



**Office of Educational  
Services**

# 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.

## Other Semi-Retired Gifts to the Consortium



Maureen Kiers, first  
retirement form Iona Prep.



**Mr. Kieran Daly,  
Associate Director  
Office of Educational  
Services**

## Retirement, Well, Not Quite!

The Office of Educational Services is pleased to welcome former Iona Prep, Principal, Mr. Kieran Daley. After thirty-eight years of service, all at Iona Prep, Kieran only thought he was retiring. However, his love for the charism of Blessed Edmund Rice, and the community of Brothers who were instrumental in his formation called him back into service.

Kieran began his return by volunteering to mentor new principal, Joe Adams from Vancouver College and by serving on the Called and Gifted Retreat Team. In December, Kieran accepted the part-time position of Associate Director.

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**Mr. Jim Antos**

Right away he began building our Google Drive, transitioning paper forms to electronic, and modernizing the way OES will communicate, collect information, and share best practices within the consortium. His spirit and wisdom contribute significantly to our consortium. Welcome home, Kieran!

**Mr. Jim Muting**

Kieran is not the only retiree who felt the pull to serve. Maureen Kiers, former Director of OES remains active in serving on the Edmund Rice Education Beyond Borders Leadership Team. Also, she is a Catholic Memorial board member and sponsor council member for All Hallows. Maureen recently said, she “appreciates the opportunity to give back.” Fortunately for OES, Maureen has continued to offer her knowledge and passion for the mission whenever there is a need. We are indeed fortunate to have her involvement.

**Ms. Dianne Doyle**

Jim Antos, retired Brother Rice, Chicago, Principal, also stays involved. In August, he served on the Essential Elements Validation Team for Damien Memorial along with Kieran Daly, and retired St Thomas More Collegiate President, Dianne Doyle. Jim is also mentoring Saint Laurence principal, Kristy Kane.

OES is also fortunate to continue to work with retired St. Laurence, Principal Jim Muting. Jim retired in 2020 but since has served on administrative review teams and is mentoring a relatively new to the consortium principal, Mary Martell from Bishop Kearney.

**Ms. Lilian Vernier**

Another active retiree within the consortium is Ms. Lilian Vernier who retired from Vancouver College last summer. Lilian is a key team member for our ACTION Student Leadership Workshop. She joined us for the workshop in Kearney, NJ, and she continues to assist with the Zoom check-ins and planning.

Next, pictured on page three is Br. Brian Walsh, CFC. His appetite for research and learning helps keep the consortium up to date on current ecclesial and public events that impact our schools. Without him there would be no Consortium Chronicle.

**Ms. Mary Jo Gambardella**

Finally, Mary Jo Gambardella who retired from Bishop Hendricken has returned there to teach theology part-time and serves on the Called and Gifted team. Her contribution to retreat planning, conversations, and liturgy is key to creating a formative atmosphere for teachers and staff attending Called and Gifted.

Our consortium of schools is fortunate to have such generous and gifted leaders who are committed to furthering the work begun by Blessed Edmund Rice.

# Happenings in Church and Society Impacting Schools

by Br. Brian Walsh CFC

## CHURCH

*Essential Element Number One of an Edmund Rice Christian Brother Education states:*  
Evangelize Youth Within the Mission of The Church

The Synod for a Synodal Church: Communion-Participation-Mission taking place from October 2021 until October 2024, during this Academic year of 2022-2023 is in the Continental Stage (viewing the Church in the United States and Canada as one united by geographic and cultural considerations).

The Working Document for the Continental Stage (**WDC**) was developed after analyzing the submissions from the Conferences of Bishops (**CB**) worldwide:

In the reports the People of God express a desire to be less a Church of maintenance and conservation and more a Church out in Mission. (**WDC 599**)

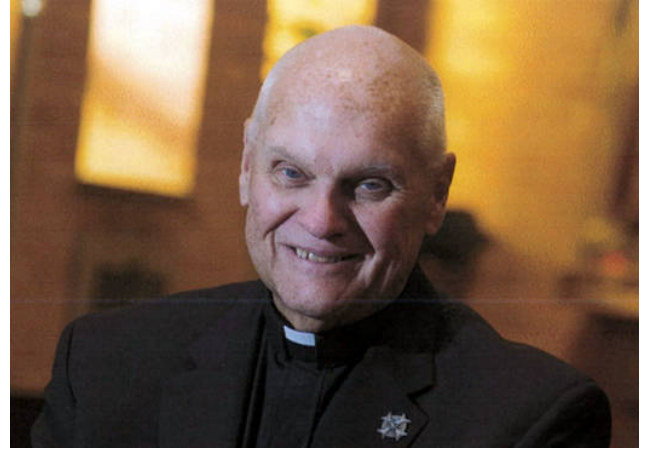
Our current 'Synod' experience has awakened in the lay faithful the idea of and a desire to get involved in the life of the Church, in the engagement with the world today and in the pastoral work on the ground. (**CB Canada**)

Among the fruits of the Synod experience, several summaries highlighted the strengthened feeling of belonging to the Church and the realization: the Church is not just priests and bishops.

While sharing the fundamental question 'How this journeying together happening today in your particular Church' it was noted that people could realize the true nature of the Church and in that light they were able to see the situation of their particular Church. (**CB Bangladesh**)

There was a deep realization that in the Synodal Church walking together is the way to become a missionary Church. (**CB Japan**)

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Br. Brian Walsh, CFC

## SOCIETY •

### Why Are Americans Fleeing Public Schools ?

(The Washington Post: 11/30/2022)

Since 2019, private enrollment is up, public enrollment is down and home schooling has become more popular.

>Public enrollment down from 49.8 million to 48.1 million: projected to be 46 million by 2030  
>Private School enrollment up 19% from 2020 to 2021 to 6.95 million.

Reasons that private schools are being selected:

- During Covid, private schools had In Person Instruction
- Special needs or abilities better served
- Public schools focus too much on teaching to standardized tests
- Desire to raise children in tradition of the Parent's Faith
- Private school sees themselves as helpers of a parent in raising a child
- Can attend one school for all elementary school years rather than several (one example given was a district in which a child would have 5 schools between age 3 and age 13)

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## From the Literature

by Br. Brian Walsh CFC

## From The Literature

### CHURCH Continued from Page 3

Listening to the scriptures (Is.54:2):

Enlarge the space of your tent, spread out  
your tent cloths unsparingly, lengthen your  
ropes and make firm your pegs.

This is how many reports envision the Church: an expansive but not homogeneous dwelling, capable of sheltering all, but open, letting in and out (cf John 10:9) and moving toward embracing the Father and all of humanity.

(In the second issue of the *Consortium Chronicle* we reported what the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops had to say about applying Is. 54:2 - - Enlarging the tent: those made vulnerable by their lack of social or economic power: immigrant communities, ethnic minorities, the unborn and their mothers, disabled people, women, those marginalized because of situations: divorced, remarried without annulment, LGBTQ+.)

### SOCIETY

Cont. from page 2

- Small classes and sense of community
- Public District has extreme voices, including parents, who want to ban books, anti-LGBTQ rhetoric, some questionable School Board Members
- School fosters critical thinking skills, open dialogue and introduction to peers of a range of backgrounds.
- Because the curriculum changes according to the whims of election cycles in many public districts these days.

1. The Harvard Study of Adult Development, which began tracking more than 238 men (regardless of sexual orientation) in 1938 and continues to this day has reported consistently that **Relationships** are the critical ingredient in well-being, particularly as we age.

Put simply, the more connected we are, the more likely we are to be healthy and happy. To paraphrase Imani Woody: Start building those bridges.

(The Washington Post: 10/23/2022)

2. Helping Students Outsmart Their Smartphones
  - Cell phones are the single most potent temptation in the lives of young people: limitless source of immediate gratification
    - Show them the data that shows there is a connection between report card grades and the location/use of their phone
    - Research shows that the best way for kids to stop being chained to their phones is situation modification: on purpose change your physical situation in relation to the phone:
      - +put it on silent mode
      - +put it in another room

(Education Week: 02/10/2021)

3. Which of the following Statements best describes the way you view social emotional learning?

- One of many strategies available to me 36%
- Transformational way to improve public ed 27%
- Promising idea 24%
- Passing Fad 9%
- Not on my radar screen 2%
- Threat to public ed 1%

(EdWeek Research Center survey, October 2022)

## Shout Out!

**Congratulations Damien Memorial and All Hallows!**

This Fall, both schools successfully validated their commitment to the Essential Elements of an Edmund Rice Education! Way to Go!



## Benedict's Benediction

### Reprinted from the New Daily News

### By New York News Editorial Board

### January 5, 2023

Pope Francis, 1.3 billion Catholics and the rest of humanity say goodbye today to Joseph Ratzinger after 95 years on Earth. A young man who lived through the horrors of Nazi Germany, he studied philosophy and theology and served his church, rising to become Pope Benedict XVI. During eight tumultuous years from 2005 to 2013, he led the Holy See through an unsteady age of smartphones and social media and liberal social awakening and political division and pervasive cynicism and a still-unfolding reckoning on sexual abuse.

It wasn't easy. Benedict had his successes and his stumbles. A complex man with a complex legacy, nothing became his term as pontiff like the leaving it, as he became the first pope in six centuries to abdicate the Throne of Saint Peter.

That humbling act took immense courage. Few men who command great power willingly relinquish it. And when Benedict's successor, Francis, charted a far different course both stylistically and theologically, many thought the contrast unkind to the living former pope. Francis has a preternatural talent for rising to and shaping the times, for connecting on a human plane, for seeming to elevate the essence and the spirit of the faith over its dogma. The more academic, more defensive Benedict always seemed less joyous in the role, in part because he was staunchly committed to preserving the Church with a capital C and the timeless values as he and other conservatives saw them. To him, the modern world had become a "dictatorship of relativism."



Though we count ourselves among those who've been especially moved by Pope Francis' way of leading, we appreciate Benedict's earnest attempt to preserve and protect the faith he loves — a North Star passed down over centuries, even through periodic epochal growing pains — in a rapidly changing world. There is no one true Catholic faith; the power and the glory of Jesus Christ contain multitudes.

Benedict will not be buried as pope. But he will be remembered as pope, and as a righteous servant of God.

## February Events

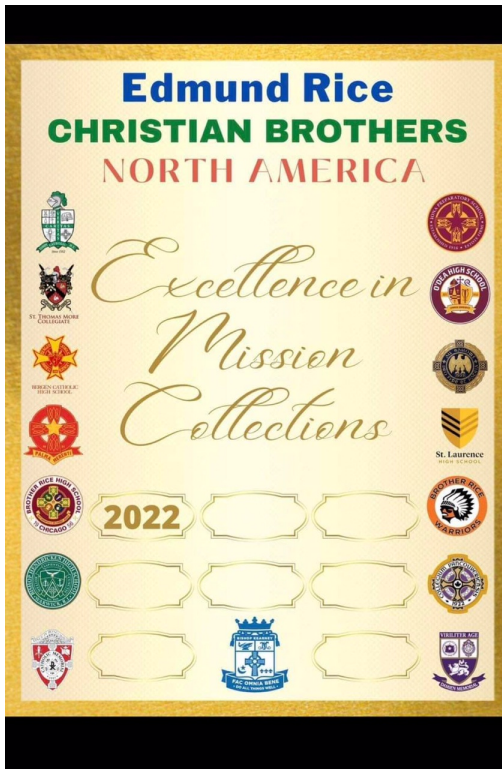
**February 2, 2023** OES will host Called to Lead, New Leaders Retreat at Mercy Center, Burlingame California. Retreat facilitator, Dr. Phyllis Morrison will facilitate the retreat which is focused on trust and building sacred relationships, and Tom Reidy will present on the President and Principal relationship.

**February 14-16** Peru Immersion Bishop Hendricken

**February 19-25** Peru Immersion - Catholic Memorial

# Mission Collections 2022

By Brother Stephen Casey, CFC



During school year 2021-2022 our school mission collections had a “Decade Challenge”.

The goal was for each school to beat their ten year mission fund average. Our schools collected \$113,068.08 to assist our mission areas of Brownsville, Texas; Dominica in the West Indies and Peru in South America.

Congratulations to our 2022 recipients of the “Excellence in Mission Collections” banner : Iona Preparatory School, Bergen Catholic, Saint Thomas More Collegiate, Vancouver College, Brother Rice Chicago, Brother Rice Michigan, St. Laurence, Bergen Catholic and Bishop Kearney.

Many thanks to all our Edmund Rice Christian Brothers Schools for their dedication to mission collections. We hope that this 2022-2023 school year will harvest an even bigger mission collection to help us bring dignity and love to our poorest brothers and sisters in our mission areas.

We invite all our schools who achieve their “Decade Average” in this 2022-2023 school year to add 2023 to their banner or to receive our beautiful banner for the first time to hang proudly in our schools in 2023.

Many thanks and prayers for all that our schools do in mission education and collections each year.



# Making Headlines and Making a Difference

**Published in Chicago Catholic, November 2, 2022**

Brother Rice High School and Saint Laurence High School, in Chicago were recently featured in a local publication that highlighted their partnership with Mother McAuley High School and Marist to assist with indigent funerals. Students help to pray and bury those who have no one.

This beautiful quote captures the spirituality of the moment. St. Laurence junior Jorge Rocha said “he feels the most connection to those whose remains are being interred near the end of the service, when those serving as pallbearers are invited to lay their hands on the caskets. It’s similar to the moment when he hands the censer to the priest at the end of the funerals he participates in as an altar server at his home parish of St. Leonard.” Jorge went on to say, “We have that relaxing feeling that these 202 souls have people to pray for them so that they have eternal rest. It was powerful for me to be part of this.”

Brother Rice teacher Mike Dolan was also quoted in the article, “celebrating and valuing the dignity of each person, and nurturing the development of the whole person” is one of the ‘essential elements’ of a Christian Brothers education, and participating in the burial service is part of that. Well done, BR Chicago and St. Laurence!

To see the fantastic photos and read more about the work of Saint Laurence and Brother Rice, Chicago, follow this link:

<https://www.chicagocatholic.com/chicagoland/-/article/2022/11/02/high-school-students-serve-as-pallbearers-at-indigent-burial>

**Published in the Boston Herald, December 24,**

Dr. Peter Folan, President of Catholic Memorial recently wrote a moving OpEd in the Boston Herald about two alumni from Ukraine who are fighting Russian occupation.

He also shared the distress Ukrainian families face and about the hope that comes from CM students who serve to provide for their material and spiritual needs.

In his piece, entitled “Everyone can Make a Difference for the World” he reminds us that we all have a part to play and we can act on behalf of others.

He says, “The CM community aspires to live out our school motto, Vince Bono Malum, which was adapted from Romans 12:21, ‘Do not be conquered by evil but conquer evil with good.’ I am grateful for those who have provided housing, clothing, food, and financial support to help those displaced by war, especially our new Ukrainian students.

Well done, Catholic Memorial and thank you, Dr. Folan!

Unfortunately, the OpEd is pay wall protected but if you wish to access it, here is the link:

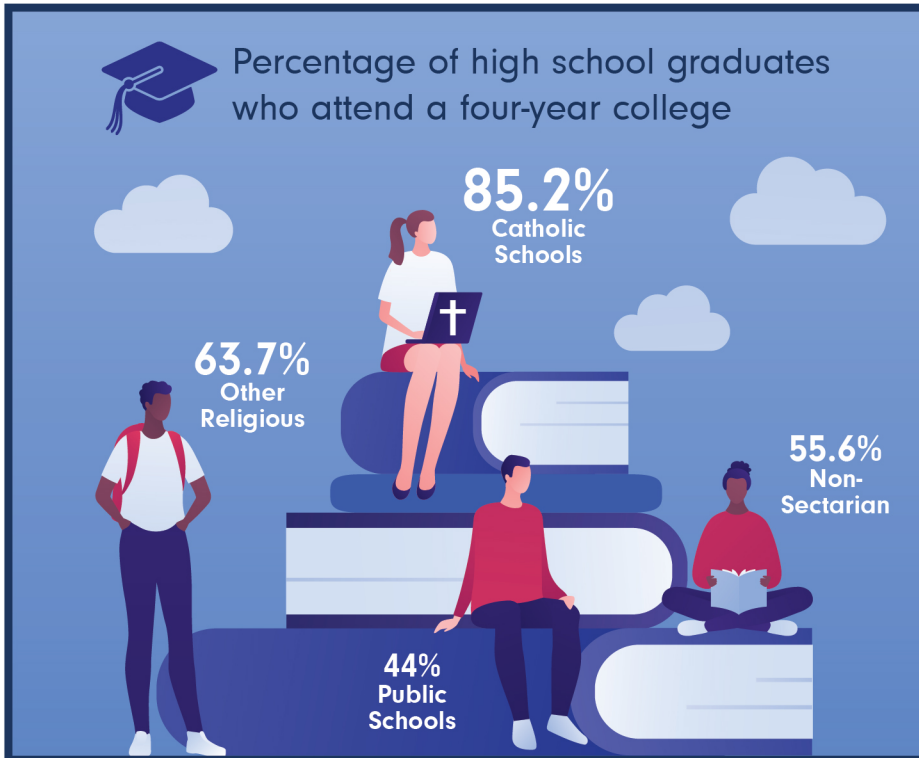
<https://www.bostonherald.com/2022/12/24/folan-everyone-can-make-a-difference-for-good-in-the-world/>





## NCEA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS SNAPS

A quick take on issues and statistics



Sources: Broughman et al. (2021); Irwin et al. (2021)

**As we celebrate Catholic Schools Week, all of us at OES thank you for your dedication and service to young people. We celebrate you!**

## CC Prayer Corner

Please remember in your prayers the following members of our community:

Jim Swartwout, father of Bishop Kearney Principal, Mary Martell. Jim is in hospice care and Mary is his caregiver.

Richard Carter, Development Associate for the Christian Brothers Foundation who is recovering from surgery.

For all who serve in the ministry of Catholic education



**Live, Jesus in our Hearts! Forever**