

SPEAK, LORD, YOUR SERVANTS ARE LISTENING

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Autumn Prayer



O God of creation, you have blessed us with the changing of the seasons. As we embrace these autumn months, may the earliest setting of the sun remind us to take time to rest. May the crunch of the leaves beneath our feet remind us of the brevity of this earthly life. May the stream of our breath and the cool air remind us that it is you who give us your breath of life. May the scurrying of the squirrels and the migration of the birds remind us that you call us to follow your will. We praise you for your goodness forever and ever.

Amen

The Chapel in the Province Center, Elizabeth, NJ.
Photo courtesy of Bro. Sean Moffett.



Jubilees North America and the Latin America Mission Area



**Brothers Charles Avendano
(standing) and Donatus McCormack**

Brothers Charles Avendano and Donatus McCormack – 80 years as Christian Brothers.

The Mount Sion Community and others joined the St. Joseph's Residence Community to celebrate the Jubilees of several Brothers, but most notably the 80th Jubilee of Brothers Charles Avendano and Donatus McCormack and the 65th Jubilee of Brothers Jim Moffett and Ken Wolfe. This is a unique milestone in the lives of these dedicated brothers and the life of the Congregation, and the Province and Congregation are grateful for their many years of service to spreading the Gospel of Jesus. We thank Brothers Greg McNally and Jim Moffett for hosting this wonderful evening of Brotherhood.



**Brother Charles Avendano speaking
at his Jubilee Celebration**

Brother Sean Stan Hayes ... 75 years a Christian Brother



(l to r) Brothers Thomas O'Connell, Michael Lynch, and Sean Hayes

On the 25th of August 1948, Brother Sean Stan Hayes left his home to join the Congregation of Christian Brothers. Brother John Burke who had served as director of Newman College for 18 years and Brother Eddie McCardell residing in the first Brothers' residence at 1548 Belgrano, Buenos Aires attended the celebration. In the evening of Friday August 25, 2023, the Brothers gathered to exchange stories and enjoy each other's company over refreshments. on Saturday the primary meal was served in the dining room and tributes were paid by all those in attendance.



(l to r) Brothers Thomas O'Connell, Michael Lynch, John Burke, Eddie McArdle, and seated Sean Hayes

Brother Raymond Vercruysse – 50 years a Christian Brother



Brothers Raymond Vercruysse (l) and Peter Zawot, Province Leader

On Saturday, October 7, 2023 Brothers, family, and friends gathered at St. Joseph's Church, Oradell, New Jersey to celebrate the Gold Jubilee of Brother Raymond Vercruysse. The Liturgy was led by Edmundian, Father Michael Patella, OSB, leader of song Brother Ben McDonough and Master of Ceremonies Brother Chris Hall. Following the Liturgy everyone travelled the approximately 2 miles to Bergen Catholic High School where all were treated to a wonderful late afternoon of



fellowship, fine dining and heartwarming prayer/toasts by Brothers Peter Zawot, Jim Hamilton and Steve Casey to the Jubilarian. The Province congratulates Raymond on this milestone in his religious life and thanks him for his many contributions to the life of the Province.



Brother Chris Hall



Brother Jim Hamilton



Brother Steve Casey

Latin America Mission Area News

The Human Rights Coordinator of the Latin American Mission Area will participate in the Youth Ambassadors Program 2023 in the U.S.



The Human Rights Coordinator for Latin America, Samuel Rivero, was chosen as one of two adult mentors for the Youth Ambassadors Program, which is funded by the U.S. Government in partnership with World Learning and the U.S. Embassy in Perú. Samuel, after a rigorous process where community commitment, experience working with students and foreign language skills were evaluated, was selected after being one



of three male finalists for the final interview with the U.S. Embassy in Perú.

Our coordinator will be responsible for accompanying 13 bright students from different public schools in Perú during an exchange program to the USA during the first three weeks of October. This program will begin in the Lima, Perú, where the participants will have some preparation and input before they travel to the state of Virginia, where they will attend courses on leadership and community project management at the University of Virginia. Finally, during the last days they will visit Washington D.C. for the closing of the exchange program.

Finally, Samuel will accompany each student in the program in the development and implementation of community projects in their localities during the next year. In this way, he will play the role of mentor to the students so that each project has a positive outcome and means personal growth for each student.

This opportunity for professional growth will be of great benefit not only for Samuel, but for our entire network of allied schools in Latin America, since it will mean an opportunity to implement new knowledge, work dynamics and innovative proposals for the work in the defense and promotion of human rights in our school communities.



Participants in the Youth Ambassadors Program. Samuel Rivero is third from the left.

Meeting and Thanksgiving Meal

On September 22-23, 2023 the Brothers in the Latin America Mission area came together in Chimbote to listen to a presentation in the morning and to share a Thanksgiving meal in the evening. Brother Alberto Llanos presented the outcomes of a course he recently attended: Abuse in Religious Life. After the presentation, the Brothers attached their signatures to a document, pledging their commitment to adhere to the Protocol for the Protection of Individuals under our care. The Brothers also had an opportunity to accompany another Brother to share and reflect on their respective journeys throughout the year. In the evening the Brothers gathered in the Chapel for a Thanksgiving prayer, followed by the delightful and delicious meal expertly prepared by Brother Vinny Peragine. Our sincere thanks to the entire community of Chimbote for hosting the event.



L-R: Brothers Michael Lynch, Rich Glatz, Alberto Llanos, Jim Glos, Steve Casey, Ever Cieza, Eddie McCardle, Vinnie Peragine, Xavier Sullivan, Miguel Braulio Córdova and Sean DiFiglia

**The Chef:
Brother Vinnie Peragine**



Community Leaders and Contact Persons Gathering



San Alfonso Retreat Center, Long Branch, NJ

The Province Life and Renewal team met on Saturday, September 16, 2023 in New Rochelle to continue preparations for the upcoming Community Leaders and Contact Persons Gathering. The meeting will take place November 10 - 12, 2023 at the [San Alfonso Retreat Center](#) in Long Branch, NJ. We thank the PLRT for their continued efforts on behalf of the Brothers of the Province.

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



October 21, 2023	Community Support Corporation Meeting, Chicago, IL
October 30, 2023	Callan Foundation Annual Meeting, Toronto, ON
November 03, 2023	Independence Day – Dominica
November 03 - 09, 2023	National Vocations Awareness Week
November 04, 2023	Partners in Edmund Rice Education, New Rochelle, NY
November 06, 2023	Pierre Toussaint Scholarship Fund Awards Dinner
November 11, 2023	Partners in Edmund Rice Education, St. Laurence, IL
November 10 - 12, 2023	Community Leaders and Contact Persons Meeting, Long Branch, NJ
November 13, 2023	Review Board Meeting
November 14, 2023	OES Meeting, Elizabeth, NJ
November 13 - 17, 2023	PLT Meetings, Elizabeth, NJ

Please Pray For

- Our Brothers at St. Joseph's Residence in New Rochelle, NY and in other care facilities across the Province.
- Cheryl Ann Gray, niece of Brother Sean Whitty (Jericho House Community), who has uterine cancer.
- Callum Riordan, (3 years old), nephew of Brother Jim McDonald (Mater Dei Community) recently diagnosed with muscular dystrophy.
- All those who continue to be affected by COVID-19.
- All those affected by war: the Ukraine and prayers for the Israeli and Palestinian peoples and for peace throughout the Middle East.
- The victims of natural disasters around the world.



Repose of the Soul of...

- + Brother James van Koolbergen (St. Joseph's Residence Community),
- + Mr. Liam O'Loughlin, father of Brother Peter O'Loughlin (Mt. Sion Community).
- + Mr. John Casey, brother of Brother Larry Casey (All Saints Community).
- + Edmundian Karl (Benjamin '62) Schaefer
- + Michael Keefe, brother of Sister Jacquie Keefe, CSSF (Jericho House Community).
- + Brad Simmons, Sponsor Council Member and lifelong supporter of the Christian Brothers, Brother Rice, Bloomfield Hills, MI.
- + Philomena Rice, former employee of St. Cecilia School, NY, and longtime friend of the Brothers.