

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.

Lenten Quotes for Your Desert Walk



Pope Francis

God never tires of forgiving us; we are the ones who tire of seeking his mercy.



Moving Into the Season of Lent by Cristiana Ritchie-Bonomo

Today, all around the world, we celebrate Fat Tuesday, a day filled with parties, parades, sweets, and beads. In contrast, starting on Ash Wednesday, the wildness of Fat Tuesday slows into an effort to empty ourselves as we follow Jesus into the desert for the next forty days.

Lent became more meaningful for me when I was a young principal. As a novice principal, I worked with a wonderful, Irish priest, who saw faith and the Gospel as elegantly simple, but made complicated by the imposition of our human desire for power, money, prestige, self-interest, etc. His homilies to the grade school children were rich in wisdom and filled with the loving lilt and cadence of his voice, and his kind gentle eyes. Every Ash Wednesday, he asked the kids to focus on doing something for others rather than giving up chocolate or soda, or whatever was their choice to eliminate for the coming forty days. (Continued on page 2)



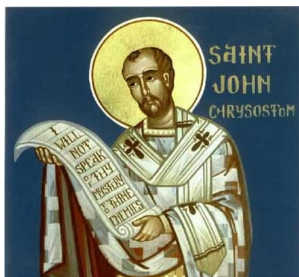
Blessed Edmund Rice

But let us do ever so little for God, we will be sure He will never forget it, nor let it pass unrewarded.



St. Francis de Sales

You learn to speak by speaking, to study by studying, to run by running, to work by working and just so, you learn to love by loving. All those who think to learn in any other way



John Chrysostom

No act of virtue can be great if it is not followed by advantage for others. So, no matter how much time you spend fasting, no matter how much you sleep on a hard floor and eat ashes and sigh continually, if you do no good to others, you do nothing.

He asked them to consider an act of kindness each day, or if they must give up candy or soda, take the money they saved and give it to our local food pantry. Better yet, he asked that they volunteer at the food bank. His message was love your neighbor and be Christ's presence.

Lent reminds me of the wisdom of Father Denis Hanrahan. He once told me that "sin is defined as the absence of love." So simply said but so rich in meaning.

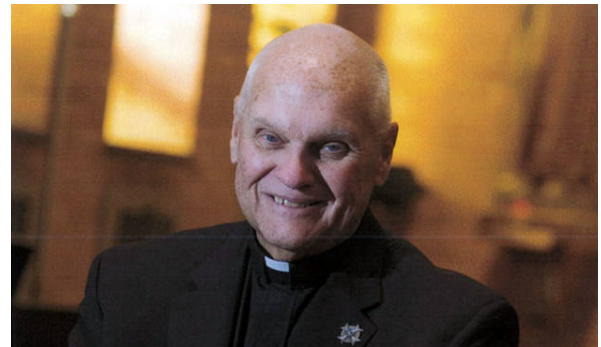
I hope that as each of you enter into this season of Lent, that you find some moments of peace and quiet to reflect, pray, and reconnect. I know that as we work and empty ourselves day after day, we need to reset and hear Christ's call to us, to accept His unconditional love, and forgiveness. As we walk with Him along the path that leads to the cross, do so knowing His walk and ultimate resurrection is the source of our conversion and forgiveness.

You will be in our prayers as we minister together in the Spirit of Christ and Blessed Edmund. Live, Jesus in our Hearts! Forever!

Happenings in Church and Society Impacting Schools

CHURCH

*THE ESSENTIAL
ELEMENTS OF AN
EDMUND RICE
CHRISTIAN
BROTHER
EDUCATION*



By Brian Walsh, CFC

*1. Evangelize youth
within the Mission of
the Church*

-provide opportunities for liturgies, retreats, vocation awareness and daily prayer.

2. Proclaim and Witness to Catholic Identity

-participate in the sacramental life of the Church and model a living faith through the use of rituals and symbols.

(Cont. page 3)

CHURCH cont.

It first meant Springtime

It's a time of Preparation

It's a time of Growth

It's a time of Caring

It's a time to Plan

It's a time to Change

It's a time of Caterpillars turning Butterfly

It's a time of celebration for it looks not to any Good Friday but

Only to Easter and Resurrection

It's a time to decide what is Important

It's a time of Wonder

It's a time of Quiet

It's a time of New Life

It's a time of Love

It's Lent

SOCIETY**Many Cities Still Segregated**

(Time Magazine: July 5, 2021)

- 1) 81% of Metro areas with at least a 200,000 population: 13 cities were more segregated in 2019 than in 1990
 - ✦ most segregated cities: Detroit, Hialeah FL, Newark NJ, Chicago, Milwaukee
 - ✦ most segregated areas: Mid-West, Mid-Atlantic
 - ✦ only two cities qualified as integrated: Colorado Springs & Port St. Lucie, FL
- 2) Segregation is about the divergence of the quality of neighborhoods and the composition of neighborhoods in a region: areas with the biggest increase in segregation between 1990 and 2019:
 - ✦ Fayetteville Arkansas
 - ✦ Pennsylvania regions of Reading,
 - ✦ Scranton, Allentown
- 3) Segregation's impact on growing up— as adults:
 - ✦ Black children raised in integrated neighborhoods earn \$1,000 per year more than those raised in segregated neighborhoods and earn \$4,000 more per year when raised in a white neighborhood.
 - ✦ Latino children earn \$844 more per year when raised in integrated neighborhoods than those raised in segregated neighborhoods and \$5000 more when raised in white neighborhoods.
- 4) Integrated Neighborhoods increase
 - ✦ Life Expectancy
 - ✦ Home Ownership
 - ✦ Employment
 - ✦ Education Level



Brownsville Immersion 2022

by **Br. Stephen
Casey, CFC**



In November, seven schools (Brother Rice Chicago, Bergen Catholic, St. Thomas More Collegiate, Iona Prep, Bishop Hendricken, Catholic Memorial and Vancouver College) traveled to Brownsville, Texas to make an immersion at the US southern border with Mexico. They each arrived for a one week immersion from October 29 thru November 19th.

Our Brownsville Immersion brings light to our student participants the issue of immigration dealing with people seeking asylum and refugee status at the border.

Through many projects each week students meet many migrants and hear their stories of why they left their home countries and what life was like for them on their journey. During their week of immersion students learn the truth surrounding a migrants story and human rights.

They learn first hand by the migrant people the horrors of poverty, corrupt government and corruption that brings violence to a people unsettled in their own countries.

They learn how parents sacrifice so much for their children to make sure they will grow up in a safer environment.

Throughout the week we visit projects such as La Posada which runs a home and center for



people awaiting refugee status visas. In McAllen, Texas we visit the Respite Humanitarian Center that welcomes migrants after they have been processed with asylum status with food to eat, clothes to wear and health care needs to help them on the journey.

At Proyecto Juan Diego we see a community reaching out to low income families to build for a better tomorrow with education and civic building classes.



At Project Arise Adelante we find an immigrant community that helps new migrants especially women to the USA with empowerment and personal development programs.



At Guadalupe Middle School we see an education that brings out the best in each child with a love that challenges all students to strive for excellence in all endeavors of life.



Each week of immersion, our Edmund Rice students form community, pray, share, and reflect on immigration issues and rights to help bring dignity, respect and humanity to our brothers and sisters that come to our American border.

No longer are our immigrants just statistics and political pawns but human like us just trying to find a new place to call home.

Many thanks to the Brownsville Christian Brother community and Guadalupe Middle School for a tremendous welcome and hospitality to us all month long. Gracias!

Lima Immersion 2023

March

- Bergen Catholic-Students
- Iona Prep-Students

April

- Brother Rice-Chicago-Students

May

- Colegio Newman-Group One, Students
- Colegio Newman-Group Two, Students
- Colegio Newman-Group Three, Teachers
- Colegio Newman-Group Four, Students

June

- Tampa Catholic-Students
- Brother Rice, Michigan - Students
- Bishop Hendricken - Students,
- Catholic Memorial - Students

July

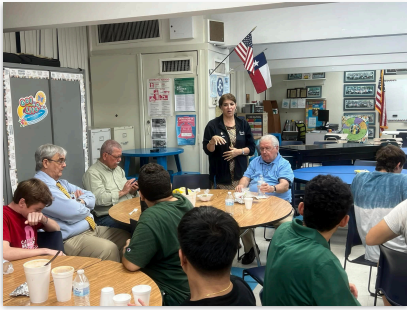
- STMC-Students
- Iona Prep-Fathers and Sons
- St. Laurence-Students

August

- Stella Maris Students

September

- Stella Maris. - Teachers



Brownsville Immersion 2022



Brownsville Immersion 2022



Peru Immersion 2022

Lent and our Christian Brother School Mission Collections

By Brother Steve Casey

The Lenten Season reminds us to focus on Prayer, Repentance, and Almsgiving. During Lent, we embody the lessons of Jesus and put “love our neighbors as ourselves” into action. Through prayer, we remember our Christian Brothers' North America Missions of Brownsville, Texas, Dominica, and Peru. We keep our poorest neighbors in prayer to unite them with us as one family in Christ. In repentance, we long for a change of heart, to place always the least of our brothers and sisters first in the Kingdom of God. In Almsgiving, we share our abundance as an outward sign of love for others, especially those who struggle to survive daily.

As Christian Brother School Communities, let us look at our mission collections thus far this school year for the mission territories of Brownsville, Peru, and Dominica. If our collections have been low, let us use this Lenten Season to teach our school communities the message of Lent and what almsgiving is all about. If our mission collections have been strong, thank us for the great generosity. We belong to an amazing Edmund Rice family that each year raises over \$100,000 in our schools to walk with our brothers and sisters made poor in the world. Each day the Edmund Rice Family in Brownsville, Peru, and Dominica help feed, clothe, house, and educate our family in need in our mission territories. Please continue to share with your school community the great gift of mission that brings new life to those at the margins of society. Thank you to every school for making the Edmund Rice Mission Collections the center of our essential elements by putting “love our neighbors as ourselves” into action.

To those schools who have the “Excellence in Mission Giving” banners in your schools, hang them with pride. To those who do not, achieve your mission goal average in 2023 and hang the banner with pride moving forward.

Love and prayers this Lenten Season from the missions!

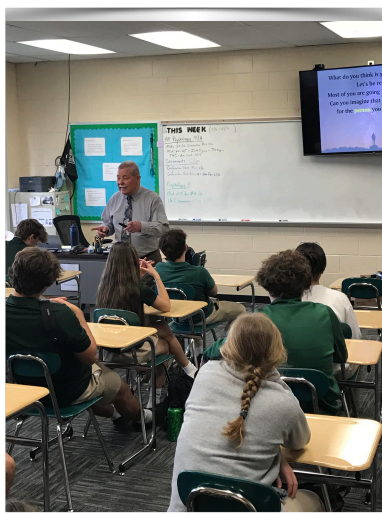
Brother Stephen Casey
Mission Education



LENTEN

ALMSGIVING

Around The Consortium



Br. Tim Smyth recently visited Tampa Catholic to talk about vocations!



O'Dea Catholic High School continues their partnership with the City of Seattle, collaborating with USDA Forest Service, Seattle Parks and Recreation and Green Seattle Partnership and renovating the Genesee Park natural area as part of the O'Dea Centennial Service Project! Way to Go O'Dea!



National Recognition for Three Palma Students!

Congratulations to Adán Magaña '23, Matthew Arbizu '24 and Roberto De León '24 for earning awards from the College Board National Recognition Program. They are being recognized because of their academic achievements and outstanding performance on the PSAT/NMSQT, PSAT 10 and/or AP Exams. All three excelled in College Board assessments and are recipients of the National Hispanic Recognition Award.

New Edmund Rice Networking Council

By Br. Sean Moffett, CFC

A recent initiative begun by the Province Leadership Team is designed to bring closer together those who have experienced and embraced the various expressions of the Charism of Blessed Rice. Several key leaders were tapped to share their experiences and idea. They come from experiences in the Edmund Rice Charism through schools (alums, parents, faculty and administration), ACTION, Called and Gifted, Volunteer and Service Programs, Mission trips. They were nominated by program leaders as having a special energy and commitment to promoting the Edmund Rice Charism.

Edmund Rice Networking Council Members:

- Kyle Byrne -- Iona U, Missions in South America
- Connie Byrne -- ACTION St. John Neuman
- MaryJo Gambardella -- Called and Gifted/Hendricken
- Jon Grey -- Volunteer in Lima Peru (Bergen Catholic)
- Aly Luiso -- Kenya and Zambian Missions Iona U
- John Murphy -- ACTION, Edmundian
- Chris Tinoco -- Iona Missions
- Francesca Tampone Puzio -- ACTION/Called and Gifted (Bergen Catholic)
- Lilian Vernier -- Called and Gifted, Vancouver College, British Columbia

The following three questions will be guiding the initial steps of this group with the hope of inviting a strong sharing of who they discern the Spirit and in particular the Charism animating their lives today.

Charism of Blessed Edmund Rice: moved by the Spirit, he opened his whole heart to Jesus Christ, present and appealing to him in the poor:

1. *What engages you now?*
2. *How do you connect your now to your initial Edmund Rice experiences?*
3. *Who are the poor whose cry you hear now?*

The long range hope is that before our next Congregation and Province Chapters in 2028 there will be a gathering/assembly of representatives of the Edmund Rice Network articulating for the Brothers' consideration, the "cry of the poor" and where they believe the Spirit is guiding the followers of Edmund.

For more details, follow this link to the Edmund Rice Christian Brothers website:

The Edmund Rice Network

All input welcome. Thanks for all you do to advance the Charism.



*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May the souls of all the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace.
~Amen~*

Mr. Jim Swartwout, father of Bishop Kearney Principal, Mary Martell.

Mr. Jadeden Sanchez, a Senior at All Hallows High School.

Upcoming Events

February 22, 2023

Ash Wednesday

March 17, 2023

Saint Patrick's Day

March 27-30, 2023

School Leaders' Meeting hosted by Catholic Memorial,
West Roxbury, MA.

