

NorAm

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



September 2018



Cover: 2018 Iona Prep
Father-Son Peru Immersion Trip

PALMA SCHOOL KNOWLEDGE • SERVICE • LEADERSHIP

4-6) Palma's Prison Retreats
California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation inmate James Jacobs, center, shakes hands with Palma Campus Ministry Director Jim Micheletti during a trip to the Correctional Training Facility in Soledad Monday.

(Juan Reyes — Monterey Herald)



1) IONA COLLEGE STUDENT INTERNS AT ERI

Iona College student Gabriella Suriel shares her experience interning for Edmund Rice International in Geneva.



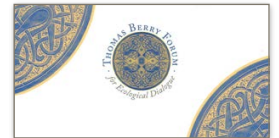
2) LEARNING THROUGH SERVICE

Tampa Catholic's faculty and staff spend a day living out the elements of an Edmund Rice Christian Brother Education by serving the homeless.



3) ADVOCACY IN THE RIO GRANDE VALLEY

Br. Arthur Williams shares his experience learning about advocacy efforts surrounding the separation of children and families at the U.S.-Mexican border.



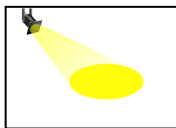
7) ZERO HOUR MARCH

Members of the Thomas Berry Forum at Iona College join with the Zero Hour March in New York City to advocate to stop climate change.



8) DEATH TO DEATH PENALTY

Pope Francis announces the Catholic Church's new "inadmissible" teaching of the death penalty.



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11) ONE HAND AT A TIME

Students at Brother Rice lend a hand to children around the world.



12) ENCOUNTERING JESUS IN ALL

How do we as members of the ERCBNA Network come to encounter Jesus in all we do?



13) UPCOMING EVENTS

MY INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE

-Gabriella Suriel, Iona College



Iona College student Gabriella Suriel spent her Spring Semester interning with Edmund Rice International in Geneva

After two long layovers, the wheels of my EasyJet flight finally touched ground on Geneva soil. I was nervous when I arrived in Geneva, not knowing exactly what I would be doing, but I was ready and excited to see what ERI had planned for me.

At the ERI office, I was able to observe Brothers Brian Bond, Kevin Mullan and Tino D'Abreu work throughout the day and help with the various tasks they needed aid on. This was a very insightful experience for me. I enjoyed seeing what type of work goes on behind the scenes at an NGO. I was inspired by everyone in the office for their dedication to advocating for the education and well-being of children worldwide. I helped write notes at side events, create a resourceful chart on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Universal Periodic Review data, write an article and create a graphic for the ERI Youth Ambassador social media.

My experience at the United Nations is one that I will not forget. When I first arrived at the Palais to get my badge, I was awestruck at the monumental size of the building compared to its New York counterpart. My days at the United Nations would consist of a large variety of things. I had the privilege to attend many informative side events and committee sessions. It was amazing to see what I had learned in the classroom come to light. I particularly enjoyed a side event I attended about the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and Austerity. I read Philip Alston's reports in school, and then I was able to see him and a panel of experts question the IMF representative on how their policies of austerity affect the human rights of millions in countries which they operate. I also attended a side event on the dignity of migrants and refugees. It opened my eyes on the issues of detention centers in the USA and abroad. I now feel inclined to learn more about this issue back home.

On my last week in Geneva, I had the opportunity to attend the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) review of Australia. It was very empowering to see the international community come together and fight for an improved quality of living, equality and human rights for women. It reminded me of the importance of the community to remind politicians and nations to always look towards improving human rights conditions and to policies as affecting people, not as numbers.

Reflecting back on my month in Geneva, I have learned so much in such a short amount of time. It has helped me see what type of future I want to have in the field of international politics. I have truly been inspired to continue advocating for the vulnerable both in my country and abroad. I look forward to taking what I have learned this month back to the Iona community and my work in the future. I thank Brian, Tito and Kevin along with my advisor Dr. Tricia Mulligan from Iona College for supporting me and making this all possible.

LEARNING THROUGH SERVICE

-Br. Chris Burns, Tampa Catholic



The Tampa Catholic High School faculty and staff began their school year with an untraditional back to school retreat. Following Mass, the entire faculty spent the day volunteering at Metropolitan Ministries, the largest facility in Tampa that serves homeless families and those experiencing poverty in Tampa. This organization feeds the hungry, provides shelter and clothing for the homeless and houses and educates the children of parents living at the shelter and who are going through difficult times. Principal Bob Lees organized the day, and thought it would be a wonderful way to put the Essential Elements of an Edmund Rice Christian Brother Education into practice. The experience was eye opening for all who participated, as they spent the day “standing in Solidarity with those Marginalized by Poverty and Injustice.”



Tampa Catholic's faculty and staff spent their back to school retreat by living out the Essential Elements of an Edmund Rice Christian Brother Education through their day of service at Metropolitan Ministries.

ADVOCACY IN THE RIO GRANDE VALLEY

—Br. Arthur Williams,
Guadalupe Regional Middle School
Brownsville, Texas



I recently attended a meeting of the Texas chapter of the ACLU for local citizen and representatives interested in immigration issues. Present were many folks who have advocated for immigration issues and I was one of the newer folks present. The main thrust of the meeting was about the children who are removed from their parents after arrest due to entering the U.S. undocumented. Many are asylum seekers from Central America who are walking across authorized crossing points: using sidewalks and across bridges. They are taken into custody at the bridge and their children are taken from them at that time. Adults are taken to the local jail while their children are placed into the custody of the "Office of Refugee Resettlement" and then on to the Texas Department of Human Services and the foster care system. The legal aid people tell us once the children are in the system, it is very difficult for parents to track where their children are. Listening to the comments from people frequently dealing with these issues, I have come to understand children are removed to Seattle, Pennsylvania, and other centers in Texas. Parents facing deportation often have difficulty locating their children as the deportation date nears.

The facilities where children are brought are closed to outside observers, which is understandable as these facilities house minor children. The media has made mention of an old Walmart building here in Brownsville being used by Southwest Key (NGO recognized by U.N. Human Rights Council) to house some of these children (I used to shop there!) The building sits on the edge of a shopping area and the guards are very sensitive to unwanted visitors and order such off the property. I believe Senator Jeff Merkley from Oregon can attest to this. This building mainly houses young boys. Unofficially I have learned that the "rooms" are little more than quadrangles created by "open cyclone fencing" with four or five boys to a quad. I have seen pictures online and they seem to fit with the description of folks involved in the system. There seems to be little to no privacy in the building. While medical facilities and education are being minimally addressed, the facilities are overcrowded and inadequate to accommodate the large number of "clients" living there. An important theme within the group was concern about the psychological effect of the loss of parents that is placed upon these young boys. I must assume that child protective services is adequate to ensure the safety and well-being of these children without independent oversight. I hope that is so. I am sure others have read reports of expanding the facilities of the "Office of Refugee Resettlement" using old military bases in Texas and around the country. This form of "child care" seems to be a thriving business.

In conjunction with the ACLU for Texas, a local civic group is involved in monitoring happenings at the border. Two activities they are leading include: 1) encouraging volunteers to stand at the international bridge from Mexico to Texas to observe and record the activities of Border Patrol Agents, who are often seen challenging pedestrians crossing into the US. Secondly, the group is involved with observing sessions in 'magistrate court,' which includes hearing cases that process undocumented immigrants. These hearings take place in federal court where undocumented immigrants are ordered to be deported.

Advocates told us about the process:

Defendants are escorted into court as a group and the charges are filed and responses given as a group. These groups may be as large as 30 to 60 people at a time. All cases are processed simultaneously. Defendants are advised to plead "guilty" and it seems there are consequences for not doing so, but I would not know about this.

There are two local federal courts where this is occurring - Brownsville and McAllen. Volunteers are tasked with recording what was being said and by whom. Also to record that case file number and time and date. Problems here are the court officers deny entry because the court is 'full'. However these sessions are open to the public. It may take a little firmness and perhaps stubbornness to gain entry. We were told Sr. Phyllis D.C. made a stand on this issue and gained entry. Seems at present when she is able to attend that court officers leave her space! Activists at the meeting and legal folks told us that the presence of observers changes the 'tone'.

This year, I hope to find ways in which our students and staff can advocate for these families and children.

TEACHERS LEARN LESSONS FROM INMATES AT PRISON

(Story Courtesy of Juan Reyes, Monterrey County Herald)

Soledad -On a regular trip by Palma High School faculty and staff to a state prison in Soledad this week, the school walked away with a special gesture that will help at least one student help pay for tuition this semester. Matthew Braden, an inmate at the Correctional Training Facility state prison and part of the Life-CYCLE (Careless Youth Corrected by Lifers' Experiences) program, handed out a jumbo cardboard scholarship check worth \$5,534.60 to Palma School Principal David Sullivan Monday. The scholarship was awarded to incoming junior Sion Newsome-Greene.



Palma School's faculty and staff led a retreat centered around the Prodigal Son for inmates at the Correctional Training Facility in Soledad, CA.

"(Life-CYCLE) is so moved with the relationship they have with our students and is inspired by them and their drive," said Palma Campus Ministry Director Jim Micheletti. "They keep going back to the idea that Palma is preparing these young men well. The one thing we talk about at Palma is that boys of promise become men of character and they're picking up on the character part."

Palma School has made regular visits to the Life-CYCLE group for the past four years as part of what it calls spiritual growth days. Life-CYCLE is a program in which older inmates mentor younger inmates on how to promote positive growth and give back to the community.

So far, the program has raised more than \$20,000 in scholarship funds and Micheletti said the inmates want to keep it going.

Micheletti said this isn't a one-time deal with Life-CYCLE and wants to see the relationship grow. Palma School has already teamed up with King City High to go inside the prison and plans to have Everett Alvarez High join in on trips scheduled later this year. (Continued on Page 5)

The group from Palma was supposed to meet with a little more than 60 inmates, but the prison was on lockdown after a riot that involved about 100 inmates took place Sunday morning. The lockdown prevented the large group of inmates from attending Monday's retreat.

But the staff and faculty were still able to hear from Correctional Training Facility inmates James Jacobs, Ted Gray and Braden, who presented the scholarship check. The staff and inmates were also split up into small discussion groups to share more of their life stories.

"It's always a good opportunity. It's a way for me to make a message out of our mess, so to speak," Jacobs said. "It feels like a blessing to come from the background that I come from with causing the harm that I have to my community to be able to transform that into something that can help the community."

Jacobs said he's particularly interested in helping teachers who are involved with wayward students. He believes it's always a blessing for him if he can reach out to those wayward students through the teachers.

Jacobs said what Palma is doing by bringing in staff and students to visit the prison and listen to stories by the inmates is important. He also likes how the faculty is so involved with students' lives outside of the classroom.

"I think that is a pivotal part of being a teacher," Jacobs said. "Not just that you give them information but that you build a person. You build a human being."

Kevin Eagleson, a writing and physical education teacher at Palma, said it's encouraging to see the inmates trying to make up for what they did by just becoming better people. He said giving the inmates a chance to apologize and make a change is powerful to watch, especially men who don't have a big chance of being released before getting too old.

"I think it's cool that they donated scholarships, that's huge," Eagleson said. "That has nothing to do with what we do."

Eagleson said it's an amazing statement, especially considering how little money an inmate earns. According to California Code of Regulations Title 15 Section 8006, an

to \$0.95 per hour in jobs that are in state-owned businesses also known as "correctional industries."

California Code of Regulations Title 15 Section 3041.2 states an inmate can earn anywhere from \$0.08 to \$0.37 per hour for half-time and partial full-time employment or \$12.00 to \$56.00 per month for full-time employment in a non-industry job. These are roughly equivalent rates that equal out to seven-hour work days at 22 days per month.

"And yet it's their commitment to Palma and to help kids," Eagleson said.

Palma Director of Marketing and Communications Roger Rybkowski has made several trips to the prison and said he knows inmates are truly finding a way to make amends. He said Life-CYCLE is not just a show for them. He believes inmates are turning their lives around and the program empowers them.

"That, for them, is vital as well as them being able to interact with some of the students here who are going to some of the finest universities in the country and treating them with the respect that they never got, ever in their whole lives," Rybkowski said. "And for us, it's the least likely of places to learn something."

(Continued on Page 6)

Palma School math teacher Jane Gallegos said she wasn't scared for her first visit to the prison and instead felt like the inmates gave her a sense of comfort.

"For them to be able to share their stories the way they did, I was really moved," Gallegos said.

Gallegos has a sister who works for Homeboy Industries, which provides hope, training and support to formerly gang-involved and previously incarcerated men and women. The Los Angeles-based program allows those people to redirect their lives and become contributing members in local communities.

Gallegos said she talked to her sister, who does counseling in prisons, on the phone and told her she wasn't afraid to visit the Correctional Training Facility. However, there was some intensity leading up to the trip, especially when she found out a riot broke out at the prison just a day before.

Gallegos said it probably would've been a better experience with everyone in attendance, but she was still left with quite an impression from Jacobs, Braden and Gray.

"It did meet my expectations, but I wish we'd had more interaction because I think of that kind of experience I've gone through like when I'm at Homeboy (Industries)," Gallegos said. "But it definitely makes me want to go back."

Palma will continue working with, and learning from inmates throughout the 2018-2019 school year and beyond.



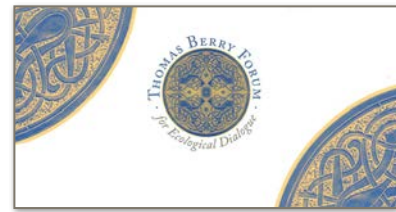
Palma's Campus Ministry Department has worked extensively with the Life CYCLE group at Soledad's Correctional Training Facility. Pictured above, members of the Palma School's faculty and staff tour the Correctional Facility during the 2017 retreat they led for inmates there.

(Photo- Chelcey Adami, thecalifornian.com)

California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation inmates Ted Gray, left, and James Jacobs visit the chapel at the Correctional Training Facility in Soledad. Gray and Jacobs, who are part of the Life-CYCLE group, joined Palma School teachers and staff who took a trip to the facility Monday.

(Juan Reyes — Monterey Herald)

BERRY FORUM MARCHES WITH ZERO HOUR YOUTH



On Saturday, July 21, two members of the Thomas Berry Forum for Ecological Dialogue joined several hundred young people in a march and demonstration in New York City to demand political leaders address the challenge of climate change. They joined Zero Hour youth who marched across midtown Manhattan and assembled in Dag Hammarskjold Park near the United Nations on First Avenue for a rally and speeches by young people on behalf of the planet. Zero Hour, which was founded by a group of teenagers, emerged this past year as an environmentally focused, creatively minded and technologically savvy nationwide coalition — trying to build a youth-led movement to sound the alarm and call for action on climate change and environmental justice.

The marchers stressed environmental justice in their remarks. Sr. Kathleen Deignan and Br. Kevin Cawley of the Berry Forum made the trip to NYC in a show of

support for the Zero Hour group and to recognize the importance of informed young voices to carry the message of climate justice to legislators everywhere.



Two members of the Zero Hour Youth March address the crowd gathered at Dag Hammarskjold Plaza in New York City.

(Photo: Kevin Cawley)

For the last year, a tight-knit group spanning both coasts has been organizing on social media. The teenagers kicked off their campaign with a protest on Saturday at the National Mall in Washington, along with sister marches across the country. As sea levels rise, ice caps melt and erratic weather impacts people everywhere, it is more clear now that time is running out.

A core group of Zero Hour membership met with a group of 40 federal legislators on July 19 in Washington to press their case for urgent action. The NYC March was held in tandem with multiple actions across the nation on Saturday.

To learn more about Zero Hour, click here: [Zero Hour](#)

CATHOLIC MOBILIZING NETWORK EMBOLDENED BY CATECHISM REVISION ON DEATH PENALTY

For Immediate Release:

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“The death penalty is inadmissible because it is an attack on the inviolability and dignity of the person”

Washington, DC - Catholic Mobilizing Network (CMN), the national Catholic organization working to end the death penalty and promote restorative justice, celebrates today’s revision of the Catechism of the Catholic Church to say that, in all cases, the death penalty is “inadmissible” (*Revised Catechism of the Catholic Church* 2267).

“Today is a capstone teaching moment for the Catholic Church. For people in the pews, it is a challenge to actively build a culture of life by abolishing the death penalty, especially in the 31 states that still have it on the books in this country,” stated Krisanne Vaillancourt Murphy, Executive Director of CMN.

Catholics have been encouraged by Papal and Church authority to seek abolition of the death penalty for over 20 years. When visiting St. Louis in 1999, Pope John Paul II called the death penalty “cruel” and “unnecessary.” The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops launched the Catholic Campaign to End the Use of the Death Penalty in 2005, which ultimately led to the formation of CMN. In 2011, Pope Benedict XVI renewed Pope John Paul II’s appeal to end the death penalty, and in his historic speech before the US Congress in September of 2015, Pope Francis called for a global abolition of capital punishment.

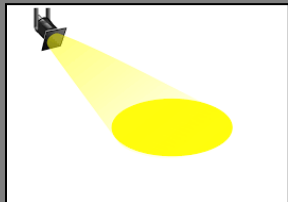
“In addition to papal proclamations, Catholic bishops in every state that has the death penalty have taken stands to see an end to this practice. Today’s action further clarifies any remaining ambiguity about the Church’s teaching against the death penalty and strengthens the global resolve to bring an end to this practice,” asserted Vaillancourt Murphy.

In the backdrop of today’s announcement, over 2800 people sit on death row in the United States. Fourteen executions are scheduled for the remainder of 2018, including three this month alone. Vaillancourt Murphy added, “These upcoming executions are a stark reminder that the death penalty is active in the United States, and it violates our commitment to the dignity of all life. The death penalty is a failed practice that perpetuates the cycle of violence and disproportionately targets marginalized populations, especially people of color, those living in poverty, and people suffering with mental illness.”

As CMN celebrates this declaration honoring the dignity of all life, it especially holds in prayer all those who have been victims of or impacted by grave harm. Longtime Catholic anti-death penalty advocate Vicki Schieber, whose daughter Shannon was murdered in 1998, rejoiced upon hearing this morning’s news: “I was ecstatic because it is so important that victims’ families have strong support from our faith leaders to end the death penalty. Shannon’s birthday is in six days, and I have no doubt that she is smiling from ear to ear saying, ‘Go Mom! Let’s get it done!’”

This revision affirms that every person, no matter the harm they have suffered or caused, has God-given dignity. May this call from the Catholic Church invigorate efforts to end the death penalty and promote more restorative approaches to harm.

For more information about Catholic Mobilizing Network or to sign the National Catholic Pledge to End the Death Penalty (#Pledge4Mercy), please visit: catholicsmobilizing.org

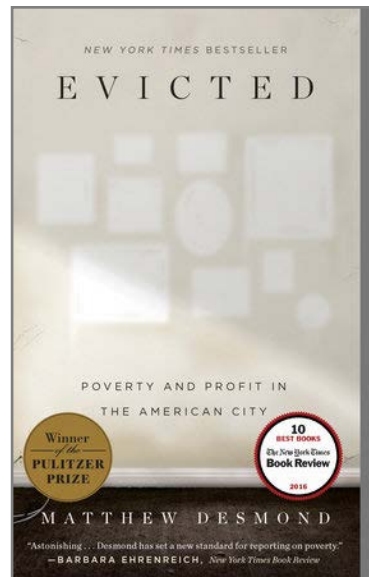


ADVOCACY SPOTLIGHT: EVICTED

"Even in the most desolate areas of American cities, evictions used to be rare. But today, most poor renting families are spending more than half of their income on housing, and eviction has become ordinary, especially for single mothers. In vivid, intimate prose, Matthew Desmond provides a ground-level view of one of the most urgent issues facing America today. As we see families forced into shelters, squalid apartments, or more dangerous neighborhoods, we bear witness to the human cost of America's vast inequality—and to people's determination and intelligence in the face of hardship.

Based on years of embedded fieldwork and painstakingly gathered data, this masterful book transforms our understanding of extreme poverty and economic exploitation while providing fresh ideas for solving a devastating, uniquely American problem. Its unforgettable scenes of hope and loss remind us of the centrality of home, without which nothing else is possible."

To learn more, click here: [EVICTED](#)



Mission Frère-Haiti Update



During the week of August 5-11, 2018, Brother Kevin Griffith, ERCBNA Province Leader, Sean D'Alfonso, ERCBNA Advocacy Coordinator and five students from Iona Prep were scheduled to travel to Haiti on the 2nd Annual Mission Frère-Haiti Immersion trip. Unfortunately, due to unsafe conditions in Haiti that resulted from [violent protests](#) in response to a gas price hike that led to airport closings and the resignation of the Prime Minister, the trip was postponed to a date to be announced. The Mission Frère-Haiti program will once again sell art during the fall semester at Iona College's Br. Kenneth Chapman Art Gallery.

Proceeds from these sales will go to support the work of the Sisters of Jesus and Mary in Jean-Rabel, Haiti.

In mid-October, Brother Kevin Griffith, ERCBNA Province Leader and Sean D'Alfonso, ERCBNA Advocacy Coordinator will travel to Haiti with Mr. Michael Maron, Bergen Catholic '77, CEO of Holy Name Hospital (Teaneck, NJ). The group will explore a possible partnership between the Edmund Rice Christian Brothers, Holy Name Hospital and Hôpital Sacré Coeur in Milot, Haiti.



Team members from the 2017 Mission Frère-Haiti Immersion Trip.



ADVOCACY LINKS



Edmund Rice Christian Brothers North America Province Website

The ERCBNA Province encompasses Canada, Dominica and the United States- with strong links to the Latin American countries of Peru, Argentina, Bolivia and Uruguay. Click below to view the latest news from the ERCBNA Province.

[ERCBNA Province Website](#)



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](#)



Edmund Rice School Network (ERI):

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](#)



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.

[EREBB](#)



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](#)



THOMAS BERRY FORUM UPDATES

As climate change continues to wreak havoc on populations across our globe, Pope Francis' message from Laudato Si' now echoes louder than ever. Br. Kevin Cawley, CFC, represents Edmund Rice International at the U.N. in Geneva and New York and he is also one of the Directors of the Thomas Berry Forum for Ecological Dialogue at Iona College. This year, the Thomas Berry Forum will sponsor a number of gatherings at Iona College to pray for and promote care for the earth.

From September 1 to October 4, Christians around the world will unite to pray and care for creation. It's the "Season of Creation," and it's happening globally. The theme for this year's celebration is "walking together," and the Thomas Berry Forum at Iona will sponsor several gatherings. The Season of Creation was launched several years ago by Pope Francis and Patriarch Bartholomew of the Greek Orthodox Church, known as "The Green Patriarch", for his public advocacy for the environment over many years.

"Earth Vespers" on September 1 at Arrigoni Center will be an ecumenical moment of song and prayer from 5-6 pm to inaugurate the Season of Creation at Iona College. We will be praying the combined prayer of Pope Francis and Patriarch Bartholomew of the Orthodox Church as part of our celebration.

"Earth Vespers" on October 4, Feast of St. Francis, will be a similar event to mark the end of the Season of Creation. On the second Thursday of each month, the Thomas Berry Forum hosts a Contemplative Circle to allow visitors to sit with intention in the stillness and share briefly their understanding of our human responsibility to care for the earth in light of the teachings of Pope Francis contained especially in his encyclical of 2015: Laudato Si. First gathering is on September 13 and all meetings take place from 7-8 pm in the Blessed Edmund Rice Chapel on the Iona Campus.

There will also be a series of "Earth Masses" celebrated on the last Saturday of each month in the fall semester in Arrigoni Center beginning on October 27th.

ONE HAND AT A TIME-

MIKE DOLAN

On April 19, 2018, the Brother Rice (Chicago) Advocacy Club, with members of the Robotics Club, other interested students, teachers, parents, members of the local community, and alumni, met to build 18 prosthetic hands as part of its Helping Hands Project. We spent over three hours building the prosthetic hands after the Robotics Club spent weeks producing the materials on 3-D printers. Students and BRHS homerooms each donated \$30 to build a hand for some child or adult in need of the hands.

For about six weeks our Advocacy Club instructed our student body of the need for children across the world for new prosthetic hands. The reasons range from birth defects, to disease, to out-growing older limbs, to unexploded land mines. We made posters that we placed around the school under the title of “Did You Know?,” where we tell of the need for the hands, and how and why they are used; and “What Can I Do?,” where we challenge our students to participate in this Lenten project by collecting \$30 for each hand, then building each hand on an afternoon after school.

We were overwhelmed by the generosity of many BRHS community members who gladly gave their time and efforts into this program. In order to keep this program going, the BRHS Mothers Club donated the needed to buy a larger 3-D printer that can build enough pieces to continue this program all year around.

A student from the Advocacy Club made a video of the evening. You can watch the video with this link: www.youtube.com/watch?v=A4ZvBd9W220

With an emphasis on building such personal items as prosthetic hands, we strengthened our students’ understanding of the value of Christian sharing; our students showed compassion by helping children they will never meet. Their presence will be felt by young people and adults all of the world who will never thank them in person, which we believed impressed upon our young men that they have the power to change lives and find liberation by building a better world...one hand at a time.



Service...Advocacy...Encountering Jesus!

Bro. Kevin Griffith

The annual assembly of the Conference of Major Superiors of Men took place in St. Louis, MO from July 31-August 3, 2018. The theme of the assembly focused on ministry with young adults and numerous presenters centered their remarks on effective school campus ministry programs.

What follows is a compilation of paraphrased remarks from the presenters that I believe resonate with our Edmund Rice Christian Brother schools in North America and can be of help to our campus ministers and advocacy coordinators in planning programs and experiences for our students and school communities.

- Service programs are good, as are efforts at advocacy, but our main goal is to provide our students with opportunities of encountering Christ in one another.
- Our schools should provide our students a life-changing encounter with Jesus at least once in their four years of school so that they can come to truly know Jesus Christ.
- Our students should leave our schools with an identity rooted in Jesus.
- Our schools should provide students with encounters that lead to a life-long commitment to faith.
- Our adult leaders must model, give witness to and share their faith with our students.
- Our campus ministry programs must provide opportunities for our students to talk about their faith with one another.
- If we want to be of service, we should go places, listen and be humble enough to say – you lead us.
- We need to come to know and to be in relationship with the poor who reflect Jesus.
- We need to invite young people to embrace Christ and his mission.
- We need to articulate our love of God by gathering young people and sharing our faith with them.
- We need to teach our young how to see God in the ordinary events of their daily lives.
- We need open, honest and candid conversations about the relationship of young people with today's Church.
- We need to accompany young people on their spiritual journey by engaging their hearts in conversations that matter.
- We must create safe spaces for young Catholics to express their doubts and questions.
- We must engage with our young who are disaffiliated from the Church and invite them to tell their stories.
- We must become a welcoming Church and an inclusive Church that builds a sense of community for our young and gives them a sense of belonging.
- Young people start listening to us when we listen to them.
- If we do not create a safe space where young people can ask their questions and express their doubts, they will leave us and find a place where they can.

I present these paraphrases to you for your reflection with the hope that in the programs we create for our students around service and advocacy, we never lose sight of our primary focus of providing experiences for our students to encounter Jesus Christ in one another and in their everyday lives.



CMSM Racial Justice Immersion



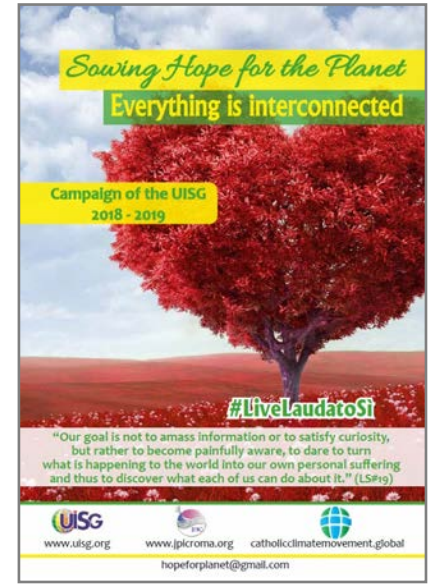
During this year's CMSM Conference in St. Louis, attendees participated in a "Racial Justice Immersion" experience that highlighted issues such as profiling and a lack of accountability occurring in local neighborhoods. The event brought attendees together to hear from and pray with local clergy and young adults from neighborhoods impacted by these issues and ongoing racial injustice. More than 60 attendees from the CMSM Conference participated, including: Bro. Kevin Griffith, ERCBNA Province Leader (pictured second from left), Bro. Peter O'Loughlin, Province Leadership Team (pictured fourth from left), Bro. Sean Moffett, Province Leadership Team (not pictured), and Bro. Tim Smyth, ERCBNA Young Adult Ministry Coordinator (not pictured).

SOWING HOPE FOR THE PLANET

The International Union Superiors General (UISG) are urging all to use 2018 and 2019 to heed the call of Pope Francis for an ecological conversion "to become painfully aware, to dare to turn what is happening to the world into our own personal suffering and to discover what each of us can do about it" (Laudato Si').

Their campaign, *Sowing Hope for the Planet*, challenges us to reflect more deeply on Laudato Si' and to consider ways to make Pope Francis' message a reality, both personally and within our communities.

To learn more, click here: [Sowing Hope for the Planet](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS



SEPTEMBER 18, 2018 - 12:00 PM- NEW ROCHELLE, NY

**2ND ANNUAL BROTHER CORNELIA LECTURE
KEYNOTE SPEAKER JESSICA DEWHURST**



SEPTEMBER 20-23 2018 - JACKSONVILLE, FL

ACTION STUDENT LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP



OCTOBER 18-21, 2018- CABRINI RETREAT CENTER CHICAGO, IL

ERCBNA ADVOCACY COORDINATORS WORKSHOP



NOVEMBER 5-16, 2018- GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

EDMUND RICE INTERNATIONAL U.N. HUMAN RIGHTS TRAINING

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