

LISTEN



**Easter morning sunrise
San Alfonso Retreat House,
Long Branch, New Jersey**

Listen to the Spirit deep within you,
as he tries to gentle your disposition, quiet your
impulses,
soften your speech, make you like Jesus.

Listen to the Spirit deep within you, as he speaks
of love and joy and peace and patience and fortitude
and kindness which is yours for the asking through
Jesus.

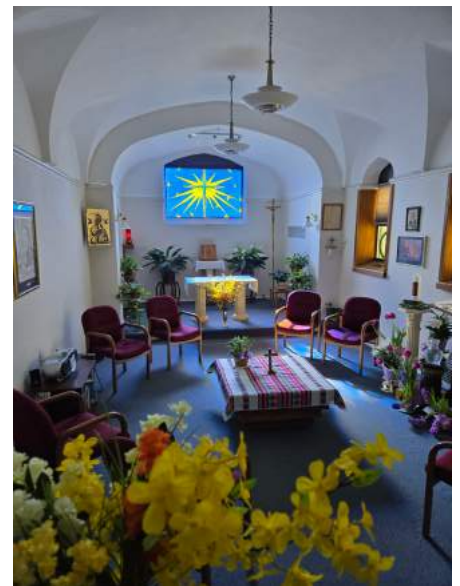
Listen to the Spirit deep within you, showing you
your faults and failings and weaknesses and sins;
then ask for repentance and sorrow and forgiveness
and then a greater love of
Jesus.

Listen to the Spirit deep within you, to give generously,
to share willingly, to listen patiently, to love completely,
to live joyfully, to pray always with Jesus.

Listen to the Spirit deep within you, drawing you
to intimacy with Him and Jesus in the Father.

Listen eagerly, not anxiously; listen attentively,
not impatiently, listen silently, not noisily, to the still
quiet whisper of the Spirit deep within you.

E.B. Wakeham, CFC



**Easter Sunday morning
Province Center,
Elizabeth, New Jersey**



School Leaders Meeting 2024 Montevideo, Uruguay



During the week of March 19-22, 2024, school leaders, members of the PLT and the Office of Educational Services attended the annual School Leaders Meeting in Montevideo, Uruguay hosted by Colegio Stella Maris. We thank the Community of Stella Maris for hosting this meeting.

Below Dr. Cris Ritchie-Bonomo (Director of the Office of Educational Services) offers a personal reflection of this transformative experience:



As our flight home lifted off from Montevideo and headed towards Santiago, I felt my joy at going home tinged with regret. Over the days we spent together with our colleagues we experienced a roller coaster of emotions, which I believe drew us closer.

When we arrived at the hotel, many colleagues were already in the lobby, and we hugged and shared our joy at seeing one another. Our arrival felt like a homecoming and the feeling continued that evening as we entered the reception. We were surrounded by old friends and although a great deal of time had passed since we saw one another, I felt as though we had never separated. I believe that feeling is "true belonging." We are immediately connected and all a part of the Edmund Rice family. Although we are spread across the north and south American continents, Stella Maris and Cardinal Newman welcomed their cousins from Canada, Perú, and the United States. We are a family.

We began our sessions together by sharing our lives and talking about how we live the legacy of Blessed Edmund Rice in our home territories. Then we were warmly greeted by the faculty, staff, and students at Stella Maris. We broke bread together as one community of faith as we celebrated the liturgy and remembered Saint Patrick. The voices of the children brought such beauty and joy to our experience. Following Mass, we were assigned to student tour guides who proudly shared their beautiful school and made us feel welcome. In the dining room of the school, we enjoyed a lovely lunch together with our friends and colleagues.

The Stella Maris community eagerly showed us their stunningly beautiful city as we followed the Rambla around Montevideo and walked through the city square. In the evening, we ate in the lovely restaurants of Barrio Carrasco and met together in the hotel lobby to laugh and swap stories.

One of the most significant aspects of our time together included learning about the remarkable work of the entire Stella Maris school community.

The community, consisting of children, teachers, administrators, parents, and alumni are deeply committed to serving the marginalized in their city. At Los Treboles we witnessed a commitment to serving families and breaking the cycle of poverty. The new school, funded by the Sella Maris, called Santa Margarita is changing the lives of children and providing them with a quality education. We also viewed the library begun by the mothers of the young people who perished in the Andes after a horrific plane crash.



(l to r) Brother Peter Zawot (Province Leader), Lic. Patricia Ponce de León (Directora - Stella Maris), Dr. Cris Ritchie-Bonomo (Director, Office of Educational Services)



Fito Adolfo Strauch & Br. Peter Zawot

That brings me to perhaps one of the most moving and impactful movie experiences of my life. As a family we gathered for a private viewing of the new movie about the "Miracle of the Andes," Society of the Snow. Following the painful experience, and yet uplifting movie we were honored to enjoy a conversation with the author of the book, Pablo Vierci, a Stella Maris alum, and Fito Adolfo Strauch, one of the survivors of the crash. It is hard to put my thoughts into words, but I am going to do my best. As the days in the bitter cold and brutal terrain of the Andes drew on and on, the crash survivors, starving, cold, and isolated, drew closer on one another. That doesn't mean

they didn't argue, they did. But they continued to stay together and care for one another. Although they were forced to make horrific choices, they came to recognize one another as God's expression of boundless love. The harsh climate that could change at a moment's notice was also beautiful and majestic. It was almost a character in the plot that brought stark beauty, and hostility. However, the survivors chose to bear their suffering, their pain, and their injuries, by caring for each other. As Fito said, and I paraphrase here, that he came to understand that the ego, "the false mask that we present to the world had no place there. When we are naked and vulnerable, we are our true self. We are closest to the person God

calls us to be. Our egos defeat us and get in the way of our true, sacred, beautiful self.” The film continues to haunt and teach me even after a month.



L - R Brothers Peter Zawot, Ever Cieza, Michael Lynch, Miguel Córdova, Peter O’Loughlin, Tim Smyth, Gennaro Sullo, Michael Segvich, and Tom Murphy

For me, our experience in Montevideo, connected to one another, and culminated in the beautiful talk by Wayne Tinsey. The message of the entire gathering is a reminder that we are stronger and better together. We are the Edmund Rice family. I left Montevideo inspired and energized. The people of our consortium motivate me to do better, be better, and see the best in others. What a blessing to be surrounded by the wonderful people in our Edmund Rice consortium of schools. As Wayne said, "God does His work through our hands, hearts, and voices. Thank you, everyone for showing up, sharing, and doing God's work.

Dear Stella Maris, thank you for sharing your hearts and home with us. Your generosity and hospitality gave us spiritual food to continue the work of our founder, Blessed Edmund. Thank you for reminding us of who we are and for uniting our family as one in faith and mission.



In Memory of Me

Christian Brother Artist Kenneth Chapman, CFC, offers Teilhardian images for the National Eucharistic Congress Art Exhibition



Paintings of Christian Brother artist Kenneth Chapman, CFC, have been selected for the Eucharistic Congress Art Exhibition, *In Memory of Me*. The works, from different moments of a lifelong engagement in contemplative thought and artistic expression, offer Eucharist images present in recent writings of Pope Francis and influenced by insights from the Jesuit paleontologist and mystic, Teilhard De Chardin, S.J. The link to read more is offered below.

https://ercbna.org/Christian_Brothers.php?op=Article_In+Memory+of+Me

Johnny Bevacqua



Mr. Johnny Bevacqua

On Saturday, February 24, 2024 family, friends and colleagues, past and present, gathered for a Mass of Thanksgiving and dinner, at Vancouver College to celebrate and recognise Johnny for his exemplary service and contributions to the Catholic Education of



**Johnny Bevacqua and
Brother Chuck Gattone**

Youth in the Archdiocese of Vancouver and most recently as the former Principal and President of Vancouver College. We offer Johnny our congratulations and best wishes for the future.



Loftus Dinner 2024 Iona University



Brother Kevin Griffith (Community Partnership Coordinator-Service Learning), Brother Stephen Casey, and Dr. Seamus Carey (President, Iona University)

Congratulations to Brother Stephen Casey and Ms. MaryEllen Callaghan who received the 2024 Br. Arthur Austin Loftus Award.



**Mary Ellen Callaghan,
Senior Vice-President for
Strategic Initiatives and
Board Secretary**



ERCBNA 2024 Gallery of Student Art and Music

Below you will find the link to the Annual Gallery of Student Art and Music. Congratulations to all for another fine example of the gifts and talents possessed by so many.

https://www.ercbna.org/Christian_Brothers.php?op=2024Student_Art

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

New Contact Information

Brother Michael Lynch, Latin America Mission Area Delegate, in Comunidad Mansilla, Buenos Aires has a new landline phone number. The new number is 00 54 11 7734 9328.

Mater Dei Community Bloomfield Hills, Michigan

On Wednesday, April 10, the Br. Rice Michigan school community gathered to bid farewell to the Brothers. The event included assorted sweets and a champagne toast to the presence and ministry of the Brothers over the past 64 years. Representing the local brothers' community were Brothers Jim McDonald and Tom Lejeune. Special guests were Brothers Tom Murphy, Dan Casey, Tim Smyth, Mike Segvich and Peter Zawot. Br. Peter assured those gathered of the Brothers' continued presence on the governance level and in the *Essential Elements of an Edmund Rice Christian Brother Education*. A note of thanks to President Tom Reidy and his staff for organizing the gathering.



**Back Row (l to r) Mr. Edward Okuniewski (Principal, Brother Rice, Bloomfield Hills),
Brothers Dan Casey, Michael Segvich, Raph McDonald, Tom Murphy,
and Mr. Tom Reidy (President).**

**Front Row (l to r) Brother Tim Smyth, Father Joe Grimaldi (Edmundian '58), Brothers Peter Zawot
(Province Leader) and Thomas LeJeune**



I Edmund

Blessed Brother Edmund Ignatius
Rice, Founder of the Presentation
Brothers and the Congregation of
Christian Brothers

The Concluding Years 1838 – 1844
(ages 76 – 82)

Chicago area Edmundians, Associates, and Companions of Blessed Edmund Rice gathered in April at the home of Dr. Mark Quinn. Having an advanced copy of *I EDMUND – The Concluding Years 1838 - 1844* they took turns reading aloud from the manuscript.

One brother attending commented, “The discussion afterward was inspiring. The use of the first person made it sound like an autobiography, or literary stream of consciousness. It works well.”

The text will be launched on May 1, 2024 to mark International Religious Brothers Day and to anticipate the celebration of Blessed Edmund’s Feast day May 6. Copies will be accessible at:

www.ERCBNA.ORG.

Religious Brothers Day 2024
From the Religious Brothers Conference:
Please Join us on May 1 for Religious Brothers Day --- Virtual.

Celebrate the 8th Annual Religious Brothers Day with an Online Gathering.

A special program has been planned by the co-chairs:

Marianist Brother Andrew Kosmowski, SM & DeLaSalle Christian Brother Paul Avvento, FSC

The observances of *Religious Brothers Day* have their roots in the Brothers Think Tank and the involvement of several collaborating national organizations:

CMSM (Conference of Major Superiors of Men), NRVC (National Religious Vocation Conference), RBC (Religious Brothers Conference) & RFC (Religious Formation Conference)

The one-hour program will be held at 2 PM Eastern (1 PM Central)
and at 8 PM Eastern (7 PM Central).

This year the Religious Formation Conference is assisting with hosting and registration.

To register: relforcon.org/Brothers

This website will give you the Registration. Registration is very simple.

Alexian Brothers | Assumptionists | Augustinian Recollects | Augustinians | Benedictines | Benedictines, Camaldolese Congregation | Blessed Sacrament |
Brigittine Monks | Brotherhood of Hope | Brothers of Charity | Brothers of Christian Instruction | Brothers of Christian Schools | Brothers of Mercy |
Brothers of Our Lady Mother of Mercy | Brothers of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary | Brothers of St. Patrick | Brothers of St. Pius X | Brothers of the Holy
Eucharist | Brothers of the Immaculate Heart of Mary | Brothers of the Poor of St. Francis | Brothers of the Sacred Heart | Byzantine Monks of Holy
Resurrection | Camillian | Caphuchin Friars | Carmelite Friars | Carthusians | Christian Brothers - Bl. Edmund Rice | Cistercian Monks | Claretian Missionaries
| Columbans | Comboni Missionaries | Consolata Missionaries | Conventual Franciscans | Crosier | Discalced Carmelite Friars | Divine Word Missionaries |
Dominicans | Franciscan Brothers of Brooklyn | Franciscan Brothers of Peace | Franciscan Brothers of the Holy Cross |

+ **BROTHERS** +

Franciscan Brothers of the Third Order Regular | Franciscan Friars of the Atonement | Franciscan Missionary Brothers | Franciscans | Glenmary Home
Missioners | Holy Cross Brothers | Hospitaller Brothers of St. John of God | Jesuits | Josephites | Knights of the Holy Eucharist | Little Brothers of St. Francis |
Marianists | Mariannahill | Marist | Maryknoll | Mercedarians | Mill Hill Missionaries | Missionaries of Africa | Missionaries of Jesus | Missionaries of La Salette | Missionaries
of the Holy Apostles | Missionaries of the Holy Family | Missionaries of the Precious Blood | Missionary Brothers of Charity | Missionary Servants of the Most Holy Trinity |
Monks of Mount Tabor | Montfort Missionaries | Norbertines | Oblates of St. Francis de Sales | Oblates of St. Joseph | Oblates of St. Mary Immaculate | Oblates of the Virgin
Mary | Oratorians | Order of St. Basil the Great | Pallotines | Paracletes | Passionists | Pauline | PIME Missionaries | Presentation Brothers | Priests of the Sacred Heart |
Redemptorists | Resurrectionists | Sacred Heart Missionaries | Salesians | Salvatorians | Scalabrinians | Servants of Charity | Servites | Sons of Divine Providence | Sons of Mary
Missionary Society | Spiritans | Stigmatine Fathers & Brothers | Third Order Regular of St. Francis | Trappists | Trinitarians | Viatorians | Vincentians | Xavierian Brothers

+ RELIGIOUS BROTHERS DAY + MAY 1    #RELIGIOUSBROTHERSDAY

Calendar of Events



May 01, 2024	Religious Brothers Day
May 04, 2024	Edmund Rice Liturgy, Elizabeth NJ
May 06, 2024	St. Joseph's Residence Joint Board Meeting
May 13, 2024	Review Board Meeting
May 14, 2024	OES Meeting, New Rochelle, NY
May 15 - 17, 2024	PLT Meetings, Elizabeth, NJ
May 23, 2024	Westcourt Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL
June 03 - 14, 2024	CLT/PLT Meetings, Shillong, India

Please Pray For

- Our Brothers at St. Joseph's Residence in New Rochelle, NY and in other care facilities across the Province.
- Denny King, long-time staff member at Brother Rice, Bloomfield Hills, MI who is seriously ill.
- All those affected by war: the Ukraine and the Middle East
- The victims of natural disasters around the world.



Rest of the Soul of...

- + Brother Louis Bucher, Prince George Community, Vanderhoof, BC
- + Brother John Holden, Christian Brothers Retreat, Spirituality, and Youth Ministry Centre Community, Sierra Leone
- + Brother Joseph Turay, Christian Brothers Retreat, Spirituality, and Youth Ministry Centre Community Sierra Leone
- + Jeff Wright, former teacher Palma School, Salinas, CA
- + Ed Molloy, former teacher Blessed Sacrament High School, New Rochelle, NY.
- + Patricia Landry, former principal at Tampa Catholic High School
- + Col. James J. Frawley, USMC (Ret), brother of Colleen Noonan, former director Christian Brothers Foundation