



# PROVINCE NEWSLETTER

## Edmund Rice Christian Brothers North America

A PROVINCE OF THE CONGREGATION OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS

Volume 8 Issue 3

November, 2012

### School Leaders retreat to the desert October 08 - 11, 2012



Sr. Grace  
D'Amico,  
SSND

Eighteen school presidents and principals representing 13 ERCB schools gathered once again at the Ravella in Henderson, Nevada, for their annual school leaders retreat, October 8-11, 2012. They came from Hawaii and New York, from Vancouver and Argentina, and many places in between, to learn, reflect, pray, share, and relax with colleagues. Brother John W. Casey, CFC, Director of Governance, facilitated the retreat titled, "At the Service of the Happenings of Grace."

John used a process including prayer, reflection, sharing in pairs, and group sharing to elicit the personal and collective wisdom of the group. On the first day, the participants explored their personal experience, journey, and call to religious leadership. John stressed the importance of storytelling as a way of revealing underlying values. John's own gift for storytelling both enlivened his presentations and sparked individuals' recollection of experiences in their own lives which they shared with their conversation partners and with the group.



Br. John W. Casey, CFC  
facilitator, solicits ideas from  
participants

On the second day, John showed a video, *Leadership: An Art of Possibility*, in which Ben and Roz Zander demonstrate their new definition of leadership where everyone can "become part of the song." This definition presents the leader not as all-powerful, but as someone to leads in order to make others powerful. The Zanders believe that "life is a story we tell, so we can invent our own story and tell it in a new way." After viewing the video, the retreat participants reflected and discussed how the Zanders' approach could be used in their own exercise of leadership in their schools.

Finally, the retreatants considered the topic, "At the Service of the Happenings of Grace: the Catholic Context." They explored how faith, in the context of community, service to Church and world, and worship, (the basis for Catholic education as articulated in *To Teach as Jesus Did* in 1972), was expressed in their own school communities. They reflected on how the religious dimension of the Catholic school is expressed in relationships in the school community, and how to "enroll all in the vision." They were encouraged to look at the "hidden curriculum," i.e., "what is honored, what is

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*The Annunciation*  
(1898)  
Henry Ossawa Tanner  
(1859 – 1937)

"Grant your faithful...the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ with righteous deeds at his coming, so that, gathered at his right hand, they may be worthy to posses the heavenly Kingdom..."

rewarded, what is celebrated, and what gets time.”



Mr. Joe Martinez (left) from St. Laurence High School, Burbank, IL and Mr. Mich DesLauriers, from St. Thomas More Collegiate, Burnaby, B.C., during one of the discussions.

During the course of the retreat, participants noted the value of the school leader retreats and meetings as a source of mutual support and individual spiritual growth. “It is impossible to be a leader in a school, and face the challenges and frustrations that we do without a strong spiritual life,” said one. In the written evaluations, many cited as “most helpful” the opportunity to get together and dialogue with colleagues and enjoy each other’s company. “I am strengthened by my fellowship with this group and their many qualities, experiences, and the collective wisdom represented here,” wrote one leader.

Brother John Casey was very appreciated as the retreat facilitator. As one participant put it, “Brother Casey was great. The balance of information and discussion was ideal.” Another remarked, “John was great. I love a

storyteller teacher and that is what John does!”

The retreat was sponsored by the ERCBNA Office of Educational Services, and was organized by Sister Ona Bessette, CND, Director, and Sister Grace D’Amico, SSND, Associate Director, who also participated in the retreat.



(l to r) Mr. Michael Motyl, (Guadalupe Regional School), Br. Peter Zawot, CFC, (Damian Memorial), Sister Ona Bessette, CND

## IONA GRAMMAR SCHOOL New Rochelle, New York

Each morning, Br. L. A. Killelea, takes on the role of “Brother Larry” at the front door of Iona Grammar School, greeting students with a hand shake and some affirming comment about their smile, uniform or backpack. After decades as the “man in charge” at Rice High School in Harlem, Power Memorial Academy in Manhattan; Bishop Kearney HS in Rochester, New York; and Bergen Catholic HS in Oradell, New Jersey; and after several terms as provincial consulter and administrative assistant in the provincial offices, at 86 years of age, he decided that it was time to seek a new ministry. He requested a meeting with the Headmaster of Iona Grammar to propose his position as greeter. Teachers and parents have delighted in his unique impact on the young students. Kindergarten students run to place their hand in his and to hear his cheerful good morning. The older fellows welcome his salute, knowing him as the Brother who was Kareem Abdul Jabbar’s high school principal

Recently he was inducted into the Power Memorial Academy Hall of Fame. Congratulations for that distinction and for his 87<sup>th</sup> birthday were delayed as Hurricane Sandy forced the closing of the school for over a week. The day it reopened Brother Larry was back at his post.



## BROTHER RICE HIGH SCHOOL

### Bloomfield Hills, Michigan



**Br. Mike  
Segvich**

On Saturday, November 24<sup>th</sup>, Brother Rice defeated Muskegon 35 – 28 to win their second consecutive Michigan Division II State Championship. Brother Rice's overall Record was 12-2 this year and 22-6 for the last two seasons.

Brother Mike Segvich describes the game:

Winning score with just over two minutes to play on a 95 yard kick-off return by junior Jason Alessi following a lateral from junior Delano Madison who took the kick-off and ran from the 5 yard line to the 10 where he stopped and then passed backwards 30 yards across the field to Alessi, who took the ball untouched 95 yards for the winning touchdown.



This was Brother Rice's 8<sup>th</sup> state title over all in state tournament competition and their 398<sup>th</sup> school victory since 1962.

In addition to the football team's success, we also raised \$500.00 apiece for Archbishop Curley-Notre Dame in Miami, Fl and Our Lady of Guadalupe in Brownsville, TX.

Friday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, our school community worked in several spots in the Detroit area as a Service Day which replaced the traditional selling of raffle tickets. Patrons were encouraged to sponsor our students who worked at "Cleaning the D," a stretch of 8 Mile Boulevard which included raking leaves and painting fire hydrants. Other tasks included sorting clothes at St. Vincent De Paul agencies, working with foster kids at a shelter, cleaning the local parish (St. Regis) as well as sprucing up the school grounds at Brother Rice.



### **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



# ALL HALLOWS HIGH SCHOOL

## Bronx, New York

On Wednesday, November 14, 2012 at 10:00 am, 164<sup>th</sup> Street between the Grand Concourse and Walton Avenue was officially be renamed All Hallows Way! Council Member Maria Del Carmen Arroyo attended.



All Hallows, the first school in the United States opened by the Irish Christian Brothers, was begun by five Brothers in two brownstones in Harlem in 1909.

Enrollment was 25. Founded by Irish immigrants for the sons of Irish immigrants, the school quickly outgrew the brownstones in Harlem and moved to its present location in the Bronx in 1929.

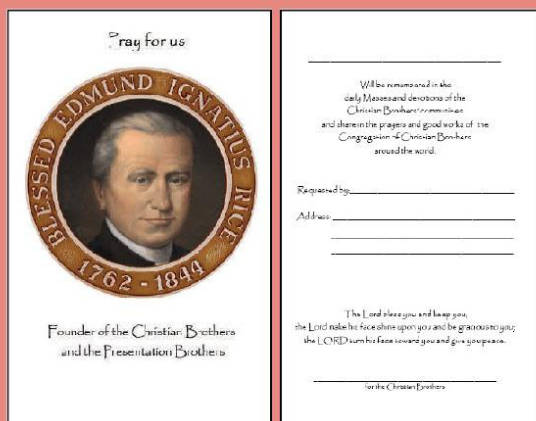
Today we continue to educate the sons of immigrants; however, our

current student body is approximately 72% Hispanic, 25% African-American and 3% White/Asian.

While our students have become more diverse, our educational goals and results have remained steadfast. We have always been a school of excellence. All Hallows is the only inner-city school in the Archdiocese of New York to be designated as one of the country's top 50 high schools by the Catholic High School Honor Roll (we have been recognized every year since the first Honor Roll Schools were inaugurated in 2004). Currently, we have 660 students and every student graduates on-time. In addition, for the past ten years, 99 – 100% of graduating seniors have been accepted by post-secondary educational institutions. Every student at All Hallows follows the Regents program, and our passing rates range from 92 – 100%.



## 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)

# IONA COLLEGE

## New Rochelle, New York

### Thomas Berry Great Work Award 2012 Awardee

#### Conveners of the Thomas Berry Forum for Ecological Dialogue at Iona College

The Environmental Consortium of Colleges & Universities congratulates the Conveners of the Thomas Berry Forum for Ecological Dialogue at Iona College: Brian Brown, Kevin Cawley, Kathleen Deignan, and Daniel Martin as the recipients of the Consortium's inaugural Thomas Berry Great Work Award.



**Br. Kevin Cawley accepts reward.**

The Conveners were honored at the Environmental Consortium's annual conference on October 27, 2012 at Marist College for advancing Fr. Thomas Berry's ideal that "The human exists, survives and becomes whole only within the single great community of the planet Earth." (The Great Work: Our Way into the Future, 1999).

The Thomas Berry Great Work Award was created by the Environmental Consortium to honor faculty and institutions whose work advance ecological principles as a centerpiece of higher education.

#### About The Forum for Ecological Dialogue at Iona College

In 2009, after the death of the celebrated geologist and cultural historian, Father Thomas Mary Berry, CP, four of his students gathered at Iona College to initiate The Thomas Berry Forum for Ecological Dialogue to celebrate and promote his wisdom legacy: Dr. Brian Brown, Dr. Kevin Cawley, CFC, Dr. Kathleen Deignan, CND, and Dr. Daniel Martin.

The four Conveners commit themselves to develop the Berry Forum as an open and inclusive space for ecological education, exploration, and transformation. Ultimately, they take up The Great Work to imagine and teach ways toward a viable and creative future where the entire Earth community will share the blessings of justice and peace.

The Mission of The Forum is to:

- ✓ Educate for awareness of the integral Earth community.
- ✓ Facilitate deeper understanding of human responsibility for care of Earth.
- ✓ Promote scholarly dialogue and engagement around significant ecological concerns.
- ✓ Celebrate our communion in the family of God's creation.
- ✓ Inspire hope and empower action for a sustainable and environmentally just world, with special concern for the most vulnerable members of the Earth community.



**L/R - Daniel Martin, Kathleen Deignan, Brian Brown, and Kevin Cawley**



ERCBNA

**Justice Peace Integrity of Creation**

Promoting social justice and eco-justice





## OFFICE OF EDUCATIONAL SERVICES New Rochelle, New York

### ACTION Student Leadership Workshop 2012



**Sr. Ona  
Bessette,  
CND**

Marywood Retreat Center in St. John's, FL welcomed 80 student leaders and faculty moderators from Edmund Rice Christian Brother Schools September 27-29, 2012 for the **ACTION Student Leadership Workshop**. Participants from All Hallows, Archbishop Curley-Notre Dame, Bergen Catholic, Bishop Hendricken, Bishop Kearney, Br. Rice – Bloomfield Hills, Br. Rice – Chicago, Catholic Memorial, Damien Memorial, Iona Prep, Palma School, St. Laurence, St. Thomas More Collegiate, Trinity Catholic, and Vancouver College traveled from North America. From South America, students and moderators from Colegio Cardenal Newman and Colegio Stella Maris journeyed north to join in the program.

The ACTION Workshop Team consisted of Br. James Hamilton, CFC (All Hallows), Mr. Doug Romanik (ACND), Br. Jason Ford (ACND), Mr. Thane Hall (Br. Rice – Bloomfield Hills), Br. Tim Smyth (St. Laurence), Mr. Carlos Freire (Vancouver College), and Sr. Ona (OES). Fr. Marvin Bearis, OFM Cap (Capuchin Youth and Family Ministries) came to celebrate Eucharist with the group and reconnect with students and Br. Peter Zawot, CFC from Damien Memorial School.

Introductions and icebreakers quickly connected strangers and friendships rapidly developed as students learned that companions from all over the ERCB network shared their beliefs and hopes. Each school leadership team has committed itself to work on an advocacy project in their school or local community. Projects include building welcoming communities in the schools so that all are involved; eliminating bullying; deepening the commitment to service; caring for the environment and enhancing understanding of eco-justice issues in the community.

Over the three days, participants engaged in skill building sessions, community building tasks, journaling exercises, times of prayer and reflection, ACTION Olympics, and opportunities to write letters of support. These activities further strengthen the skills in the young leaders. By the end of the three days it was difficult to distinguish the members of each school as young women sported shirts from Br. Rice HS or Catholic Memorial or students from Buenos Aries wore shirts from Vancouver College and Bishop Hendricken. There are no boundaries in the Edmund Rice Network as email and Facebook page addresses were shared and the promises of staying connected were exchanged. Rumor has it that an Iona Prep student is planning on a trip to St. Thomas More in the near future!

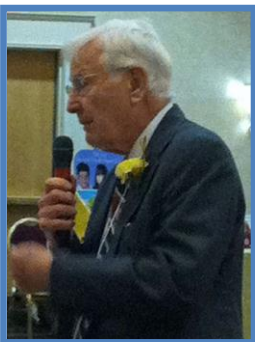


The following reflections were shared by students:

- Not at all what I expected. I loved it and thought it was amazing
- The greatest experience of my life because I became friends with complete strangers.
- This workshop was life-changing and I'm walking away with valuable skills I'll remember forever.
- ACTION was effective spiritually and mentally, helping me learn more about myself and helping me to listen and communicate with other people.
- It really changed my outlook on religion and leadership.
- It made me feel ready to take action.
- ACTION was a concrete bonding experience for me that allowed me to grow in my faith.
- I met people who are also driven and determined to lead and to succeed.
- It was a great opportunity to learn who I am as a person and Christian leader.
- My experience was inspiring, enlightening, and very spiritual.
- It was truly amazing to meet such a unique and awesome group of people and connect with them on a deep level.
- I am motivated to put into practice our project and create new leaders at my school.
- I am surprised and rejuvenated in my spirit of serving and leading others.
- I felt welcomed and found many like-minded people from all over the world.

## CHRISTIAN BROTHER HONORED

### Albany, New York



Br. Tom Drancy, CFC

Brother Tom Draney, CFC was one of the guests of honor on Oct. 28th at the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Catholic School Administrators Association of New York State in Albany. He was one of the six school administrators who came together at a meeting of the public school association and decided it was foolish for Catholic school administrators to pay dues to a group that had as one of its goals to deny aid to non-public schools. The group of six planned a state-wide effort to found an independent professional organization for Catholic school administrators, the first of its kind in the country; the plan became a reality in 1972.

One of Tom's areas of concern as a field representative was informing school personnel, parents and students, on the history of "the wall of separation" and the intent of the First Amendment being free choice, not isolation of religion from education or social life. For four years he traveled throughout the state, speaking to parents groups, faculties, and participating in radio and TV talk shows on the subject. He authored several pamphlets on the subject; these were published by the association and made available to members.

Tom was also credited with outlining the approach to the legislation which was passed by the state legislature and still provides payment to non-public schools for services mandated by the state and provided by the schools.

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[bromaccfc@yahoo.com](mailto:bromaccfc@yahoo.com)**



**Being a Brother is a rich and fulfilling way to live.**

**[www.erbrothers.org](http://www.erbrothers.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)  
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