, has been a part of the Christian Brothers for 56 years and has dedicated his ministry mainly to helping the poor, in addition to teaching. From classroom fundraisers to volunteering at a community center in Jackson, Brennan has done great works for the community on all scales. “I have always enjoyed helping people, whether it be as a teacher, a coach, a moderator, an administrator, or even as a bus driver,” he said. Brennan thoroughly enjoys his job as a teacher at St. Joe, but he also has a special love for helping people outside the St. Joe community. “I find it enjoyable to be able to help other people, especially the poor and the marginalized here in the Jackson metropolitan area,” Brennan said. While he was in high school, Brennan was taught by numerous Christian Brothers, who were referred to as the “Irish Christian Brothers” at the time. Brennan was so greatly inspired by the one who taught him that he decided to become a brother himself. He was sent to the Jackson Diocese 20 years ago by Bishop William Houck and has been teaching at St. Joe ever since. Brennan spearheads several projects to help the poor and needy. He has organized efforts to provide children with school supplies every fall, to feed the hungry during Thanksgiving and Christmas and to provide clothing for people in need.

After all their hard work, Droel and Brennan will both be able to return home for Christmas – Brennan to Boston and Droel to Chicago. Both are excited to spend time with their families but are eager to return after the winter break to continue their mission at St. Joe.

The above article, highlighting the vocation and ministries of Brothers John Brennan and Rob Droel at Saint Joseph Catholic school in Madison, Mississippi, was published in the school’s newspaper, The Bear Facts. – Story by Mary Grace Stewart



The above graphic shows all three members of the Christian Brothers community in Madison, Mississippi. Top: Brother Ted Dausch, middle: Brother John Brennan, bottom: Brother Robert Droel

Visit St. Joseph’s Catholic School at <https://www.stjoebruins.com>

Jericho House becomes 49th Blue Community!

May 7, 2019 - 2:35pm



Jericho House Board Chair Wayne Badaway signs the certificate as our Executive Director Molly Kane looks on.

The Council of Canadians welcomed the latest Blue Community into the fold yesterday. Jericho House in Wainfleet, Ontario is a youth leadership, social & ecological justice, and spirituality centre just a stone's throw from Lake Erie on the Niagara Peninsula. Our new Executive Director, Molly Kane (/executive-director) delivered the Blue Community certificate yesterday afternoon to Jericho House's Board of Directors. The community cited their proximity to Lake Erie and a prolific spring in the conservation area next to their property amongst their reasons for wanting to commit to the principles of being a Blue Community.

Blue Communities support the idea of a water commons framework, recognizing that water is a shared resource for all. They recognize water and sanitation as human rights, ban or phase out the sale or use of bottled water in their facilities and promote publicly financed, owned and operated water and wastewater services. A "Blue Community" <https://canadians.org/bluecommunities>) recognizes its responsibility to promote the right to

water. Because water is central to human activity, it must be governed by principles that allow for reasonable use, equal distribution and responsible treatment to preserve water for nature and for future generations.

Here are the resolutions passed by Jericho House that make them a Blue Community:

Whereas, Jericho House is located .08 km from Lake Erie, a major fresh water resource; and

Whereas, Jericho House borders the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority's fresh water Quarry; and

Whereas, water is a gift held in common by all of us, the human and other than human; and

Whereas, water is a common good that is shared by everyone and is the responsibility of all; and

Whereas, water is essential for all of life and must be governed by principles that allow for reasonable use, equal distribution and responsible treatment; and

Whereas, there is increasing pressure by business and other entities to put water up for sale and to privatize water services; and

Whereas, many Canadians, especially many Indigenous Peoples, are deprived of clean and safe drinking water and adequate sanitation; and

Whereas, each responsible and rational person has an obligation to protect, to preserve and to use wisely this water as a commons and as a public trust; and

Whereas, the adoption of a water commons framework to address pollution, degradation, depletion, and privatization at the community level is crucial in the global struggle to preserve water and ensure fair access to all;

Therefore, the Board of Directors of Jericho House has passed the following resolution, that Jericho House be designated a Blue Community and proceed with the necessary application process.

Be it further resolved that Jericho House commit itself to:

Advocate for the recognition that water is a human right.

Recognizing that the corporate takeover of water is an underlying cause for the privatization of water and its infrastructure. We will join and/or support individuals and groups who advocate for safe, clean water and sanitation and who resist the corporate takeover of water.

Advocate for the protection of public ownership and operation of waters and watersheds with governing bodies on the municipal, provincial, national, and international level for the development of plans of action, establishment of monitoring and accountability mechanisms and ensuring affordable services for all.

Monitor use of water.

Use only the amount of water needed.

Refrain from using bottled water where potable water is available.

Advocate the protection of waters and watersheds with faith groups.

Include references to care for water in all the presentations we make.

Ensure good maintenance of taps and other domestic water lines in our facilities.

Monitor and limit how much plastic goods we purchase and use.

Write letters and sign petitions related to the protection and preservation of water.

Continue to educate ourselves in these matters.

Include in all Jericho House's Terms & Conditions the designation that Jericho House is a Blue Community and, as such, a **Bottled Water-Free Zone**.

We make this commitment for the good of all in keeping with the integrity of all creation and in a spirit of humility and gratitude for water and the many gifts lavished on us by the Creator.

Are you interested in your community becoming the 50 Blue Community worldwide?

Click here for more information!

<https://canadians.org/content/booklet-blue-communities-project-guide>

Jericho House

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GREETINGS FROM YAMBIO!

BROTHER JIM KEANE, CFC

The land is very dry. We are hoping for rain to come soon. Every night people are burning their fields in preparation to plant. The air has been quite polluted. Yesterday was the Feast of St. Josephine Bakhita, the Patroness of Sudan and South Sudan and of Human Trafficking.

A few days before we celebrated the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, our ND Foundation Day and the Day of Consecrated Women and Men Religious. We were blessed to celebrate with an Evening Mass in our Community Chapel, all eleven of our Solidarity Community in Yambio, Fr. Elia our parish priest, Sr. Bakhita MFIC, and three Christian Brothers of Edmund Rice.



This photo shows 15 of us around the altar. Gabe our Maryknoll Lay Missioner took the photo. I'm standing between Fr. Elia and Sr. Margaret Scott our Principal. After Mass we went to the Tourist Hotel to enjoy a buffet supper with goat, chicken and fish! Dessert was yogurt!



Sr. Carolyn (left of center in blue shirt) with her colleagues at a Celebration of Consecrated Life.

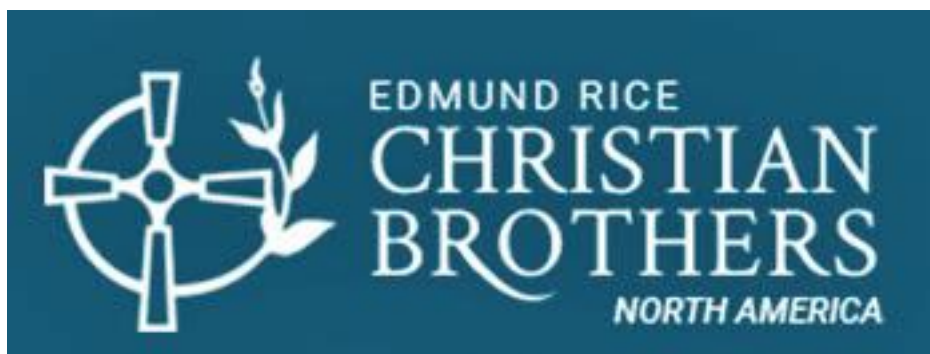
Thank you for keeping us in your prayer. Yesterday 311 child soldiers were given school bags to hopefully begin a new life. 87 of those children are girls. We continue to pray for peace. Pope Francis has named Friday the 23rd February as a day of prayer and fasting for peace in Democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan.

**CHRISTIAN BROTHERS EAST HARLEM COMMUNITY
EAST HARLEM, NEW YORK CITY, NY**



The photo shows a gathering of religious at Christian Brothers East Harlem Community. There were Daughters of Charity, Franciscan Handmaids of the Most Pure Heart of Jesus, Linwood Ursulines, Congregation of Notre Dame, IHM's from Scranton, Franciscan Atonements, Religious of the Sacred Heart, some parish associates and ourselves.

Mission Frère-Harlem, a mission of the Edmund Rice Christian Brothers North America Province, is present to serve those in need, and those who minister to them. We strive to be aware of the Spirit in our lives through prayer and contemplation. We are especially committed to hospitality and collaboration, to support and mentoring and to awareness and affirmation of our sisters and brothers — those who serve and are served.



Check out our website – Click the graphic above.

