



# PROVINCE NEWSLETTER

## Edmund Rice Christian Brothers North America

A PROVINCE OF THE CONGREGATION OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS

Volume 10, Issue 3

January, 2015

**BROTHER RICE HIGH SCHOOL  
BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MI  
HAS BEEN SELECTED AS ONE OF THE TOP TEN PRIVATE  
SCHOOLS IN THE STATE AND IS THE HIGHEST RATED  
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL IN MICHIGAN.**



### K-12 School and District Rankings



Niche ranks more than 100,000 public and private schools and districts based on dozens of statistics and 27 million opinions from 300,000 students and parents.

Brother Rice's status was announced by Niche, an organization founded in 2002 by Carnegie Mellon University students as CollegeProwler.com. They arrived at this conclusion based on key student statistics and more than 120,000 opinions from 16,000 parents and students.

This ranking indicates that **the school is an exceptional academic institution with a diverse set of high-achieving students who rate their experience very highly.**

Though widely recognized for its athletic victories – thanks to supportive parents, extraordinary coaches and remarkable student-athletes – Brother Rice students also compete with one another to see who scores the highest grade, attains the impactful leadership role, or raises the most money for a non-profit. **This culture of healthy competitiveness – this desire to achieve more – is gradually embedded in all students and remains with them long after they've left us for college.**

Challenged by their teachers in the classroom, tested by their rivals on the playing field and inspired by the legacy of Blessed Edmund Ignatius Rice, the Brother Rice graduates are empowered with the knowledge, determination, and spirituality to change the world.

Read more about Brother Rice High School at [www.brrice.edu](http://www.brrice.edu).



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Community is first and foremost a gift of the Holy Spirit, not built upon mutual compatibility, shared affection, or common interests but upon having received the same divine breath, having been given a heart set aflame by the same divine fire, and having been embraced by the same divine love.

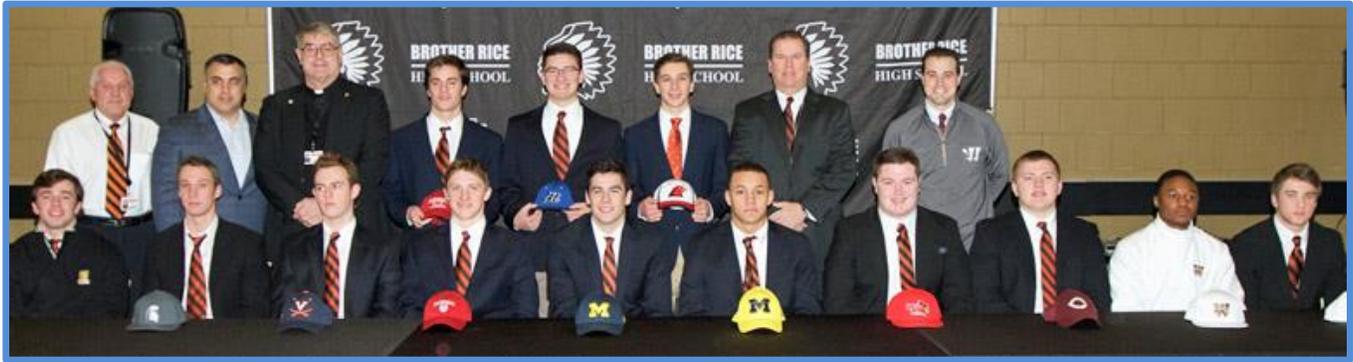
Henri Nouwen



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

Compassion and liberation  
in the spirit of  
Jesus and Edmund

Brother Rice was proud to celebrate the 2015 National Signing Day with our Class of 2015 Seniors.



**Top Row:** Reg Cavender (Athletic Director), Ajay Chawla (Head Lacrosse Coach), Brother Michael Segvich (Principal), John Lockwood – Lacrosse (Dickinson College, PA), Steven Ring – Baseball (Hillsdale College), Tyler Tucker – Baseball (Illinois Institute of Technology), John Birney (President), David Sofran (Head Football Coach)

**Sitting Row 1:** Daniel Lunghammer – Lacrosse (Colorado College, CO), Robbie Cort – Soccer (Michigan State University), Gust Kouvaris – Swimming (University of Virginia, VA), Mark Blinstrub – Swimming (University of Pennsylvania, PA), Grant Perry – Football (University of Michigan), Jack Dunaway – Football (University of Michigan), Marc Miller – Football (Illinois State University, IL), Mac Hendry – Football (University of Chicago), Delano Madison – Football (University of Chicago, IL), Davis Feldman – Baseball (Eastern Michigan University)

**Not Pictured:** Alex Malzone – Football (University of Michigan), Nick Plummer – Baseball (University of Kentucky), Bo Pickens – Lacrosse (U of D Mercy), Michael Giannetti – Lacrosse (Wittenberg University, OH), Michael Thut – Soccer (Swarthmore College, PA)

### **Irish Nite XXXVIII Auction**

On behalf of Honorary Chairs, *Jeanine and Joe Lunghamer '81 and Gwen and Doug North*, and the Auction Committee, we extend a warm invitation to support the 38th Annual Irish Nite Auction which will be held on **Saturday, March 14, at 6:00 p.m.**, at BRHS.



Please join us for the premier social and fundraising event of the year as we raise money for Brother Rice High School and the deserving young men we serve.

We rely on our Alumni, Parents and Friends to make this event a success. We are currently accepting Item Donations, Sponsorships and Advertising support. For more information, or to contribute in one of these ways, see the Irish Nite Information page. To purchase tickets to attend Irish Nite XXXVIII, see the Irish Nite Registration page, go to the school website at [www.brrice.edu](http://www.brrice.edu).

## CHRISTIAN BROTHERS New Orleans, LA

*The following appeared in the Clarion Herald, the official newspaper of the Archdiocese of New Orleans, on February 2, 2015. It was written by Peter Finney, Jr.*

### Even at 89, a Christian Brother finds a way to serve



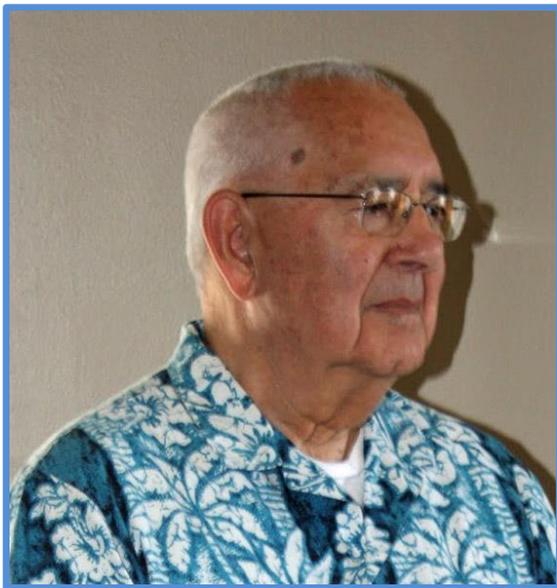
**Peter Finney**

Edmund Rice Christian Brother Charles Avendano had spent decades as a teacher and principal in elementary and secondary schools across the country, but one day in 1993 he caught himself. He was supposed to be correcting a stack of term papers. “It finally dawned on me that I hadn’t turned the first page after two hours,” Brother Charles said. “I told myself, ‘That’s it. I’ve lost it. Now it’s time to call it quits.’”

Brother Charles is 89 now, and, as it turns out, he hasn’t lost it. In fact, he’s found it. Every weekday morning, Brother Charles negotiates The Great Potholes of New Orleans – there’s a miniseries in there somewhere – driving a car from St. Henry’s Uptown to the Rebuild Center in the parking lot of St. Joseph Church on Tulane Avenue. “I call it the Pepto-Bismol run,” Brother Charles said. “You go for a ride and everything gets shaken out. I look at some of those potholes and I think someone must be coming out at night and deliberately digging them.”

Brother Charles joined a small team of Edmund Rice Christian Brothers in New Orleans in 2009 and started volunteering at the Rebuild Center, where homeless men and women gather daily to have access to meals, clothing, showers, medical care and other social services.

“I started out ‘slicing and dicing’ – slicing the meat and dicing the desserts,” Brother Charles said, laughing. “One day we were running short, so we had to cut things pretty thin. One fella came up and told me, ‘I had a bigger Communion wafer at Mass.’ Well, that’s the way it goes.”



**Brother Charles Avendano, CFC**

When the religious sister who was handling the center’s mailroom duties left, Brother Charles took over that job. It’s far more than sorting mail. The men and women who use the Rebuild Center need a permanent address in order to get their Social Security checks and their state identification cards. When Brother Charles hands out the letters each morning, he has a chance to engage the men and women in conversation, which helps him understand what more can be done to get them pointed in the right direction.

“You ask them questions about where they slept last night or whether they have talked to someone on the staff about getting a permanent place to sleep,” Brother Charles said. “I’ve become very sensitive to their vision problems. Some of them have to hold a paper way up in front of their eyes or way down or else they can’t read it. It’s not just handing out the mail. It’s trying to figure out what other problems they have and how we can address them.”

After his burnout episode as a teacher – and before coming to New Orleans – Brother Charles spent several years in California, Arizona and Washington serving as an ombudsman for elderly who resided in nursing homes. There he met two people who would impact his life. One was a man with a deteriorating spine, who knew he had only two years to live, who taught himself how to work a loom, where he made stunning blankets and tapestries. “That got me thinking, here he is, knowing his

body is deteriorating and his spine is weakening and he doesn't know how long he's going to live, but he keeps going, he keeps doing it," Brother Charles said.

The other was a woman with crippling arthritis who wanted to paint. "She couldn't open her fingers at all, so we were able to put a paint brush between her fingers, and it worked," Brother Charles said. "The owners of the facility were so pleased with what she was doing that they started putting her paintings on display. She loved to paint flowers. She had a room that looked out at the garden and the vines and the trees."

Brother Charles keeps asking the men and women he meets what they need. "I always thought God wanted me to be a teacher, but when I realized I was doing more harm than good, I had to find some other way of serving God and serving my neighbor," he said. "I'm happy here, and as long as my health holds up and I enjoy the work, I think that's two signs that God is putting me here and wants me to stay." One of the other formative experiences of his life happened when he was superintendent of a boarding school for emotionally disturbed children in his native Seattle. One night, little Billy, whose parents were mentally handicapped, ran away and went missing for three days. "The sheriff found him sleeping in an old car, and he brought him back to us at two in the morning," Brother Charles said. "I looked at this little kid, and he was drenched with water. There was a big puddle on the floor where he was standing. He took a shower, and then I carried him up the stairs to his bed in the dormitory. Two days later, a person on the staff came to me and said, 'Have you noticed the change in Billy? He can't do enough to help out. Before he was shy and withdrawn.'" Trying to get a handle on the cause of the transformation, Brother Charles spoke to the school's psychologist. "He told me, 'That's probably the first time in his life that he ever experienced being so close to someone. Just carrying him up the stairs and bringing him up to his bed was what did it.' I suddenly realized that I could have a real impact."

Brother Charles learned to carry the flame that night. No burnout here.

## Blessed Edmund Rice Prayer Cards

*Pray for us*



**Founder of the Christian Brothers  
and the Presentation Brothers**

Edmund Rice was born in 1762 in Callan, County Kilkenny, Ireland. After completing his education, he moved to Waterford and was appointed to an uncle's sapper to the many ships visiting its growing port.

Edmund eventually took over the orphaning business and it prospered. In 1795 he married Mary Elbert, but soon after the birth of their only child in 1799, she died. The girl, named after his wife, was raised by Edmund with the help of his nieces.

Because Catholic education was at the time denied to Ireland's poor, Edmund decided to right the wrong. In 1802 he began the ministry of educating and caring for young boys, a mission that continues today. Two congregations, the Christian Brothers and the Presentation Brothers, developed from the foundation laid that year. Edmund gifted both, watching them grow in size and name, until his death in 1844.

The first Christian Brothers arrived in North America in Newfoundland, Canada, in 1876. Thirty years later, the first community in the United States was established in New York City. Today, more than two hundred years after Edmund began his work, Christian Brothers serve on six continents. Among our ministries:

- Teaching and administering in schools and colleges
- Disfranchising youth ministry programs
- Performing missionary work
- Educating adults
- Supporting parishes and dioceses
- Ministering to migrant workers
- Caring for the infirm and elderly
- Serving the homeless

In 1995, Edmund was declared "Blessed" by the church - a major step in the Catholic Church towards sainthood.

A donation has been made to support the ministries of  
The Christian Brothers.

Edmund Rice Christian Brothers North America  
300 Wilton Road  
New Rochelle, New York 10804

will be remembered in the  
daily Masses and devotions of the  
Christian Brothers' communities  
and share in the prayers and good works of the  
Congregation of Christian Brothers  
around the world.

Requested by: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

The Lord bless you and keep you;  
The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you;  
The Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.

\_\_\_\_\_

for the Christian Brothers

To order email: [dsa@cbfoundation.org](mailto:dsa@cbfoundation.org)  
Edmund Rice Christian Brothers Foundation  
260 Wilmot Road, New Rochelle, New York 10804

# ARCHBISHOP CURLEY NOTRE DAME PREP

Miami, FL



**Ms. Lisa Morales**

Donations made by two of Miami's most respected philanthropic families will bring new beginnings to ArchbishopCurley Notre Dame Prep – a 6 to 12 Archdiocesan school located in Miami's Buena Vista area.

The \$10,000 donation received from the **Batchelor** family will be used to purchase new iPads and maintenance upgrades for the technology-based, Individualized Learning Program launched two years ago. **Jon Batchelor** graduated in 1971 from Archbishop Curley High School (the boys' school before it had merged to become ACND Prep).

A \$50,000 donation received from **Swanee** (NDA '65) and **Paul DiMare** will be used to renovate ACND Prep's cafetorium. Mrs. DiMare's request is to rename the room in

honor of the Notre Dame graduates and to dedicate it to the Society of Sisters of St. Joseph and the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary who taught and administered Notre Dame Academy. A dedication ceremony will be held later this year.

"Our school has weathered many changes in its 61-year history," commented Douglas Romanik, ACND Principal. "However, one thing that has never changed is the commitment of our alumni family to their alma mater. Whether it is demonstrated through organizing annual fundraising events, donations, or returning to visit our current students at events such as our Heritage Day (an annual career mentoring event held in February), we are able to preserve the family environment while advancing academic programs that serve tomorrow's scholars. We are thankful to both the Batchelors and DiMare's, so well-known in South Florida for their generosity, for their ongoing support of our school's mission."



**Archbishop Curley Notre Dame Prep students say "thank you" for the donations to assist with school and technology improvements.**



**Jon and Nancy Batchelor**  
**Mr. Batchelor who graduated from Archbishop Curley in 1971 was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2012.**

ACND Prep is the first Archdiocese of Miami School to launch the One to One, iPad Learning program. ACND has adapted the Fontan Relational Education (FRE) model to suit its iPad and "flipped classroom" approach to classroom learning.

The program's goal is to enable students to move from curriculum receivers to actors of their learning experience. Students are

respected for their differences so their potential is explored at its maximum, enabling them to be successful both academically and in their lives.



**(l to r): Archbishop Thomas Wenski, Swanee DiMare '65, Dr. James Kushlan '65 (2014 Hall of Fame Inductee), Paul DiMare, Douglas Romanik '84 (ACND Principal)**

*Environmental Justice and Communities of Faith:  
A Call to Action from African American Faith Leaders*



Dr. Kathleen  
Deignan, CND

The Berry Forum is honored to host GreenFaith Fellow, Lawrence Jennings, on behalf of “Our Voices” – a global inter-religious coalition working to bring the passion of people of faith to the urgent environmental deliberations underway around our world, and especially in preparation for the United Nations Climate Treaty Talks in Paris 2015.

Out of his extensive expertise in social justice and healing work, Mr. Jennings now takes up the challenge of weaving networks among people of faith for the healing of Creation.

His “open letter” to all people of faith, composed in the voice and values of African American spiritual leaders, summons us to “sign on” and take up this Great Work of our time.

You are invited to enter into the dialogue he has initiated and engage this most urgent moral concern: to save our precious Earth for generations to come, and to protect the most vulnerable victims of climate change.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2015  
ROMITA AUDITORIUM OF RYAN LIBRARY  
IONA COLLEGE, 715 NORTH AVENUE  
NEW ROCHELLE, NY  
For more information, visit [www.iona.edu](http://www.iona.edu).

*Mr. Jennings, is a member of Infinity Mennonite Church of Harlem, actively committed to his tradition’s legacy of non-violence and creation care. He serves as Director for several programs, all of which foster unity and community.*



Mr. Lawrence Jennings

**Reunion 2015 - May 15-16**



Celebrating graduates of class years ending in “0” and “5,” although all graduates are welcome to come back to Iona College and join the festivities! Join Your Reunion Committee!

Committee volunteers assist with outreach to classmates, planning class-specific events, and encouraging participation in your reunion class gift. Please contact Kara Brennan '00MS at [\(914\) 633-2410](tel:9146332410) or [kbrennan@iona.edu](mailto:kbrennan@iona.edu) for more information.

**Spiritual Masters Course Calendar  
Spring Semester 2015, January 21st - May 6<sup>th</sup>  
Spellman Hall, Room 106 at Iona College**

You are welcome to be guest auditors of the Iona Spirituality Institute during this semester-long engagement with four exceptional pathfinders of the spirit. We will meet each Wednesday from 6:30-9:00 p.m. in a variety of formats and



media that will bring the vibrant wisdom of The Four Masters under consideration to life.

Each Master will be considered in turn, with Thomas Merton being the interlocutor with each and all, demonstrating the range of his spiritual life and its luminous legacy as we celebrate his centenary.

There will be guest lecturers visiting actually and virtually - scholars and authors who have specialized in the study of these Masters. The course will be enhanced by cinema and music, and offerings on select occasions, as well as spiritual practice and dialogue around the teaching of each Master. A complete syllabus, calendar and bibliography will be offered during our first and successive sessions.

Guests can come to individual classes for an offering of \$7 per session, or \$100 for all 15+ classes and events.

For more information visit [www.iona.edu](http://www.iona.edu).

## BROTHER BILL COLFORD

Eldoret, Kenya



**Br. Bill  
Colford**

I am surviving here. Really more than surviving. I am very much still wondering how I will fit into the local picture and how I can best use my time and talents. I went to the Education For Life Centre where I will spend most of my time and energy. It is a center dedicated to helping people (mostly women 95%) who have been infected with HIV. Recently 100 women and two men showed up for their weekly group session. Since it was all in Swahili I was for the most part an observer. They did their best to include me but once the surprise of seeing me passed, they continued in their own language, as they should. I managed to stay for three or four hours until they broke into small groups to discuss micro financing before going home. Another day from 8:30 till 1:30, we visited the homes of five new members. The moment that stays with me is the experience of sitting in the home of a woman and wondering about the ability of people to live in such poverty. The house was three meters by five meters at most and the walls were made of mud. The ceiling was made of corrugated steel sheets with light shining through the many holes. Her bed was in the corner with the least number of holes. The floor was earth and not at all level. She was responsible for five children and there was no “man” in the picture. She had to pay \$10 a month for the privilege of living in that home. Her main chance at work is if someone calls her to wash, or if she gets a job smearing dirt on mud huts to semi-insulate them. But for the most part she just survives. It really heightens my own sense of appreciation for what I have.

Our Province newsletter is always looking for new material for our editions. And we know there are many wonderful and exciting things happening in our schools / ministry sites / communities. Please help us spread the good news about your school / ministry site / community. Written reports and photos may be sent to the editor at [wrfowlernj@gmail.com](mailto:wrfowlernj@gmail.com). For photos, please identify the people and/or places in the photos. Material should arrive by the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month.



**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

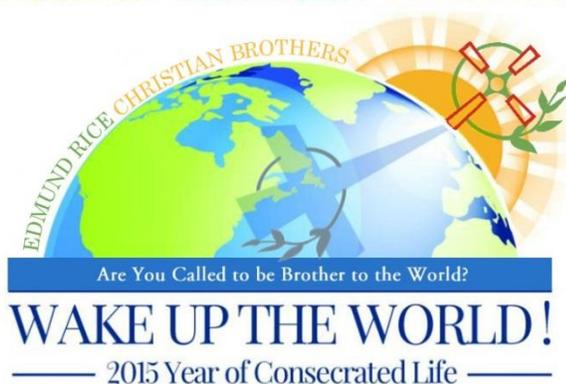
[www.jerichohouse.org](http://www.jerichohouse.org)

The Jericho House Team:

Sister Jacque Keefe, cssf, Brother Bill Carrothers, cfc

**EDMUND RICE CHRISTIAN BROTHERS NORTH AMERICA  
VOCATIONS - PLEASE DIRECT INQUIRIES TO:  
BR. JAMES McDONALD, CFC  
815.272.7742  
BROMACCFC@YAHOO.COM**

PRESENCE COMPASSION LIBERATION



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

Check out the new photos

And under publications

- Latin America Newsletter
- African Newsletters
- European Newsletters
- Christian Brothers Today

## Becoming a Brother

The Edmund Rice Christian Brothers welcome you as you seek to discern God's call in your life. We hope and pray that this will be a time for great insight into who you are and where God is calling you.

You are already on the journey toward becoming a Brother: you have a strong faith, no doubt you have thought and prayed about becoming a Brother, you have contacted us for more information.

The formal process of becoming a Christian Brother is done in five stages:

- Contact,
- Candidacy,
- Residency,
- Novitiate, and
- Annual Profession.

These all offer opportunities for you to grow in your understanding of religious life. You will have numerous opportunities to experience prayer, community and ministry with the Christian Brothers.



Throughout your journey you will receive support and encouragement from the Brothers, who welcome the willingness of each individual to explore the Brothers' way of life in prayer, community and ministry.

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)  
[www.edmundriceinternational.org](http://www.edmundriceinternational.org)  
[www.cfcvocations.org](http://www.cfcvocations.org)  
[www.edmundriceinternational.org/jpic](http://www.edmundriceinternational.org/jpic)