



Province News



SPEAK, LORD, YOUR SERVANTS ARE LISTENING

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A Summer Prayer

Father, Creator of all,
 thank you for summer!
 Thank you for the warmth of the sun
 and the increased daylight.
 Thank you for the beauty I see all around me
 and for the opportunity to be outside
 and enjoy your creation.
 Thank you for the increased time I have
 to be with my friends and family,
 and for the more casual pace
 of the summer season.

Draw me closer to you this summer.
 Teach me how I can pray
 no matter where I am
 or what I am doing.
 Warm my soul
 with the awareness of your presence
 and light my path
 with your Word and Counsel.
 As I enjoy your creation,
 create in me a pure heart
 and a hunger and a thirst for you.

Amen.

Author Unknown

www.archtoronto.org

As the days grow a little shorter in the north and a little longer in the south, the month of August gives all of us time to ponder what has been, what will be and what might be. It is a time to ponder the start of new things and the letting go of old things; a time to ponder the state of the world; and a time to reflect on God's presence in our lives.

Blessings to all.



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Maui, Hawaii



The Province Leadership Team and the entire Province holds the people of Maui in prayer as they recover from the recent devastating fires that destroyed the historic town of Lahaina and other parts of Maui.



Dr Arnold Laanui, President of Damien Memorial recently sent the Province Leadership Team the following message:



Aloha from Damien Memorial School,

Please extend my heartfelt Mahalo to everyone for keeping Maui and Hawaii in their prayers. The sheer magnitude and speed by which the devastation occurred is unimaginable.

I am exceptionally proud of our faculty and families as our campus immediately took action in this crisis by gathering emergency supplies. The first shipment was in-bound to Maui in less than 25 hours. Given the speed and coordination of our response, we've volunteered our campus to serve as the hub for all donations collected by O'ahu's Catholic schools. A large shipment of clothing, bedding, non-perishable food, water, and baby supplies will head out this weekend, with more to follow next week.

*With gratitude,
Dr. Arnold Laanui*

Summer Retreats 2023

San Alfonso Retreat Center, Long Branch, New Jersey

“INTIMATE PRESENCE WITH THE EARTH-OUR HOME”

A second Brothers’ retreat on the origins of the universe based on recent scientific discoveries was held July 2-7, 2023 at San Alfonso Retreat Center, Long Branch, NJ. The retreat director, Ms. Niamh Brennan PhD, told the universe story while unpacking the effects that this story has on theology and spirituality as we continue to evolve on the journey through life. Through wonderful presentations and her own sincere and open spirit, she opened a new world for us to explore individually and as a congregation of religious in the 21st century. Those present were, Sean Whitty, Jim Fagan, Michael Colasuonno, Kevin Griffith, Ben McDonough, Bob Koppes, Bill Stevens, and Steve Hale. It was a wonderful and challenging experience. Below are some personal comments from the Brothers who were present at the retreat.



I had an awesome experience this week. For me it has reset my personal goals from this point until I draw my last breath. Neve’s passion, knowledge, and wisdom touched me deeply. Her courage in challenging us to embrace the deep meaning of the New Story not only for ourselves but our world is something I will not take lightly. Thanks Sean for inviting such a dynamic woman into our midst.”

- Bill Stevens

L-R: Brothers Steve Hale, Sean Whitty, Jim Fagan, Bill Stevens, Ms. Niahm Brennan, Brothers Ben McDonough, Kevin Griffith, and Michael Colasuonno.

“I was very skeptical of the whole idea of cosmology. The presenter, Niamh, was absolutely brilliant and made the whole topic easier to understand and I am no longer fearful of where this is leading. It was a wonderful week! Thanks!” - Ben McDonough

12th Annual Ecology Retreat

Jericho House, Port Colbourne, Ontario



Participants in the 12th Annual Ecology Retreat. Note the background tapestries.



The 12th Annual Ecology Retreat held at Jericho House and sponsored by Jericho House and the Office of Province Life a & Renewal was held between July 1-7, 2023 and was facilitated by Sr. Gail Worcelo, Sister of the Earth. The 12 retreatants that journeyed together through the week unpacked the retreat's theme, "*Were I to say how much I love the Earth*" through presentations, experience, process, reflection, and music. This was an enriching sequel to the 2022 Ecology Retreat which was brilliantly guided by Niamh Brennan. Gail invited the retreatants in a seamless fashion from one movement to the other and introduced them to greater knowledge and appreciation for the entire earth community, their living in a multispecies world, and the envisioning of the Kardiasphere. A special feature of the week was the construction of the Confluent of Beings, see attached

picture, by hanging painted tapestries through which retreatants moved as they entered their gathering space. The retreat was an experience of, in Thomas Berry's words, "*a recovery of our sense of the sacred*". Everyone who participated in the retreat felt privileged to have had Gail as a retreat guide of the week, and left Jericho House renewed and inspired to continue the journey towards greater wholeness with our planet, all it contains, and beyond.

Conference of Major Superiors of Men National Assembly 2023 Kansas City, Missouri

We are the Body of Christ: Charism & Community.

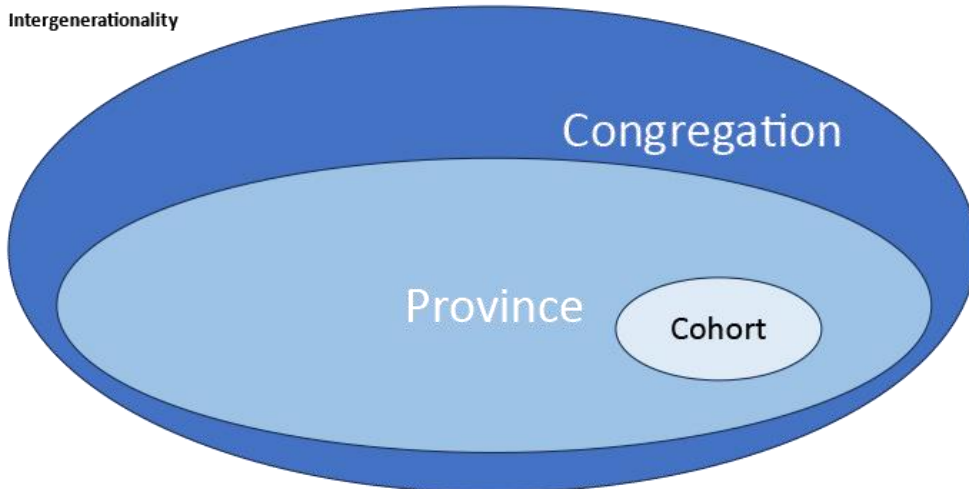
The annual National Assembly of CMSM was held August 1-3, 2023 in Kansas City, Missouri. The Province Leadership Team gathered to experience fraternity with over one hundred participants from around the United States. Guest included representatives from the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR), The Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious (CMSWR), National Religious Vocation Conference (NRVC), The Religious Formation Conference (RFC), the Religious Brothers Conference (RBC) and the Canadian Religious Conference (CRC).

Brother Peter Zawot was part of a panel discussion with Fr. Jeffrey Kirch, CPPS Provincial and President of CMSM, and Father Larry Ford, OFM, addressing the topic: ***Managing Communal Commitments – Models and Mergers.*** He reviewed the processes of restructuring, sharing reflections on our experience of restructuring in 2005 which brought together the Canadian, Western, and Eastern Provinces and later the Latin American Region to form the Edmund Rice Christian Brothers North American Province and Latin American Mission Area. The session also included round table discussion and questions and answers. Attendees were primarily from congregations contemplating or in the process of restructuring provinces.

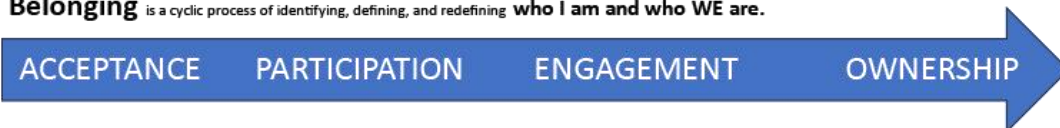


L-R: Executive Director of CMSM, Father Frank Donio SAC, CMSM President Father Jeffrey Kirch, CPPS, Fr. Larry Ford OFM and Brother Peter Zawot, CFC.

Brother Sean Moffett was on a panel with the Very Reverend James Herring, O. Praem (Norbertines), and Abbot Marion Nguyen, OSB, (an alum of O’Dea HS, the Edmund Rice Network School in Seattle). Their topic was *Intergenerationaliy*. Sean offered a psychological perspective on the successive and cyclic processes of group belonging from initial acceptance to participation, to engagement, and on to ownership. Artwork from All Hallows senior Jorge Pogue and Brother Kenneth Chapman, CFC, bookended the presentation.



Belonging is a cyclic process of identifying, defining, and redefining **who I am and who WE are.**



When what I “own” is not what is, but what was, I am challenged to renew the process of belonging, embracing both the common values and enriching diversity of those who profess “our” Charism.

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Belonging in a group ever emerging and ever in transition.



Habit Day 1961



2023 Second Year Novices



Interceptions
Acrylic by Jorge Pogue

[https://ercbna.org/Christian Brot
hers.php?op=2023Student Art](https://ercbna.org/Christian_Brot_hers.php?op=2023Student_Art)

Attachment

Sean Moffett's CMSM presentation: *INTERGENERATIONALITY A Case Study*

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

Calendar of Events



August 06, 2023 Independence Day, Bolivia
August 25, 2023 Independence Day, Uruguay
August 27, 2023 Religious Brothers Conference Board Meeting
September 09, 2023 Province Life and Renewal Team Meeting
September 12, 2023 Office of Educational Services Meeting
September 13-15, 2023..... PLT Meetings, Elizabeth, NJ
September 18, 2023 Review Board Meeting
September 19-20, 2023..... Elder Care Summit
September 23, 2023 West Park Memorial Mass
October 02 - 06, 2023..... School Leaders Retreat, Burlingame, CA
October 13 - 16, 2023..... Chapman Art Exhibition, Iona University

Please Pray For



- The people of Maui, Hawaii recovering from the loss of loved ones and property from the devastating fires.
- Mr. Liam O’Loughlin, father of Brother Peter O’Loughlin (Mt. Sion Community).
- Philomena Rice longtime friend of the Brothers.
- Pat MacKay, sister of Brother Liam Nolan (Damien Community), being treated for cancer.
- All those who continue to be affected by COVID-19.
- The people of Ukraine and peace in Eastern Europe
- Our Brothers at St. Joseph’s Residence in New Rochelle, NY and in other care facilities across the Province.
- Tabatha Duncan (daughter of Kathy Becker--St. Laurence staff), undergoing treatment for cancer.

Repose of the Soul of...

- + Edmundian Frank (Gerard ’63) Pomar, RIP
- + Associate Justice Patrick Dohm, father of Kelly Latimer, Business Manager at Vancouver College.
- + Margaret Nykaza, longtime friend and supporter of the brothers in the Chicago area.
- + Mary Scannell, mother of Michael, Catholic Memorial Sponsor Council (West Roxbury, MA)