

PROVINCE NEWSLETTER

Edmund Rice Christian Brothers North America

A PROVINCE OF THE CONGREGATION OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS

Volume 11, Issue 1

August 2015

OFFICE OF EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

New Rochelle, New York

Twenty-five participants, nine schools, one mission and SUCCESS!!

Faculty Faith Formation Workshop – Iona College, June 22 to 26, 2015

For one outstanding week in late June, participants in the Faculty Faith Formation Workshop, presented by the Office of Educational Services, collaborated in a variety of activities to develop a comprehensive plan for faith formation at their schools.

Sister Grace D'Amico set an excellent tone for the opening session, bringing everyone prayerfully together in faith and focus on the centrality of our relationship with Jesus as the guiding force for success through the week. Moving forward, Brother Ray Vercruysse's inspirational session on the Jesus that Edmund knew and loved and Dr. Carl Procario-Foley's eloquent talk on the demographics of faith in the 21st Century provided clear context for the workshop. Following a deeply reflective Emmaus Walk, Sister Ona Bessette's World Café activity brought everyone into active consideration of the real possibilities for faith formation in our schools, with all participants engaging very constructively.

Evangelization and the Formation of Intentional Communities, as presented by Brother Dennis Gunn, further informed the theme of the workshop as participants began working on ideals and clear plans for the development of actual school programs. One participant said of Br. Gunn's presentation, "What a great presentation and reminder to us all that Christ should be at the forefront of all that we do. We worry about certificates, accreditation, professional development, technology, the physical structure of the building, etc., but making sure we are all Christ-centered and evangelizing our students and doing our best to uphold the virtues of Blessed Edmund seems to get lost. We need to make sure we address this every year just as we do all the other things previously mentioned."

Vin Mancuso's spirit-filled sessions on the practical aspects of faculty faith formation brought everything together at this point. Team members from each school worked hard, and every group succeeded in building a solid faculty faith formation plan for their community.

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All who undertake to teach must be endowed with deep love, the greatest of patience and, most of all, profound humility.

Saint Joseph Calasanz



Faculty Faith Formation Workshop participants gather with Blessed Edmund Rice and his students on the Iona College Campus in New Rochelle, NY.

Evaluations of the workshop were very positive. Among the aspects that the participants found most helpful were “engaging in conversations with peers and encouragement to forge ahead.”* Another said, “Seeing the big picture of evangelization and being able to really understand the process of evangelization of new faculty will require great attention.”* A third praised the workshop: “Overall, an eye-opening experience, especially seeing this as a mission toward bringing more faith into the school.”*

Genuine enthusiasm for the implementation of plans was clearly evident as participants organized to head home. Through God’s grace and guidance, excellent results had been achieved!

*By Ken Olson
St. Thomas More Collegiate
Quotations and pictures added by OES

EDMUND RICE CHRISTIAN BROTHERS FOUNDATION

New Rochelle, New York



**Mrs. Colleen
Noonan**

The Edmund Rice Christian Brothers Foundation has announced the following changes/additions to staff:

- Brother Sebastian Adams has left the New Rochelle office. Thank you, Brother.
- Mary Ceh has retired from our Chicago office after 27 years of service. Many, many thanks for your years of service to the Brothers!
- Brother Karl Walczak has joined us part time in the New Rochelle Office.
- Nancy Mathiasen has also joined us part time in the New Rochelle Office.
- Brother Dominic Murray continues as the Development Associate with a concentration in Chicago and West of Chicago.

All donations will be processed by the New Rochelle office. The Foundation can be reached at:

Edmund Rice Christian Brothers Foundation,
260 Wilmot Road, New Rochelle, New York 10804, [914-636-1035](tel:914-636-1035)

Colleen F. Noonan, Director
Edmund Rice Christian Brothers Foundation

JERICO HOUSE

Wainfleet, Ontario

Jericho House Gathering *'Our Way into the Future' in the Greater Toronto Area*



SEATED: (l to r) Br. Sean Whitty, Br. Jack Mostyn, facilitator; Br. Denis Claivaz, FPM; Br. Barry Lynch

STANDING: (l to r) Br. Michael Maher, Br. John Buckingham, Br. Bill Carrothers, Br. John Holden, Br. Francis Schafer, FPM; Sr. Jacquie Keefe, CSSF

*"We are an aging group of Brothers with a great deal of accumulated wisdom.
How do we tap into that wisdom?"*

These words formed the spirited preamble to a recent meeting of Christian Brothers, Presentation Brothers and Felician Sisters in the greater Toronto area as we explored ways to enter into the spirit and energy of ***Our Way into the Future***. The event took place at Jericho House Youth Leadership, Justice & Spirituality Centre in Wainfleet, Ontario, on the weekend of June 12 - 14, 2015. Brother Jack Mostyn, CFC, former Congregation Deputy Leader and presently a member of the All Saints Community in New Rochelle, NY, facilitated the insightful event, inviting us into a process of deep reflection utilized by the former CLT as they themselves moved through their own reflection and propositions. It was a stroke of genius on Jack's part to approach things in this way, a *'real-shop'* as he termed it (not a workshop), as it truly released energy within the group beyond any expectation we may have had.

"We will come together before the end of September to study the anticipated June 18th encyclical on ecology and environment to understand how we can influence others about ecology as a ministry at Jericho House. A committee of three will be created to organize the gathering with the question of finance being addressed." This we see as merely a beginning, as a way our group can continue to use the process introduced by Jack to deepen our own lived experience of community and be catalyst

for transformational leadership in our area, especially in the way of justice, ecology and environmental concerns.

The three Christian Brothers communities and the two Presentation Brothers communities in the greater Toronto area have been meeting for some years now to celebrate together such events as Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter, and Canada Day; so our intention is simply to expand on that to deepen community among ourselves and others in keeping with the values and direction of 'Our Way into the Future'. We say a big thank you to Brother Bill Carrothers and Sister Jacquie Keefe of Jericho House for taking the initiative to invite Jack to come and facilitate such a spirit-filled weekend for us in the beautiful surrounding of Jericho House. Our gratitude goes especially to Jack for his releasing such energy and freedom in this 'aging group of Brothers with a great deal of accumulated wisdom'.



It is yet another indication of how the developed world can come on board. The group gathered again at Presentation Brothers community in Toronto to celebrate Canada Day on July 1st. The group will gather again at Jericho House on September 4 - 6 to commence their next chapter of ***Our Way into the Future*** by exploring Pope Francis' encyclical '*Laudato Si'*'. Kathy Mistry, a retired pastoral worker for her parish and chaplain for the Niagara Catholic Separate School Board, will facilitate the event, allowing time as well to recreate with the community through such activities as golfing, wine touring, horseback riding, barbequing, walking, hiking and just being.



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 Jacquie Keefe, cssf, Brother Bill Carrothers, cfc

Living the Canticle

Sister Jacquie Keefe, Sister Rosalind Rosolowski, Sister Francis Lewandowski and Sister Renée Kurczaba blazed a trail through Canada from August 23 - 29, during the first community cycling retreat called "The Emmaus Cycle Journey."

According to Sister Renée, this holistic experience of mind, body, and spirit presented many challenges as well as blessings. The retreat began with a Cosmic Walk at Jericho House on Sunday, August 23, that focused on the power and mystery of God who spoke the Word - and the wonder of Creation began.

Each day invited Sisters Jacquie, Roz, Francis and Renée to "tread softly through the woods, walk reverently through the earth's garden, to walk in the water, stand on a rock, and sense the life within, the glory that fills our bodies - God's presence among us. This is holy ground - God's sanctuary," -- Norman Habel, *Seven Songs of Creation*.

Sister Renée said, "We dealt with the various unknowns: the biking distance for the day, meals, overnight accommodations, weather, and our ability to endure all that awaited us. The constants were Morning and Evening Prayer, sharing Eucharist with different local communities, and personal mantras and prayers while biking.



**At Niagara Falls with the American Falls
in the background.**

**(l to r) Sisters Renée, Francis, Jacquie, and
Rosalind**

She added, "What became evident was the shared experience of Mother Earth with strangers we met along the way who asked for prayer, who extended kindnesses to us, and who then journeyed with us in spirit as we recalled their needs during prayer. It was a powerful community experience for us for we relied on one another and looked out for each other, but also had the larger community to support us and come to our aid as needed. We used the relic of Blessed Angela regularly to bless our day and route as we repeated the motto, 'Ride, Angela, ride!'

"In the end, we traveled 160 km/105 miles, averaging 21 miles a day as we rode from Wainfleet through Port Colborne, Fort Erie, Niagara Falls, thru Niagara on the Lake region, Welland, and back to Jericho House."

"The retreat concluded with evening prayer from the Community of Taizé on Friday night, Eucharist on Saturday morning at Jericho House, and private morning prayer. Our bodies were sore, but our spirits soared, for God provided each of us with what was needed."

CFC RETREAT

Beacon, New York

The retreat was at the St. Lawrence Friary, Beacon, NY, July 20 – 24, 2015. The retreat director was Father Robin Ryan, CP. The title and theme was "Gazing on the Face of Christ." Each presentation featured a different image or aspect of Christ. They were: friend, healer, caller of disciples, teacher, bread of life, source of communion, priest and brother, prince of peace, and Good Samaritan. Father Ryan's presentations were well prepared, grounded in scripture and spiritual writers, yet inspirational and practical.



Fr. Robin Ryan CP, director, with Brs. Jim Hamilton and Sean Whitty in the background.



(l to r): Brs. Mike Colasuanno, Harry French, Hugh Greenan, and Ed Pigott.

MOUNT SION COMMUNITY

Elizabeth, New Jersey

Brother Jack Flaherty Golden Jubilee



Br. Jack Flaherty

On Sunday, June 28th, the Mount Sion Community travelled to Norwood, Massachusetts, to celebrate with family and friends, Brother Jack Flaherty's 50 years of dedicated service to the Congregation.

The gathering included Jack's brother and sister-in-law, Kevin and Kathleen Flaherty; his sister and brother-in-law, Anne Marie and Tom Morris; his niece, her husband and grandniece, Stephanie and Marty LaVigne and Anna; and his nephew Danny Morris. Other guests included Brother Jim Moffett, Mark and Kerrin Toglia, Sisters Joan Whittle and Margaret Anderson and Carol Paddock.

This gathering gave all of us an opportunity to thank Jack for the wonderful service he has given the Congregation and the Edmund Rice Christian Brothers North America Province. Brother Kevin Griffith, Province Leader, brought greetings from the Province and spoke about Jack's contributions. Jack regaled us with some stories about his many and varied ministries.

He shared his love of family, particularly his dearly departed Mom and Dad. It was wonderful to celebrate this milestone in Jack's religious life with his family and friends.

On behalf of the Province we wish Jack continued good health and thank him for what he has done and is continuing to do for the Province.

IONA COLLEGE
New Rochelle, New York

GENESIS: A Biblio Drama

The Iona Spirituality Institute invites you to a multi-faith gathering to creatively explore the sacred story of Genesis for its wisdom as we seek a sustainable future for planet Earth.

Tuesday, September 8th from 6:30 – 8:00 PM, Spellman Lounge in Spellman Hall of Iona College

Guest Offering \$10



We are delighted to welcome Dr. Elizabeth Wind, an experienced educator who has worked in a variety of institutions - academic, corporate, non-profit, and religious. Her formal Biblical study began as a child when she attended religious school in the Jewish tradition for 12 years. A pioneer in the creative art form of bibliodrama, she trained in with its creator, Peter Pitzele.

during which the facilitator reads a selected text, stopping at points of interest to invite participants to step into the role of a character, or sometimes of an object. It explores the subtext of the written narrative and the spaces between the words, to bring the Bible alive. Bibliodrama always respects the written text and never contradicts the biblical account, while encouraging a mindful reading of the Bible. Bibliodrama opens the door to the Bible and makes its perennial wisdom available to its participants.

As people of all faiths around the globe are invited by Pope Francis to make September the Season of Creation, and in response to his encyclical on the environment - Laudato si: On the Care of Our Common Home - we host this multifaith biblio drama to explore what this ancient story has to say for our contemporary reality.

Reservations: RSVP kdeignan@iona.edu

Parking at the back of campus in the garage.

Upcoming Events:

Remembering 9/11

9/11/2015 12:00 PM - Join us for a Memorial Service.

Iona College Day of Service

9/19/2015 - Join the Iona Family for a Day of Service!

Young Alumni Cocktail Party

9/24/2015 6:00 PM -Join us for the young alumni end of summer event!

Long Island Alumni Cocktail Reception

9/30/2015 – Rockville Links Club, Rockville, NY

Homecoming 2015

October 16 – 18, 2015 – Iona College

More information on all these events, and more, at www.ionaconnection.com

Julian of Norwich **Iona Spirituality Institute** **Saturday, October 17th 9:30 - 5:30, Arrigoni Center**



Once again - as we do each year - the ISI invites you to a glorious day of contemplative inquiry, dialogue, celebration and feasting in honor of one of the spiritual luminaries of the human community.

This year we shall offer a salute to Julian of Norwich facilitated by the ISI Theologians in Residence:

Ionians Christina Carlson, Peggy Clark, Kathleen Deignan, CND, and June Ann Greeley, from Sacred Heart University.

With image, drama, music of the period, and 14th Century English fare, we hope to honor one of Christianity's greatest theologians and mystics whose "Showings" offer wisdom and hope to the people of our time.

More details coming soon - just save the date for now!!

Early Registration will begin in August. See you all there !!

EDMUND RICE CHRISTIAN BROTHERS NORTH AMERICA
VOCATIONS - PLEASE DIRECT INQUIRIES TO:
BR. JAMES McDONALD, CFC
815.272.7742
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IONA PREPARATORY SCHOOL

New Rochelle, New York

Edmund Rice Camp – 2015

Iona Prep hosted its annual Edmund Rice Summer Camp the week of June 29th-July 3rd. After six years at the Upper School, this year's camp was held on the campus of the Lower School. Each day we hosted a total of at least 90 campers and counselors from the Upper and some from the Lower Iona schools. Our campers, nearly 50 in number, came from parishes and schools in the New York City area, including St. Frances of Rome and Our Lady of Grace Parishes in the Bronx, Sacred Heart Parish in Mount Vernon, Holy Name Parish in New Rochelle, and the Little Swan Program in Mount Vernon.

Activities during the week included an ice breaker to begin each day, basketball, arts & crafts, kickball, water balloon toss, a Lego center and a water slide. This year's camp was enthusiastically led by Brother Lucian Knaap, assisted by Brother Tony Reynolds, Br. Tom LeJeune, Br. Robert Harris, and Mr. Tom Straehle. The delicious lunches were prepared by many parents from both the Upper and Lower school campuses. The Moms were most generous with their time, energy, and talent. Joe's Deli in New Rochelle supplied the lunch meat used to make sandwiches that were sent home with each camper at the end of the day. Dr. Marco Caruso, a 1991 graduate of the Upper School, supplied lunch from a local deli for over 100 people. The Shirts were donated by the Liebman's, the uniform store in New Rochelle.

After the campers went home, the counselors spent a half hour reflecting on the day with Brother Lucian. They recalled the blessings of the day and talked about what they could do differently for the next day.

On behalf of Iona Preparatory School, Brother Lucian would also like thank the counselors and leaders of the camp for the week: Nick Fioriello, Frankie Adipietro, Marco Bonaiuto, and Anthony Capasso who all did an outstanding job, along with the other counselors from both the Upper and Lower school.



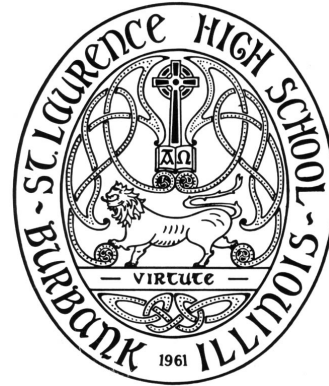
ST. LAURENCE HIGH SCHOOL

Burbank, Illinois

Congratulations to those alumni who will be recognized at this year's Viking Pride Dinner!
Plan to join us on Friday, November 6th, to help celebrate their induction.

2015 Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees:

- Bill Riordan '88 – Football and Baseball
- Bryan Pruitt '90 – Football
- Dan Ruane '79 – Football
- Joe Kenny '70 – Wrestling
- Mark Ewald '73 – Football
- Dan Nyblom '97 – Track
- Ken Ritter '84 – Baseball
- Joe Moore '96 – Hockey
- 2002 -2003 Basketball Team
- Coach Jerry Doorhy '91 – Football



2015 Presidential Award Winners:

- Tom Allison, '69, President
- Stan Fronczak, '65, Professional
- John Barnicle, '82, Entrepreneur

EDMUNDIANS



The Memorial Masses for deceased Edmundians and Brothers are as follows:

Los Angeles, September 19, 2015, Coordinator: Reno Frigo

11:00 am at Calvary Cemetery: 11:30 am Mass at Cantwell -2nd floor of "Bros. house":

12:30 pm Lunch on first floor of "Bros. house"

West Park. September 26, 2015

Coordinator: Brother Jerry McCarthy

At 12:00 noon

Salinas October 03, 2015

Coordinator: Brother Denis Dunne

At Palma, 10:30 am

St. John's October 08, 2015

Coordinator: Harold Stapleton

At 7:00 pm in the Marian Chapel at St. John the Baptist Basilica, followed by reception at Brothers' Residence, Mount St. Francis

Chicago October 17, 2015 Coordinator: Jack O'Keefe
At 3:00 pm at Holy Sepulchre, 4:00 pm Mass at Br Rice, followed by social hour in Brothers' refectory.

Tampa October 24, 2015 Coordinator: Brother Chris Burns
At Tampa Catholic 5:00 pm

If you plan on attending any of the above services, please contact the coordinator of each event.

SAINT JOHN CATHOLIC CHURCH

North Charleston, South Carolina

Justice Ministry



Br. Ed Bergeron

Between September 15th and October 12th, we will begin a new round of house meetings to build our parish justice ministry network and to surface the issues of injustice and unfairness that we experience in our area.

Our team leaders this year are: Katie Catalon, Jim Cheesborough, Judith Hines, Brian McKenzie, Betty Niemann, and Mary Lou Taylor. Over the next couple of weeks, they will be calling around to invite people to attend

their house meeting. I would ask, that when you get the call, you seriously consider their invitation.



UPDATE:

- Problem:** Charleston County arrests and incarcerates more juveniles than anywhere else in the state, but has the lowest level of violent crime. Once in jail, kids are trapped in a cycle and more often than not drop out of school, have worse behavior and end up in jail again.
Action: Charleston Area Justice Ministry (CAJM) gained commitments from Mount Pleasant, Charleston, North Charleston Police Departments and the Sheriff's office to reduce juvenile incarceration by 65%.
Result: First was to create and implement a Risk Assessment Instrument (RAI). Incarceration rates are going down countywide and we can see more clearly now who is being arrested and where. Disproportionate numbers of Black youth are being arrested, and 62% of all arrests are coming directly from schools.
- Problem:** Too many of our kids in Charleston County (over 25%) were reaching the Third Grade unable to read at grade-level. If a child reaches that point, it is nearly impossible to ever catch up.
Action: With 1,500 people present at our Nehemiah Action, we gained commitments from the Charleston County School District (CCSD) to open 280 additional K-4 slots for the children most in need of them.

Result: After nearly two years, over 500 students have attended K-4 that could not have before. We continue to monitor the program to assure continued funding and that all slots are consistently filled.

3. **Problem:** Our kids are being suspended at extremely high rates. This exacerbates low academic performance, increases dropout rates and leads kids down the school to prison pipeline.

Action: With 1,700 people present we demanded that CCSD stop exclusionary practices that merely punish poor behavior and implement proven-to-work disciplinary practices that change behavior—Positive Behavioral Intervention and Support (PBIS) in 10 schools and Restorative Justice in two schools.

Result: PBIS began in the fall of 2014 at 10 school and had shown incredible decreases in suspension rates and improved academic performance. Ex: Burns Elementary went from a 29% suspension rate to just 9% this past year using PBIS. Restorative Justice has gained so much support that it is now implemented in five schools—every one of our middle schools.

4. **Problem:** Unemployment in Charleston is 5%. For youth 16-24 years old, it is 25% and for African Americans in that age group it is 40%.

Action: We gained commitments from Mayor Riley to write and propose a hiring policy to funnel publically funded entry level jobs towards that age group, paired with a training program through SC Works.

Result: The policy is written but weak, with low accountability and geared towards contracts over \$3 million. It has stalled in City Council and the vote is deferred until later in the fall.

5. **Problem:** Workers in our community are having their wages stolen. Either through shortening employee hours, making tipped positions share their tips with others or forcing employees to pay for broken dishes—wage theft is rampant in our community.

Action: County Council was held accountable to fill the gap for workers suffering wage theft by beginning a Wage Recovery Program, to hold businesses accountable and get money back into the pockets of the workers who earned it.

Result: County Council approved full funding (6-3 vote) for a Wage Recovery Program. A lawyer has already been hired through SC Legal Services and a para-legal will be hired soon. Clients are already being seen.

In CAJM we work to powerfully hold systems accountable by organizing people. Power comes either from organized wealth (money) or organized people. By joining the Saint John Justice Ministry Network and participating with our 30 other sister congregations in CAJM, you can make a difference.



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.

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