

## Vow Renewal

On Tuesday, July 4, 2023, the Christian Brothers in Lima, Perú, and several of their colleagues celebrated the renewal of annual vows of Brother Robert Droel (Brother Rice HS, Chicago '08 & Iona College '12). Since January, Rob has been living in the Casa Hendricken Community and ministering alongside Brother Stephen Casey in hosting numerous Immersion Groups from Edmund Rice Schools. His renewal of the religious vows of poverty, celibacy, and obedience was conducted in Spanish and was followed by Peruvian-style pizza and a fireworks show courtesy of television coverage of Independence Day festivities in the United States. After this sixth year under annual vows, Rob will be eligible to take Perpetual Vows as a Christian Brother. He will be working with Brother Kevin Bernard (87<sup>th</sup> Street Community) during this year of preparation. The Brothers of the Province congratulate Rob on his vow renewal and wish his well during his preparation year.



Brother Robert Droel  
pronouncing his annual vows.



Brothers Jorge Tavera, Miguel Córdova, Steve Casey, Diego Glos,  
Robert Droel, Xavier Sullivan and Alberto Llanos.



**Brother Robert Droel affixing his signature to the vow form.**



**The Casa Hendricken Community Brs. Steve Casey (l) and Robert Droel.**



**Mr. Jose Albarran, Mr. Kevin Albarran, Brother Robert, and Mr. Pepe Albarran. The Albarran's are long-time supporters and collaborators with the brothers in Lima, Peru.**



## **Daniel Denis Crimmins Memorial Scholarship Prayer**

The eighth annual Br. Daniel Denis Crimmins Memorial Scholarship Prayer Service and reception took place on Sunday, June 11 at St. Augustine's Parish Hall in Highland, New York. Among the seventy-five attendees were the four recipients and their families, Brothers Kevin Griffith and Sean Moffett, as well as various benefactors and members of Denis' family ("The Slattery Cousins"). The event has been organized by Dierdre Cornell and Kenney Gould, the husband and wife co-directors of "Reaping the Harvest," the Catholic social outreach program in the Hudson Valley that Denis helped to found in the mid 1990's. Upon Denis' death, Kenney and Dierdre were determined to begin a scholarship award for graduating high school seniors in honor of "Brother Dan." To date, Reaping the Harvest has awarded twenty-four scholarships totaling over \$30,000. Brother Sean Moffett offered a beautiful reflection on the life of Denis based upon letters Denis had written to Sean through the years. Br. Kevin Griffith led the congregation in a decade of the rosary. A wonderful meal and fellowship followed the awards prayer service.



**The four recipients with Carolina Cortez, a mentor and team member of Reaping the Harvest.**



**Brother Kevin Griffith leads a decade of the Rosary.**



**Brother Sean Moffett offers a reflection on Denis' life. Pictured with Sean is Dierdre Cornell, co-director of Reaping the Harvest.**

## Forensics News from Catholic Memorial



**Brother Kiril Cavet with  
the winner's trophy.**

Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup> was Speech and Debate State Finals for Massachusetts. Catholic Memorial HS, West Roxbury, MA qualified 44 speakers to participate. 33 made it to final round! At the awards ceremony, 8 Catholic Memorial speakers "got the Gold," 1<sup>st</sup> place in their respective categories, and 6 more won Silver honors. As a team, Catholic Memorial scored over 290 points with our closest competitor having 240. Catholic Memorial is once again STATE CHAMPIONS. Congratulations to Brother Kiril Cavet and all those involved in this wonderful achievement.



**The State Champions.**



## **Donor Appreciation Dinner**



With hearts filled with joy, Brother Peter Zawot and the Provincial Leadership team graced the evening of Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup>, as they mingled with a crowd of benefactors in the Great Room of the residence located on the grounds of The Iona Prep Lower School. In that very moment, a profound realization swept over everyone, underscoring the strength of their shared bond rooted in genuine concern and care for the Christian Brothers, alongside an unwavering belief in The Essential Elements of an Edmund Rice Christian Brother Education, which serves as a guiding light for young individuals navigating the challenges of the twenty-first century.

The presence of two former Province Leaders, Brother James Brendan Moffett and Brother Brian Marcellus Walsh, served to further solidify this profound connection. With heartfelt gratitude, Kevin Brewer, the Director of Development, envisions hosting frequent gatherings as a heartfelt expression of thanks to friends and supporters.

## **Vancouver College**



The following articles come from the Vancouver College Website celebrating their Centenary Thanksgiving Mass and Brother Chuck Gattone's retirement:

### **Centenary Thanksgiving Mass**

We want to express our deepest gratitude to all who joined us in commemorating VC 100 during the final liturgy on Saturday, June 3. It was an unforgettable day filled with faith, warmth, and joy, and we are immensely grateful for your presence. To close the celebration, our President, Michelle Rupp, shared powerful remarks:

*"Our school motto - "Semper Fidelis" (Always Faithful) - is alive and thriving, evidenced by the presence of so many members of our community here with us today.*

*Over the course of this year, in the many faith-based activities and countless sporting events I've attended, I have noticed the power in two simple words - "I believe". Whether spoken as a quiet prayer of meditation, or the raucous lead-up to a well-known and much-loved VC cheer, "I believe" is a unifying thread. These words not only bound our Founders to their mission of establishing Vancouver College 100 years ago, they also continue to be the guiding force in the efforts of our teachers and staff, and they further inspire countless donors who so generously invest in future generations of students."*

You can read her [full speech here](#). Once again, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for celebrating our 100th anniversary and look forward to the next 100 years.

### **Farewell to our last teaching Christian Brother: Brother Chuck Gattone**



Not only did we mark the conclusion of our year-long 100th-anniversary celebrations with our special Thanksgiving Mass this month, but we also marked the end of an era last week when we bid farewell to our last teaching Christian Brother, Br. Charles Gattone. A heartfelt sendoff took place at the end of Br. Gattone's last class after 53 years of teaching. Staff and students from all grade levels formed a line that stretched from his classroom, through the hallways, across the courtyard, and into Lannon Hall. [Watch the video here](#).

We sincerely thank Brother Gattone for his dedication throughout the decades. He nurtured and guided our students, fostering their faith and strengthening their relationship with God. His efforts have undoubtedly empowered numerous young men to embark on a journey of self-discovery, deepen their spiritual understanding, and leave VC as transformed individuals, embodying the values of Blessed Edmund Rice.

We encourage you to [read this article](#) about Br. Gattone and our centenary celebrations in the [BC Catholic](#) written by Terry O'Neill (VC 1969).

## **“Intimate Presence with the Earth” Retreat in Racine, WI**



**Brothers John Gale, Sean Whitty and Tom Collins listening intently to Niamh Brennan's presentation.**

From Sunday, June 18 until Friday, June 23 eight Brothers began a sacred journey at the Siena Retreat Center in Racine, WI discovering along the way the story of the scientific origins of the Universe leading up to the birth of humans. The whole week was one of awe, wonder, joy, and challenge as we explored our place in this unfolding universe. Ms. Niamh Brennan Ph.D. from Tramore, Ireland did a magnificent job in presenting and explaining some very challenging scientific processes in easy to understand language. Those Brothers present were Brothers John Gale, Karl Walczak, Jerry Messick, Tom Collins, Peter

O'Loughlin, Ed Bergeron and Sean Whitty. All agreed that it was one of the most significant retreats that they have ever attended. Much thanks to Niamh for her work and her presence with us. Some comments from some of those in attendance:

*“Just beginning to understand my (our) place, my (our) role, and my (our) uniqueness in the unfolding story of the Cosmos, at times during the retreat, was enough to bring me to tears in humility and in awe.”*

*- Br. Karl Jan Walczak*

*“The Retreat raised my awareness that the natural world is permeated with Divine Presence and is a sacred place which reveals the boundless love of the Creator God. This awareness invites me to live in a harmonious, generous, and life-giving manner with all of creation.”* - Br. John Gale

*“My recent retreat at Siena was a truly unique experience. We were asked to consider concepts and ideas that left us awed and challenged.”* - Br. Tom Collins

*“Niamh was excellent, very knowledgeable and engaging. Her handouts and PowerPoints were quite good.”*  
- Ed Bergeron

*“Niamh's presentations were terrific ... much to think about and to absorb over time. The handouts, PowerPoints and notes were excellent and helpful in further reflection. All in all a very worthwhile experience.”*

*- Br. Peter O'Loughlin*



**Brothers Peter O'Loughlin, Ed Bergeron, John Gale and Tom Collins.**



**Br. Sean Whitty, Niamh Brennan, Br. Karl Jan Walczak.**

## **Praesidium Reaccreditation**



As was reported in the last Province News, the Province's Praesidium Reaccreditation process occurred May 22 – 25, 2023. The PLT is pleased to announce the following from Praesidium to Brother Peter Zawot (Province Leader) and the Province:

*Br. Peter,*

*Congratulations are in order! We are delighted to inform you that the Institute has successfully completed the Praesidium Accreditation Process and is a fully accredited Institute. Your Accreditation letter is enclosed. Please review the letter for details on receiving your award and certificate. Attached, you will also find an "Accredited by Praesidium" logo for you to display on your website and email.*

*We are grateful for your work and for the work and dedication of the entire Institute. Much has been accomplished! We are hopeful that throughout the five years of your Accreditation you will continue to call upon us to assist should the need exist. Please never hesitate to call.*

The PLT thanks all those directly involved in the reaccreditation process, particularly Brother Kevin Griffith for his tireless work ensuring that the Province is fully compliant with Praesidium's requirements. The PLT is grateful to the Brothers of the Province for ensuring that we remain a Province in good standing re: child safety and protection.

### **Community Leaders/Contacts Persons Annual Meeting**

The Community Leaders/Contact Persons annual meeting will start Friday, November 10, 2023 at 5:00 pm, and conclude with lunch on Sunday, November 12, 2023. The meeting will be held at the San Alfonso Retreat Center, Long Branch, New Jersey

### **Province Website**

We invite readers to visit the Province Website. The website is constantly updated to reflect the many and diverse aspects of the Province.

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





### Calendar of Events

July 01, 2023-----Canada Day  
July 04, 2023-----Independence Day – USA  
July 09, 2023-----Independence Day – Argentina  
July 11, 2023-----PLT Zoom meeting.  
July 17 – 20, 2023-----RBC Congress, Attleboro, MA  
July 28, 2023-----Independence Day – Peru  
July 31 – August 03, 2023 -----CMSM Assembly in Kansas City, MO  
September 23, 2023 -----West Park Memorial Mass

### Please Pray For

- Our Brothers at St. Joseph's Residence in New Rochelle, NY and in other care facilities across the Province.
- Brother Jim MacDonald, (Mater Dei Community) recovering from recent cancer surgery.
- Brother Sebastian Adams, (Santa Maria, West Park Community) recovering from surgery.
- Pat MacKay, sister of Brother Liam Nolan (St. Damien Community), being treated for cancer.
- Philomena Rice longtime friend of the Brothers.
- All those who continue to be affected by COVID-19.
- The people of Ukraine and peace in Eastern Europe
- Jimmy O'Neill, the son of two Alums of Iona University, who is facing quite an ordeal with Cancer in the future. Prayers are requested through the intercession of Blessed Edmund Rice. The family has a first class relic of Blessed Edmund and use it daily as the focus of their prayers.



### **Repose of the Soul of...**

- + Brother Thomas C. Higgins (St. Joseph's Residence).
- + Mrs. Martha Menezes, the mother of Brother Gerry Menezes (Iona Prep Community)
- + Mrs. Margaret M. Sherlog, the mother of Brother Bill Sherlog (Rice NYC Community)
- + Mr. Terry Cater, the brother-in-law of Brother Bill Flood (Vancouver College Community)
- + Mrs. Maureen Campbell, the aunt of Brother Peter O'Loughlin (Mt. Sion Community)
- + Mrs. Sharon Dianne Strunck, the sister of Brother Jim McDonald (Mater Dei Community)
- + Mr. Paul Hannon, the father of Brother Michael Hannon (Monsignor Farrell High School)
- + Mr. Paul LaFrance, the brother of Brother Michael LaFrance (Miami Community)
- + Maria Peragine, the sister of Brother Vincent Peragine (Hermanos Cristianos, Chimbote, Peru)
- + Lenard Samp, the brother of Brother Bernard Samp (Palma School Community).
- + Edmundian Timothy Eugene McCrohan
- + Edmundian John (DePorres '55) Dunne
- + Matthew David Dorn, youngest brother-in-law of Edmundian Jim (Terrence '58) Hanly.
- + Katherine "Kay" Clarke, the faithful and beloved personal secretary to each of the five Brother Principals of Archbishop Curley Notre Dame, HS in Little Haiti, Miami, Florida.
- + Anne Temme, wife of Edmundian Bob (Stephen '59) Temme.