

NorAm

The Edmund Rice Christian Brothers North America Mission Frère-Advocacy Newsletter



Volume 3 Issue 1

December 2017



NorAm

The Edmund Rice Christian Brothers North America Mission Frère - Advocacy Newsletter

The Mission of the *Edmund Rice Christian Brothers North America Mission Frère-Advocacy Program* is to create an awareness of and to advocate for the needs of those most marginalized in our society. Our goal is to create a more just, peaceful and equitable world by being faithful to the Gospel message of Jesus Christ and the spirit of Blessed Edmund Rice. We foster presence, compassion and liberation in collaboration with the Edmund Rice Christian Brothers North America Province, the members of the Consortium of Edmund Rice Schools and all who are inspired by the charism of Blessed Edmund Rice in the North American Edmund Rice Network.

IN THIS ISSUE- DECEMBER 2017

COVER- *Basilica of Our Lady of San Juan del Valle, 2017 Brownsville Immersion*

1 MISSION FRÈRE-HAITI UPDATES

Updates from the Province's Mission Frère-Haiti initiative.



2 ADVOCATING FOR HAITI

Mission Frère-Haiti partner COHH hosts its 12th annual Gala to raise funds for and awareness of those marginalized in Haiti.



3 BROWNSVILLE 2017

Students and staff from three ERCB schools come together in Brownsville, Texas to learn about the realities of immigration along the U.S.-Mexico border.



4 SABER'S VETERAN'S WEEK

Bishop Hendricken's student advocacy group uses the week of Veteran's Day to raise awareness and to support veteran's affairs in the state of Rhode Island.



5 HOMEBY INDUSTRIES @ IONA COLLEGE

With his talk, "Barking to the Choir: Now Entering the Kinship of God," Father Greg Boyle, SJ delivers the inaugural Cornelia Lecture at Iona College.



6 CARE OF EARTH UPDATE

Brother Kevin Cawley continues to work with ERI and the Thomas Berry Forum at Iona College to be a voice for the protection of our environment and home.



7-8 ADVOCACY IN OUR SCHOOLS

Students and staff from ERCB schools from across North America continue to develop and implement advocacy initiatives in their schools and communities.



9 ERI IN GENEVA/ SMART JUSTICE IN CANADA

Across the global ER network, strides are being made in promoting advocacy in schools and beyond.



10 ADVOCACY SPOTLIGHT/ LINKS

Iona College's annual Week of the Peacemaker brings together educational and advocacy issues.



11 UPCOMING EVENTS



MISSION FRÈRE-HAITI UPDATES



In recent weeks, there has been much conversation and outcry from the Trump Administration's ending of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Haitians. On November 20, 2017, the Trump Administration brought an end to the U.S. humanitarian program, which allowed more than 59,000 Haitians to live and work in the United States after the 2010 earthquake devastated the island. Those individuals that received TPS after the 2010 earthquake will need to leave the United States or face deportation by 2019 (New York Times, 2017). The effects from this decision have already been felt in Canada, where Haitian refugees living in the U.S. have been trying to cross the border into Canada since rumors of the decision began circulating.

In July of 2017, the inaugural Mission Frère-Haiti immersion trip brought six students from Iona Preparatory and Archbishop McCarthy High School to Borgne, Haiti to learn about the country and its people, as well as to witness the dire poverty that exists in Haiti. After having experienced the trip, it is easy to see why the ending of TPS for Haitians is premature and inhumane. As the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, Haiti is barely functioning at a level to provide for the people that already live there, many of whom never recovered after the 2010 earthquake. As if reintegrating more than 59,000 people back into the Haitian economy wouldn't be difficult enough, the World Bank estimates that Haiti receives more than \$2.36 billion from remittances from Haitians living and working abroad, a staggering sum that represents roughly one quarter of the Haitian economy (World Bank; New York Times, 2017). In addition to the financial catastrophe that will result from the decision to end TPS for these Haitians, countless Haitians who were born in the U.S. and thus citizens, could be separated from their parents and families. Furthermore, Haitians currently in programs of higher learning will also be unable to finish their degree and would be unable to use their skills and qualifications to improve their native country when returning. While there is an 18-month delay for this termination of TPS for Haitians and the possibility of an overturn and renewal of the program, most reports do not look promising.

While in Haiti in 2017, the group purchased a number of works of art from the Sisters of Jesus and Mary whose work in Jean-Rabel, Haiti, includes supporting educational, medical and housing initiatives for residents there. In Jean-Rabel, the Sisters of Jesus and Mary sponsor a Haitian Artisan gallery, where local artists create works that are sold worldwide. Thanks to the artistic talents of Brother Tony Reynolds (Iona Preparatory Community), this art was framed and will be sold at the Brother Kenneth Chapman Art Gallery at Iona College in the early part of 2018. The funds from the sale of this art will be sent back to Jean-Rabel to support the programs supported by the Sisters of Jesus and Mary.

A second Mission Frère-Haiti immersion trip is being planned for the summer of 2018, but as seen above, students from Iona Preparatory are already advocating for Haitians through the sale of these works of art. In light of the recent end of TPS for Haitians in the United States, many communities where the Edmund Rice Christian Brothers serve and have served with Haitians have been affected. One such community, South Florida, was recently in the news as one of its residents, Ronyde Christina Ponthieux had a message for President Trump in response to the end of TPS for Haitians.



A cross painted by artisans from Jean-Rabel, Haiti.

To see Ronyde's message, click below:

[TPS MESSAGE](#)



MISSION FRÈRE-HAITI PARTNER COHH'S 12th ANNUAL GALA



Center of Hope (Haiti) Inc., (COHH) is a not-for-profit corporation working in Hinche, Haiti and a partner of the Mission Frère-Haiti program. Bergen Catholic alumnus Bob Micera is a Board Member for COHH and has been instrumental in the organization's great success. COHH hosted its 12th Annual COHH Gala on November 7th in New York City. Since last year, COHH has made huge gains in working with the people of Hinche, Haiti to continue developing the local area and providing education to its children. Some of COHH's accomplishments over the past year have been:

- * 6th graders from COHH's school graduated from elementary school last summer and have transitioned to their 7th grade secondary school (only 40% of Haiti's population gets to the secondary school level).
- *COHH held a successful capital raising campaign in the first quarter of 2017 and raised nearly \$100,000 in 30 days to commence construction of Phase II of their school campus expansion – a new classroom building to house their 7th , 8th and 9th graders.
- *They subsequently raised the additional funds that will allow them to complete Phase II by this Fall.
- *This Fall COHH will welcome a new class of approximately 15 students along with another teacher and additional staff bringing their student population to almost 100 students and 25 staff members.
- *The addition of a new board member to help with the continued growth of COHH.



ERCBNA Network members in attendance:

Province Leadership Team

- Br. Kevin Griffith
- Br. Peter O'Loughlin

Bergen Catholic High School

- Br. Brian Walsh, President
- Br. Chris Hall, Vice Pres. for Educational Technology
- Zeke Rodgers, Vice Pres. for Advancement

Hinche, Haiti, is located roughly 100 miles from Le Borgne, Haiti where the Mission Frère-Haiti immersion program is held. Like many Haitian towns, it struggles with extreme poverty, a lack of access to education and poorly developed roads and utilities. After the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, thousands of refugees poured into Hinche, further stressing an already fragile economy. COHH's work in Hinche is centered around the development of its children, through their orphanage and school.

This year's Gala had more than 170 attendees and raised more than \$160,00 to fund COHH's work with children in Hinche, Haiti.



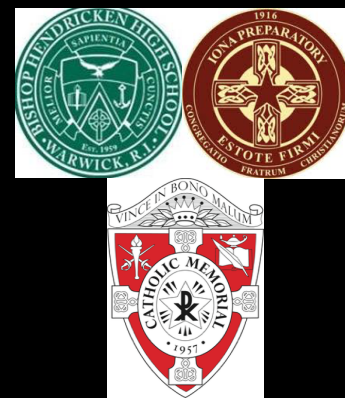
Attendees at COHH's 12th Annual Gala, held on November 7th, 2017 in New York City's Bryant Park. This year's Gala raised more than \$160,000 to fund children's programs that COHH supports in Hinche, Haiti.

To learn more about COHH, click here: [COHH WEBSITE](#)

To see a video showcasing COHH's work in Hinche, Haiti, click here: [COHH VIDEO](#)

2017 BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS IMMERSION

For the third straight year, the ERCBNA Province and students and staff from Bishop Hendricken, Iona Preparatory and Catholic Memorial traveled to Brownsville, Texas for the third annual Brownsville, Texas immersion trip. Here, participants served at a number of sites in order to learn about the realities of immigration in Brownsville, across the United States, and beyond.



The 2016 Brownsville Immersion trip coincided with the 2016 U.S. presidential election. In 2017, it was an interesting juxtaposition returning to a place that has already been greatly affected since a new Administration took office less than a year ago. Brownsville, Texas was one of the early "hot-spots" for the recent attempts of restructuring immigration policy since early 2017. Our representatives came to learn through service and immersion that Brownsville has seen large changes in activity and policy surrounding immigration along the U.S.-Mexican border.

Upon arrival in Brownsville, participants traveled to the Missionary Sisters of Jesus Retreat Center, which would be used for lodging, reflection and "classroom" sessions about immigration throughout the trip. During the trip, participants spent time serving at a variety of different "service sites," many of which were centered around providing relief to recent immigrants to the United States. One site, Catholic Charities' Humanitarian Respite Center, formerly known as Sacred Heart Outreach, has seen major changes over the last year. Before the start of the Trump Administration, the Center was serving more than 400 asylum seekers each day, many of whom were fleeing violence in their home countries of El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala. The Center now serves less than 100 each day. While the violence in these countries has gotten worse, asylum seekers fleeing the violence are being turned away more and more frequently. The same impact has also been seen at Proyecto Juan Diego, a temporary housing site where students served families fleeing violence and seeking resettlement in the U.S. Students were shocked to hear the stories of many of these immigrants who had spent weeks traveling from as far as Eritrea, Africa, in attempts to flee dangerous conditions in their countries in order to find safe haven in the U.S. One immigrant told students of his story of traveling from Eritrea to the U.S., which involved stops in 11 different countries before arriving in the U.S. This was just one of the many stories that profoundly impacted students and their understanding of the complex issues surrounding immigration in the United States.

Throughout the week, students learned about immigration facts and policies from their teacher-chaperones. Bishop Hendricken English teacher Missy Andrews presented on DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) and its impacts, while Catholic Memorial's Theology Department Chair Michael Corso presented on immigration and education issues. Students also learned about advocacy from Iona Prep Campus Minister and ERCBNA Province Advocacy Coordinator Sean D'Alfonso and Brother Steve Casey, Province Immersion Coordinator. Brother Tim Smyth, Province Young Adult Ministry Coordinator, taught students about the story of Edmund Rice and the Global Edmund Rice Network. Students also participated in a seminar led by an officer from Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE), who spoke of the difficult challenges and situations that the job poses, particularly at the U.S.-Mexico border. Students also learned about the Edmund Rice School Network in a number of other ways. The trip was organized by Brothers Steve Casey and Tom LeJeune, a member of the Brothers Community at Guadalupe Regional Middle School. Students spent a day of service and fellowship at Guadalupe Regional Middle School, an ER Christian Brothers School in Brownsville. Here, participants went to a community Mass, completed a number of service projects to benefit the school and learned about Guadalupe's culture during a cookout spent with the school's students. Guadalupe is the only tuition-free, Catholic middle school in Texas, and has had profound impacts on its students and the entire Brownsville, Texas community.



Participants of the 2017 Brownsville, Texas Immersion trip pose for a picture at Mary, Mother of the Church Parish in Brownsville.

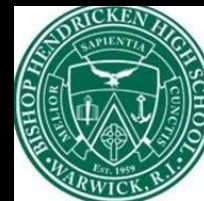


President Mike Motyl of Guadalupe Regional Middle School speaks about the impact of the immersion on GRMS.

The Brownsville Immersion trip was an eye-opening experience for all participants who were introduced to the realities of immigration in the U.S. Now having returned home, they will begin working on ways to advocate for a better immigration system in the U.S.

VETERAN'S WEEK AT BHHS

Members of Bishop Hendricken's student advocacy group SABER (Student Advocates of Blessed Edmund Rice) use Veteran's Day as the catalyst for a week dedicated to raising awareness of and advocating for veteran's issues in their state of Rhode Island.



In conjunction with Veteran's Day, from November 10th to the 17th, Bishop Hendricken's student advocacy group, SABER (Student Advocates of Blessed Edmund Rice), organized a "Veteran's Week" to bring awareness to and advocate for issues surrounding veterans in Rhode Island. SABER's Veteran's Week began with the second annual Pancake Breakfast, initiated by Hendricken teacher Billy Johnston. This breakfast was free of charge for veterans and their families, and used donations from Hendricken community members to purchase care packages which were sent to men and women from Rhode Island who are currently deployed overseas.

SABER's Veteran's Week also utilized social media, through the group's publication of "Veteran Facts of the Day." SABER used one day each week to post a statistic raising awareness of the issues that veterans face overseas and when returning home. One particularly troubling fact that the group highlighted, is that veterans account for approximately 12% of the adult homeless population in the United States.



Veterans and their families enjoyed a community pancake breakfast at Bishop Hendricken High School on November 10th.



After a Mass in November in memory of two Bishop Hendricken alumni who lost their lives in service of the U.S., Members of Bishop Hendricken's student advocacy group SABER joined with family members.



Members of Bishop Hendricken's student advocacy group SABER pose with the signatures they collected from their petition drive, which sought to gain legislative support to improve the holistic health of Rhode Island veterans.

The members of SABER also used Veteran's Week to collect signatures at Bishop Hendricken through a petition drive aimed at supporting legislation to improve holistic health of veterans in Rhode Island. Students collected hundreds of signatures from the Bishop Hendricken community and will send their petition to state leaders and lawmakers in an effort to bring about such needed legislation.

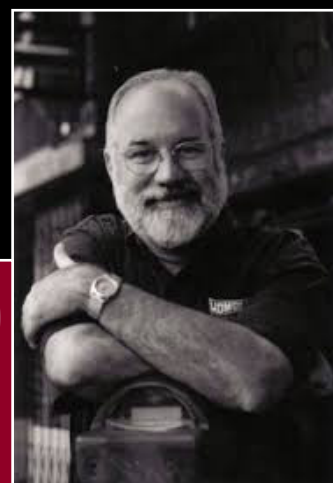
To read about recent legislation in Rhode Island surrounding veteran's affairs, please click below:

(courtesy of the Providence Journal):

[**Veteran's Affairs**](#)

“Barking to the Choir: Now Entering the Kinship of God”

Father Greg Boyle, SJ (pictured right), and founder of gang rehabilitation program Homeboy Industries delivered Iona College's inaugural Cornelia Lecture on September 19, 2017. Father Boyle's talk drew on his 30 years of experience and highlighted the need for compassion and kinship in the fight against injustice and marginalization in our world.



(contributions by Alison Robles, Assistant News Editor, The Ionian)

Father Greg Boyle, SJ, was the speaker for the inaugural Brother Cornelia Lecture, held at Iona College's Mulcahy Gymnasium on September 19th. The lecture commemorated and celebrated both Brother Corenlia's legacy as Iona College's first president and Iona College's 77th anniversary. Father Boyle has been acclaimed for his work with and the success of Homeboy Industries, the largest gang rehabilitation program in the world, which he founded in 1992.

Serving as the pastor of Dolores Mission Church from 1986-1992, then the poorest parish in Los Angeles, Father Boyle witnessed firsthand the effects that gang violence took on the local community. This experience pushed him to found Homeboy Industries, which was first initiated in 1988 and officially founded in 1992. As Homeboy Industries' website describes, the organization offers clients everything from tattoo removal and workforce development to legal and mental health services. Homeboy Industries has helped thousands of former and current gang members, both males and females, change their lives and escape the cycle of violence that many gang members never escape from.



Father Greg Boyle (second from left) poses with members of Homeboy Industries, the gang rehabilitation program he began in Los Angeles in 1992.

To listen to Father Boyle's talk, click below (video courtesy of Iona College):

[**Cornelia Lecture**](#)

Care of Earth Update

-Br. Kevin Cawley



Report on Iona College Conference: Hope and Healing in the Anthropocene
Co-Sponsored by Edmund Rice International and the Thomas Berry Forum for Ecological Dialogue.
November 4, 2017

Inspiration, Conversation, Transformation- Why Anthropocene?

Anthropos is the Greek word for “human,” so the “Anthropocene” is understood as “relating to or denoting the current geological age, viewed as the period during which human activity has been the dominant influence on climate and the environment.”



Edmund Rice International and the Thomas Berry forum for Ecological Dialogue at Iona College co-sponsored the conference, in which participants shared conversation surrounding climate change.



Brother Kevin Cawley addresses participants of Hope and Healing in the Anthropocene on November 4th.

A Day of Conversation, Music and Mindfulness. In Berry’s words, the tools for doing the great work of reinventing the human are story and shared dream experience. In other words, we can only address the challenges of our “anthropocene” epoch by orienting ourselves within the coherence of the universe story. We began the full day conference with the 60+ participants by laying out our desired outcomes for the gathering that included an understanding of what is really going on beneath all the rhetoric around climate change and its impacts. Br. Kevin Cawley, executive director of the Berry Forum, and Main Representative for Edmund Rice International at the United Nations in New York, set the scene by quoting from the powerful Encyclical (Laudato Si) of Pope Francis who remains one of the few world leaders to offer direction on this unprecedented challenge: “...the urgent challenge to protect our common home includes a concern to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development” (13).

Care of Earth. The entire conference day at Iona was planned as a zero- waste project in keeping with the theme of care of earth. Throughout the conference, which was truly a conversation, we used music and poetry and art, and silence and mindfulness to help us experience what we were discussing. We finished our sharing in this fashion with a ritual of anointing each other for the work we must undertake for ourselves and for our children.

To learn more about the Thomas Berry Forum for Ecological Dialogue, please click below:

[Thomas Berry Forum](#)



DAMIEN'S MARCH AGAINST VIOLENCE

On October 12, 2017, students, faculty and staff from Damien Memorial School in Hawaii joined thousands in the streets of Honolulu as they participated in the 23rd annual Men's March Against Domestic Violence. The march intends to raise awareness of and advocate for an end to domestic violence in Hawaii. Members of the Damien community have participated in the Men's March Against Violence since its inception in 1994. This year, students from Damien's National Honors Society, the National Junior Honors Society, the varsity football team, and the boys' varsity basketball team marched to advocate for efforts to end domestic violence.

Damien Memorial also has plans in 2018 for their third immersion trip retracing the steps of Saint Damien of Molokai and his work in the "leper colonies" of Molokai, Hawaii. The school hopes to continue to raise awareness and advocate for those affected in the Kalaupapa Settlement.

-Jeremiah Carter, Campus Minister



ALL HALLOWS MARCHES AGAINST CANCER

On Saturday, September 30th, one hundred All Hallows students, as well as fifteen teachers, staff members, administrators, alumni and friends gathered for a morning of awareness about prostate cancer. The program was accomplished with the sponsorship of "Ed Randall's "Fans for the Cure" Foundation. Ed is a 1970 graduate of All Hallows and is a prostate cancer survivor. The morning began with a presentation from some medical experts from Winthrop University/NYU Cancer Center. There were also a couple of testimonies about personal struggles with prostate cancer, treatment and awareness.

Following a prayer, the group proceeded to complete a 3K walk around the adjacent Joyce Kilmer Park in an effort to bring awareness to this cause. During the walk, medical technicians from Winthrop University Medical Center conducted free PSA screenings for men. Through sponsors and donations, the group raised \$700.00 for prostate cancer research and awareness. The members of the All Hallows community hope that they will continue to be advocates for prostate cancer awareness as this annual walk and others serve to help us live out our motto for this year, "We are one Bread, We are one Body."

- Br. Jim Hamilton



Top: Students from All Hallows pose prior to the walk.

Bottom: Mrs. Maureen Pagan, P.A., Director of Surgical Services, Winthrop Univ. Medical Center addresses All Hallows students participating in the walk.





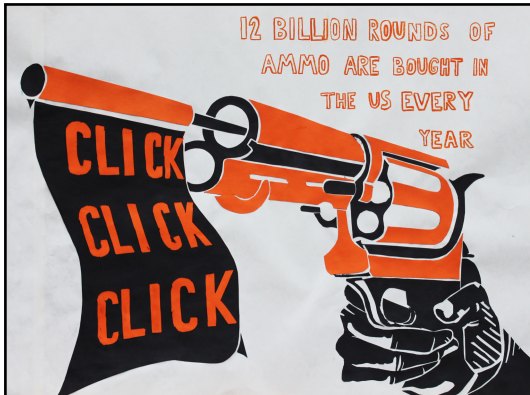
FROM NEGATIVE TO POSITIVE @ IONA PREP

For the 2017-2018 school year, Iona Preparatory's faculty and staff have been using advocacy as the central theme in guiding the professional learning communities (PLC's) in each academic department. Departments met in the beginning of the year to outline the ways in which teachers could integrate human rights topics into their lesson plans throughout the year. Thus far, it has been a tremendous success, as many teachers have already connected their classroom content with the advocacy issues and helped students to better understand how they intertwine.

During the Fall of 2017, Iona Prep Director of Fine Arts, Matt Horton, created a project in his senior art class for students to learn about, and express through art, the realities of gun violence in the United States and around the world. The "Positive-Negative Gun Space" project challenged senior students to create a visual depiction with a gun while using a specific, bright color to highlight the firearm in the work. Seniors also had to research statistics surrounding gun violence and decide whether to use statistics that supported or argued against gun ownership. The projects also had to be constructed in a way that demonstrated the use of a negative topic to bring a positive awareness to a topic that is often surrounded by polarization and negativity.

To see all of the projects and learn more about them, [click here](#):

[Gun Violence Video](#)



Iona Prep Advocacy Art Projects by Joseph Corrao (left) and Timothy Francois (right) highlight startling facts surrounding gun violence in the U.S.

FEAR THE BEARD @ BROTHER RICE CHICAGO

Contributed by Mike Dolan, Advocacy Coordinator,
Brother Rice Chicago

The Brother Rice Advocacy Club held its Second Annual "Fear the Beard" fundraiser for families dealing with pediatric cancer in the Chicago area. The money raised will be going to The Andrew Weishar Foundation (AWF), a group formed at Andrew's request during his last few months of his life.

Andrew Weishar was a distinguished Brother Rice graduate who passed away from colon cancer in at 21 years old. Because of Andrew's appreciation for the support he received during his battle with the illness, he wanted to be sure that the spirit of giving he experienced was passed on to other families in the same harrowing situation. Over the last five years the AWF has given over \$250,000, and countless hours of counseling, to families suffering from pediatric cancer.

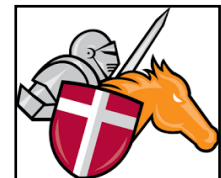
To personalize the experience for our students, each participant is encouraged to wear a button where he can write the name of a cancer victim for whom he wishes to dedicate his month in this appeal against pediatric cancer.

Today, Andrew's legacy lives on at Brother Rice, inspiring this November's school fundraiser. Junior Tom Gallagher shared his driving reason for getting involved in Fear the Beard: "I'm participating in Fear the Beard because of the meaning behind it. When you see a family struggling with pediatric cancer, oftentimes there is nothing you can do directly about it, but this fundraiser gives us an opportunity to really do something for those who need it most."

Brother Rice students were inspired by the "Beards for Bros" program at O'Dea High School, and are grateful for the advice given to us by the faculty, staff, and students there.

In continuing Andrew's wish and legacy this holiday season, the Brother Rice Advocacy Club encouraged students, staff, family, and friends to participate by sponsoring a Crusader to reach the \$50 goal. All proceeds will be going to the Andrew Weishar Foundation with the focus of alleviating the struggles Chicago families who have children with pediatric cancer face throughout the holidays. To date, Brother Rice Crusaders have raised over \$6,000 for the foundation.

The Advocacy Club at Brother Rice-Chicago is already planning and training for its Spring project advocating for the environment, in accordance with the Papal encyclical Laudato Si. We are planting nectaring plants near existing milkweed plants to encourage the return of the Monarch butterfly; as well as training to keep two hives of honeybees, to raise awareness of environmental destruction. Our hope is to use the bees to help the plants in Br. Tom Collins' already prodigious garden.



Students wearing t-shirts and pins in support of Brother Rice Chicago's Fear the Beard campaign to support families affected by Pancreatic Cancer.



ADVOCACY COORDINATORS WORKSHOP IN GENEVA



Advocacy Coordinators from the Edmund Rice Christian Brothers and Presentation Brothers attended a meeting held in Geneva from October 9 to October 12. The focus of the meeting was to put a plan together on how to work together in schools. Representatives from the networks of the Edmund Rice Christian Brothers and Presentation Brothers came from South Central Africa, Ireland, Northern Ireland, England, East Africa, Ghana, Oceania and South America.



Participants pose during the 2017 Advocacy Coordinators meeting held in Geneva, Switzerland. Advocacy Coordinators from 5 continents attended the meeting to discuss ways in which advocacy coordinators could better work together in schools.

WE ARE WITNESSES

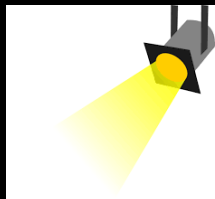
(Courtesy of *The New Yorker* and the Marshall Project)



Brother Michael Maher serves as one of the Directors for the Smart Justice Network of Canada. This organization is a non-partisan network of volunteers who work together to promote “responsbile, fair, humane, efficient and financially smart ways of responding to criminal and social justice challenges.” The Smart Justice Network advocates for changes across many topics, but focuses particularly on advocating for changes that prevent crime, promote social justice and reduce the risks of repeat criminal behavior. Brother Michael works directly with restorative justice, which recognizes that crime is more than just the act, and focuses on repairing harm caused by such behavior by involving all stakeholders in cooperative resolutions.

Brother Michael’s work with restorative justice often involves the shortcomings and issues brought about by the criminal justice system in the U.S. In the United States, the number of incarcerated Americans has risen to a staggering 2.2 million people, a number now four times larger than it was in 1980. Brother Michael recently shared a piece featured in *The New Yorker*, produced in conjunction with The Marshall Project, which highlighted the “human costs” of incarcerating such a huge number of people. The *We Are Witnesses* project paints a portrait of this criminal justice system and the many effects it has across the spectrum of the United States.

To read about and watch these videos, click here: [We Are Witnesses](#)



ADVOCACY SPOTLIGHT: Week of the Peacemaker at Iona College:

"Self+Other+Earth= A Formula for the Future"



Between November 5-10, Iona College celebrated its annual Week of the Peacemaker on campus. This year's theme, "Self+Other+Earth=A Formula for the Future" was based on inter-connectedness as articulated in Laudato Si as well as Pope Francis' recent TED talk. Kareena Gore, Esq., Director of the Center for Earth Ethics at Union Theological Seminary, and daughter of former Vice President Al Gore, offered the keynote address surrounding climate change in our current political landscape. An advocacy fair, a teach-in and a Black Solidarity Day were all highlights of Iona's annual educational and advocacy week.

Iona College will sponsor "The Catholic Campus and Advocacy for Justice," a mini-conference to be held the afternoon of Friday, April 20, in the Mulcahy Gym, starting at 2:30 pm. Fr. Brian Massingale, STD, Theologian and Social Ethicist, at Fordham University, will deliver the keynote address. Breakout sessions will be offered, addressing a variety of advocacy issues, including topics such as: DACA and the Dream act, prison reform, death penalty, just wage, rights of refugees, human trafficking, and more.



Kareena Gore, Esq. gave the keynote address for Iona College's 2017 Week of the Peacemaker. (Photo courtesy of the Ionian)

ADVOCACY LINKS



Edmund Rice School Network

This is a link to the School Network, which comprises schools from the ERCBNA Province and the Latin American Region. This link contains information regarding schools and the various programs and activities in which the Office of Educational Services (OES) is involved.

[EDMUND RICE SCHOOLS](#)



Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM): Justice and Peace Alerts

An association of the leadership of men in religious and apostolic institutes in the U.S. The link below is to the CMSM publication "Justice Alert," which highlights areas where justice is needed and proposes direct action through advocacy. The ERCBNA Province is a member of CMSM.

[CMSM ALERTS](#)



Edmund Rice International (ERI):

Click below to access the most recent issues of Edmund Rice International's newsletter. This newsletter highlights the various areas of advocacy that ERI is involved in at the U.N. and beyond. Mission Frère-Advocacy works in concert with ERI.

[ERI NEWSLETTER](#)



Carbon Rangers: An e-newsletter published by Bro. Kevin Cawley, CFC, ERI Team and Executive Director of the Thomas Berry Forum for Ecological Dialogue at Iona College. Carbon Rangers creates awareness for climate change and advocates for responsible environmental stewardship.

[CARBON RANGERS](#)



Edmund Rice Latin America (LATAM):

The link below is to LATAM, the Edmund Rice Christian Brothers' Newsletter in Latin America. The Latin American Region and North American Province work closely together to promote justice in the Americas. Click below to see the great work being done in Latin America.

[LATAM](#)



Smart Justice Network of Canada:

Brother Michael Maher works with this organization to bring awareness to the criminal justice system. Brother Maher and his colleagues advocate for both offenders and victims through Restorative Justice, which advocates for the criminal justice system to address the harm(s) done through mechanisms of support, accountability and healing. Click below to learn more:

[SMART JUSTICE](#)



Edmund Rice Education Beyond Borders:

EREBB advocates for the rights of children to receive quality Catholic school education and brings together Edmund Rice Christian Brother Schools from around the world. Click below to access their website:

[EDMUND RICE BEYOND BORDERS](#)

CONTACT US

We are always looking for submissions and links from across the network and beyond!



Sean D'Alfonso
ERCBNA Advocacy Coordinator
NorAm Editor

spd@cbinstitute.org



www.ercbna.org

UPCOMING EVENTS



Dates TBA, Brother Kenneth Chapman Art Gallery, Iona College
Mission Frère-Haiti Haitian Artisans Art Gallery and Fundraiser



January 4-7, 2018, Kearny, New Jersey
ACTION Student Workshop



March 5-8, 2018, Long Branch, New Jersey
ERCBNA Office of Educational Services Campus Ministers Retreat



Friday, April 20, 2018, 2:30 PM, Iona College Mulcahy Gymnasium
"The Catholic Campus and Advocacy for Justice Conference"