

As we move from the season of Advent to the Season Christmas, we are reminded that the birth of Jesus has its apex in his death and resurrection.



The Nativity narratives reminds us of Jesus' humble beginnings and the deep faith shown by Mary and Joseph. Chief in their minds may have been the question: what does this birth portend?

Let us take time, as we celebrate with family friends, to ponder that question and to remember those who are less fortunate than ourselves; those for whom this is not a joyous season. That they may find the peace and comfort they so richly deserve.

Mater Dei Community – Bloomfield Hills, Michigan

After much deliberation the Province Leadership Team has made the difficult decision to close the Mater Dei Community in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan effective June 30, 2024. We thank the present community for their presence. Please note that while the Brothers community will be closing, Brother Rice High School remains a proud member of the Consortium of Edmund Rice Christian Brothers Schools.

Brother Michael Segvich who was in residence at Brother Rice 1972 - 81; 1987 - 89; 2011 - 16 has kindly provided the below brief history of the Edmund Rice Christian Brothers Presence in Michigan. Thanks Mike.

The Edmund Rice Christian Brothers were invited to come to the Archdiocese of Detroit and minister at a new all boys school by Cardinal John Dearden who witnessed students from the Brothers schools in New York City participating in the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in the late 1950s. The legend is that Cardinal Dearden asked his host, the Archbishop of New York, Cardinal Spellman, what group was responsible for the fine-looking young men strutting down 5th Avenue and that he (Cardinal Dearden) was interested in having them come to the new school in the northwest suburbs of Detroit. The rest, as they say, is history.

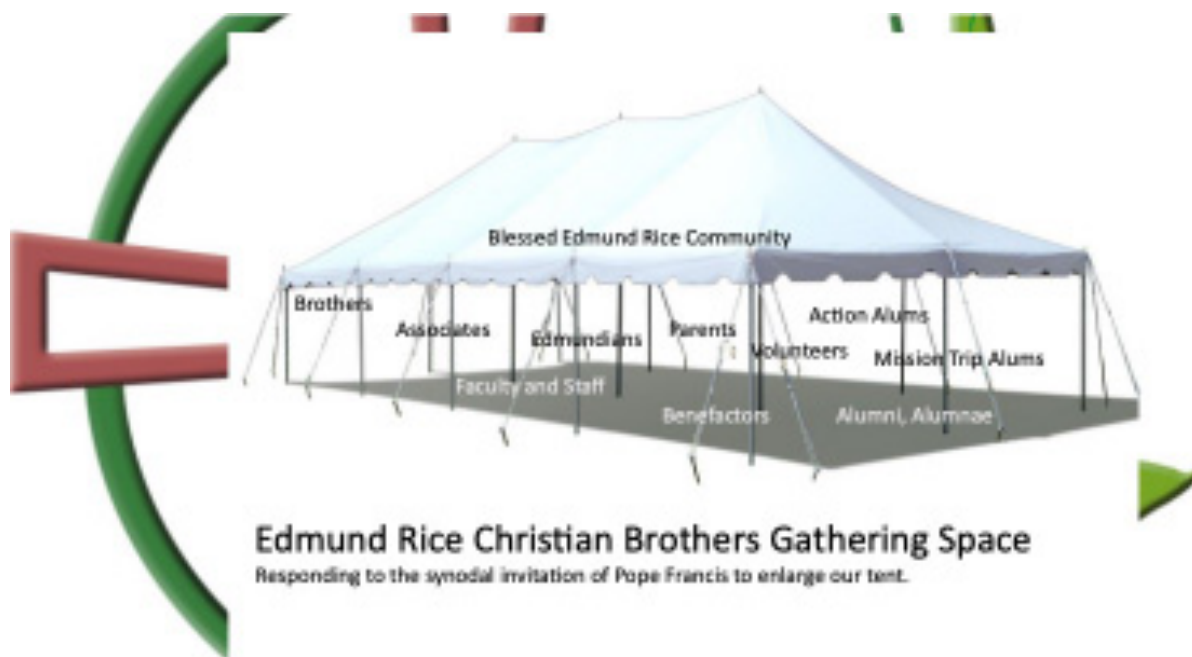
The first group of Brothers came to Birmingham (later rezoned into Bloomfield Hills) in the fall of 1960 under the leadership of Brother Norbert B. Hueller, who served both as Principal of the school and Superior of the Community. The Brothers lived in what is now called Old Monastery Hall until 1982 when they relocated their residence to the old convent for St. Regis Parish located where the east end of St. Regis School now stands. In 2004, the Brothers relocated to what used to be the private residence of a Brother Rice family on Parkstone Lane, north of 14 Mile and west of Lahser and named the community and dwelling, "Mater Dei."

Early on, there were close to 20 Brothers in the community, but as time moved along the number has now been reduced to 4: Brother Arthur Arndt, James McDonald, Daniel LeJeune and Patrick Martin. 3 Brothers are buried at Holy Sepulcher in Southfield—Joseph A. King, Lawrence B. Favero, and David A. MacIntyre. Brother MacIntyre was in residence from 1980 until he passed in 2019.

Over the 64 years that the Brothers were present in community at Brother Rice, most ministered in the school in some capacity as teachers, counselors, moderators, coaches, and school leaders. Most of the Brothers who ministered at Brother Rice developed a unique fondness for the students and the area and were grateful to the opportunity to serve the Church of the Archdiocese of Detroit from 1960-2024.

The Brothers are also proud of the fact that while only one graduate has remained with the Brothers (Patrick Sean Hayes, '78), many did pursue a vocation as a Brother or as a priest. Of course, as with any school, the Brothers have developed great friendships with students and their families. One of the closest friends of the Brothers was Bradley Simmons, '75, who recently passed. To many Brothers, he epitomized what a Brother Rice Warrior and a son of Edmund Rice was and should be.

The Edmund Rice Networking Council



The Edmund Rice Networking Council members are in the process of interviewing and asking others to interview past generations of alums of the schools, *Edmundians*, *Associates*, and former participants in *ACTION*, *Called and Gifted*, *Mission Immersions*, and the *Volunteer Program*, exploring how the experience of the Charism of Edmund Rice and the Christian Brothers might be influencing their current engagements. An attachment to this Newsletter offers a sampling of responses to the questions:

What engages you now?

How do you connect your now to your initial Edmund Rice Christian Brother experiences?

Who are the poor whose cry you hear now?

Latin America Mission Area



Br. Jorge Tavera

Brother Jorge Tavera Silva has received an invitation from the president of Confer Perú, Sr. Isabel Ramirez, to participate in a meeting of Consecrated Life in preparation for the Jubilee Year 2025. This meeting is being organized by the Institute of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life and will be held February 1 - 4, 2024 in Rome.

Edmundo Rice
LATINOAMÉRICA
PRESENCIA COMPASIÓN LIBERACIÓN

Four representatives per country: a female and male religious, a consecrated lay person and a consecrated virgin, have been invited to this meeting. The theme of the meeting is "*Pilgrims of Hope on the Path of Peace*" and seeks to:

- Exchange experiences of how Consecrated Life is already a seed and agent of peace in many places.
- To receive the mandate to live and share the industriousness that comes from faith, the fatigue of charity and the firmness of hope in daily reality.

We congratulate Jorge on his selection to represent Perú and the Congregation. Jorge will stay with the Brothers in Rome. We wish Jorge every success and blessing on his travels and work.

Christmas Luncheon



(l) Kevin Brewer (Director Christian Brothers Foundation) and Brother Peter Zawot (Province Leader)

On December 15, 2023 the Province Leadership Team joined our co-workers from the Province Office at Tutta Bella Trattoria for our Annual Christmas Luncheon. The PLT continues to be grateful to our co-workers for their dedication in promoting the Mission and Charism of Blessed Edmund Rice in the Americas.



(l) Brother Brian Walsh (Office of Educational Services) and Brother Peter Zawot (Province Leader)



(l to r) Rosa Alberti (Accounting Assistant), Brother Thomas Kelly (Assistant Director of Finance) and Georganne Dotto (Chief Finance Officer & Treasurer)



(l to r) Kevin Daly (Associate Director OES), Cris Ritchie-Bonomo (director OES), Gabriel Guarante (Province & OES Administrative Assistant)



**Jo Anne Perillo (CBF) and
Brother Sean Moffett (PLT)**



**Br. Ed Bergeron (PLT), Br. Jerry McCarthy (Edmundians),
Br. Peter O'Loughlin (PLT), Kevin Brewer (CBF),
Gabriel Guarente (ERCBNA & OES) and
Br. Michael Segvich (PLT)**



**(l) Bro. Michael Segvich (PLT) and
Br. Stephen Casey (Province
Immersion and Mission Education)**



**Rosa Alberti and
Br. Gennaro Sullo (OES)**



**Br. Kevin Griffith (Former Province Leader)
& Mary Grant (CBI- Finance Assistant)**

Attachment

1. The Edmund Rice Networking Council sampling of responses.

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



January 11, 2024
January 16, 2024
January 17 - 19, 2024
January 22, 2024
January 25, 2024
January 28 – February 3, 2024
February 02, 2024
February 04, 2024
February 13, 2024
February 14 - 16, 2024
March 11, 2024
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Bergen Catholic Annual Meeting
OES Meeting
PLT Meetings ... Elizabeth, NJ
Damien Memorial Annual Meeting
Palma School Annual Meeting
Catholic School Week ... USA
Consecrated Life Day
Black History Mass – Archdiocese of NY
OES Meeting
PLT Meetings ... Elizabeth
Review Board Meeting

Please Pray For



- Our Brothers at St. Joseph's Residence in New Rochelle, NY and in other care facilities across the Province.
- Sandra Schurla, Aunt of Brother Michael Segvich (Mt. Sion Community)
- Edmundian Daniel (Dennis '57) McCarthy.
- Amy Mahoney, spouse of Dr. Brian Mahoney, President of Bergen Catholic.
- All those affected by war: the Ukraine and the Middle East
- The victims of natural disasters around the world.

Repose of the Soul of...

- + Brother Patrick Donatus McCormack (St. Joseph's Residence Community)
- + Edmundian Albert (Andrew) Greytak, group of '49.

