



CONSORTIUM CHRONICLE

Honoring Johnny Bevacqua

On page 2 we share the a night of celebrating a terrific leader. Johnny, we are grateful for your years of service, and your continued service as a Board member at Damien Memorial!

The Synod continues

Brother Walsh shares insights into the Synod findings. On page 3 he shares the highlights.

Mission Immersion Peru

Brother Stephen Casey and Brother Robert Droll are busy men as they host Bergen Catholic, Bishop Hendricken, Catholic Memorial , Iona Prep, and Iona University. More schools are lined up for later this month. We thank you for your dedication.

SBLM- Draft Agenda on page 6

Lenten Message 2024



Dear School Leaders,

As the crispness of winter gives way to the promise of spring, we enter the sacred season of Lent. This forty-day period, leading up to the glorious celebration of Easter, offers a unique opportunity for reflection, renewal, and strengthening the foundations upon which we lead.

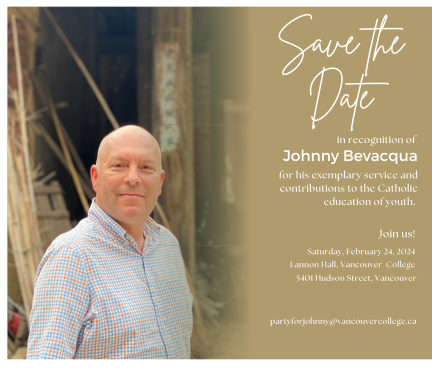
As leaders within our vibrant Edmund Rice community, we shoulder a significant responsibility. We guide, inspire, and nurture young minds and hearts. During Lent, we are presented with a chance to **replenish our own reserves** and **deepen our commitment** to the vital role we play.

Lent, for many, signifies a journey of introspection and transformation. It is a time for:

- **Renewal:** Reflecting on our strengths and areas for personal growth. This can manifest in various ways, from attending workshops or professional development opportunities to simply carving out time for quiet reflection.
- **Empathy:** Engaging in acts of service and fostering a sense of compassion within the school community. This can

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Celebrating a Servant Leader

On Saturday, February 24, 2024 Vancouver College hosted a celebration honoring the contributions of Mr. Johnny Bevacqua, former President of Vancouver College. In addition to the Bishop of the Diocese, and Johnny’s colleagues from previous schools, Br. Peter Zawot, Br. Peter O’Loughlin from the Province Leadership Team attended. Also joining the gathering were STMC President Stephen Garland, former STMC President Diann Doyle, and their leadership team. The Office of Educational Services was represented by Cris Bonomo and Kieran Daly. Representing the Chicagoland schools, St. Laurence, President, Joe Martinez, and Br. Charles Gattone who returned to his former community in Vancouver, as he represented Br. Rice Chicago.

The celebration began with liturgy and a blessing for Johnny and his wife, Carla. Amid many wonderful stories, tears, tributes, and laughter, Johnny was honored for his contribution to Catholic Education by Archbishop Michael Miller and by OES for his ministry with the Edmund Rice Christian Brothers.

- take the form of organizing service projects, participating in food drives, or simply fostering an environment of kindness and understanding amongst students and staff.
- **Collaboration:** Working together with colleagues to explore innovative ways to nurture the spiritual, academic, and personal well-being of our students. Sharing ideas and supporting one another can create a powerful force for positive change.

Remember, your well-being is paramount. Just as you dedicate yourselves to your students and community, it's equally important to dedicate time and energy to your own personal growth during this introspective season.

By prioritizing self-care and engaging in practices that spark personal renewal, you can return to the forefront of your leadership with **renewed energy, focus, and a deeper sense of purpose.** This, in turn, will inevitably radiate throughout the entire school community, fostering a more vibrant and positive learning environment for all.

May this Lenten season serve as a source of strength, inspiration, and growth for you, dear leaders.

With sincere encouragement,

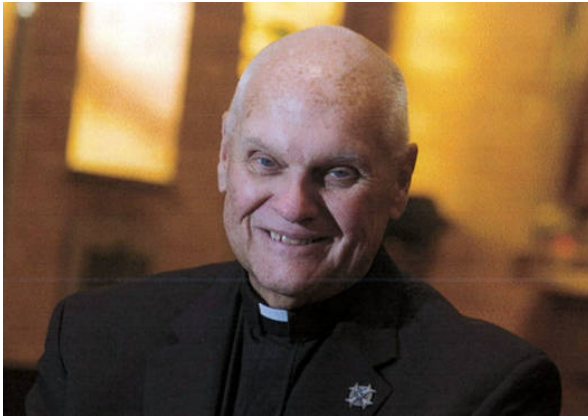
Cris



Johnny and his wife Carla are given a blessing. Their 25th Anniversary is also recognized!



Archbishop Michael Miller recognizes Johnny



Br. Brian Walsh, CFC

Happenings in Church and Society Impacting Schools

by Br. Brian Walsh CFC

CHURCH

(Items in this section help implement Essential Elements of An Edmund Rice Christian Brother Education:

1. Evangelize Youth Within The Mission Of The Church
2. Proclaim and Witness to Catholic Identity
4. Foster and Invigorate a Community of Faith)
5. Celebrate the Value and Dignity of Each Person and Nurture the Development of the Whole Person

The Synod on Synodality

The first session of the Synod was held in October 2023 and the second session is to be held in October 2024. In several issues of this **Consortium Chronicle** before the Synod and after it we have provided information. As we did in the past we would like to provide information in preparation for the second session in October of this year.

1. RECAP
 - Synod means WALKING TOGETHER
 - Prep Sessions were held on the parish, diocese and national levels
 - There were 365 voting members (Bishops, Priests, Religious, Women, Men)
 - The Report at the end of the first session:
 - >a Synodal Church is a Church in Mission
 - >asked for research on how to give women more access to Church Positions
 - >find ways to hear and accompany people who feel marginalized by the Church: because of their marriage, identity or sexuality
 - :the LGBTQ+ shorthand was not used in the document due to resistance from the Church in Africa (thus the references to sexual identity instead)
 - :reference is made to people who are alienated because they may have an irregular marriage (more than one)

Since the SYNOD ON SYNODALITY

1. There has been much backtalk about the Final Document and the Synod itself as seen in Comments made by the retired Cardinal of Hong Kong, Joseph Zen:

“On the one hand, the Church is presented as founded by Jesus on the apostles and their successors, with a hierarchy of ordained ministers who guide the faithful on the journey toward the heavenly Jerusalem.

“On the other hand, there is talk of an undefined Synodality, a ‘democracy of the baptized’. Which baptized people? Do they at least go to Church regularly?”

2. We have had the Decree that says same sex couples may receive a blessing.

>The Bishops of the Church in Africa petitioned and received permission not to comply with the Decree.

GOING FORWARD

A Synod (walking together) has a long history and tradition in the Church. It has been a constant in the life of the Eastern Church but was lost to the Western Church for centuries until Vatican Council II (1962-1965). Vatican II restored the Synod (it has met every 3 years since) as a way to implement its vision, directions and hopes for the future.

[One thing critics of Pope Francis keep saying is: **the Synod is NOT Vatican III.**

But it is Francis implementing the vision of Church presented to us by the Bishops assembled at the Vatican Council (1962-1965).]

Going forward in Preparation for the second session in October of the SYNOD ON SYNODALITY: We will present a summary of some of the major contributions that Vatican II made to what it means to be **Catholic in Our Time and Place** by looking at a few of the Documents (Vatican documents are always known by their first words:

**Lumen Gentium [The Church]
Gaudium et Spes [The Church in the Modern World]
Apostolicam Actuositatem [The Role of Laity]
Gravissimum Educatonis [On Christian Education]**

SOCIETY

1. Home Schooling's rise from fringe to fastest growing form of education
(Washington Post: December 4, 2023)

Public Education down 4% since 2017-2018.
Private Education up 7% since 2017-2018.
Home Schooling up 59% since 2017-2018

2. U.S. District Judge Kent Wetherell issued a ruling against the Escambia (FL) County School Board, which has banned above 1,500 books, including the dictionary, under H.B.1069. The judge ruled that book removals violated the First Amendment and rejected the (FL) state's argument.
3. Vaping declines among high school students. (The Boston Globe: 11/3/2023)
The number of high school students who reported using e-cigarettes fell to 10% last spring compared to 14% in Spring 2022.

Vaping **rose** slightly among **middle school** students to 4.6% from 3.3%

90% of the students who reported vaping said they used flavored products.

Dates to Remember

March 18-21 Stella Maris welcomes us to Montevideo, Uruguay!

April 5-14 EREBB Leadership Symposium, Cape Town, SA

April 15-18, Called and Gifted, Linwood Spiritual Retreat Center, NY

May 5, Feast of Blessed Edmund Rice

July 24-August 3, Pilgrims in Peru

September 30-October 2: School Leaders' Retreat, Q - Center, Chicago, IL

October 10-12, ACTION Ambassador Workshop, Kearney, NJ



Scenes from Mission Immersion Peru: Bergen Catholic, Catholic Memorial, Bishop Hendricken, Iona Prep, and Iona University! Thank You!

2024 School Leaders' Meeting (Americas)



Colegio Stella Maris - Christian Brothers
Monday 18 - Thursday 21 march 2024



TENTATIVE AGENDA

Monday 18 March

Arrival and Check in at Hotel Cottage

18:00 hs: Registration

18:30 hs: Welcome reception (Stella Maris and ERECBNA)

Tuesday 19 March

9:00 hs – 12:00 hs: Hotel Cottage Conference Room

- Opening prayer (Br. Michael Lynch)
- Getting to know our regional network: Bolivia, Canadá and Uruguay
- “Stella Nova”: our innovative educational program
- Immersion experiences, volunteer programs, EREBB exchanges, Action: testimonials by students and alumni

Lunch in the hotel

14:00 – 17:00 hs: Shuttle from hotel to Movie Center

- The story of the Miracle of the Andes – screening of the film: “Society of the Snow: Everything You Need to Know” and post – movie meeting with survivors.
- Free time for dinner

Wednesday 20 March

8:30 – 12:30 hs: Shuttle from hotel to Colegio Stella Maris

- St. Patrick’s Mass in Stella Maris Gymnasium
- Guided tour of Stella Maris
- Bus to Los Tréboles (group A) and Colegio Sta. Margarita (group B)

Lunch

14:00 – 17:30

- Bus to Los Tréboles (group B) and Sta. Margarita (group A)
- Tour of Montevideo
- Dinner at the Old Christian’s Club

Thursday 21 March

9:00 – 12:00 hs: Hotel Cottage Conference Room

- Opening prayer
- Reflection session
- Getting to know our region: Perú, EEUU and Argentina

Lunch in the hotel

14:00-17:00

- ERCBNA meeting (1 hour 30 mins)
- Visit to “Biblioteca Nuestros Hijos” (two groups)
- EREBB: Wayne Tinsey

9:00 hs: Dinner at Colegio Stella Maris

Friday 22 March

Hotel check out