



PROVINCE NEWSLETTER

Edmund Rice Christian Brothers North America

A PROVINCE OF THE CONGREGATION OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS

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ARCHBISHOP CURLEY NOTRE DAME PREP Miami, FL

Curley Notre Dame Prep Earns \$10,810 in less than 24 Hours on Give Miami Day



**Ms. Lisa
Morales**

On November 20th Give Miami Day, Archbishop Curley Notre Dame Knights, past and present, showed Miami what a small school community can do. Eighty-one unique gifts totaling \$10,810.00 were donated to the school in less than 24 hours. Give Miami Day generated \$5,209,205.93 benefiting the 520 South Florida participating non-profit organizations.

Spreading the word in such a short amount of time was not easy. So, current students and their teachers united with ACND's parent council and alumni and created a non-stop buzz on social media – Instagram, the network of choice for students, and Facebook and Twitter by the adults.

“Give Miami Day was such a fantastic opportunity for us to raise some much needed funds for the school’s Individualized, iPad Learning Program,” commented Douglas Romanik, Principal at ACND. “This money will assist with iPad maintenance, and E-Text and Apple TV purchases. Eventually, subsequent fundraising efforts will help fund need-based scholarships and classroom remodeling to adapt to the new learning format. Most importantly, we are privileged to be part of this special community day that says, *we can all be philanthropists*. It is not the size of the gift but the number of gifts that make the difference.”

The Miami Foundation makes a bonus gift for every online donation between \$25 and \$10,000 received on Give Miami Day. Plus, 24 prizes were awarded to nonprofits that hit key milestones throughout the day, such as the first gift received and receiving gifts from the most countries.

ACND Prep offered its own incentive gifts donated by Buena Vista Chocolate and Wine located across the street from the school. Prizes were awarded to: school parent, Gabriela Lara, for making a donation closest to 12 a.m. on November



Cory Finot, co-owner of Buena Vista Chocolate and Wine, gave incentive prizes for ACND Prep Give Miami Day donors.

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Grant us, Lord, as we honor with joyful devotion the Nativity of your Son, that we may come to know with fullness of faith the hidden depths of this mystery and to love them ever more and more. Through Christ our Lord.



www.ercbna.org

Compassion and liberation
in the spirit of
Jesus and Edmund

20th (when Give Miami Day commences) won a \$30 gift certificate; Diane Stead '70, for donating closest to 8 a.m., won homemade jelly; Amelia Jaime '82, closest to 3 p.m., won chocolate bark; and Jerome Hurtak '76, closest to 6 p.m. won a bottle of rosé wine.



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

The Jericho House Team:

Sister Jacque Keefe, cssf, Brother Bill Carrothers, cfc

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Madison, MS

MEMORIAL SERVICE REMEMBERS THE LIFE OF BROTHER DAN LAUBER, C.F.C.

The following was written by Brother John Brennan, C.F.C., Christian Brothers Community Madison



A very inspiring and heartfelt memorial service commemorating the life of Brother Dan Lauber took place in the fine arts center of St. Joseph Catholic School in Madison, Mississippi on Sunday, October 12th. Nearly one hundred and thirty people including Brothers, teachers, staff, students, parents and alumni were in attendance to show their appreciation for the wonderful contributions that Brother Dan made to the St. Joe community. During his sixteen years at St. Joe Brother Dan was a science teacher and a guidance counselor; for the past two years he was the school's guidance director. Numerous alumni, as well as current students, were fortunate to have Brother Dan as their guidance counselor, especially when he was guiding them in their post high school choices.

The memorial celebration began with people gathering in the theater's lobby where they talked about how important Brother Dan was in their lives and in the lives of their children. They also had time to view a memorial table that contained such items as Dan's rosary beads, some of his many icons, a special wooden crucifix that he kept in his guidance office, framed photographs of Brother Dan, candles at both ends of the table, and a glass bowl containing two dozen roses; behind the table was a large picture placed on an easel of Brother Dan talking with some students. Also, while people were gathering there, three musicians played soft inspirational music that permeated the whole atmosphere in the lobby.

After having been in that area for a while, the people then entered into the auditorium where a prayer service was held. Music for this service was provided by members of the St. Joe band and choir; they were marvelous. The music selections, as well as the Bible readings were the same ones that were used at Brother Dan's funeral Mass up in New Rochelle, New York on Saturday, July 26th. Fellow community member Brother Ted Dausch did one reading, while guidance colleague Anne Piazza did the other one. Personal reflections on the life of Brother Dan were offered up by St. Joe principal Mr. Keith Barnes, Dan's good friend Brother Raymond Vercruysse (Mount Sion Community), and senior teacher Bridget Morehead who read a personal reflection by one of her students; these remembrances were very touching and affected all those in attendance. Next, two St. Joe seniors read the Prayers of the Faithful. Just before the prayer service came to its conclusion, Brother John Brennan, also from Dan's Mississippi community, gave his personal reflections on his being in community in Mississippi for the past sixteen years.

Included in the many people who came to this memorial service were Ms. Cathy Cook, the superintendent of schools for the Diocese of Jackson, Mr. Bill Heller, a former principal at St. Joe, and Monsignor Mike Flannery, pastor of St. Francis Assisi Parish in which St. Joe and the Brothers' community reside.

After the memorial service came to a conclusion, everyone left the fine arts center to find that the weather outside was beautiful; there was a clear blue sky with a wonderfully glowing sun. Yes, it was a magnificent Sunday afternoon enriched with many memories associated with Brother Dan Lauber.

ALL HALLOWS INSTITUTE

Bronx, NY

All Hallows Named Top School by National Hispanic Institute

*The following appeared in the Catholic New York Newspaper on December 10, 2014.
It was written by RON LAJOIE*

The Edmund Rice School Network delights in reporting that All Hallows High School in the Bronx, New York, has been named School of the Year by the National Hispanic Institute.

All Hallows High School belongs to the Consortium of Edmund Rice Schools in North America. Founded by the Congregation of Christian Brothers in 1909, All Hallows Institute, as it was then known, has the distinction of being the first of the secondary schools established by the Brothers in the United States

All Hallows High School in the South Bronx has been selected as the National Hispanic Institute's (NHI) School of the Year. All Hallows was selected from some 300 schools nationally and was honored Nov. 15 at a ceremony at the Dallas Convention Center in Texas.

Five All Hallows students, seniors Ricardo Gonzalez, Olufolarin Olubajo and Joel Gomez and juniors Ariel Gonzalez and Steven DeVargas, accompanied Paul Fontana, vice-principal for academics, to the ceremony. The National Hispanic Institute, founded in Austin, Texas, in 1979, has as its mission "to support young Latino leaders to develop the mindset and wherewithal needed to advance the quality of life in the Latino community." All Hallows student population is 72 percent Hispanic.



Faculty and students of All Hallows High School in the South Bronx proudly display the plaque they recently receiving recognizing them as "School of the Year" by the National Hispanic Institute. From left are: John Burke, a faculty member at All Hallows who coordinates the school's National Hispanic Institute Program; students Ricardo Gonzalez, Ariel Gonzalez, Joel Gomez, Steven DeVargas and Olufolarin Olubajo and Principal Sean Sullivan

All Hallows students have been engaged in NHI-sponsored programs for five years. The school has annually sent 20 to 30 students to NHI summer programs, and this past summer 22 students, sophomores to seniors, attended programs at Villanova University, the University of Rochester, Elmhurst College, Cabrini College and the University of North Texas. All Hallows Principal Sean Sullivan has been a proponent of NHI programs. He said he was pleasantly surprised to learn of the school's honor.

"I was thrilled when I heard it," he told CNY. "I've been around here for a lot of years and when we get stuff like this it's always exciting. I mean it's a pretty vibrant organization."

It isn't the first time the all-boys high school has been honored.

"Well, if I can toot the horn a bit, we're rated one of the top 50 Catholic high schools in the United States 2004 to 2014 (by the Catholic High School

Honor Roll) and we're the only Catholic high school getting invited back to Ireland (for the Albert Schweitzer Leadership For Life Conference) this summer to represent the United States," said the proud principal.

All Hallows, which this year has an enrollment of 615 students in grades 9 through 12, has maintained a 99 percent graduation rate for the past 10 years, with 97 percent of its graduates being accepted into four-year colleges or universities. This year 98 percent of graduates were awarded financial aid to attend college. Sullivan is himself an All Hallows graduate, class of 1973.

"I had a boy in here not 20 minutes ago, filling out paper work for Notre Dame," said Sullivan rattling off the names of other prestigious institutions. "I've got one in Harvard, Carnegie Mellon, Syracuse, Catholic, B.C., B.U., N.Y.U. I just demand a lot and I'm kind of a tough guy to please, whether it's from a discipline or an academic standpoint, we throw a lot at them and we tell them, 'Yes you can, yes you can, yes you can.'"

Sullivan, principal since 1996, described his school as a beehive of activity with every student strongly encouraged to participate in an extra-curricular activity and to get involved in the surrounding neighborhood. The tuition of \$6,100 is kept reasonable because so many alumni give back financially to the institution in gratitude, Sullivan said. He credits school President Paul Krebbs with keeping the school financially strong. Class sizes are small and each student receives personalized attention.

"There's a lot of energy here," the principal said. "There's a strong sense of, 'I'm one of these guys.' I'm a very hands-on principal. I'm constantly in the building. I tell the parents when they come to visit me, the kids don't remember this show but the parents would; I say we're like that old TV show 'Cheers' from the 1980s. The theme song was 'Where Everybody Knows Your Name' and that's the atmosphere we have here. I know all the kids' names. It's a sense of community here."

Three boys from an inner-city Catholic high school in the Bronx told the crowd at the Mandarin Oriental in Manhattan that they each made first honors, are involved in the performing arts and are taking advantage of every opportunity they can at their school.

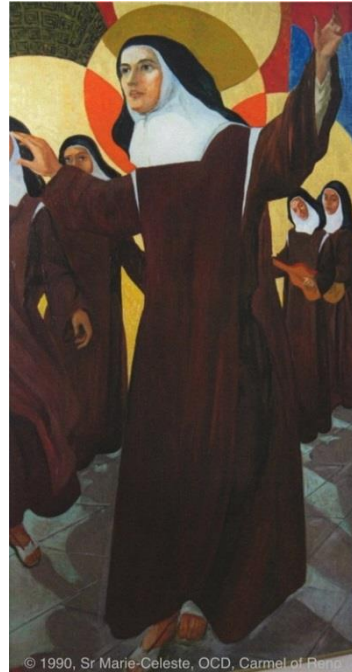
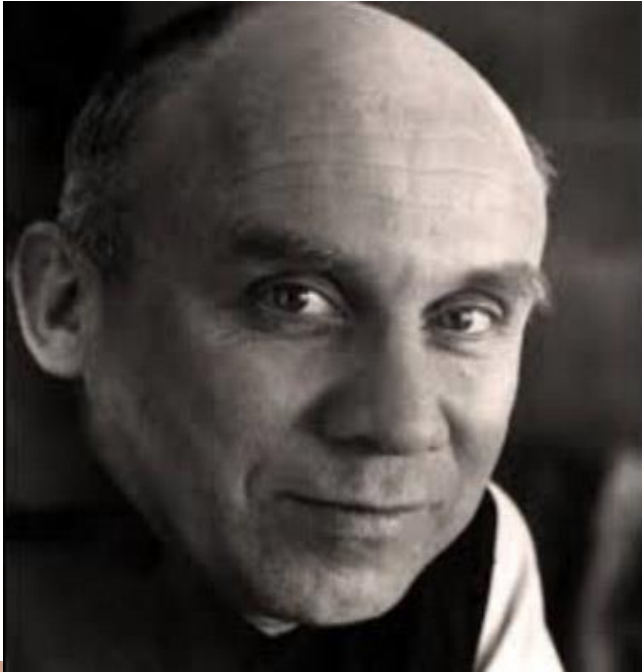
The three students from All Hallows High School are juniors Adrian Gonzalez and Lionel Martinez, and sophomore Darwin Contreras. They spoke about the impact the scholarships they have received from the Inner-City Scholarship Fund has made in their lives.

The boys each said they would not be attending All Hallows without the support of the Inner-City Scholarship Fund (ICSF), which held its 38th annual award dinner Dec. 9. The evening raised \$2.4 million to provide tuition assistance for students, from families that are economically challenged, who are attending inner-city Catholic schools in the archdiocese.



Student speakers Adrian Gonzalez, Darwin Contreras and Leonel Martinez, all from All Hallows High School in the Bronx, tell guests at the Inner-City Scholarship Fund dinner how they are succeeding in school.

Iona Spirituality Institute Spiritual Masters Course



The Iona Spirituality Institute Presents **Sacred Paths of the Spiritual Masters**

Begin your new year in the company of Four Spiritual Guides who have made pathways into sacred modes of human being: Thomas Merton, opens the way to earthly Paradise; Teresa of Avila opens the way to the Interior Castle; Nicholas Black Elk, opens the way into the Sacred Hoop; and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., opens the way to the Beloved Community.

The course meets on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-9:15 at Iona College. Offering for ISI Auditors = \$100 for 15 week class, or \$7 per class session. To register: <mailto:kdeignan@iona.edu> 914 633 2590



Gaels at the Garden!



Come join us as we cheer on our Gaels as they take on Niagara University at Madison Square Garden!

January 25, 2014

Pre-game Reception

12 p.m. – 2 p.m.

Cost: \$20

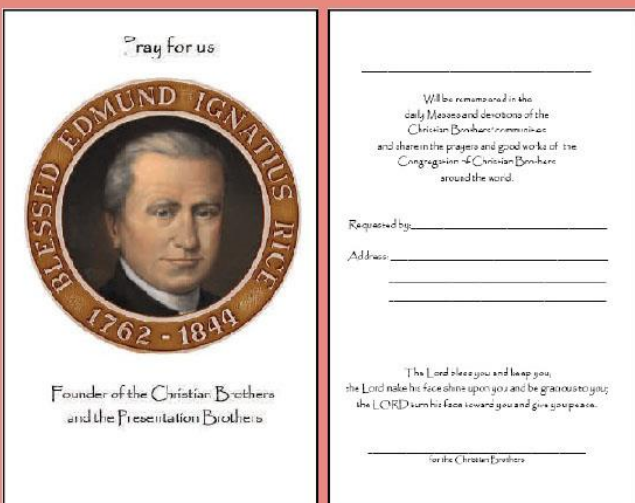
Stout NYC, 133 West 33rd Street New York, NY 10001.

Limited game tickets are still available through the Iona College Ticket Office.

Contact Tom Moran, assistant athletic director of marketing and tickets at [\(914\) 633-2491](tel:9146332491) or athletics@iona.edu for details.

The single-admission ticket will be valid for both contests with St. John's and Duke, beginning at 2 p.m. The Iona v. Niagara game will begin immediately following at 4:30 p.m.

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

DAMIEN MEMORIAL SCHOOL

Honolulu, HI



(l to r) Brothers Sebastian Samp, Dan Casey, and Liam Nolan attended the Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace on November 30, 2014, officially beginning, for the Diocese of Honolulu, the Year of Consecrated Life.

Brother Samp carries in the banner for the Congregation of Christian Brothers.

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS:

We are always looking for news about communities and mission sites for our newsletter. Stories and photos can be sent to wrfowlernj@gmail.com by the 20th of each month. Written submissions work best as a Word document. Photos work best in jpeg format. For photos please identify the people in the photos.

www.ercbna.org

Check out the new
photos;

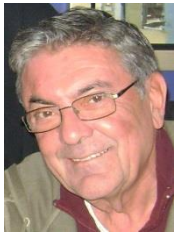
And under publications:

- Latin America
Newsletter
- African Newsletters

BROTHER JOHN HOLDEN

Freetown, Sierra Leone

*"The people who walked in darkness
Have seen a great light;
Upon those who dwell in a land of gloom
A light has shone."
Isaiah 9:1*



**Br. John
Holden**

Dear Brothers, Edmundians, Friends,

I can still recall these words from Isaiah read at Midnight Mass during my first Christmas here in Sierra Leone in 2000 when we were in the midst of the brutal rebel civil war that eventually ended in 2002. That first Christmas here I was beginning to wonder if light would ever again shine in this beautiful land. But shine again it most certainly did and for the last twelve years the country became once more a haven of peace, security and prosperity. The extraordinary resilience, courage and faith I witnessed in Sierra Leoneans during the war is again being called forth today throughout this land.

Yes, another hideous war rages here again in Mama Salone ... Ebola! But this time around one cannot often see the enemy until it is too late. As John Gale so aptly described it in his recent e-mail, the Ebola epidemic here is certainly "*a pestilence of biblical proportions.*"

Latest figures indicate that over 18,000 people have already been infected with Ebola in the West African countries affected (and these are just the official figures!!!). Even as I write yet another house-to-house search for Ebola victims is underway in Freetown's nine designated hotspots for Ebola! While Guinea and Liberia seem to be getting a handle on it at present, in Sierra Leone it is still terribly out of control. This week in Sierra Leone our 11th medical doctor succumbed to the Ebola virus and numerous nurses have died too.

Latest stringent restrictions call for NO TRAVEL between Districts over Christmas and New Year's. Christmas and New Year's gatherings are strictly prohibited in the country. Christmas Midnight Mass must be over by 5:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve, with people returning immediately to their homes afterwards. Here many of our Muslim friends join in with us in our Christmas celebrations and we do likewise for their Ramadan celebrations. It will be difficult for the people here this Christmas. All Churches here on New Year's Eve are filled to capacity, even overflowing outside the doors, as gathering for prayer over midnight as the old year ends and the New Year begins, has been a longstanding practice in this culture. None of that this year!

But signs of hope are beginning to emerge. With all the international medical practitioners, equipment, materials and resources now coming into the country, many more victims now seem to be getting to the epicenters earlier and are actually being cured of Ebola and released. This is good news. But we still have a long way to go. The good news too is that none of our 40 or more Christian Brothers in Sierra Leone or Liberia have been infected to date, nor have their immediate family members as far as we know. Many of the Brothers' families and our own Brothers' communities in Yengema, Blama and Njala are located in heavily quarantined areas of the country.

Brothers all over the country are doing what we can in our own local areas to help contain the Ebola virus and to minister to quarantined families who are especially suffering at this time. The spirit of Edmund is alive and well. Our efforts have been receiving good media coverage. It has all been made possible through the generous support of the *West African Ebola Trust Fund* established by our *Edmund Development Office* in Dublin to help Brothers minister to suffering people in our local areas. Our District's *Christian Brothers Mission Office* here in Freetown has been overseeing and coordinating these efforts throughout the country. It has set up an Ebola

Task Force Office at Br. Senan Kerrigan Centre in Bo, where Br. Martin Vamboi, whom many may remember from his time at Iona College, is coordinating efforts there with other Brothers and Social Workers in the Bo area. Br. Titus Kallon, whom you will also remember as an Iona and Fordham graduate, is community leader of our Njala community and is spearheading efforts in that quarantined area. I want to also mention that two of our Edmundians, Frank Pomar in New York (Kortright '63 group) and Jim Wright in Vancouver (West Park '62 group) have just recently sent generous donations to our *Christian Brothers Mission Office* in Freetown to be used by our Brothers' Hamilton Village community to supply food items to quarantined families in our area in time for Christmas. Our house is littered with many large 50kg bags of rice and other food stuffs which we are delivering to quarantined families for Christmas. Thank you, Frank and Jim! Your very thoughtful and practical gesture at Christmastime will go a long way to brighten many people's lives in the midst of their suffering.

And thank you as well my Brothers from the Province and worldwide, Edmundians, ERN members and friends who have taken the time to be in touch during this epidemic, assuring the Brothers of continual prayers as you think of us here. It is a strength that will see us through. We need these prayers now. Please keep them up!

Wishing all a blessed and happy Christmas and richest blessings for 2015 as we move together toward better days and to Our Way into the Future! Thank you and fraternal regards to one and all.



Christian Brothers community in Hamilton preparing donated food provisions for distribution at Christmas, (l-r): Brs. Pious Conteh, Emmanuel Kpaka, Samuel Amara, John Holden (Taking the photo is Anthony Bangura)



Br. Anthony Bangura (front left) and Br. Emmanuel Kpaka (front right) with Mr. Morial Conteh, Hamilton Village Headman, and Nurse Dakwah, with co-workers at the Hamilton Village Community Health Centre



BROTHER BILL COLFORD

Eldoret, Kenya



**Br. Bill
Colford**

Greetings and blessings

Recently I was given a first-class gift. The Education for Life Program where I work yesterday took 35 HIV-positive children to a “park” where there were rustic swings, see-saws and slides. For two hours they played as if it were Walt Disney theme park. They had a sandwich and sausage for breakfast with “tea”. Milk mixed with hot water. For two hours the staff promised to inflate the slide but it was slow coming. At 3:00 p.m. they served the children chicken and chips. They loved it.

During the meal the slide was inflated and the children could hardly

finish fast enough to get there. For the next hour they went mad. It was a good thirty feet high with a steep slope and I was terrified someone would get hurt. The joy that was so evident in the play and the recklessness with which they abandoned themselves was priceless. It is priceless. No greater gift could I have received than to be part of the joy they were experiencing. I am the child protection officer for the group and I did not have the heart to make them “behave” in an orderly fashion. God alone knows when they will have such unrestricted fun again. If ever.



Feeding and paying for the use of the facility cost less than \$400 US. The money I was given by a number of you to spend as I wish will definitely be used to make sure the opportunity is presented to them again in the not too distant future. If for no other reason than I can enjoy their joy.

Christmas is about joy and peace. My wish for you is that you can in some small way experience that peace and joy that I was privileged to be part of yesterday. Thank you to all who have supported and encouraged me over the last year or so; and may you know that you are held gently in God’s hands always.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Edmund Rice Christian Brothers North America

Vocations - Please direct inquiries to:

Br. James McDonald, CFC

815.272.7742 or bromaccfc@yahoo.com

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your global net for your global network

EDMUND RICE CHRISTIAN BROTHERS

Retreat Schedule 2015

Directed Retreat:

When: June 29, 2015 at 9:00 am until July 3, 2015 at 7:00 pm.

Where: Siena Dominican Retreat Center in Racine, Wisconsin.

5637 Erie Street

Racine, Wisconsin 53402

Tel: 262-898-2590

<http://www.racinedominicans.org/retreats.cfm>

What: Brothers would choose a spiritual director of their choice. There will be Daily Shared Prayer and Eucharist.

Who: The certified, experienced spiritual directors on Siena's staff are:

Kathleen Bohn, OP, Miriam Brown, OP, Pat Shutts, and Fr. John Czyzynski, SCJ.

Cost: \$385 .00 US (Checks made payable to MT SION COMMUNITY)

Mail to Brother Sean Whitty

21 Pryer Terrace

New Rochelle, NY 10804

fswitty@hotmail.com

Preached Retreat

“GAZING ON THE FACE OF JESUS”

When: July 20, 2015 – July 24, 2015 (Arrival can be on the late afternoon or evening July 19 and we conclude with lunch on July 24)

Where: Saint Lawrence Friary

Beacon, NY

Tel: 845-831-0394

<http://www.stlawrenceretreatcenter.org/>

What: There will be two sessions a day with times for Morning and Night Prayer as well as Daily Eucharist.

Cost: \$ 300.00 US (Checks made payable to MT SION COMMUNITY)

Mail to Brother Sean Whitty

21 Pryer Terrace

New Rochelle, NY 10804

fswitty@hotmail.com

Ecology Retreat

“A VISION AND A SPIRITUALITY, A PLATFORM AND A CAMPAIGN FOR THE PLANET”

When: July 7, 2015 - July 12, 2015

Where: Jericho House

<http://www.jerichohouse.org>

Please note there is a difference between the mailing address and the site address.

Mailing address

10845 Rathfon Road

Port Colborne, ON L3K 5V4

Site Address

10845 Rathfon Road

Wainfleet, ON L0S 1V0

Cost: Residents: \$550.00 (Canadian)

Commuters: \$450.00 (Canadian)

Cheques payable to Jericho House (at mailing address above)



Are You Called to be Brother to the World?

Edmund Rice Christian Brothers



¿Es Ud. llamado a ser Hermano para el mundo?

Los Hermanos Cristianos de Edmund Rice

www.erbrothers.org

Br. James McDonald, C.F.C.
773.429.4496
bromaccfc@yahoo.com

<http://sites.google.com/site/hermanos cristianos>

Hermano Gemaro Sullo, C.F.C.
718.293.3993 ext 124
jgsullo@allhallows.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
www.ercbna.org
www.edmundriceinternational.org
www.cfcvocations.org
www.edmundriceinternational.org/jpic