

NorAm

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



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Mission Frère-Advocacy Newsletter

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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.

JUNE 2018



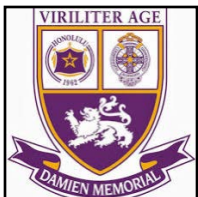
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50 Years Later: Remembering the Legacy of Martin Luther King Jr.

Below, find a release from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops commemorating the 50th anniversary of the April 4th, 1968 assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the call to justice that his legacy still implores today.



NEWS

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U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Administrative Committee Statement on the Life and Work of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

March 28, 2018

WASHINGTON— The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Administrative Committee has issued the following statement today marking the 50th anniversary of the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The Administrative Committee serves as the Board of Trustees for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The Committee's full statement follows:

"No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends" (Jn 15:13). April 4th marks 50 years since the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee. On this day, as we reflect on his life and work, we need to ask ourselves if we are doing all we can to build the culture of love, respect and peace to which the Gospel calls us. What are we being asked to do for the sake of our brother or sister who still suffers under the weight of racism? Where could God use our efforts to help change the hearts of those who harbor racist thoughts or engage in racist actions?

This anniversary gives us an important moment to draw inspiration from the way in which Dr. King remained undeterred in his principle of non-violent resistance, even in the face of years of ridicule, threats and violence for the cause of justice. Dr. King came to Memphis to support underpaid and exploited African-American sanitation workers, and arrived on a plane that was under a bomb threat. He felt God had called him to solidarity with his brothers and sisters in need. In his final speech on the night before he died, Dr. King openly referenced the many threats against him, and made clear that he would love a long life. But more important to him, he said, was his desire to simply do the will of God.

Our faith urges us to be courageous, to risk something of ourselves, in defending the dignity of our neighbor who is made in the image of God. Pope Francis reminds us often that we must never sit on the sidelines in the face of great evil or extreme need, even when danger surrounds us. St. Paul proclaims that: "We are afflicted in every way, but not constrained; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our body" (2 Cor. 4:7-10). We can best honor Dr. Martin Luther King and preserve his legacy by boldly asking God—today and always—to deepen our own commitment to follow His will wherever it leads in the cause of promoting justice."

Restorative Justice: The Key to Criminal Justice Reform

- Br. Michael Maher, CFC

OK. So we're angry at each other! Can we still have a future together?

Could changes in how to do justice spring from changes in our personal relationships? Whether in family or in citizen life, we offend, sometimes seriously, mostly without malicious intent. We are often anxious to fix our broken relationships. Restorative justice principles provide a way to a healthy and positive life together in family and community.

Restorative Justice is an approach to right relationships that seeks to acknowledge wrong-doing, to stop the hurt, and to establish right relationships in a community context after an offence occurs. The best known RJ practice is the circle where all can speak their piece and be heard respectfully by the community. The circle includes all those impacted by the offence and works towards consensus in what offers satisfactory resolution. In criminal cases, some circles happen before sentencing, some after, and some during incarceration. This approach is

no easy-out for either victim or offender; many offenders and victims who undertake the principles say that it is rather far easier to accept punishment as a resolution. But the harm festers when not addressed.

If we focus on 'punishment and walk away' or 'separate and punish' for resolution, there is no room for fixing the harm caused to either victim or offender. For the most part when we speak casually of justice, we really mean punishment. Restorative justice invites us to recognize that when an offence happens, personal or communal, harm is not just to the authority or state but to an individual, a family and a community. We have not just broken a law or a rule; we have harmed someone. Victims have repeatedly voiced the failure of our various systems to address their personal pain, even sometimes alleging that the current justice system re-victimizes them. Offenders struggle to find ways to regret their harmful actions and to offer sincere and committed reform. For them, the impersonal and sometimes violent system often leads to hardened hearts and repeat offending, leaving them without a way to re-enter family and community.

Restorative justice was first raised up among Aboriginal peoples and came to the non-Indigenous via alternate responses to youth crime. As the principles transferred to adult crime, proponents realized that restorative justice offers a model for right relationships for everyone.

Today this restorative justice vision of relationship is supplanting more and more the angry and vengeful response to deep hurt and painful confrontations in personal, social, community, and professional life. A quality life in community demands this different approach.

Abraham Lincoln concluded his first speech to the nation after the US civil war with these words:

"We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory will swell when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature."



With many years of experience in studying, and following Restorative Justice, Michael Maher works as one of the Directors of the Smart Justice Network of Canada.

To learn more about Restorative Justice, read the following article from the National Catholic Reporter:

Restorative Justice

Mission Frère-Haiti

The Edmund Rice Christian Brothers North America Mission Frère-Haiti program and its partners continue to make impacts on Haiti through the sale of art.



On the 2017 Mission Frère-Haiti Immersion trip, the ERCBNA Province purchased a number of pieces of artwork from the Haiti Artisans Program. This program, which is facilitated by the Sisters of Jesus and Mary, is a collaboration of Haitian Artists whose artwork is sold to benefit housing, medical and educational initiatives in Jean-Rabel, Haiti. This past February, this art was sold in conjunction with Iona College's Black History Month installation at its Kenneth Chapman Art Gallery. Through the sale of this art, the Mission Frère-Haiti program raised more than \$500.00 which will be used by the Sisters of Jesus in Mary for their programs in Jean-Rabel.

This August, Brother Kevin Griffith, ERCBNA Province Leader, Sean D'Alfonso, ERCBNA Advocacy Coordinator and five students from Iona Prep will join with staff and students from Archbishop McCarthy High School in Florida on the 2nd Annual Mission Frère-Haiti Immersion trip. This year, the group will bring donated supplies down to Borgne, Haiti which will be distributed during the camp that the group will facilitate for local children. During the trip, the group will also obtain more local artwork to be sold upon returning back to the United States.

To learn more about this art, click here: [Haiti Art](#)



Via Iona College's Brother Kenneth Chapman Art Gallery, the Mission Frère-Haiti program raised more than \$500.00 to benefit housing, medical and education programs run by the Sisters of Jesus and Mary in Jean-Rabel Haiti.

Advocating for Veterans with SABER

Through their SABER (Student Advocates of Blessed Edmund Rice) group, students at Bishop Hendricken High School continue to raise awareness of and advocate for veterans' needs.



Throughout the 2017–2018 school year, members of Bishop Hendricken’s SABER club have continued their mission to bring awareness to the needs of veterans in Rhode Island. SABER has used social media to post statistics and stories about the needs of veterans on its Facebook page. Additionally, the group hosted its second–annual food drive this spring for Operation Stand Down RI, a group



Hendricken student Damon Castiglieo ('19) and other SABER members hosted a food drive for Operation Stand Down RI, a veterans support group.

dedicated to helping veterans secure housing, employment and other assistance. The drive brought in items such as boxed and canned goods, pasta, and other staples for veterans in need. SABER continues to both raise awareness of and advocate for veterans’ needs in the state of Rhode Island as well as take direct action in supporting these needs.

To learn more about SABER, please visit their Facebook page below:

[SABER](#)

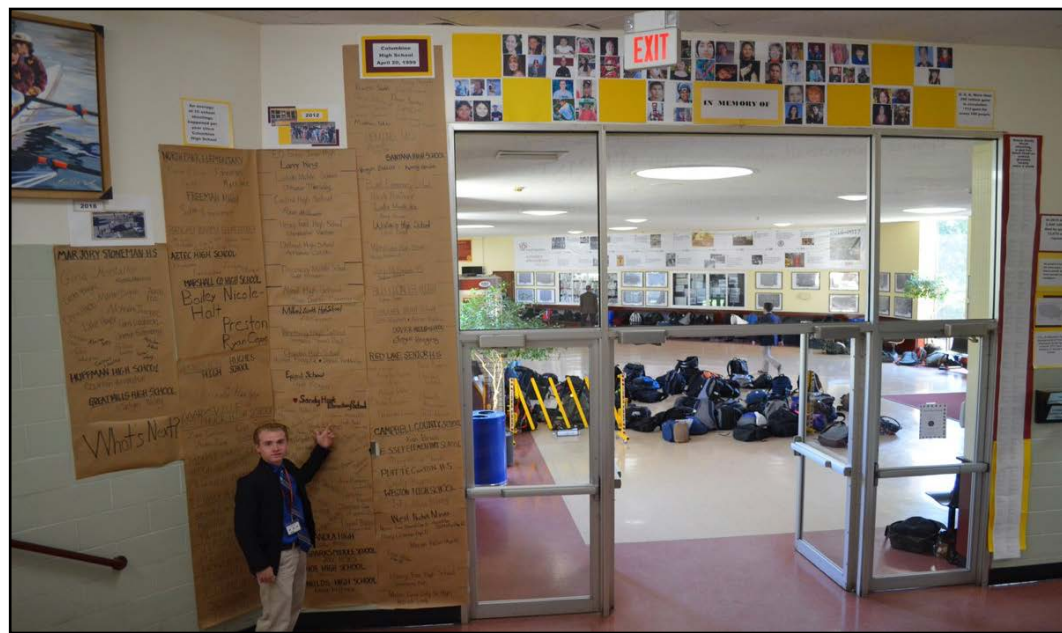
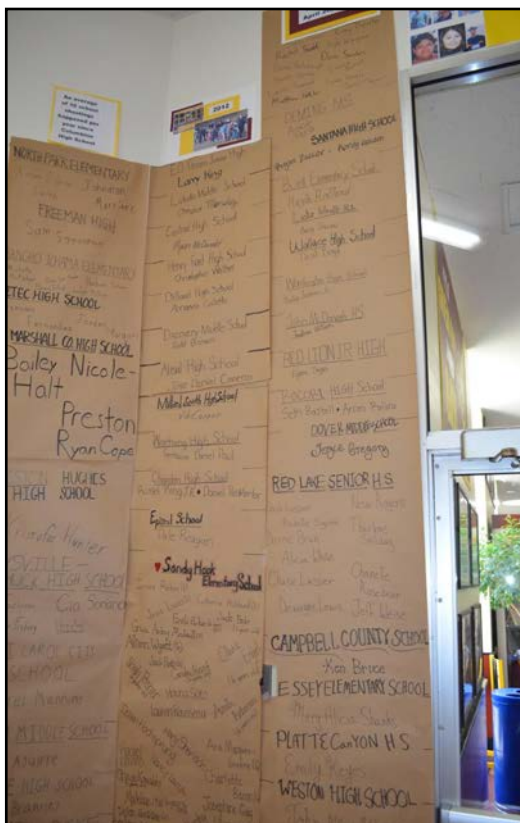
ADVOCACY AT IONA PREP



Students in the Human Rights Club at Iona Prep are continuing their quest to make the world a better place, most recently through their efforts to continue to raise awareness of the lives lost to gun violence.

After Edmund Rice Christian Brother Schools in the U.S. and Canada participated in the March 14th Day of Action surrounding gun violence, students from Iona Prep's Human Rights Club wanted to do more to continue the conversation. Greatly affected by the Parkland tragedy and in commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the Columbine High School shooting, Human Rights Club members wanted to do more to remember the victims of these tragic school shootings and to raise awareness at Iona Prep of just how prevalent these shootings are occurring in the United States.

The students researched recent school shootings in the United States and identified the victims of each shooting. The Human Rights Club members created a timeline of these shootings and wrote the names of the hundreds of victims, while posting dozens of pictures of those who have perished in these events. Additionally, club members researched and posted startling statistics surrounding gun violence in the United States since Columbine in an effort to continue the conversation and to promote leaders to make change.



(Above) Iona Prep Human Rights Club member Ryan Murphy ('18) poses with the mural he and other club members helped create. (Left) The mural contains the names and photos of the hundreds of victims of school shootings that have occurred in the United States in recent years.

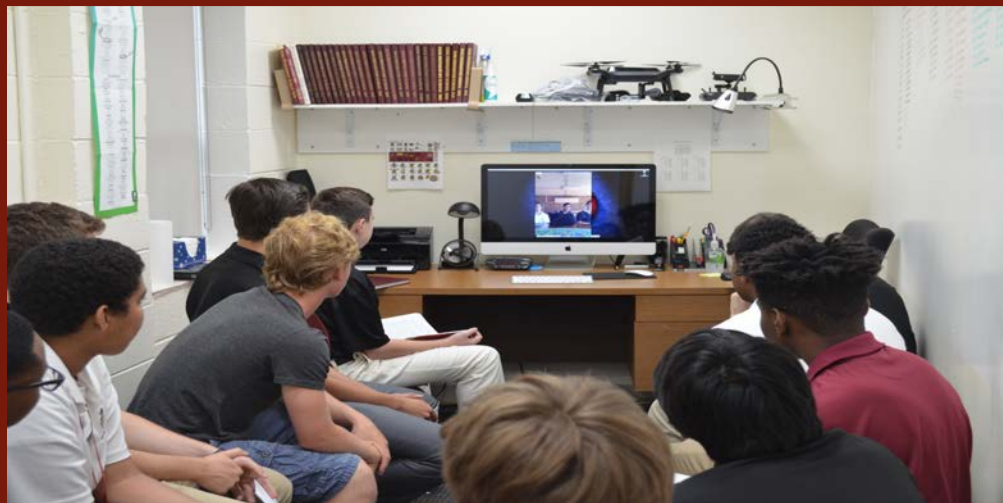
Edmund Rice Global Networking

On May 22nd, students from Iona Prep's Human Rights Club had the chance to meet and discuss human rights issues with students from Edmund Rice Christian Brother partner school Colegio Cardenal Newman in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Thanks to 21st-century technology, no traveling was needed, as students utilized the internet to discuss these issues via a video conference.

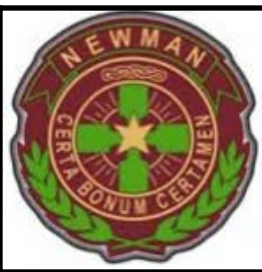
Prior to the video conference, students from both schools researched the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and identified specific rights that are being violated in their respective home country. Iona Prep students researched a number of rights, but ultimately decided to research and discuss Article 3 (the right to life, liberty and security) and Article 26 (the right to education), while students from Newman researched Article 5 (the right to be free from torture). The conference began with Newman students discussing torture in their home country of Argentina, particularly related to the abuses of

Article 5 from torture that occurred during the Falklands War. Students from Iona Prep spoke to their Argentine counterparts about the broken education system in the United States, and the lack of funding and opportunities that students in poor communities face, particularly students of color. Students had the opportunity to question their counterparts to learn more about the situations surrounding human rights and to learn more about pertinent issues in the United States and Argentina.

The groups plan on conferencing again in the near future. A large thank you to Guillermo Bullrich, the Advocacy Coordinator for the Edmund Rice Christian Brother Latin America Region, and to Iona Prep Human Rights Club's co-moderators, Mrs. Christine Chana and Mrs. Patricia Gray for helping to organize and facilitate the event.



Iona Prep Human Rights Club members at the May 2018 video conference with students from Colegio Cardenal Newman in Buenos Aires, Argentina.



Iona Prep Human Rights Club members before their human rights video conference with Colegio Cardenal Newman on May 22nd.



Sharing in Solidarity at Palma

– Mia Mirassou, Jim Micheletti



Students and staff members from Palma School in Salinas, California continue to stand in solidarity with and advocate for the marginalized in their community. Earlier this year, the school continued its ministry at Soledad State Prison, where the school community held a retreat for inmates and prison staff. In August of 2018, Palma will continue this ministry by holding a Mass and facilitating presentations by inmates and school faculty and staff surrounding the “Prodigal Son,” where participants will share how they might have embodied each character of the parable throughout their lives.

Earlier this year, senior theology students from Palma participated in the school’s mini-immersion on Soledad Street, where hundreds of individuals experiencing homelessness live. Throughout the academic year, these senior students would take a day out of school to provide blankets, tents and food to those experiencing homelessness. More importantly, the students spent time sharing stories and spending time being present and standing in solidarity with these individuals.

To read more about Palma’s 2017 prison retreat, click below:

[Prison Retreat](#) (TheCalifornian.com)



Students and staff from Palma during the school’s mini-immersion trip serving and standing in solidarity with the homeless.



Palma staff members Tracy Jones (left) and Raul Rico (center) are led on a tour of Soledad State Prison during a retreat the school community led at the prison this year.

Autism Awareness at All Hallows

– Br. Jim Hamilton



On Saturday, April 28, eighty All Hallows students, faculty members and guests walked 5 kilometers around the school's adjacent Joyce Kilmer Park to raise awareness of Autism and to raise funds for **"Autism Speaks,"** a group dedicated to advocating for those with Autism. **Autism Speaks** provides care, education and research into treatments for this often misunderstood disease. Before the walk, participants gathered in the school library to watch some brief videos about Autism and to listen to some personal testimonies from members of the All Hallows family. One student gave an emotional testimony about his autistic fourteen year old brother and of the joys and challenges of taking care of him. A student's mother spoke about how she is a special education teacher and that many of the students she works with are autistic. One of her suggestions was to be more aware of these young people and to respect them for the beautiful people they are by being patient, kind and understanding. Another student spoke about his experience, when as a younger child he was tested because he exhibited autistic tendencies. He spoke of how, through therapy and guidance, he no longer exhibits the mild autistic characteristics. In total, the participants raised over \$500.00 for "Autism Speaks," but more importantly raised their awareness about this challenging condition.

To learn more about Autism Speaks, click below:

[Autism Speaks](#)



(Above) Participants gather at All Hallows' entrance before the 5K walk for Autism. (Below) Participants spent time watching videos to learn more about Autism.



From the Edmund Rice Christian Brothers Latin America Region mission magazine, LATAM, the following article recounts the rich blessings from ten years of immersion trips led by Brothers Stephen Casey and Paul Keohane.



Building a beautiful city

The immersion groups' program formally began in 2008 in Lima. Since then, hundreds of missionaries have had experiences of service in Peru and Bolivia. Brothers Stephen Casey and Paul Keohane accompany the families and the immersion groups that arrive in Lima.

BY PAUL KEOHANE & STEPHEN CASEY

In 2008, the Province of North America negotiated the possibility of working together in a new adventure with the Latin America Region.

The immersion program was conceived as a way of providing support to families living in extreme poverty in the Latin American Region; and to offer a space for reflection and service to members of the Americas' Network, through a real experience of immersion in the world of the most impoverished.

Both parties, the Province of North America and the Latin American Region, allocated human, financial and technical resources that would make this idea possible. Since then, Brother Stephen Casey, representing the Province of North America, and Brother Paul Keohane,

representing the Latin America Region, took up the challenge.

The community of Las Flores was transformed into the Hendricken House, in honor of the financial contribution made by the Hendricken School from Rhode Island.

The first participants of the program were members of the network of schools in the United States and Canada: students, parents and staff volunteered to live this attractive experience that would last one to two weeks, in Peru or Bolivia.

So far, more than 100 immersion groups have lived this experience in Lima and Cochabamba. Sadly, the immersion groups from North America discontinued their visits to Cochabamba due to the high migratory taxes imposed by the Bolivian government. However, the staff, students and teachers of Stella Maris School in Uruguay and Cardinal Newman School in Argentina, are currently living a week of immersion in Cochabamba, Bolivia, along with some other members of the Latin American Network.

As part of the immersion program in Lima, each group builds a prefabricated house for a family. These families live in extreme poverty in

Left. Immersion group from Catholic Memorial School, New Rochelle, in 2015.

Below. Alumni from Brother Rice High School, in 2014.



Canto Grande and Jicamarca, two neighborhoods hit hard by poverty in Lima.

Building a prefabricated house costs approximately \$ 1,500. Each immersion group gathers a sufficient amount of money to build a small house and many times make small donations of school supplies or medicine for the people.

As preparation prior to the experience, the immersion groups carry out activities to obtain funds for the trip to Lima or Cochabamba.

Both brothers in charge of the program also work hard in preparation for the arrival of the immersion groups. First they visit the families on the hills of Canto Grande and Jicamarca, and along with the neighbors of the area, they decide which family should receive a prefabricated house. The needs assessment of the beneficiary families is based on a single indicator: that it be a family living in extreme poverty and urgently needs a house.

Families are often single-parent with at least 4 children. A requirement to have a prefabricated house is that the family should be able to contribute, with work, to the construction of the house.

The Brothers and the immersion group transport the material to the hill where the house will be built.

After building the house, the brothers monitor the family through visits, accompanying them to solve small difficulties related to the education of the children, health or sanitation.

The immersion program changes lives not only of families, that now live in better conditions, as well as benefiting the volunteers who have had life-changing experiences in their work with the people.



Hellos and goodbyes

When he turned 18, Brother Stephen Casey made an important decision that would change his life, and of course his residence. He decided to join the Congregation of Christian Brothers. Stephen studied at a Brothers high school, Power Memorial Academy, a boys' school in the Archdiocese of New York, that the Brothers administered until June 1984 when it closed. The school was well known for its basketball team, producing several NBA players such as Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Len Elmore, Mario Elie, Chris Mullin and even an NBA referee, Dick Bavetta.

Brother Stephen Casey is an educator, his specialty is history. He completed undergraduate studies at Iona College. Later, at St. Michael's University in Vermont, United States, he obtained a master's degree in theology.

He taught in different schools of the Brothers for 25 years, in schools like: Saint Lucia, All Hallows, Catholic Memorial and Bishop Hendricken.

In 1986, Brother Stephen visited Peru for the first time,



Brother Stephen Casey with an immersion group from Iona Preparatory School from New Rochelle, NY.

he lived an unforgettable 8-week immersion experience, where he spent 5 weeks visiting communities and ministries of the Brothers and three weeks in Lima with the Saint James Congregation, in Comas and Villa El Salvador. His experience of immersion coincided with one of the darkest times in the country, where the Shining Path and the government of Peru were engaged in a violent internal battle, while the poorest felt trapped between both sides.

But it was there, between that desperate and confusing situation, that Brother Stephen found his passion to serve the marginalized and help others to serve in a unique and face-to-face way, the same way as he had felt it.

After that experience that marked his life, he returned a few more times to Peru. In 2003 he participated in the Passover program, a three-months' program of the Congregation of Christian Brothers that promoted the cultural and spiritual exchange between brothers

I was standing on the hilltop in Jicamarca looking down over the vast valley and thinking to myself how very lucky I am to have this opportunity to live in this beautiful country 6 months each year. This week especially great, just chillin in Canto Grande and Jicamarca with the families I have come to love and admire. The people may be poor, but it's their generosity of joy and happiness that's most compelling to me. Many lessons learned from a grateful people. I stood atop that hill yesterday in awe and thanksgiving!

from different parts of the world. During the program, he lived with some 15 brothers from all the provinces of the Congregation.

After having lived the Passover experience, he thought it would be a good idea for not only brothers but also members of the wider Network to have similar experiences as well. In 2006 with a group of 10 people from Catholic Memorial, (7 students and 3 adults), Jim King, Kyle Woody and Stephen Casey, visited Canto Grande, Villa El Salvador and Tahuantinsuyo for 10 days. The experience was a success and in 2008 he returned to Lima, but this time with two immersion groups: Catholic Memorial and Bishop Hendricken.

Since that pleasant experience of 2006, Brother Stephen Casey now accompanies the immersion groups that come to Lima.

Brother Stephen shares his ministry between the Latin American Region and the Province of North America, spending six months on each side.

While he is in the United States, from July to December, he has the task of visiting all the Edmund Rice educational institutions in the United States and Canada, promoting the Immersion Program, giving testimony of the importance of the program and inviting others to participate in the experience.

Another mission that Stephen has is to organize activities to raise money for the Latin American Region.

From the classroom to the hills

When he was 17 years of age, Brother Paul Keohane embarked on an adventure that would take him to another continent, away from his beloved city, Cork, in Ireland. Inspired by his contact with many Brothers, Brother Paul joined the Congregation of Christian Brothers. He was trained as an educator at the Higher Institute of Education, Marino of Dublin, and graduated as a primary teacher.

After 8 years as a teacher, he held the position of principal in a primary school, while doing studies at the UCC, University College Cork, and later graduated as a secondary school teacher.

In 1987 he was invited to leave his beloved Ireland, cross the Atlantic Ocean and serve in an unknown South American land, Paraguay. After a long trip he arrived to Lima and spent 14 weeks learning Spanish at the Saint James Lanaguage School. During that time he lived in a Brothers' community in Lince from September to December of that same year.

On January 28th of the following year he moved to Paraguay, where he lived for one year in Coronel Bogado. At the beginning of 1989,

Paul moved to a new community in Asunción. There he worked in the Verbo Divino School and also accompanied the people of Bañado Tacumbú. He remained in Paraguay for 7 and a half years. From 1995 to 2000 he was provincial delegate of the communities of River Plate, Argentina. In June of 1996 he moved to the +Cardinal Newman College community, where he was the overall principal of the school until the end of 2000.

Brother Paul has been characterized by his great dedication to promote the pastoral ministry in the Cardinal Newman School. For many years he encouraged students and alumni to work supporting the poorest and the homeless living in the streets of Buenos Aires. With the alumni he formed a group of volunteers to organize retreats and missions until the end of 2008. That year he was elected as a member of the Leadership Team of the newly formed Latin American Region, and at the beginning of March, 2009, he moved to Lima to work in formation of new brothers.

In late 2009 and early 2010, he replaced Br. Jim Glos who was organizing the construction of prefabricated houses with immersion groups in Canto Grande.

Since then, the hills of Canto Grande and Jicamarca have become his second home. He accompanies the immersion groups and makes frequent visits to families.

Brother Paul Keohane in 2015 on a hill of Canto Grande, with an immersion group of alumni from Cardinal Newman School of Buenos Aires.



IMMERSION GROUPS

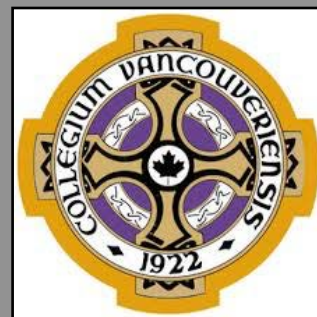
2018



Jan (03-14) Iona College, New York
Jan (18-21) Bergen Catholic (grup 1), New Jersey
Jan (26-01+) Bergen Catholic (grup 2), New Jersey
Feb (03-08) Iona Prep, New Rochelle, NY
Feb (14-20) Catholic Memorial, Boston
Apr (03-10) Cardinal Newman, students
Apr (11-17) Hendricken, Rhode Island
Apr (20-27) Cardinal Newman, students
May (02-09) Cardinal Newman, fathers and sons
May (13-20) Cardinal Newman, teachers
May (25-02+) Cardinal Newman, mothers
Jun (09-15) Brother Rice, Michigan
Jun (16-23) Palma, Salinas, California
Jun (26-05+) C.B.C Freemantle, Perth
Jul (06-14) C.B.C Lewisham, Sydney
Jul (19-25) Iona Prep, fathers and sons
Jul (27-02+) Saint Laurence, Chicago
Aug (09-16) Stella Maris, teachers
Aug (23-30) Stella Maris, students

Learning from the Border

– Lilian Vernier, Vancouver College



This past spring break, a team of eleven Vancouver College students and three teachers had the opportunity to travel to Brownsville, Texas, one of the southernmost cities in United States. Located at the tip of Texas along the US-Mexico border, this city primarily consists of Spanish speaking immigrants, and has one of the highest poverty rates in the nation. Over the course of our seven days in Brownsville, we served at Guadalupe Regional Middle School, helped at immigration centers, worked with a local parish and community, participated in the community garden program, and celebrated Mass. Throughout the trip, we constantly had the opportunity to put ourselves in solidarity with the poor and to listen to their stories. By connecting with the people on a personal level, we were able to get a glimpse into their lives and the immense struggles that these people are facing everyday. It really felt like we were making an impact on their lives. Although the trip is over, we know that there is still much work needed in this area. Our trip to Brownsville was the first step that opened our eyes to the many issues with immigration today. We are so grateful for this experience, which has widened our perspective and helped us grow emotionally and spiritually.

To learn more about the issues that those seeking asylum in Brownsville face, click below:

[CNN ARTICLE BROWNSVILLE](#)



Vancouver College students visited Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley to serve those seeking asylum in the United States.



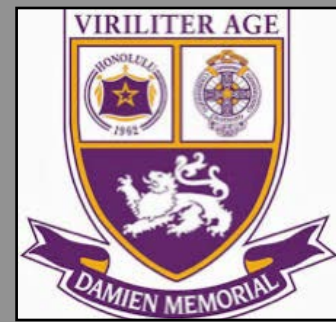
Vancouver College students pose for a picture at the border fence separating Matamoros, Mexico and Brownsville, Texas.



Eleven students and three teachers from Vancouver College spent their Spring Break in Brownsville, Texas learning about immigration.

Praying for Change

– Jeremiah Carter, Damien Memorial



For the 3rd year Damien Memorial School students from Campus Ministry Club, Women in Leadership Class, and Student Government gathered at the Hawaii State Capitol building on Wednesday, May 10, for the feast of Saint Damien. While there, students prayed publicly for the homeless and included a prayer of thanksgiving for legislative efforts on behalf of the poor and homeless. Students also presented leis and flowers at the statue of St. Damien located prominently in front of the State Capital. Other Catholic schools, religious, clergy, faith-based, and non-profit organizations also gathered to pray at the event.

(Right) Read the prayer that Damien students used at the State Capitol in Honolulu on May 10, Saint Damien's feast day.



Students and staff members from Damien Memorial pose for a picture with St. Damien's statue before praying for the homeless at the state capital on his feast day, May 10. Pictured with the group are the Bishop of Honolulu, Larry Silva (far left) and Provincial of The Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, Herman Gomes (far right).

Prayer for the Homeless May 10, 2018

Loving God, almost a century and a half ago, our inspired patron, Saint Damien of Moloka'i, witnessed the suffering of the most needy of our islands and gave up everything to serve them. We believe that if Father Damien came to us today with the same passion and the same unselfish desire to serve the most needy among us, he would turn his attention to our brothers and sister who are homeless.

So we ask that you hear our prayer today for all women and men, boys and girls who are homeless this day. For those sleeping under banyan trees, on park benches, in doorways, or at bus-stops. For those who can only find shelter for the night but must wander in the daytime. For families broken because they could not afford to pay the rent. For those who have no relatives or friends who can take them in. For those who are afraid and hopeless. For all these people, we pray that you will provide shelter, security, and hope.

We pray for those of us with secure houses and comfortable beds that we not be lulled into complacency. O God, help us to see you in the eyes of every homeless person we meet so that we may be empowered through word and deed and through participation in the political process to bring justice and peace to those who are homeless, as we are sure Father Damien would.

Loving God, standing here at our state's capitol and with this powerful image of our holy patron, we pray also for the Hawaii State Legislature as we thank them for being responsive to the plight of the homeless.

During the session that ended last week, our lawmakers provided \$15 million in funding that will give the State flexibility to continue proven programs like Housing First, Rapid Rehousing, Outreach to Homeless, including Youths on the Streets, civil legal services, Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) to divert homeless to social services instead of arresting them, and the Kakaako Family Assessment Center, operated by Catholic Charities Hawaii.

The legislature provided funding to help stop the flow into homelessness through financial aid to families facing eviction and short term help to get them back on their feet through the Coordinated Statewide Homeless Initiative: CSHI.

Funding has been provided for a partnership with hospitals to develop Emergency Department Assessment programs to lead the homeless coming to the emergency room to social services and better care, and for the partnership to develop a Medical Respite pilot project to care for the homeless being discharged who need more care versus returning straight to the streets.

We thank the Legislature for their efforts to give the homeless a safe place to temporarily live through Ohana Zones and pilot programs including wrap-around services.

The Legislature took a bold step forward to create more rental housing with their \$200 million allocation to the Rental Housing Revolving Fund to build new rentals for our ohana with incomes at 60% or below of the Area Median Income.

We thank our lawmakers and our governor for this and other legislation in support of the poor and homeless among us, and we ask you, loving God, to continue to open their hearts to those most in need of the people of Hawai'i.

*We ask all this through Jesus, our Lord and Brother. Amen.
Saint Damien. Pray for us. Blessed Edmund Rice. Pray for us.
Live, Jesus, in our hearts. Forever.*



ADVOCACY SPOTLIGHT: 13TH

In recent years, racial tensions have been brought back to the forefront of U.S. headlines, ignited by events across the country, most recently in Charlottesville, Virginia and Baltimore, Maryland. These events and the places in which they occurred have called to mind the legacy of racism in the United States and how this legacy is felt more than 150 years after the abolition of slavery.

Ava Duvernay's 2016 documentary - *13th* - explores the "intersection of race, justice and mass incarceration in the United States." The film traces the roots of the current plight of mass incarceration, and its consequent toll on communities of color back to the ratification of the 13th Amendment and the so called "punishment clause." In *13th*, Duvernay shows how this "punishment clause," which excluded prisoners from the protections of the 13th Amendment, has allowed the perpetuation of slavery until the present-day through practices such as mass incarceration, the War on Drugs and the prison-industrial complex. Inevitably, these practices, along with racially biased legislation since the Post-Civil War era, have largely contributed to the demise of poor communities of color in the United States.

To see a preview of the documentary, click below:

[13th Documentary](#)



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](#)



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](#)



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](#)



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](#)



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](#)



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 Justice Desk South Africa:

A partner of Edmund Rice International, "The Justice Desk strives to advocate, educate and equip in the area of Human Rights, justice and advocacy." They operate in South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe and offer support, expertise and educational materials to groups across the globe.

[THE JUSTICE DESK](#)



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 Education Beyond Borders](#)

PRISON REFORM LINKS

Bro. Michael Maher invites you to read the articles below that shed light on the need for prison reform:

Don't kick the can down the road on prison reform...

The Hill.com - Bernard B. Kerik

[Prison Reform Article 1](#)

No One Is Watching: Jail in Upstate New York

VERA Institute of Justice (US) – Jack Norton

[Prison Reform Article 2](#)



KAIROS CANADA VIDEO



While the Easter Season is now behind us, the following, powerful video from Kairos Canada can remind us all year of the promise of the Resurrection and the hope that it brings to seemingly hopeless violations of human rights and dignity throughout our world.

[Kairos Canada](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS



**AUGUST 5-11, 2018 - BORGNE, HAITI
2ND ANNUAL MISSION FRÈRE-HAITI IMMERSION TRIP**



**SEPTEMBER 18, 2018 - 12:00 PM- NEW ROCHELLE, NY
2ND ANNUAL BROTHER CORNELIA LECTURE
KEYNOTE SPEAKER JESSICA DEWHURST
(PLEASE SEE DETAILS ON NEXT PAGE)**



**SEPTEMBER 20-23 2018 - JACKSONVILLE, FL
ACTION STUDENT LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP**



**OCTOBER 25-28, 2018 - LOCATION TBA
ERCBNA ADVOCACY COORDINATORS WORKSHOP
DETAILS TBA**



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2nd Annual Br. Cornelia Lecture



Jessica Dewhurst

Director and Co-Founder
The Edmund Rice Justice Desk

Jessica Dewhurst is a human rights defender, Edmund Rice International (ERI) United Nations (UN) Youth Ambassador from South Africa. She holds an undergraduate, honors and master's degree in Social Development, specializing in Children's Rights and human trafficking. In high school, she volunteered with non-governmental organizations (NGO's) working with children affected by HIV Aids, refugee children, and children who have been victims of physical, sexual and emotional abuse. In 2012, she completed the Edmund Rice International Human Rights training at the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland and travelled the world as an ERI UN Youth Ambassador.

Jessica is the Co-Founder and Director of the Edmund Rice Justice Desk (ERJD). The organization focuses on advocating and educating society across South Central Africa in human rights, justice and advocacy.

She received numerous recognitions and awards. Among them are the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award, and The Presidents Gold Award for Youth Empowerment from South African President Jacob Zuma; and HRH Prince Edward, the Earl of Wessex and HRH Sophie, the Countess of Wessex. In 2016, Jessica received the Queen Young Leaders Award from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth in Buckingham Palace.

Jessica has dedicated her life to the fight for human rights across the globe.

SAVE THE DATE

September 18, 2018 at Noon

Sponsored by the office of Mission and Ministry