



# PROVINCE NEWSLETTER

## Edmund Rice Christian Brothers North America

A PROVINCE OF THE CONGREGATION OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS

Volume 8 Issue 1

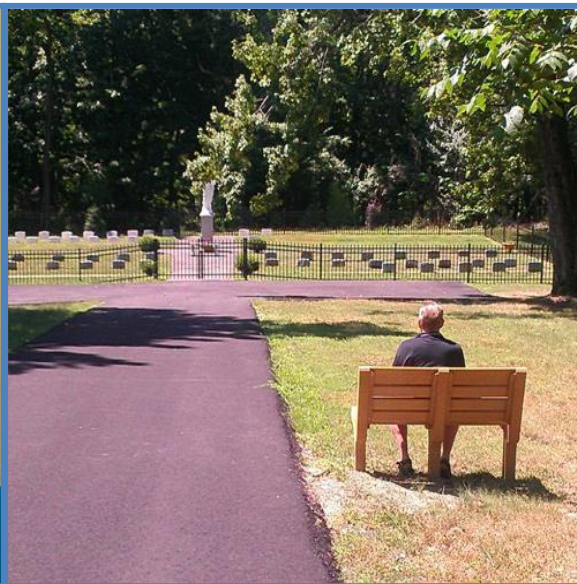
September, 2012

### Brother Philip Pinto, Congregational Leader Conducts Retreats for the Brothers

This past July, 2012, our Congregational Leader, Brother Philip Pinto, offered two retreats to the Brothers of the Province. They were held in Beacon, NY.



**Br. Philip Pinto**  
Congregational Leader



**A time of peaceful reflection**

#### In this issue:

ACND.....	p. 2
All Hallows .....	p. 4
Tampa Catholic .....	p. 7
Reunion 1962 .....	p. 7
Associates .....	p. 8
West Park .....	p. 9
John Holden.....	p. 10



No matter what tasks and demands our days might hold, we are reminded by this month's Readings of the need to be mindful of God's call in all that we do. As St. James tells us on the 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time, we must be "doers of the word and not merely hearers" who deceive ourselves by going through the motions simply for the sake of appearances.



(l – r) Seated: Brothers Jim Hamilton, Bosco Wakeham, Fran Murray, Jerry Johnson, Pat O'Toole, Barry Lynch, Carmine Pellegrino, Kevin Griffith. Standing: Brothers Tom Leto, Hugh O'Neill, John Adams, Philip Pinto, Sean Whitty, Conan Armstrong, Peter O'Loughlin, Ed Bergeron, Chuck Gattone, Bob McGovern, Candidate Rob Droel, Brother Dan Casey

## ARCHBISHOP CURLEY NOTRE DAME PREP

### Miami, Florida



**Ms. Lisa  
Morales**

On Saturday, June 23, 2012, Edmund Rice Christian Brother Jason Matthew Ford, CFC, made his Perpetual Profession of Vows. The event was held at Bergen Catholic High School in New Jersey where Brother Ford was accompanied by family, friends and Christian Brothers.

Currently Brother Ford serves as the Campus Minister and Enrollment Manager at Archbishop Curley Notre Dame 6 to 12 Prep. In the initial formation process of the Edmund Rice Christian Brothers, a Brother must renew his vows each year for six years before becoming eligible to profess his final vows.

"Over the past year I have had many opportunities to look back and reflect on the nine years of formation I have experienced," remarked Brother Ford. "The common theme that came up in my reflections was the happiness that I and the other Brothers experience on a daily basis

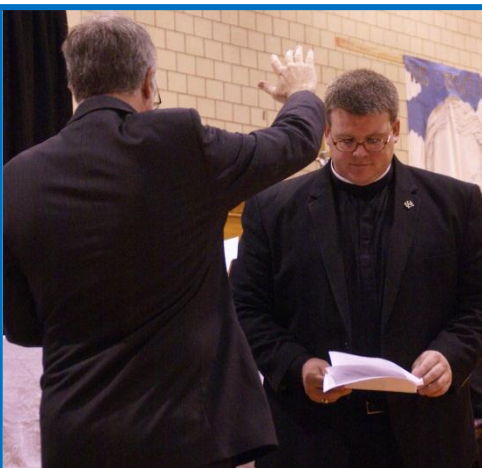
because of our call to live in community and to serve one another and the Church as Brothers. The opportunity to publicly commit to being a Brother forever was an honor and a chance to thank all those that have supported and encouraged my vocations from my family, to my friends, and each of the Brothers in their own ways."

Brother Ford was born in Boston, MA, to Kevin and Marilyn Ford and has two brothers. He attended Sacred Heart Parish until 8th Grade and then attended Catholic Memorial School in West Roxbury, MA. In 2001, he graduated from Iona College in New Rochelle, NY. Upon graduating, and while teaching theology at Catholic Memorial School, Brother Ford felt the call to religious life. He joined the Eastern American Province of the Congregation of Christian Brothers two years later.

In 2005, Brother Ford was accepted into the North American Novitiate in Hyde Park, IL. During that year, he took classes at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. From 2006 to 2009, he served as a high school theology teacher at Palma High School in Salinas, CA, and began graduate studies at Santa Clara University in the Graduate Program in Pastoral Ministries.



**Jason kneeling during the Litany the Saints**



**Jason receives a blessing from Br. Hugh  
O'Neill, Province Leader**

Following his three years in Salinas, Brother Ford was assigned to Cochabamba, Bolivia, to study Spanish at the Maryknoll Language Institute. He lived and studied there for six months and completed his year ministering in Canto Grande, Peru.

Brother Ford's experience at ACND Prep has further contributed to his spiritual growth. He comments: "At ACND, I have found myself encountering two main sources of energy – the first being the community of Brothers and the second being the young people to whom I have the opportunity to minister. I continue to be amazed by the impact a caring and nurturing community can have on our students and the larger community as a whole."

Since 1984, the Brothers of the Congregation of Christian Brothers have served at ACND Prep in the areas of administration, faculty, and



counseling. The Edmund Rice Community is an organization made up of Christian Brothers and ACND students. The group allows members to deepen their spiritual lives and develop qualities of Christian compassion and leadership to exert a positive influence within the school or community.

Brother Ford concludes: "I find the opportunity to be present to the young men and women in the school community during a variety of events has been a true blessing in my life. I am also energized by the school community's total embrace of the charism of Blessed Edmund Rice, welcoming whoever shows up at our door, working with the materially poor, while forming a strong community of faith and service."



**Br. Jason Ford and his brothers Jonathon (center) and Jeremy**

**Br. Jason Ford and his family**

### **Archbishop Thomas Wenski Welcomes Students to the New School Year at Archbishop Curley Notre Dame 6 to 12 Prep's 'Opening Mass'**

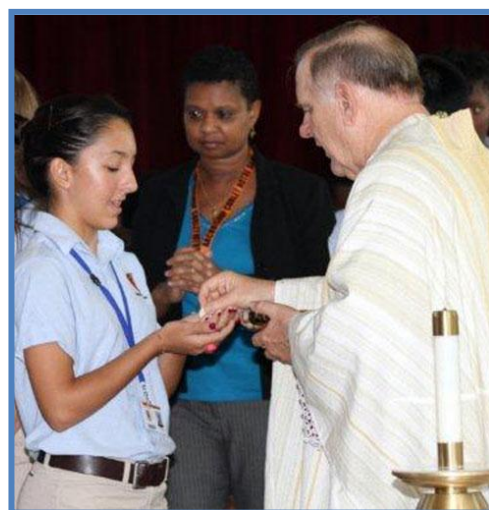
On Tuesday, August 28, 2012, Archbishop Thomas Wenski presided over Archbishop Curley Notre Dame 6 to 12 Prep's 'Opening School Mass'. Students welcomed their families, faculty and administration, and alumni with greetings in English, Spanish, Creole and Italian.

The Archbishop explained that it is important to know oneself. "A Catholic education will help you know who you are," explained Archbishop Wenski. "No one is an accident. Each one of you is a thought of God. God has made you to serve him and to love him."

Archbishop Curley Notre Dame is the only Catholic school in the Archdiocese that routinely counts on the Archbishop's presence at its opening liturgy. The school will also welcome Archbishop Emeritus John Favalora on January 28, 2013, as part of the Catholic Schools' Week festivities.

"As we begin a new year 'Honoring Traditions and Embracing the Future,' it is fitting for Archbishop Wenski to say Mass at Archbishop Curley Notre Dame," commented ACND's new Principal, Douglas Romanik. "Archbishop Wenski embraces and embodies what Catholic education is and, equally, our tradition at ACND where we serve young people and provide education to all, regardless of race, ethnic background, or financial means."

As Archdiocese of Miami schools make the transition to replace conventional textbooks with iPads and E Texts, ACND has ensured



**Silvia Bacchelli receives Communion from Archbishop Thomas G. Wenski, D.D.**

that, this year, all of its students in Grades 6 through 12 are supplied an iPad at no additional cost other than the standard textbook fee.

“At ACND, you receive an education for this life and the next,” concluded the Archbishop. “Here you will have an opportunity to receive a great education that will provide you with a platform to the best for yourselves.”

For more information about Archbishop Curley Notre Dame 6 to 12 Prep, visit [www.acnd.net](http://www.acnd.net).



(L - R): Jerome Hurtak, J.D., '76; Eugene Yagle Sr. '54 (Archbishop Curley HS first graduating class); Blaise Mercadante, Ph.D., (Chief Strategy Officer, Miami Jewish Health Systems); ACND Principal, Douglas Romanik, J.D., M.A.



Students with Archbishop Thomas G. Wenski, D.D. - (L - R): Caroline Morley, Kristi Joseph, Jennifer Germain, Jensen Rayburn, Silvia Bacchelli, Sydney Herring, Tiffany Ospin, Roddy Meme, Jackysha Jean, Nicholas Salow, Archbishop Thomas Wenski, Megan Roman

## ALL HALLOWS HIGH SCHOOL Bronx, New York

The following article appeared in the

**DNAinfo.com** New York  
neighborhood news

### Top-Ranked South Bronx High School Graduates 100th Class



Patrick Wall,  
DNAinfo  
Reporter/Producer

As a child, Jose Pacheco usually kept to himself. But when he entered All Hallows High School, an all-male Catholic school on East 164th Street, he felt comfortable enough to try branching out. Three years later, Jose, 17, is in full bloom.

Now a junior, Jose has become a captain of his baseball and basketball teams, a member of the National Honor Society and, after a vote last week, the student body vice-president. Recently, he attended leadership conferences in Florida and Ireland.

He even took another shy student under his wing, talking to him in homeroom and inviting him to his lunch table, until that boy too began to flourish and wrote Jose an email saying that he had changed his life.

All Hallows “made my son who he is,” said Jose’s mother, Iris Pacheco. “And he’s become a really great young man because of it.”

All Hallows High School has developed a reputation as a top Catholic school, even though it's situated in a poor neighborhood, with most of its students requiring financial aid.

Earlier this month, inside St. Patrick's Cathedral, the historic South Bronx school dispensed diplomas to its 100th graduating class. Ninety-eight percent of those 154 seniors were accepted into four-year colleges, and the entire class graduated on time.

Over the past century, All Hallows has developed an academic program that rivals the city's highest-performing schools, even though it is situated in the heart of one of the nation's poorest Congressional districts, with a student body that is almost entirely black and Latino.

Last year, its students earned an average score of 1390 on the SATs. For the past 15 years, the school's graduation rate has hovered around 100 percent — compared to a rate of 61 percent in the city's public high schools. And it is the only school in the Archdiocese of New York to be included on a list of the top 50 Catholic high schools in the country.



Despite its success, the school's \$5,700 annual tuition is the lowest among the Archdiocese's 18 inner-city high schools, and more than three-quarters of its students receive some financial aid. "It's an option for parents who are struggling," said Pacheco, "so we can still afford to send our kids to a good school."

All Hallows' relatively recent ascent is just the latest chapter in a very long history. The Congregation of Christian Brothers, an Irish order, founded its first American school in Harlem in 1909. As enrollment increased, the Brothers sought a larger space.

In 1930, they built the current school building in The Bronx. The following year, as alumni tell it, the students in the Manhattan building each grabbed a desk and a chair, filed onto the subway, rode to The Bronx, then walked into the new school, where they set down their desks and continued class.

From the start, many children from working-class families, some new to the country, attended the school.

Jim Smyth, one of nine children whose parents moved from Ireland to the Fordham section of The Bronx, met as an eighth-grader in the 1970s with a Brother at All Hallows, who explained that tuition cost \$60 a month, but the school was willing to fund half of it.

"I told my father, 'It's only \$30 a month,'" said Smyth, 51; and he said, "Can you afford that?"

Smyth paid his own way through All Hallows by working 40 hours a week at a fish market and a drycleaner. After he graduated in 1979, he attended Iona College, a Christian Brothers-run school in New Rochelle, then later founded his own advertising company, Smyth Media Group.



**Principal Mr. Sean Sullivan**

"I never thought, at 14 years old, that I was college material," said Smyth, who is a member of All Hallows' board of directors. "But going to college was something the school instilled in me — that I belonged in college."

In 1996, the school selected its current principal, Sean Sullivan, a class of 1973 graduate and a longtime All Hallows coach, teacher and dean.

Before Sullivan took over, he said, the school was in such bad shape that he told the principal before him that the only difference between the school and the Titanic was that the Titanic had a band.

Sullivan, who was born in Ireland and maintains a vacation home there, said he put his "quick Irish temper" to use reestablishing order at the school. In his first year as principal, he expelled four seniors within weeks of graduation.



"I had to come in Wyatt Earp-style, so to speak," said Sullivan, who also helps coach the varsity baseball team and teaches calculus.

The students got the message that Sullivan meant business and, the following year, all 88 seniors graduated and were accepted into four-year colleges. Since then, enrollment at the school has nearly doubled — from 347 students in 1996 to 660 today.

As principal, Sullivan carved out a block of time each morning when the whole school stops and reads. He added AP courses and opened the school on Saturdays for tutoring and enrichment work. He beefed up the college guidance department and expanded counseling services for students.

This year, over 200 young men signed up for group counseling sessions where they learned to manage anger, stress, grief and family issues, according to John Ford, the chairman of the counseling department. "It's an opportunity to vent," said Ford. "Many kids don't have that opportunity with their families."

Students must perform 100 hours of community service before they graduate, and participate in at least one extracurricular activity. They can choose from dozens of athletic teams and clubs, including salsa dancing, sports trivia, the school's live news channel, AHTV News, and a comic book group, which ties into a mandatory art therapy course for freshmen.



Brandon Diaz, a junior who is a member of the school's rosary society, student council and dominoes club, said the secret of the school's success is that it pushes students so hard, they begin to expect more and more from themselves.

That and the fact that there are no female classmates to impress. "From 8:10 to 2:18, it opens your mind and you can focus," said Brandon. Justin Quinonez, another junior who is a member of the school's Latino and drama clubs, agreed. "It's a brotherhood," he said.

Read more: <http://www.dnainfo.com/new-york/20120612/concourse/top-ranked-south-bronx-high-school-graduates-100th-class#ixzz1ypaQg1IU>



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## TAMPA CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

### Tampa, Florida

On September 20, 2012, Tampa Catholic High School celebrated its Golden Anniversary of foundation with a special Mass celebrated for the students, staff, and guests by Bishop Robert J. Lynch, Bishop of Saint Petersburg. The Christian Brothers first came to Tampa Catholic in 1984 with Brother John Casey as the first principal. Presently Br. Chris Burns, Campus Minister; and Br. Dom Sanpietro, Guidance Counselor, are full time Tampa Catholic faculty members. Brother Jim Fagan is in residence in the community.



(l to r): Brother Dom Sanpietro, Brother John Casey [former principal], Brother Chris Burns, Bishop Robert J. Lynch, Brother Jay MacDonald [former principal], Brother Jim Fagan, and Mr. Tom Reidy, present principal.

## GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATION

### Habit Group 1962

This year the habit group of 1962 celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The following account of the celebrations was submitted by Edmundian David (Paul '62) Samuel.

The poet G. K. Chesterton wrote, "When it comes to life, the critical thing is whether you take things for granted or take them with gratitude." I take the "Irish" Christian Brothers influence and the Edmundians Association with great gratitude. Thanks to Edmund Rice and the Christian Brothers who provided us with a priceless education. We all have much to be thankful for in this challenging world because of values our catholic education provided.

Our adult life's journey began for most of us at "Habit Day July 62." It is hard to believe that 50 years has passed since we walked the grounds of West Park or Kortright. A fifty-year reunion is a wonderful reason for celebration and renewal. Our reunion weekend was a real thrill and joy. The weekend events enabled and empowered us to share memories and renew old friendships. We all reconnected to our many shared memories of West Park, Kortright, Lakewood, and Iona. Today's current active Brothers made us all feel so welcomed at all the carefully prepared events. What an honor and special joy it was to visit with our English Instructor Brother Damian McCullagh.

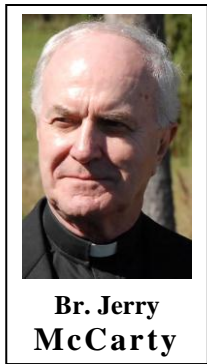
Fathers Matt Bradley's and Peter Powers' concelebration of Mass in West Park's chapel was received well by all the men and woman present. It was very fitting to remember at the Mass those who have passed on before us. Visiting the Brothers' cemetery led to many vivid and colorful stories being told of the holy, great, dynamic teachers we all knew and learned from in our early formative years.

Sincere special thanks go to all who made this weekend event possible. Brother Jerry McCarthy, Brother Willie Harris and Edmundian Jim Wright and all the others whose dedicated hard work made this fantastic weekend possible and such a great success. THEY ALL should be sincerely thanked. ALL their hard work is deeply appreciated. Our tour of the NEW IONA campus was very much appreciated. Our own special Dr. Bill Gaertner presentation was both informative and valuable. It was a special treat for my wife Mary and me to visit the Brothers' care facility in New Rochelle and visit Brother Dick Kelly, whom I knew at Essex Catholic HS.

Thanks go to all the Edmundians who travel so far to be in NY. Our prayers go to all who didn't or couldn't make the trip. Special congratulations go to the members of the '62 group who celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> year of service. May they continue in the service of the Lord for many years to come.

## THE ASSOCIATES OF EDMUND RICE

### A Moment of Reflection



A message from Brother Jerry McCarthy  
Coordinator of the Associates of Edmund Rice

Dear Associates,

“Without love there is no virtue. There is only apparent virtue.  
Divine love is the center of a circle in which the apparent opposite virtues are present, such as  
mercy and justice, gentleness and firmness, humility and trust.  
How do you know when to practice mercy and when justice? You don't.  
But love teaches you how to reconcile the opposites  
so that what you do hits the target instead of missing it.”

Thomas Keating and Betty Sue Flowers, *Heartfulness: Transformation in Christ (the book)*



### Jericho House, Wainfleet, Ontario

Jericho House Youth Leadership, Justice & Spirituality Center is an ecumenical and interfaith retreat center in the Catholic tradition. An ideal location for retreats, meetings, conferences, and seminars.

Info: Jericho House 10845 Rathfon Road, Port Colborne, ON L3K 5V4;

P: 905-834-0553, F: 905-834-5230

[www.jerichohouse.org](http://www.jerichohouse.org)

The Jericho House Team:

Sister Jacquie Keefe, cssf, Brother Bill Carrothers, cfc, Mr. Gary Bowron



## CHRISTIAN BROTHERS COMMUNITY SANTA MARIA West Park, New York



**Br. Mike  
LaFrance**

The Brothers at Santa Maria Community in West Park are simply celebrating summer. Brother Alex Cannon, with assist from Brother Denis Crimmins, is creating a new garden. The plants are all growing, ready for transplanting. They have created a walkway in the garden, and filling the plant area with rich, West Park black dirt. Dennis keeps making the orchard rounds making sure the fat, red new strawberries do not go to waste.

Brother Ed Pigott continues to recover from his operation, but does all the shopping, and continues to write and counsel in ministry.

Brother Larry Heathwood is busy with carpentry for Christ House, working at a pace that would make Unions object. The north end of the property remains clear of jungle brush thanks to the Brothers' hard work.

The Brothers start each day with Morning Prayer followed by a trip to a nearby parish for Mass celebrated by a Redemptorist priest. The Brothers each take a turn preparing and cooking the evening meals, and have proven their expertise at fine cooking. If looking for a welcoming, wonderful place to visit, then as Brother Mike LaFrance (ACND Community) recently discovered, West Park is the place.



**(l to r) Bros. Denis Crimmins, Alex Cannon,  
Ed Pigott, Larry Heathwood**



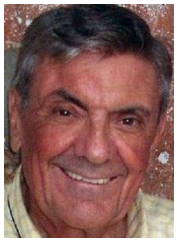
**Br. Alex Cannon works on his new garden**



## NEWS FROM BROTHER JOHN HOLDEN

### Bo, Sierra Leone

*(The following is an excerpt from John's recent letter home)*



**Br. John  
Holden**

**TWO WEEKS' HOLIDAYS:** I took two weeks' holidays following the retreats and after our West African District Assembly (Aug. 20-24). During the first week I went with one of our young Brothers, Leo Alhaji Kamara, who had been a novice in Cape Town while I was there, to visit his family in the village of Mange Bureh in the northern province and spent an enjoyable three days with them in the village. I know his family and had visited them a couple of years ago when I spent a month here after coming from Cape Town on my way back to Canada.

Our last night there a neighbor gave Leo and myself a young live goat which we brought back to Bo next day and had it slaughtered that afternoon and divided the meat between our two communities (Leo is in nearby Blama community). I like goat meat but we don't get it too often anymore.

The next week I went into Freetown and spent some time visiting around and went to the beaches, etc. The most beautiful beach I've ever seen, called River # 2, is about a half hour drive from our Hamilton community and I spent a day there with Eric Anguolo, one of our Ghanaian Brothers who also did his novitiate in Cape Town with me, and is now in our Hamilton community, and had nice lunch there of chicken and chips. So it was all a good break for me and I came back to Bo fully refreshed and ready to go again.

**MUSLIM PROTESTS IN NORTH AFRICA, ETC.** It is very sad what is happening with all these violent protests in our North Africa countries of Libya, Yemen, Tunisia, Egypt and since spreading to Sudan, Nigeria, Iran, Pakistan, India, Afghanistan, and now even to Australia and France over that disgusting amateur film that some mindless person produced about Mohammed on the You Tube. I think the film is just a trigger and that this would have happened eventually at some point in time. It seems it is being provoked by a small minority of rebel groups, even al-Qaeda involvement, especially in Libya it seems, and certainly does not represent the views of most Muslims nor of Islam.



**Christian Brothers at West African District Assembly,  
August 2012**

Sierra Leone is a predominantly Muslim country but our Muslim brothers and sisters here are wonderful. There is such a cordial relationship between Muslims and Christians here in Sierra Leone. Some of my very good friends here are Muslim and I'll never forget the time in 2004 I was preparing to leave Salone for Cape Town and a Muslim friend prayed a blessing over me in Arabic from the Koran for my safe journey, etc. Many families have both Muslim and Christian members; in fact, many of our Brothers come from Muslim family backgrounds. We have a few Brothers even named Mohamed or Alhaji!

On Friday past, after the Muslim Friday prayer, I was walking out our dirt road to the main road and many of our Muslim neighbours in the area were returning as usual from their Friday prayer, all dressed as always in their Muslim attire, men, women and children. But in stark contract with what happening in North Africa after their Friday prayer, these neighbours of mine seemed more outgoing and friendly than usual, greeting me and

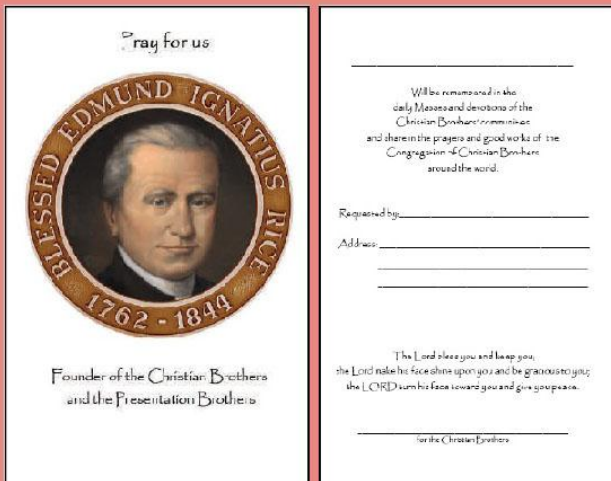


chatting with me. They are embarrassed by all this violence and although nobody mentioned the protests, they seemed to go out of their way Friday to make contact in a friendly way. Of course, there were no protests here in Sierra Leone, which is not at all surprising.

I am not at all condoning these violent protests but all the same I think there are lessons here for the Western world to be learned.

Anyway, I'll end for now. That's a bit of an update of life down here.

## Blessed Edmund Rice Prayer Cards



Blessed Edmund Rice Prayer Cards are a beautiful way to assure loved ones of your prayerful support. Our Prayer Card is a singular expression in honor of some special occasion or at a sorrowful time for a bereaved relative or friend.

The benefactor's donation (payable to the Christian Brothers Foundation) benefits the ministries of the Christian Brothers.

If you would like a set of Prayer Cards, please contact:

Prayer Cards  
Christian Brothers Foundation  
260 Wilmot Road  
New Rochelle, NY 10804

[cab@cbinstitute.org](mailto:cab@cbinstitute.org)

Are you on Facebook?


If so "Like" the new "Edmund Rice Network North America" community. Follow the link below or when you are on Facebook, search for: Edmund Rice Network North America. Be sure to click on the "Like" button.

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Edmund-Rice-Network-North-America/120375644703385>

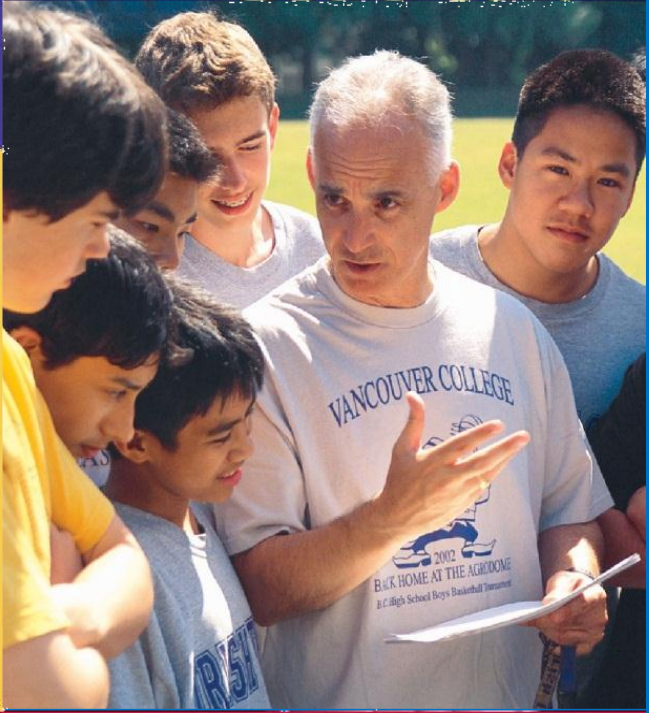
Also, look on the left for the "Share" link to share the "Edmund Rice Network North America" community page with all your friends.

The purpose of the Edmund Rice Network North America Facebook community is to share news and information about and with all members of the Edmund Rice Network in North America. This includes, but is not limited to Brothers, Edmundians, Associates, colleagues, students, alumni, and friends. In essence, anyone in North America (and around the world) touched by the charism of Blessed Edmund Rice.

The Edmund Rice Network North America Facebook community is a project of the Edmund Rice Network Office of the Edmund Rice Christian Brothers North America. The Edmund Rice Network Coordinator is Brother Jim McDonald. You can contact him by e-mail at: [bromaccfc@yahoo.com](mailto:bromaccfc@yahoo.com)

What is a Brother? 

An Answer to God's Call.



We connect with the poor and the marginalized in our world.

We share and reflect our experiences in the light of the Gospel.

We find our hearts transformed.

We are Christian Brothers.

*What we do with our hearts affects the whole universe.*

Are you being called to be brother to the world?  
 Congregation of Christian Brothers • [www.cfcvocations.org](http://www.cfcvocations.org)

In the tradition of Blessed Edmund Rice, the founder, the Congregation of Christian Brothers is an international community of vowed religious Brothers living and praying in community and missioned by the church for Christian education. The men the Christian Brothers seek to join with them are Catholic men who sense a call to live in fraternal community and who wish to minister in the educational apostolates of the Church, especially to youth. They are men with the religious inspiration and dedication necessary to live a life of consecrated celibacy and who, through vows of poverty and obedience, place their gifts, talents, and possessions at the disposal of the community in order to meet the needs of God's people. Please contact one of the Brothers listed above.

**More information on the Edmund Rice Christian Brothers at these links:**

Global Edmund Rice Network  
 Edmund Rice Christian Brothers NA  
 Edmund Rice International  
 Christian Brothers Vocations  
 Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation

[www.edmundrice.net](http://www.edmundrice.net)  
[www.ercbna.org](http://www.ercbna.org)  
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