

NorAm

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



March 2019

COVER: Iona College students on the 2019 Kolkata, India Immersion trip



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The ERCBNA Province remembers Earth Hour on March 30, 2019 at 8:30 PM.

2019 IONA COLLEGE INDIA IMMERSION TRIP

-HANNAH ROSE EVANS



Just over a month ago, my team of 11 girls and two professors landed our feet back on American soil after spending ten days immersed in the joyful chaos that is Kolkata, India. The girls and I prepared for months to make the journey and serve with our whole hearts. Our focus for this trip was the two feet of social justice- direct service and advocacy. I think I can speak for the team when I say that the two rely on each other. We saw this in our work with the Missionaries of Charity and the children from St. George's School and St. Joseph's College. With the Missionaries of Charity, we each served at one of three houses. Some, including myself, served at the orphanage, a few served at a center for children with physical and mental disabilities, and others served at the house for the sick and dying. Each afternoon, we departed to our different locations. In the mornings, we collaborated with Br. Steve Rocha, CFC, and the PRATyEK/ Nine is Mine project, focused on 7th and 8th graders, talking with them about the Sustainable Development Goals and ways that they can advocate for their own rights. We also discussed ways the goals are reflected in the subjects the children study in school. The most astonishing thing that came out of our interaction with these amazing kids was that we thought we were going there to teach them about the goals. However, it was the kids who ended up teaching us. Not only did they offer us a newfound sense of joy, they gave us a new perspective on children's rights. In the United States, if you asked just about any 12 or 13 year old boy or girl what the Sustainable Development Goals are, they would likely have no idea. Their enthusiasm and passion was overwhelming. They also taught us the importance of knowing your rights. They explained to us that one of the reasons people are trapped in poverty is because they do not know their rights. They do not know that they have a right to education and a right to clean food and water. All of these kids are surrounded by a broken system but themselves are a part of a new system. At the heart of this new system is advocacy. At first glance, we weren't sure how our work with the SDG's and with the Missionaries of Charity would intersect, but as it turns out, they are heavily intertwined. It is easy to discuss the ways in which children's rights need to be fulfilled, but who is speaking for the voiceless, homeless woman sleeping on the curb? There is no stereotype when it comes to who needs to be advocated for the most. Rights are rights, no matter the age, gender, or socioeconomic status of an individual.

The work we did with the kids in India was so important because it empowers them to use their

voices and know their rights. That groundwork was easy because the kids were so enthusiastic. The hard part for us as advocates, is to continue that work once we are stateside. Here, it is not that kids don't need to know about their rights. They do! It just isn't a conversation that is often had with kids. One of the members of our team mentioned that the Sustainable Development Goals could be incorporated into activities with kids here as well so that they know their own rights, as well as the responsibility they have to advocacy for the rights of other kids too.

Advocacy has become an essential part of my daily life because I now have an awareness that not everyone knows their rights. This awareness has made myself and my team even more passionate about making advocacy a daily priority. It is another point of connection when we meet other humans in their moments of need, and what could be more beautiful than that.



Photos from Iona College's Winter immersion to Kolkata, India. Pictured (clockwise from top left) Iona College students speak with students at a Christian Brother school in Kolkata; Students in Kolkata pose with an Iona College visitor; the Iona College India immersion team.



Serving and Advocating for Life at Tampa Catholic

- Jina Masters, Tampa Catholic

Tampa Catholic High School has enlisted the support of community volunteers to help empower our students in understanding Catholic Social Teaching. At the end of February our senior class explored “Life and Dignity of the Human Person”. Colleen Quinn-Adams and Rose Llauguet have dedicated their lives to defending life. Colleen fights against the death penalty with her investigative and mitigation firm, while Rose oversees multiple Pro-Life clinics and adoptive services for Catholic Charities. Our Crusaders have been well equipped to represent well the Pro-Life generation!



Pictured (top right): Tampa Catholic students with speaker and pro-life advocate Colleen Quinn-Adams.

Pictured (right): Tampa Catholic students learn from Rose Llauguet, an advocate for pro-life issues, including work with pro-life clinics and adoptive agencies.



Tampa Catholic High School has established a partnership with Tennis for Fun in Tampa, FL. This amazing organization facilitates free tennis clinics for athletes with special needs. The program specializes with athletes that are intellectually handicapped, especially those with Down Syndrome. Our students volunteer each Friday after school and always learn a thing or two from these dedicated participants!



HOW IS EDMUND RICE ALIVE IN ERCBNA SCHOOLS?



Between January 31st and February 1st, the ERCB European Province held its first EREBB ([Edmund Rice Education Beyond Borders](#)) Regional Congress in Dublin. The theme, **“Encounter: Journeying as Edmund’s People,”** revolved around encouraging schools to reach out to each other across the Edmund Rice Global Network. During the Congress, schools across the globe worked to put this into practice in various ways. European ERCB schools asked schools from across the globe to connect with them, in the hopes that they could become “pen-pals” in the future.

One way in which schools in the Edmund Rice North America Province participated was by creating videos to send out to Edmund Rice schools in Europe so that they could begin a conversation between students. Schools in the ERCBNA Province created short videos, introducing their school, giving information about what types of activities go on there, and describing to students in Europe how Edmund Rice is alive in different ways in their school. It is our hope that we can begin a conversation with our Brother schools in Europe in the coming months.

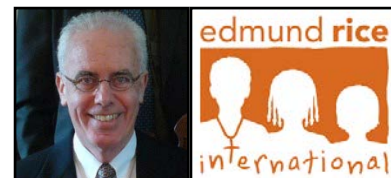
To see some of the fantastic videos students and faculty members made, please click below (users may need to download the video in order to view):



[Bishop Hendricken](#)
[Brother Rice Chicago](#)
[Iona College](#)
[Vancouver College](#)

An Advocacy Success Story

-Br. Kevin Cawley



Dear All,

I am reporting good news to Christian Brother Leadership concerning a successful partnership at the United Nations and the US Congress. I have forwarded here the report today of a victory, the product of a persistent advocacy effort.

This anti-trafficking legislation passed this week in the US Congress.

ECPAT - “End Child Prostitution and Trafficking”- is the group most responsible for keeping the pressure on US Congress. The UN NGO Committee to Stop Trafficking in Persons (CSTIP) has also been an active ally in this campaign for some time. I serve as Secretary on the Board of CSTIP. Carol Smolenski, Director of ECPAT USA , has addressed CSTIP several times in recent years.

To read the article, please click here: [ARTICLE](#)

Combating Statelessness at Iona Prep



Oftentimes in the news, we hear of atrocities being committed against minority and marginalized ethnic groups across the world. We see pictures and videos of thousands of refugees in camps, unable to go back to their homes because of persecution, violence and war. Unfortunately, that is often where the news-story ends, with little to no closure or future hope for justice for people so marginalized in our world. What happens to people who truly lose their country when they are forced out?

This Fall, Iona Prep's Human Rights Club hosted a guest speaker, Sangita Bajulaiye, a Human Rights Attorney and member of the Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion (ISI). Sangita was visiting the United States to speak about *Statelessness* and shared her research, experience and stories with students from the Human Rights Club. Essentially, individuals or groups ([such as the Rohingya people](#)), when forced out of their country for various reasons, can lose citizenship in their own country,



Student members of Iona Prep's Human Rights Club pose with guest speaker Sangita Bajulaiye, a Human Rights attorney and Ph.D candidate from the Netherlands (top left). Also pictured are Sangita's husband Omololu (Iona Prep class of 2007, top right), and Human Rights Club moderators Patricia Gray (second from left, top) and Christina Chana (second from left, below).

along with privileges that we often take for granted, such as the ability to get a birth or marriage certificate, a passport, open a bank account, vote, own property etc. Sangita's work has also included her contributions in ISI's publishing of a book, "[The Girl Who Lost Her Country](#)." This book provides information about Statelessness through the eyes of Neha, a Nepalese girl who lost her statehood. Sangita also spoke to Iona Prep's Lower School students and provided students with copies of the book so that they could learn more about Statelessness and how to advocate for those affected by it.

Students at Iona Prep are now working to raise funds to purchase and disseminate 1,000 copies of the book to share with students around the world in an attempt to raise awareness of Statelessness and to work to advocate for international laws to protect others from the effects.

To learn more about Statelessness and the ISI, please click here: [Statelessness](#)

To learn how you can obtain copies of "The Girl Who Lost Her Country," email spd@cbinstitute.org

Breaking the Iron Cage

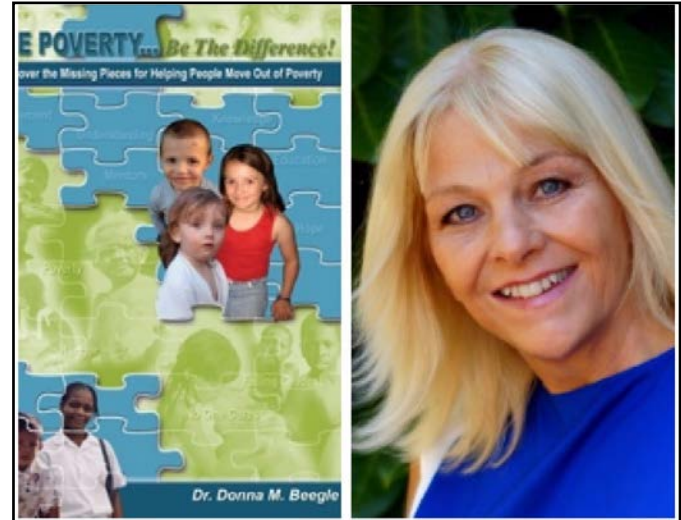
Helping People in Poverty Move Forward



With funding from the Mission & Ministry, Inc., the faculty of Guadalupe Regional Middle School (GRMS) along with partner organizations and key volunteers completed a series of professional development sessions with the nationally renowned poverty expert, Dr. Donna Beegle of Communication Across Barriers.

In 4 sessions throughout the school year, teachers covered poverty realities in America, types of poverty, the meaning of poverty, strategies to break poverty barriers, and building and navigating relationships.

"Thank you for choosing a profession where you have opportunities to change lives," said Dr. Beegle. "Stereotypes of people living in poverty in America are deeply embedded in our society. Before our country can move forward with fighting the war on poverty, we must make a collective effort to examine personal beliefs and open our minds to new interpretations of the behavior of those struggling without basic needs."



Nationally renowned poverty expert Dr. Donna Beegle is leading a professional development series for faculty and staff at Guadalupe Regional Middle School during the '18-19 school year.



Guadalupe Regional Middle school staff members during one of Dr. Beegle's sessions on the realities of poverty in the U.S.

To learn more about the work of Dr. Beegle and how you can be the difference, visit www.combarriers.com

Marching for Life at Damien

-Jeremiah Carter, Damien Memorial



Last October 2018, like we have for the first 23 annual marches, the Monarchs of Damien Memorial participated in the 24th annual Men's March Against Violence at the Hawaii State Capital. Students from Student Government, the National Honors Society, Women in Leadership class, the varsity football team, the boys' varsity basketball team, and campus ministry marched to advocate for efforts to end domestic violence, which is mostly an issue perpetrated by men.

In January 2019 Damien Memorial students advocated for the sanctity of all human life at the annual Hawaii "March for Life" held around the State Capital. Damien had also recently become the first school in Hawaii to create a student-led group with Students For Life of America, a national organization whose mission is to advocate for life and abolish abortion in this generation. It was a great event along side many fellow advocates for life. Damien Memorial even got a shout-out during a speech by governor nominee Andria Tupola.



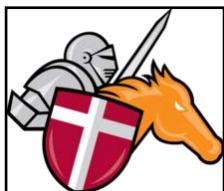
Pictured above (top to bottom): Damien students and staff pose outside of the Capital during the March Against Violence. (Middle): Damien students at the Capital during the Hawaii March for Life. (Bottom): Photo credit: Bishop Larry Silva of Honolulu, Sister "CC" of Benedictine Monastery on North Shore, Damien students bearing sign "I am the pro-life generation")

ADVOCACY ACROSS THE ERCBNA PROVINCE



Jessica Dewhurst's Keynote Speech

The following link is the video from South African Edmund Rice Network advocate Jessica Dewhurst's September 2019 Keynote Speech from the Br. Cornelia Lecture at Iona College: [VIDEO](#)



Helping Hands

The following link is to an article related to Brother Rice, Chicago's Helping Hands program, featured in the last issue of NorAm: [ARTICLE](#)



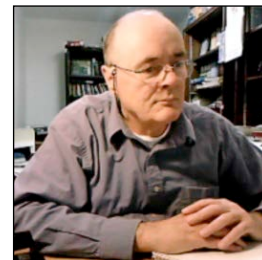
Brother Rice High School's 13th Annual "Souper Bowl" Dinner

Thane Hall, Brother Rice, Michigan

On February 12, 2019 Brother Rice High School, Bloomfield Hills, MI joined together with Marian High School for our 13th Annual "Souper Bowl" Dinner to raise awareness for hunger issues in our community and money for the Capuchin Soup Kitchen and St. Leo's Soup Kitchen both in the city of Detroit. More than 400 people gathered together to feast on a simple dinner of soup, salad and bread that were donated by local restaurants and shops.

Student leaders for this event, contacted and asked for donations from local restaurants and picked up their donations prior to the event. Students went into classes prior to the dinner to speak on issues of hunger in our community and challenged our students to join in the dinner. At the event students served the food, bussed tables, washed dishes and joined in conversation with the guests that attended. This year thanks to the large turnout the event raised \$2000 for our local soup kitchens with all left overs being donated to a local veterans' shelter.





Perspectives: Restorative Justice

This is a public radio discussion of prominent people from the Restorative Justice community in the United States discussing Restorative Justice's current status.

The link is to a 48 minute audio program with a distinguished panel of practitioners: "Agnes Furey, author of "Wildflowers in the Medium", with her story prominently featured in the documentary, "Another Justice;" Kate Grosmaire, who, with her husband, Andy, also is featured in the documentary; Betty Serow, a leader in Good Shepherd Catholic Church's work in restorative justice; Dan Kahn, Executive Director of the Florida Restorative Justice Association; and Peter Butzin, a leader in the United Church in Tallahassee's work in restorative justice."

<http://news.wfsu.org/post/perspectives-restorative-justice-0>

The Marshall Project

Here's the link to an excellent education discussion starter /commentary on the diverse situations the undocumented face in the United States.

The Marshall Project: We are witnesses: Becoming an American (A series of 12 witnesses offer briefly their stories of origin.)

<https://www.themarshallproject.org/we-are-witnesses/immigration>

Catholic Schools Week at Catholic Memorial

Dr. Peter Folan, President, Catholic Memorial



Dear Members of the CM Board of Directors and Sponsor Council,

I hope that this note finds you well. We had a very successful, purposeful, and mission driven Catholic Schools Week.

Two young men that I know you would love inspired a key lesson in an important faith-based day that concluded Catholic School's Week here at CM.

Last week, Catholic Memorial held its third of four "Knight Days." Knight Days celebrate CM's mission to transform boys' lives through academics, athletics, arts, and campus ministry. As a culmination of Catholic Schools Week, this Knight Day focused on Campus Ministry and our Catholic Identity.

Throughout the day, our faculty and Campus Ministry staff modeled for our students how we have an obligation to serve others. The goal of the day was to remind and encourage all students to become men of prayer, advocacy, service, and brotherhood.

We began the day with Mass and then rotated through four ministry modules. During the rotations, our boys traveled in groups mixed by grade levels. This allowed our students to interact with students who they might not otherwise see during the day or during after-school activities.

Over the past two years, we have done some amazing acts of charity that have had an impact on the formation of our students. Our top ranked varsity basketball team recently engaged in a powerful moment of God's love in our chapel and celebrated life as we buried a homeless veteran who had no family.

<https://www.boston25news.com/news/catholic-memorial-students-hold-funeral-for-veteran-without-family/902897890>

As a school and guided by our mission, we feel called to do our part to advocate for the homeless and those that live on the margins in Boston. This calling inspired the theme of our Knight Day.

At the first "Advocacy Simulation" station, students empathized with the homeless through experiential learning. In classrooms, they laid on the floor and considered their options: *Where can I safely go after school? What will I eat today? Where will I sleep tonight?* Students then listened to six unique individual experiences of homelessness, learning that many paths can lead to this one unfortunate outcome.

(continued on next page)

At the second "Service Project" station, students packed a pair of socks (the most requested item by shelters) with toothpaste, soap, and other toiletries. These donations were bought by the students in our school through money that they raised throughout Catholic Schools Week. Our students wrote and included a letter of support in the care package that they created.

At the third station, the "Building Brotherhood" station, students came together as brothers through team-building activities and recreation. These team building activities forged important relationships through physical activities. Brotherhood is an important part of how we build community.

The last rotation was the "Faith Sharing Film" station, which included a film produced by students themselves, followed by a small group discussion. This film was about a current senior Giovanni (Gio) Rivera-Ferrara. You will remember Gio from last years Board meeting when he spoke.

Please watch the short video about his life.

Backseat Leader: Gio's Story: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rpg4Z9O8HEo>

This station also included a powerful story about homelessness that most people don't know. We chose to highlight Dabo Swinney's story. Most don't realize that Clemson's National Championship football coach was homeless in high school. Dabo Swinney's conversation with Hannah Storm: (2:50-4:50 minutes)

<http://www.espn.com/espnw/video/14441998/dabo-swinney>

We did this, in part, because we have a young man here with a similar story here who was also homeless until this past August. This CM student has been a true leader here. His life has been changed from his time here at CM. We are proud of the work and the lives that are transformed here.

Knight Days like these emphasize how Catholic Memorial is willing to challenge the status quo on how to incorporate essential Campus Ministry themes of spirituality, service, and community into the lives of our students. This program and community that we have created is special and forward thinking in the best ways to engage with young men in today's world. These works are rooted in the Essential Elements of an Edmund Rice Education.

We are a unique place that is doing great work that has a real impact.

Thanks for your support of CM and the life changing work that we do here each day.

I appreciate your time in reading and watching the content in this emails. Go Knights!

Sincerely,
Peter

ADVOCACY SPOTLIGHT

On January 18, 2019, students from across the world traveled to Washington D.C. to participate in this year's March for Life. Students from two ERCBNA schools, Catholic Memorial and Tampa Catholic, participated in this year's March, advocating for a variety of Pro-Life issues. Students from the two schools met up in Washington D.C. this year to march together and are pictured below outside of the U.S. Capitol.



UPCOMING EVENTS



**MISSION-FRÈRE HAITI ART GALLERY
BROTHER KENNETH CHAPMAN ART GALLERY, IONA COLLEGE
ONGOING IN 2019**



**ERCBNA EARTH HOUR OBSERVANCE
ACROSS THE ERCBNA PROVINCE
MARCH 30TH, 8:30 PM- 9:30 PM**



**ERCBNA SCHOOL LEADERS MEETING
IONA PREP, NEW ROCHELLE NEW YORK
APRIL 8-12, 2019**



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](#)



Consortium of Edmund Rice Schools

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](#)

CONTACT US



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NorAm Editor



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https://twitter.com/ERCBNA_ADVOCACY

THIS EARTH HOUR

#CONNECT2EARTH

2019
30 MARCH
8:30PM

Healthy nature makes our life better by providing us good food, clean air, and fresh water - but it is all under the threat of climate change. This Earth Hour, join millions around the world to turn off the lights and speak up why nature matters. #Connect2Earth.

EARTHHOUR.ORG

60+

The ERCBNA Province
Invites you to observe
the 2019 Earth Hour
#EdmundRice4Earth



