

SPEAK, LORD, YOUR SERVANTS ARE LISTENING

VOLUME 17

THURSDAY MAY 5, 2022

ISSUE 10



Today is the Feast of our beloved Founder, Blessed Edmund Rice. As we pause to reflect on Blessed Edmund's virtuous life and to celebrate his global impact on Catholic school education, let us call to mind Edmund's words to his Brothers:

*"Each Brother is an open
letter from Christ - a message written,
not with ink but in the Spirit of the
living God, with a faithful
human heart to carry it!"*



The Risen Jesus

We hope all of our readers, had a Blessed Easter and are now enjoying the warmth of spring. The below photo is taken from the Chapel at San Alfonso Retreat Center in Long Branch, NJ where all members of the Province Center Community took part in a Holy Week retreat.



Religious Brothers Day



On May 1, 2022, the Religious Brothers Conference sponsored the annual Religious Brothers Day by hosting a global Zoom focused on the vocation of Religious Brothers.



The below prayer comes to us by way of Brother Jude Catalano and serves as a reminder to us that Religious Brothers Day takes place on the feast of St. Joseph the Worker.

“God of mercy and compassion, thank you for the extraordinary life, witness and ministry of Religious Brothers in our Church. In your wisdom you have called these ordinary men to generously serve, pray and share your healing love with others.

Deepen our appreciation for the vocation of Religious Brothers, their congregational charisms and their commitment to vowed community life. Strengthened by a baptismal call to holiness, inspire us to invite men to consider religious life as a Religious Brother. Grant all Religious Brothers the grace and perseverance they need to proclaim your Holy Word for the life of our Church and our world. Amen.

Wishing you a blessed Feast of Saint Joseph the Worker Day!”

Please click on the following link to see a video presentation of Brothers in Action.

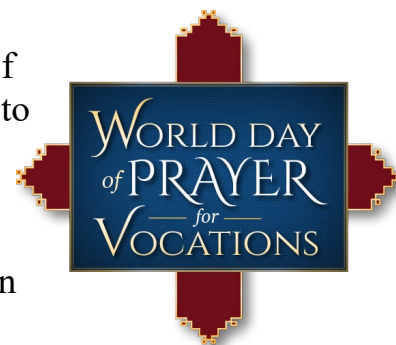
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World Day of Prayer for Vocations



Br. Tim Smyth

Sunday, May 8, 2022 is the annual World Day of Prayer for Vocations. We ask all of our readers to use this day to encourage young people to consider God's calling in their lives. Below are two prayers prepared by our Province Vocation Promoter (Brother Tim Smyth) that can be used as guides.



A Vocation Prayer for Everyone

Holy Spirit, stir within each of us the passion to promote vocations to the consecrated life, societies of apostolic life, diocesan priesthood, and permanent diaconate. Inspire each of us to daily respond to Your call with boundless compassion, abundant generosity and radical availability. Help us to remember our own baptismal call and rouse us to invite the next generation to hear and respond to Your call. Inspire us as parents, families, teachers, and lay ecclesial ministers to begin a conversation with young Catholics encouraging them to consider how they will live their lives of holiness and sacred service. Nudge inquirers and motivate discerners to learn more about monastic life, apostolic life, missionary life and cloistered contemplative life. Ignite the members of our Church with the confident humility to recognize that there is an urgent need for religious sisters, brothers, deacons, and priests to live in solidarity with those who are in need, the poor, neglected or marginalized in any way. We pray this united with Jesus, our Brother, who calls each of us to fullness of life. Amen.

A Vocation Prayer for Parents

Gracious and loving God, you have blessed us with the privilege of being parents. We ask that you provide us with all that we need in accepting this awesome responsibility. We pray that we will be open to your Spirit who is our source of strength as we witness to our children your love for each of them and your desire for them to be happy and to live a full life. We ask your help so we may guide and encourage our children to believe that they each have a special calling and to use their gifts and talents for others.

We pray, heavenly Father, that our children will discover and respond enthusiastically to your desire for them whether it be to the vocation of single, married, ordained or consecrated life. We offer this prayer in the name of Jesus through the grace of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

(NCCV, Mrs. Dorothy Foss)

School Assignments and Appointments

With the end of the 2021-2022 academic year rapidly approaching, we acknowledge the following men and women for their service in roles of leadership at Edmund Rice Christian Brother schools in North America, as they conclude their terms at the end of the school year. Similarly, we welcome and congratulate all those who will be taking on new roles for the 2022 - 2023 school year. We are blessed by the presence and impact of all who serve in the spirit of Blessed Edmund Rice.

Brother Rice High School - Chicago, IL



Mr. Mark Donahue

Mr. Mark Donahue - reappointed as President



Iona Preparatory School - New Rochelle, NY

Brother Tom Leto - reappointed as President

Mr. Kieran Daly - retiring as Principal

Dr. Anthony Casella - appointed as Principal



Br. Tom Leto



Mr. Kieran Daly



Dr. Anthony Casella

St. Thomas More Collegiate – Burnaby, BC

Ms. Diane Doyle - retiring as President
Mr. Steve Garland - moving from Principal to President
Mr. Joe Adams - appointed as Principal



Ms. Diane Doyle



Mr. Steve Garland



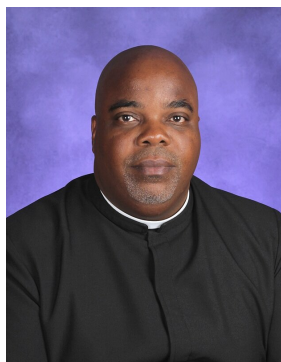
Mr. Joe Adams

Damien Memorial School – Honolulu, HI

Dr. Kyle Atabay - moving from Head of School to Principal
Brother Chris Hall - departing as Assistant Head of school
Dr. Arnold Laanui - appointed as President



Dr. Kyle Atabay

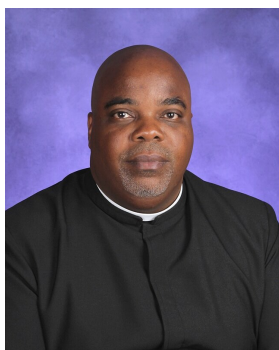


Br. Chris Hall



**Dr. Arnold
Laanui**

Announcements and other Appointments



Br. Chris Hall

Congratulations to Brother Chris Hall who has been appointed to serve as the Assistant Superintendent for High Schools in the Archdiocese of Newark, NJ.

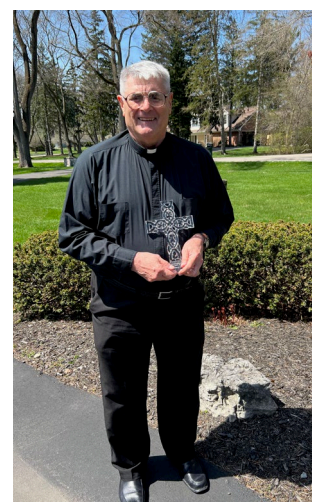


Dr. Seamus Carey
(President of Iona College)
and
Br. Kevin Griffith

Congratulations to Brother Kevin Griffith who received the Loftus Award from Iona College in recognition for service to the Iona College Community.



Congratulations to Brother Michael Segvich who was inducted into the Brother Rice High School (MI) Spirit of Blessed Edmund Society for outstanding service to the Brother Rice Community.





Congratulations to Linda Thornton for her forty years of service to the students of O'Dea High School in Seattle, WA. In recognition of Linda's impact on the community, the school has established the Linda Thornton Endowment Fund.



Jericho House Retreat



The Jericho House Laudato Si' Retreat took place from April 29 – May 1, 2022 at the Jericho House Youth Leadership, Justice and Spirituality Centre in Wainfleet, ON.

The 11th Annual Ecology Retreat sponsored by Jericho House and the Office of Province Life and Renewal will take place from July 23 - 29, 2022 at Jericho House. Please see the attached brochure for more information and to register.



Latin America Mission Area News



Br. Alberto Llanos

The PLT has appointed Brother Alberto Llanos to serve as the LAMA Vocation Promotor.

Brother Jorge Tavera has embarked upon a year-long program in preparation for Final Vows. The program will consist of:

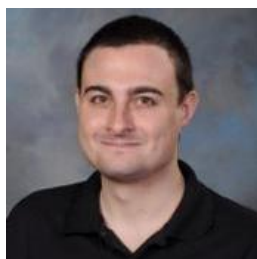
- An eight-day silent, directed retreat
- Regular sessions with a Religious who works with people in formation seeking spiritual direction with professional psychological input.
- A 2-month immersion in the Amazon Basin with indigenous communities.
- A month-long Jesuit sponsored renewal program in Guatemala.
- A 30-day Ignatian Retreat in Lima, Perú.



Br. Jorge Tavera

We offer Jorge our prayerful support as he embarks on this journey.

Initial Formation



Br. Robert Droel

The PLT is working with Brother Robert Droel who will embark on a year-long immersion experience that will include Spanish language studies and ministering with Brother Steve Casey in the Province Immersion program at Casa Hendricken in Las Flores, Lima Perú.



Casa Hendricken



**Antonio Meillon outside the
Business Offices at 260
Wilmot Road, New Rochelle,
NY.**

The Mt. Sion Community welcomed non-residential candidate Antonio Meillon (Guatemala City, Guatemala) from April 6-9, 2022 to Elizabeth, New Jersey. During his visit, Brother Peter O'Loughlin (Formation Director) took Antonio to visit All Hallows (Bronx, NY), Bergen Catholic (Oradell, NJ), Iona College (New Rochelle, NY), Iona Preparatory School (New Rochelle, NY) and the Business Offices in New Rochelle. Antonio was able to meet a few Brothers and to see some of our ministry sites in action.

[illegible]A portrait of a middle-aged man with short, dark hair, wearing a dark suit jacket, a light-colored striped shirt, and a dark tie. He is wearing glasses and has a serious expression. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

The first day of meetings began with a small session for the nine separately incorporated schools represented by the Trustees/Members, Sponsor Council Members, Board Chairs and Presidents. Brother Tom Murphy, Director of Governance, facilitated the conversations around the many challenges facing schools. School leaders responded with great optimism, determination and hope.

Next, OES proudly welcomed our keynote speaker, Dr. Wayne Tinsey, Global Ambassador for Edmund Rice Education Beyond Borders. Using stories and experiences, Dr. Tinsey shared the current reality of our world, its poverty and injustice, and the kindness and efficacy of those who serve in ministry. He reminded us of our divine nature and purpose, our dependence on God and one another, and our love for the partnership we share with Blessed Edmund Rice. Furthermore, he challenged us to move forward with the “spiritual mission of compassion.”



In addition to the keynote, school leaders heard about Advocacy, the Christian Brothers Foundation, Edmund Rice Education Beyond Borders, the Province Finance Report and current work at OES. Each report, communicated by committed and dedicated people, continued the themes of mission, hope, grace and optimism - all work of the Holy Spirit working through our hands and hearts.



Dr. Tinsey's keynote address is available by using the link below.

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Edmund Rice Education Beyond Borders



The Edmund Rice Education Beyond Borders Global Congress – Educating with Hope in Our Hearts and Hands – will open on May 9, 2022 with a ZOOM that will continue through May 11, 2022. Please see the attached flyers to register and for more information regarding this important global event.

Laudato Si' Action Platform



Br. Peter
Clinch

Please see the attached letter from Brother Peter Clinch (Congregation Leader) announcing the Congregation's public commitment to the Laudato Si' Action Platform – The Cry of Mother Earth: Care for Our Common Home.



Chicago Companions of Edmund



The Chicago Companions of Edmund ordinarily meet six times per year. The latest meeting was held at the home of Phyllis and Jack O'Keefe on Saturday, March 26, 2022. Meetings always begin with a light breakfast and social. The day's presenter was Brother Jan Walczak. At the last meeting, Jan reviewed the happenings at the Lima Chapter, its interpretation and the participation of the Brothers in the international zoom meetings which took place over the past two-year covid-related chapter hiatus. At this meeting, Jan explained all the travel-related and covid-related challenges that faced the chapter attendees as they arrived in Dublin for the continuation of the Chapter. He then briefly reviewed the Chapter document and explained the notion of co-creating our future. Brother Jim Keane took over the last part of the meeting to explain his work of the past 14 years in parts of Africa, highlighting the joys and challenges of the Brothers' ministries in this huge and diverse continent.

Ontario Gathering of Brothers



Br. Bill Carrothers sharing his stories.

The members of the three communities of the Edmund Rice Christian Brothers North America Province in Ontario, Canada, gathered during Easter week to commemorate the deceased, celebrate Earth Day, and enter into the contemplative themes of the recent Congregation Chapter.

The three days of fraternity began in St. Cornelius Mission Church in Caledon, near Mono Mills. Here

Fr. Robert Glynn, pastor, led a prayer service in which he asked the attending Brothers to share the stories of the members of the Congregation buried in the parish cemetery.

Later the group moved to the grave site where they blessed the newly restored tomb stones with water and flowers.

A luncheon, prepared and hosted by the Brothers Community in Mulmar, followed. The hot Newfoundland chowder was much appreciated.

The next day the group re-gathered in the Jericho House Retreat Centre for the celebration of Earth Day and a festive Pascal dinner. Saturday morning, when a bit of sun had broken through the snow and rain of the previous days, they joined in a contemplative sharing of themes from the recent Congregation Chapter.



Father Robert Glynn blessing the graves with Br. Gabe McHugh on his right and Br. Sean Whitty on his left.

Advocacy



Dr. Sean D'Alfonso

In conjunction with Edmund Rice International, the Province's Mission Frère - Advocacy Office, under the direction of Dr. Sean D'Alfonso, presented the below statement to the United Nations regarding our Province response to racial discrimination.



This statement was selected to be read at the 49th Session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva. To see the presentation of the statement, [please click](#) on this link and fast forward to the 1-hour 48-minute mark.

European Province Response to the Ukrainian Refugee Crisis



Br. Edmund Garvey

From January 23 - February 5, 2022 the Emmaus Retreat Centre in Dublin, Ireland hosted part two of the Congregation Chapter. In early April, Brother Edmund Garvey and the Christian Brothers European Province made the centre available to the Irish government to house refugees from Ukraine. Please see the attached reflection by Brother Declan Power chronicling the arrival of the first refugees.



Br. Declan Power



Attachments

1. Jericho House Ecology Retreat
2. EREBB Global Congress (two flyers)
3. Laudato Si' Action Platform
4. Ukrainian Refugee Reflection

Calendar of Events



May 05, 2022	Feast Day of Blessed Edmund Rice.
May 07, 2022	Celebration of Blessed Edmund Rice Day in Elizabeth, NJ - 4 pm
May 08, 2022	World Day of Prayer for Vocations
May 09, 2022	Child Protection Review Board ZOOM
May 14, 2022	Province -wide Zoom – 2pm
May 15, 2022	Initial Formation Reflection Zoom
May 17 - 20, 2022	PLT Meetings in Elizabeth, NJ
May 26, 2022	Westcourt Corporation Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL
May 31 - June 5, 2022	Confederation of Latin America Religious – Rio Negro, Columbia
June 05, 2022	World Environment Day
June 12, 2022	Archdiocese of New York Jubilee Celebration at St. Patrick's Cathedral
June 19, 2022	Juneteenth Day
July 15 - 20, 2022	Province Chapter in Long Branch, NJ.
July 23 - 27, 2022	LAMA Assembly in Perú.

Please Pray For



- The suffering people of Ukraine and an end to the war in Eastern Europe.
- All those who continue to be affected by COVID-19.
- Our Brothers at St. Joseph's Residence in New Rochelle, NY and in other care facilities across North America.
- Br. Bob Moran (CB-East Harlem Community, NY, NY), recovering from recent surgery.
- Br. Tom Collins, (Callan Community, Chicago, IL) recovering from recent hernia surgery.
- Br. Ben McDonough (CB- East Harlem Community, NY, NY) recovering from recent knee replacement surgery.
- Br. Jim McDonald (Mater Dei Community, Bloomfield Hill, MI), undergoing testing for an abdominal tumor.
- Edmundian Adam Paikai Kamiano '66.
- Mr. Johnny Bevacqua, President of Vancouver College in Vancouver, BC, as he battles Muscular Dystrophy.
- Mr. Mark Miller (husband of Dr. Virginia Miller – Principal of the Guadalupe Regional Middle School in Brownsville, TX), undergoing treatment for cancer.

Repose of the Soul of ...

- + Father James Goode, OFM, President of the Black Clergy Caucus.
- + Barbara McNiven, sister of deceased Brother Paul McNiven.
- + Mr. Vincent McDonough, brother of Brother Ben McDonough.
- + Ms. Marie Wirchansky, a cousin of Brother Tom Higgins.
- + Edmundian Harold (Athanasius '46) Weigand.
- + Judy Rice, wife of Edmundian Tom (Ken '59) Rice.
- + Dr. Donald P. Malanga, long-time Professor of Language at Iona College in New Rochelle, NY.
- + Dr. Samuel D'Ambola, long-time fencing coach at the former Essex Catholic High School, in Newark, NJ.

