

# CONSORTIUM CHRONICLE

## The OES Mission

The Office of Educational Services has prime responsibility for the mission effectiveness of Edmund Rice Christian Brother schools throughout the United States, Canada, and West Indies. Using the *Essential Elements of a Christian Brother Education* as guiding principles, OES promotes Catholic identity and mission integration through school leadership development and review processes, teacher training programs, Board formation, and periodic school validation visits. OES also oversees comprehensive immersion programs in North and South America.

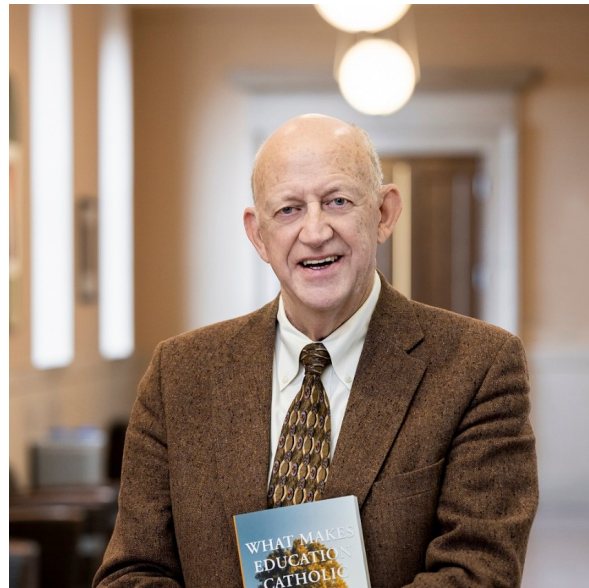
## Partners in Education Workshop

### November 5, in New Rochelle, NY

Michele Caiola - Iona Prep  
James Oates- Iona Prep  
Holly Manuelian - Bergen Catholic  
Patrick Maron- Bergen Catholic  
Susan LaMonica -Bergen Catholic

### November 12, Chicago

Jennifer Wagner, Brother Rice, Chicago (See page 5 to Learn about PIE)



**Dr. Thomas H. Groome,**

## Have We Got News For You!

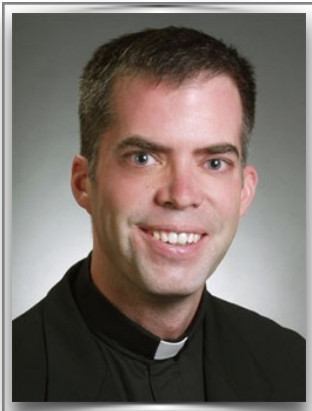
It has been another exciting month for all of us at OES, and most exciting is our collaboration with Catholic Memorial. Thanks to Dr Peter Folan and Dr. Michael Corso ,we have an all-star lineup of speakers and activities for our annual School Leaders Meeting.

Not only will you have the privilege of hearing the wisdom of Dr. Thomas Groome, we will be sending Sponsor Council Members, Board Chairs, Presidents and Principals a copy of Dr. Groome's new book. ***What Makes Education Catholic*** published by Orbis. (cont. page 2).





**Dr. Andy Boyton,**



**Rev. Casey Beaumier, SJ**



**Gasson Hall, Boston College,  
Meeting Site for  
Wednesday March 29, 2023**

But wait there's more! We are also grateful to welcome Dr. Andy Boyton, Dean of the Boston College, Carroll School of Management. We are also going to provide a copy of Dr. Boyton's book. ***The Idea Hunter: How to Find the Best Ideas and Make Them Happen***, published by Jossey Bass.

Also, we will also welcome Father Casey Beaumier, SJ from Boston College who is the director of the newly established Advanced Institute of Jesuit Studies at Boston College. Father Casey's talk, entitled Carrying on the Charsim and the Life of Jesus will be of particular interest to all of us as we all strive to accomplish the work begun by Blessed Edmund Rice

Liturgy, on our first day together will be celebrated by Cardinal Sean O'Malley. We hope you will encourage your Sponsor Council Members and Board Chairs to be with us the entire time, because we will be offering a high energy gathering filled with ideas and thought provoking conversation.

Soon, I will be sending the registration forms for our gathering, along with a draft of our agenda. We will need your commitment by December 15, 20022, as we have a contractual agreement with the hotel and they will charge for each cancellation. Breakfast is included on Tuesday through Thursday morning. Is going to be a wonderful week in Boston!

We hope you are as excited as we are and we can't wait to see you in beautiful Boston. Thanks CM!



**Cardinal Sean Patrick O'Malley, OFM Cap GCIH  
Archdiocese of Boston**

# Happenings in Church and Society Impacting Schools

by Br. Brian Walsh CFC

## CHURCH

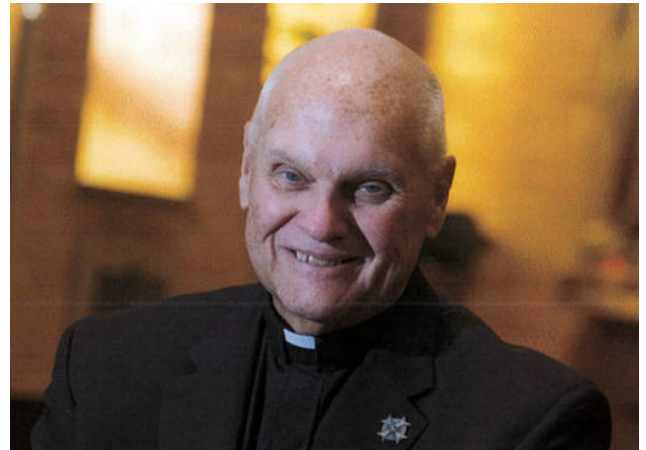
The Essential Elements of an Edmund Rice Christian Brother Education state:

1. *Evangelize Youth within the Mission of the Church*
2. *Proclaim and Witness to Catholic Identity*
3. *Stand in Solidarity with those Marginalized by Poverty and Injustice*
5. *Celebrate the Value and Dignity of Each Person and Nurture the Development of the Whole Person*

The Essential Elements are based upon:

## Key Themes In Catholic Social Teaching

- Dignity of the Human Person: individuals have access to the basic necessities of life
- Option for the Poor: the moral fabric of a nation is determined by how well it provides for the poor in its midst
- Solidarity of the Human Family: We are all part of the earth's household - no one should be excluded
- The Common Good: Social Structures must allow all to participate
- Participation: all involved in making decisions affecting them
- Dignity of Work: flows from the dignity of the human person
- Universal Purpose of Material Things: nature, natural resources, technology must contribute to the common good and support community.
- Social Nature of the Human Person: We each exist in a community and our welfare is safeguarded by community policies and structures.



Br. Brian Walsh, CFC

## SOCIETY

Education Week Research Center Survey of 1,019 Educators between September 27 and October 4, 2022.

(32% of participants self-identified as Liberal, 33% self-identified as Moderate, 35% self-identified as conservative)

1) Do you support or oppose state government restrictions on K-12 teaching, curriculum and/or reading materials containing the following subjects?

- ✦ Slavery: 77% oppose, 23% support
- ✦ The Holocaust: 76% oppose, 24% support
- ✦ Ethnicity/race: 74% oppose, 26% support
- ✦ Religion: 73% oppose, 27% support
- ✦ Sex Ed: 69% oppose, 31% support
- ✦ Gender/sexual orientation: 68% oppose, 32% support
- ✦ (cont. on page 4)

## From the Literature

by Br. Brian Walsh CFC

Continued from Page 3

2. Have you received any reaction when discussing ethnicity/race with your students?

32% I never discuss this topic with my students

41% although I do discuss this topic I have not experienced any reactions.

3. Have you received any reaction when discussing gender/sexual orientation with your students?

57% I never discuss this topic with my students

23% although I do discuss this topic I have not experienced any reactions.



Wishing all of you a Happy Thanksgiving! We are so grateful for all of you!

### **'Swatting' Hoaxes Disrupt Schools Across the Country. What Educators Should Know.**

[Swatting: filing a false report with the aim of stoking chaos and provoking a large law enforcement response.]

***False reports of school shootings pose real risks.***

***(90 schools during a three week period in September)***

Some Info:

- Calls are to local police
- Calls claim to be being made from inside the building, sometimes citing specific areas or injured students
- Lockdowns prompt uncertainty and emotional reactions:
  - with adults in the building be as specific as you can be
- Communicate with Families
  - about the reason
  - the nature of the threat
  - what level of precaution to take
- Communicate with the students
  - your lockdown plan
  - how you will determine it is safe to return
  - how you will communicate during emergencies (texts ?)
- After a lockdown:
- debrief Faculty and Staff
  - ♦ on what worked and
  - ♦ what needs to be improved
- debrief with students
  - ♦ how did actual lockdown compare with a drill lockdown
  - ♦ how do they feel ?

(Education Week 9/21/22)



## More From the Literature by Br. Brian Walsh CFC

### Teaching Goldfish To Drive

Israeli Researchers reported in the journal Behavioral Brain Research:

- Goldfish were trained to use a wheeled platform
  - the platform could be driven and have its course changed in Reaction to the fish's movements inside a water tank on the platform
  - the task was to "drive" toward a target that could be seen through the walls of the fish tank
    - ✦ the platform had a remote sensing technology that used lasers
    - ✦ that told its location and where the fish was in the tank
    - ✦ after being tested to reach the target the fish got food
    - ✦ goldfish have the cognitive ability to learn a complex task in an unknown environment .
- (Washington Post, 01/11/2022)



### Median Household Incomes in the United States by Ethnicity

(US Census Bureau: 2013-2015 American Community Survey/equitable growth)

- |                       |            |
|-----------------------|------------|
| • Indian Americans:   | \$ 100,500 |
| • Filipino American:  | \$ 83,300  |
| • Japanese Americans: | \$ 72,300  |
| • Chinese Americans:  | \$ 69,100  |
| • White Americans:    | \$ 59,900  |
| • Korean Americans:   | \$ 59,200  |
| • Average American:   | \$ 56,200  |
| • Hispanic American:  | \$ 43,000  |
| • African American:   | \$ 35,000  |

### Percentage of Population with A Bachelor's Degree

(US Census Bureau: 2013-2015 American Community Survey/ equitable growth)

- |                          |     |
|--------------------------|-----|
| • Indian Americans;      | 70% |
| • Korean Americans:      | 53% |
| • Chinese Americans:     | 51% |
| • Filipino Americans:    | 47% |
| • Japanese Americans:    | 46% |
| • <b>US Average: 28%</b> |     |



By Cris Ritchie-Bonomo

# Partners in Education Workshop

Every year during the first two Saturdays in November, the Office of Educational Services offers the Partners in Education Workshop for new Board Members and Sponsorship Council Members.

Presenters for this year's workshop were me, Cris Ritchie-Bonomo, Ph.D. and I offered the workshop in New Rochelle at the OES office, and Brother Gennaro Sullo, CFC, who presented in Chicago.

The content of the half-day workshop, developed by Director of Governance, Br. Tom Murphy, CFC, included the following:

- A brief history of Blessed Edmund Rice, and the Christian Brothers,
- The development of Edmund Rice Education across the globe,
- The purpose and mission of Edmund Rice and Catholic education,
- The development of our current governance model,
- The role of trustees, sponsor council members, directors, presidents, and principals,
- Relationships with (Arch)dioceses, and government;
- Current issues in education facing boards,
- Building Better Boards
- Services offered by the Office of Education
- Time for Questions and Answers

This year's attendees were highly engaged and contributed to our conversation around service to their schools. Right off the bat, participants spoke about how important the schools were to forming them and/or their children."

Both Jim Oates, an Essex Catholic graduate and Iona Preparatory School board member and Patrick Mara, a Bergen Catholic alum and Bergen Catholic board member spoke about their personal calling to "give back" to the community and school that formed them.

Michelle Caiola, a parent of alumni from Iona Preparatory and newly appointed board member spoke of her great love for Iona Prep, and her gratitude for the kind of education her sons received. She too, wishes to contribute to the school that did so much for her sons.

Truly, it was gratifying to hear these board appointees who bring so many gifts and talents to our schools share their commitment to the future and love for the mission of our consortium schools. We are immensely grateful for their contribution of time, talent, and treasure!