

PROVINCE NEWSLETTER

Edmund Rice Christian Brothers North America
A PROVINCE OF THE CONGREGATION OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS

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Happy New Year

To all our Brothers, Associates, Edmundians and collaborators in our life and ministry, the Province Leadership Team of the Edmund Rice Christian Brothers North America Province sends our prayers and best wishes for the New Year. May 2017 be a year of peace, happiness, and good health for you and your families.



*Brothers Kevin Griffith, Michael Colasuonno, Ray Vercruysse,
Sean Moffett, Peter O'Loughlin, Peter Zawot*



In this issue:

Called & Gifted	p. 2
Iona College	p. 3
Advocacy	p. 4
St. Laurence	p. 5
Br. Rice MI	p. 7
Reunion	p. 8
Come & See	p. 9



A healthy family life requires frequent use of three phrases: "May I? Thank you, and I'm sorry," and never, never, never end the day without making peace.

Pope Francis

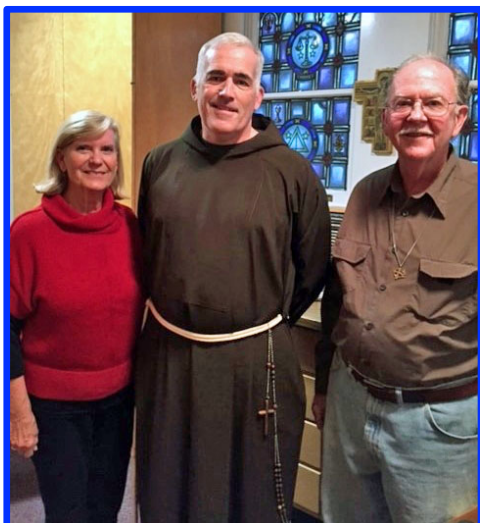
CALLED AND GIFTED WORKSHOP 2016



Br. Chris Burns

On October 25-27, sixteen faculty and staff members from Christian Brothers' educational sites throughout North America attended the Called and Gifted Workshop in Rhinebeck, New York. They came together to reflect on the unique gifts God has given each one of them in order to carry out their educational mission in the tradition of the Congregation of Christian Brothers.

One of the highlights of the workshop was a trip to the West Park cemetery where each participant prepared and told the life stories of different Brothers buried there. The participants were reminded that they were literally standing on the shoulders of the giants who had built and taught in the schools from where the participants came. They were challenged to accept the torch passed on to them and to continue to share the charism of Blessed Edmund Rice in the schools where they minister.



(l to r) Mrs. Maureen Kiers, Associate Director OES, Edmundian Father Michael Ramos, OFM, Cap., Brother Chris Burns, CFC

Edmundian Father Michael Ramos, OFM, Cap. celebrated Mass for the group, and mentioned that when he was a Christian Brother and teaching in our schools, he also attended the Called and Gifted Workshop.

The participants' responses are summarized as follows:

The workshop was much more than I expected. The beautiful setting along the Hudson was spectacular, and the Linwood Retreat Center was most welcoming. The passion of Brother Chris Burns and Mrs. Melanie Anchukaitis, the presenters, was evident. To see our vocation as educators as a calling and the discernment of our gifts has been a real blessing. It was wonderful to be with such a terrific group of people, and we now have a powerful message to bring back to our mission sites.



Each participant prepared and told the life stories of different Brothers buried there

Laudato Si: Living It Forward-Voices of Millennials

Young scholars offer their visions of living forward into the challenges inspired by Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'* and the legacy of Thomas Berry.



**Br. Kevin
Cawley**

The Thomas Berry Forum for Ecological Dialogue at Iona and Edmund Rice International hosted a wonderful gathering of graduate scholars and Iona students and alums for a full day of dialogue on Saturday, October 29, 2016. Several presentations by graduate students from area universities around ***Laudato Si'*** and the work of Thomas Berry framed the day of dialogue.

After greetings from Berry Forum Executive Director, Dr. Kevin Cawley, CFC, Sr. Kathleen Deignan, co-founder of the Berry Forum at Iona and Professor of Religious Studies, introduced the speakers and led the assembly in sung prayer accompanied by guitarist and guest musician Beth Bradley. These musical interludes moved us through the various sessions of the day, and gave the very rich experience a contemplative pace and space as the day unfolded.

The audience heard careful and deeply considered reflections from our three invited speakers followed by lively dialogue and networking among those in attendance. Dialogue sessions were led by Berry Forum members Dr. Danny Martin and Dr. Karen Killeen. Contemplative Intervals, animated by Dr. Brian Brown, gave participants pause to receive and respond to the invitations presented by the millennial scholars as they offered their visions of "living forward" the ecological spirituality proposed by both Pope Francis and Thomas Berry.

The graduate scholars were James Robinson, Fordham University, who spoke on "The Great Work of Ecological Conversion;" Nanette Walsh of Union Theological Seminary whose topic was "Practical Divinization for Ecologically Troubled Times;" and finally Christopher Fici, Hindu practitioner and Graduate Student at Union Theological Seminary who addressed the topic "Anticipatory Community and the Common Good: Earth Honoring Faith as a Way Forward." There was also a Millennial Scholars Dialogue Session animated by students from Union Theological, Yale, The New School, Iona and Columbia, who discussed the passion that has brought them to religious/environmental studies.

One of the highlights of the day was the presentation offered by the seven Iona alumni who were sponsored by the Berry Forum and scholarship recipients from GreenFaith, a multi-faith, international initiative which offers intensive environmental leadership training for millennials from around the planet and from every religious tradition. Stirring video from the GreenFaith Millennials Convergence in Rome and New Orleans during the past two summers gave a vivid account of the participation of Iona in these training "convergences" in Rome and New Orleans. During those week-long events our students were filmed engaging and strategizing with peers of their generation for climate action. This session was enhanced by video from Africa partners, including a personal greeting from Iona graduate Br. Patrick Nuanah now serving in Gambia.

We were treated to a skyped presentation from Berry Forum Scholar, Rabbi Larry Troster, the designing director of the GreenFaith Fellowship program, who offered a session on



“models of mentoring” millennial environmental leaders. This closing circle of dialogue allowed the nearly 50 Iona students and other millennial scholars and guests to express their gratitude and hope as the Berry Forum concluded with a musical prayer and ritual encircling of Earth in blessing and hope.

This gathering comes about as part of the Iona College commitment in the Strategic Plan Goal V Resources: Environmental Sustainability. President Nyre formally committed Iona to the principles of Laudato Si in October 2015.

We are especially pleased to note that our very full day featured a “Zero Waste” Luncheon with guidance from Ron Schulhof of Westchester Reform Temple. Ron helped plan the event with Charles Breed of Chartwells to ensure a zero waste program with compostable place settings, cups and a single compostable trash bag for the small amount of leftover food.

Brownsville, Texas: Immersion

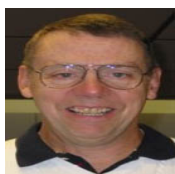


**Mr. Benny
Rivera**

During the week of Nov. 5-12, 2016 four Edmund Rice schools: Iona Prep, Br. Rice (Michigan), Bishop Hendricken & Catholic Memorial came together in the spirit of Edmund to learn more about issues regarding immigration and border security in Brownsville, Texas. Organized by Brother Tom LeJeune and facilitated by Brother Stephen Casey and Mr. Benny Rivera, the group traveled along the border working with organizations like the Sacred Heart Shelter which is a place where people who have crossed the border and have been processed through the border patrol can come for a meal, a change of clothes, a shower and a place to stay for a night. The group also worked with La Posada Providencia which is another option of those seeking shelter and the Brownsville Wellness Coalition which grows fresh vegetables in improvised areas as well teaching communities how to grow their own food.

Guadalupe Middle School was also a stop on the immersion, where the visiting students had Mass with the Guadalupe students, followed by a BBQ before getting back to helping do several projects for GRMS. Overall this experience for all was truly inspiring and eye opening, especially being so close to the border on Election Day. We hope that all those who participated go forth and share what they experience to those in their schools and communities. Live Jesus in our hearts, Forever.

Update on the college and university initiative:



**Br. Jim
McDonald**

On Nov. 14, 2016 Brother Jim McDonald and Mr. Benny Rivera traveled to Chicago with plans to visiting Northwestern while they are in the area. They travelled to Indiana and Michigan on Tuesday Nov. 15 to Nov. 16 to visit Notre Dame and the University of Michigan with the hope of establishing a relationship with the universities. Their goal was to work with the universities to reach out to alumni of ER Schools on their campus with the hope of bringing them together. At the end of November, Benny travelled to British Columbia, Canada to work with St. Thomas More Collegiate and Vancouver College to accomplish the same goal at the local Vancouver universities.

ST. LAURENCE HIGH SCHOOL

Burbank, IL

ST. LAURENCE ANNOUNCES ILLINOIS STATE SCHOLARS

Principal James Muting '73 and President Joseph Martinez '99 are pleased to announce that 10 St. Laurence students from the graduating class of 2017 have been recognized as Illinois State Scholars.

Brett Bittner (Michael M. Byrne, Garfield Ridge), Shawn Donohue (Conrady, Hickory Hills), Christian Ferrer (St. Daniel the Prophet, Garfield Ridge), Erik Kazmierowicz (St. Mary's Riverside, Riverside), Daniel Kogut (St. Daniel the Prophet, Garfield Ridge), Brian Lyle (Southwest Christian, Oak Lawn), Dennis McCarthy (St. Michael, Orland Park), Omari Thurston (Lindblom Math and Science Academy, Englewood), Joseph Vascik (St. Daniel the Prophet, Garfield Ridge) and Jose Zepeda (Wilkins, Justice) were all recognized for their efforts in the classroom.

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC), the state agency committed to helping make college accessible and affordable for Illinois families, confers this prestigious recognition annually to top Illinois high school students. This year, approximately 19,300 exceptional honorees join the other top state students honored for their academic achievements since the designation was first introduced in 1958.

Illinois State Scholars represent approximately the top ten percent of high school seniors from 765 high schools across the state. Illinois State Scholars possess strong academic potential and are chosen based on a combination of exemplary ACT or SAT test scores and sixth semester class rank.

"I applaud all of the 2017-18 state scholars for their hard work and outstanding academic performance," said Eric Zarnikow, ISAC executive director. "Students have a lot to contend with as they move through high school—from increased testing to extracurricular activities to highly competitive college admissions. Kudos to these students and also to the teachers, parents, coaches and other mentors who contributed to their success and helped them navigate a path towards college and career success."



BACK (l to r) Christian Ferrer, Joseph Vascik, Brett Bittner, Brian Lyle, Daniel Kogut
FRONT (l to r) Jose Zepeda, Dennis McCarthy, Erik Kazmierowicz, Omari Thurston, Shawn Donohue.

While State Scholar recognition does not include a monetary prize, students receive congratulatory letters from ISAC as well as personalized Certificates of Achievement sent to each high school for distribution. A list of current Illinois State Scholars can also be found on ISAC's website.

Medical Career Program

St. Laurence High School is excited to introduce the Medical Career Program, a new offering that will provide valuable experience to students with aspirations to pursue a career in healthcare.

"The Medical Career Program will be a special opportunity for our young men to receive exposure to jobs in healthcare and medicine," said Pete Lotus '94, St. Laurence's Division Dean of Science and Math. "Not only will our students see what different careers entail, they will get the chance to receive hands-on experience through volunteering at local hospitals."

Students in Lotus' anatomy and physiology class will travel to MacNeal Hospital in Berwyn and Little Company of Mary in Evergreen Park throughout the first semester and meet with employees in different areas throughout each hospital. In the second semester, students will choose a specific area to volunteer in at one of the hospitals. In doing so, the students will develop a better understanding of the career options available in the healthcare industry.

"This program adds to the list of opportunities we provide our students that add value to the tuition our families pay," said St. Laurence President Joe Martinez '99. "This is a truly unique offering that young men cannot find at other Catholic schools in the area."

The program was launched with the help of Kevin Scanlan, a 1967 graduate of St. Laurence and former President and CEO of the Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council.

"With over 100 career paths in healthcare, it's challenging for high school students to know about all the career opportunities," said Scanlan. "Healthcare is the single largest employer group in the metro Chicago area, offering good paying career opportunities in a variety of fields. The role of the program is to introduce interested students to many of these career opportunities."



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

BROTHER RICE HIGH SCHOOL

Bloomfield Hills, MI

Dear Brother Rice Family:



All of the choices that any of us make are subject to review and closer examination. On occasion, what we see right in front of us, when viewed from a different perspective, is now viewed and understood with a completely different light.

Recently, I was fortunate enough to join the Brother Rice Leadership Team as an employee with the Advancement Department. My perspective as an alum and former board member afforded me one assessment – but to now be able to walk the halls as a staff member of the high school I graced as a 1983 graduate, a whole new vision is provided.

At Brother Rice, we have chosen a path not only for our students but for the spiritual community that surrounds us. This path is shaped by our legacy and our vision. Both of these paths provide opportunity. Daily, I witness the traditions of excellence that define the legacy of Brother Rice. Those important gifts received from our brothers of the past. The path that our current students, faculty and staff travel is one illuminated by the grace of God and we navigate it with the assurance that under His watchful eye, our steps are safe and secure.

I also am privy to the vision that Brother Rice is creating for our future. We will take this journey with our alumni, friends, and community both symbolically and literally. Moving ahead, we will be providing you regular updates on the enhancement plans for our educational operation, our campus facilities and infrastructure, as well as activity devoted to our mission and pillars. It is not enough to say that we are committed to *building more complete men*. We need to do it and have a clear and concise path to accomplishing that task. We hold ourselves to the same levels of accountability that are established for our students.

We invite you to join us in celebrating our legacy. Join us for an [all school mass](#) or attend our [Irish Nite Auction](#). Participate in our vision by requesting a tour of the school where you will find recent additions of the Academic Resource Center (ARC), iPad utilization, and the Achieve Plus Learning Center. Finally, take the opportunity to pursue excellence in all endeavors by supporting our Annual Fund. The Brother Rice Annual Fund is the cornerstone of our annual fundraising efforts and ensures that our school will continue to operate at its fullest potential. Support of the Annual Fund enhances our standards of excellence and impacts all facets of student life and our mission during the current academic year.

No matter what the perspective, there are components of Brother Rice High School that do not waiver. We are committed to ensuring that our Catholic identity permeates all endeavors: all classes and activities, procedures and policies, services and programs. No decision at Brother Rice is made without this commitment in mind. Please consider a commitment of your own to our great school and celebrate what is undeniable if viewed through a truly faithful light.... We ARE Brother Rice!

Brian Dilworth '83
Interim Director of Advancement

Live, Jesus, in our hearts! Forever

MEETING IN NEWFOUNDLAND



Haven't changed a bit since 1965, Right??

Edmundian Bob "Mom" Gontcharuk and his lovely wife Louise toured Newfoundland this summer and ended their trip in St. John's where Jim Fox, Brother Dave Murphy (Mt. St. Francis Community) and yours truly, Ron "Canuck" Pellerin, spent a lovely afternoon with them at the Merchant Tavern on Water Street, St. John's, Newfoundland.

Front (L to r) Edmundian Ron Pellerin, Brother Dave Murphy

Back (l to r) Bob Gontcharuk, Jim Fox

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

Attention: Single, Catholic Young Adult Men!

**You are invited to
An Evening of Discernment
with the Edmund Rice Christian Brothers**



Presence



Compassion



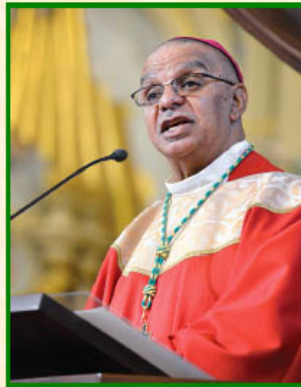
Liberation

at our
Province Center
742 Monroe Avenue, Elizabeth, New Jersey

Tuesday February 7, 2017

To request details and to register
call or text 815 272 7742
or e-mail bromaccfc@yahoo.com

ANNUAL ARCHDIOCESAN
Black History Month Mass
& The National Day of Prayer for the
African American & African Family
Sunday, February 5, 2017 at 2:00PM



Principal Celebrant & Guest Homilist
BISHOP FERNAND J. CHERI, O.F.M.
Archdiocese of New Orleans

St. Patrick's Cathedral
5th Avenue & 51st Street, NYC

ALL ARE WELCOME!

For more information contact The Office of Black Ministry at 646-794-2681; obm@archny.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.

**Isn't it time?
You've been thinking about it.
You have nothing to lose and a lot to gain.
Give it a try...**

**Call, text or e-mail me:
Brother Jim McDonald, C.F.C.
815.272.7742
bromaccfc@yahoo.com**



Being a Brother is a rich and fulfilling way to live.
www.erbrothers.org

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