

NorAm

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



Volume 4 Issue 3

June 2019

June 2019

COVER: Meditation Labyrinth at Jericho House, Wainfleet, Ontario, Canada



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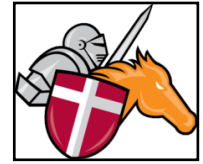
Schools from across the ERCBNA Province celebrate Founder's Day and create videos to show their support for immigrants in North America and around the world.



PALMA SCHOOL
KNOWLEDGE • SERVICE • LEADERSHIP

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Palma School's program working with inmates at Soledad State Prison continues to bear fruit. A member of the program who was recently released on parole reflects on Palma's program and how it impacted his life and has led him to advocate for other inmates at the CA State Capitol.



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Brother Rice, Chicago's Advocacy Club continues to advocate for others. Their partnership with Love Without Boundaries has even involved alumni living thousands of miles away.



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Mia Mirassou travels to Geneva to represent the ERCBNA at Edmund Rice International's training course in human rights at the U.N.



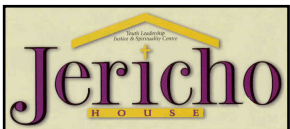
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Members of the All Hallows school community continue to learn about various social justice issues and take action by advocating for others.



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Through immersion trips to New York and Peru, students from Vancouver College learn about life at the margins and the plight of some of the most vulnerable people in our world today.



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Jericho House in Wainfleet, Canada receives the designation and honor of being named a Blue Community, recognizing its commitment to protecting water as a crucial natural resource.



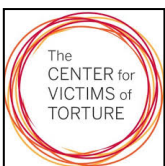
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Students at Tampa Catholic continue to serve and advocate for the marginalized throughout the 2018-2019 school year and beyond.



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Iona Prep welcomes Catholic Relief Services' speaker Thomas Awiapo, who teaches Iona Prep students and ERCBNA School leaders how they can advocate and bring awareness to extreme poverty.



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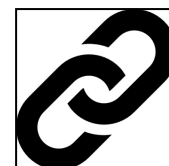
The Center for Victims of Torture provides updates on unjust policies against migrants seeking asylum in the U.S.



EDMUND RICE EDUCATION
Beyond Borders

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Advocacy Spotlight: Edmund Rice Education Beyond Borders and The Justice Desk of South Africa create a campaign to fight discrimination and welcome those around us.



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Advocacy Links

FOUNDER'S DAY 2019



On May 5th of each year, members of the Edmund Rice Network around the world celebrate Founder's Day, the feast day of Blessed Edmund Rice. Blessed Edmund's feast day

is celebrated in many ways, all of which seek to acknowledge the life, action and legacy of Edmund Rice. In celebrating Edmund Rice's legacy, schools in the ERCB North America Province used Founder's Day 2019 to create videos to show their support for immigrants who are too often marginalized in our world. Many of these videos highlighted the important role immigrants have played not only in creating strong communities in many areas where ERCBNA schools are found, but also the



profound impact that immigrants have played within ERCBNA schools themselves. ERCBNA schools have provided immigrant students with educational opportunities for more than 100 years and will continue to educate and advocate for immigrants in 2019 and beyond.

To see this year's Founder's Day Video, click here: [VIDEO](#)

REAPING WHAT'S SOWN



In recent years, NorAm has included stories highlighting Palma's partnership and program with Soledad Prison, which has included Palma students and staff spending time with inmates who are part of the Life CYCLE (Careless Youth Corrected by Lifers' Experiences) Team. Palma students and staff have joined with inmates to read and reflect on John Steinbeck's works as they relate to their own relationships to lead retreats in the prison facility. Like so many other experiences, students and staff members from Palma and other ERCBNA schools have discovered that they often receive so much more from those they serve than vice versa. In addition to the incredible relationships Palma community members have created, inmates in Soledad's Life CYCLE program have raised more than \$20,000 to support scholarships for Palma students, and have had profound impacts on student and staff experiences at the school. One of the focal points of NorAm, however, is the highlighting and promotion of advocacy and working in ERCBNA schools to promote the idea of dismantling the barriers that make and keep people marginalized in our societies and world.

Richard Mireles' story is one that epitomizes the stories that NorAm hopes to share, highlighting how the actions of staff, students and the community of ERCBNA can not only improve the lives of those we are called to serve, but also to inspire and be inspired by others to see the importance of advocating for change. Richard Mireles spent 21 years imprisoned and was recently released on parole. After being released from prison, Richard has immediately begun to advocate at the California State Capitol for other offenders who have been marginalized by the system. Thanks to the work of Palma's Jim Micheletti and Mia Mirassou and Richard's willingness and openness to share his story, Richard shared some of his experiences with Palma's program in Soledad State Prison with NorAm. Please read below:

"The Palma School/Soledad prison collaboration was one of the most meaningful things I was a part of in my 21 years of incarceration. The reason that it was so meaningful was because it was the first time prisoners got to sit in a small group with faculty and high school students to discuss books that we were all reading together. We started with John Steinbeck's books. Generally, most inmates have never read books before their incarceration. To get the opportunity to read a meaningful book that had significance for our own personal lives with high school students was a rewarding experience. Most of us saw these teenagers as at way better places in their lives as we were at their age, but we also all knew how easy it

is to get off the right path and head in the direction that we did that led us to long prison terms. We saw this collaboration as an opportunity to share with them the wisdom that we had gained not only from the book (and how it related to our lives), but also from years of incarceration and encourage and affirm them on the path that they are on in their private all boys school.



In recent years, Richard Mireles participated in Palma School's literacy circles program while he was imprisoned at Soledad (pictured right). Richard was recently released on parole, and has been advocating for younger offenders at the California State Capitol.



I believe that the program can help others by breaking down the walls of assumptions that outside people generally have in their minds about what it means to be in prison. I think the majority of people think that those of us who committed crimes (even crimes that equated to us serving long terms), are continuously perpetuating criminality on the inside and generally this is not the case. Faculty and students from Palma came into the prison and realized that we are still human, we still have families, we still love our families and friends, we are not what we did, we are not defined by our past, and we have made significant strides to become new. I have personally earned a Bachelor's of Science Degree and am 5 classes away from an MBA, not to mention receiving Senatorial recognition for becoming a CA state certified alcohol and drug counselor. I am not an anomaly. There are many men who have completely transformed their lives and are ready to be neighbors to society again, but most wouldn't know that because of the stereotypes that are perpetuated in today's society.

What makes this program different than others is it teaches these young man to love their neighbor based on their character, not based on their location or their past. It teaches these young men to commit themselves to living for causes that are bigger than themselves. It teaches them to see the humanity in even the most

marginalized people in today's society. It leads them to appreciate their freedom and experience an opportunity to hear and learn from the most unlikely of society's resources (who still have value to offer in spite of our pasts).

The program taught us that we are still worthy of society's love. Palma School showed us that we still have value to offer; that we can be just as insightful with some of the best and brightest teachers and students; that we could give and receive love from strangers who care; that people don't care how much you know, unless they know how much you care, and Palma showed their care by their actions year after year.

I don't remember everything about the books we read, but I remember the smiles and encouragement we received. I don't remember every comment made in the small or large groups, but I remember the humanity they practiced by visiting us, sharing with us, loving us, and valuing us. This program is purely a God thing. God bless all involved."

NorAm and the entire ERCBNA Province thanks Richard not only for his openness for sharing his incredible story with our publication and the entire ERCB Network, but also for his dedication for continuing to advocate for those who are and have been marginalized through the prison system. As members of the ERCBNA Network, we will continue to pray and advocate for those individuals who have lost their voice in prison and continue to suffer from the misconceptions and stereotypes that Richard alludes to.

Palma continues to work with and advocate for inmates at Soledad and beyond. One way in which you can support the work that Palma and Richard are doing in advocating for inmates is by purchasing Richard's book, ***Men Built For Others***. Part of the proceeds from this book go towards the scholarship that inmates have set up to raise funds for Palma students.

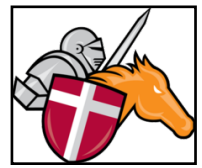
Click on the link to learn more about Richard's book: [BOOK](#)



Richard posing for a picture during his recent work at the California State Capitol.

ADVOCACY AT BROTHER RICE, CHICAGO

- Nicholas Chimera, '19



Two years ago, Father Mark Walter went around to sophomore theology classes to gauge interest in an Advocacy Club. The following year, nearly thirty juniors had joined in a mission to spread the word about injustices in the world. Senior Patrick Foertch, who has been a member of the club since the beginning, said, “The Advocacy Club gave us such a new and unique opportunity to help others beyond our own community.” As a founding member myself, I had no idea how blessed I would be to not only learn about social issues I didn’t even know were going on, but be able to help.

When Nico Perez '18 and Matt McCormick '18 began printing the parts for prosthetic hands in the robotics club and assembling the parts, the Advocacy Club found its first cause. Eventually named the Helping Hands Project, the students of Brother Rice were asked to donate \$25 for the parts, and then come in to work with Nico and Matt to build hands for children in third-world countries. The issue at the root of the Helping Hands Project was not necessarily those with birth defects, but the children in third-world countries who live in areas overwhelmed with landmines. Landmines are extremely cheap for armies to produce; however, they’ve been proven to be less than useful in armed conflicts because they harm many more civilians than combatants. As a result, children who stumble upon landmines in their homes often lose their limbs, if not their lives. As a result of the Helping Hands Project, about 25 kids across the world received a prosthetic hand.

Because of Nico Perez, Matt McCormick, Liam Coughlin and the Advocacy Club, a handful of lives have been changed forever.

For the 2018-2019 school year, the Advocacy Club dedicated itself to a new cause—Love Without Boundaries. For this project, Advocacy Club members each speak to a homeroom at Brother Rice every month and ask the students to donate \$2. Advocacy Club member Tim Novick said, “With such a small donation from each person, each homeroom is able to pay tuition for a child in Cambodia. This money provides these children with a safe transportation in an area where human trafficking is a very real threat, and a meal during the day that could very likely be the child’s only one.”

The Advocacy Club is the best thing to happen to Brother Rice in recent years. It is truly a special thing to be able to help people in need in such a personal and impactful way. Advocacy Club member Marc Ridgell said, “I think the Advocacy Club is important because it gives students the opportunity to fundraise and advocate for issues that are not only prevalent domestically, but globally.”

The beauty of Love Without Boundaries, just like the Helping Hands Project, is that the children will never know the people who helped them. That sort of selfless service defines exactly what it means to “Act Manfully in Christ.” To help people, without any recognition, is the sort of love that makes people special, and should hopefully inspire us all to make little sacrifices when we can.



Brother Rice Chicago alumnus and Chairman Emeritus of Love Without Boundaries, Paul Duggan poses with a recipient of one of Brother Rice’s “Helping Hands” in Cambodia.

To learn more about Brother Rice’s partnership with Love Without Boundaries, click here: [ARTICLE](#)

Geneva- Compassion, Presence and Liberation

- Mia Mirassou, Palma School



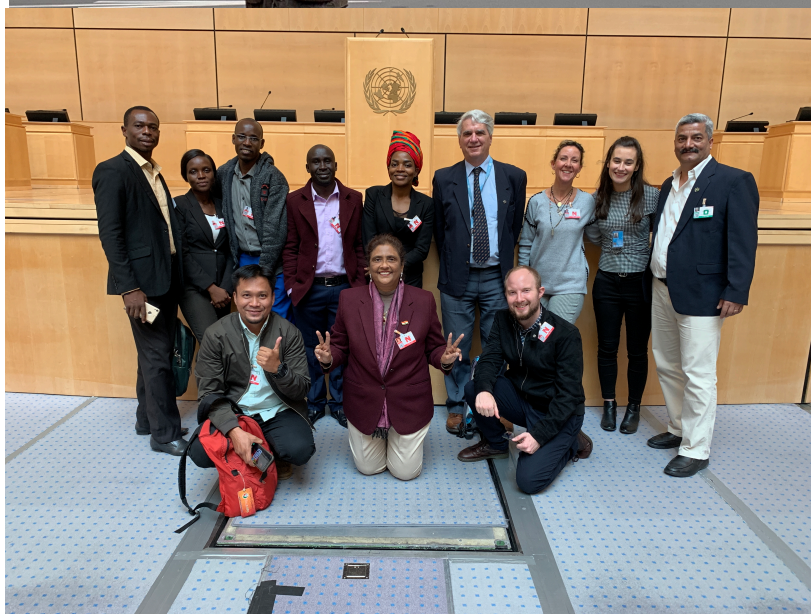
I was fortunate enough to attend the ERI Training in Human Rights and International Advocacy in Geneva, Switzerland this past May. Edmund Rice International (ERI) is an NGO with consultative status at the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland and the UN headquarters in New York. It is committed to advocacy on behalf of children and young people who are marginalized because of poverty, legal status, environmental degradation or conflict. Our facilitators were Br. Brian Bond, CFC, Br. Tino D'Abreu, CFC, Br. Kevin Mullan, CFC and Br. Bernard Gazire FPM with a special presentation from Br. Kevin Cawley, CFC from the New York ERI office. Other than myself, participants from various countries such as India, Kenya, Australia, Nigeria, Ghana and the Philippines were present.

The two-week program was an intense training that gave us insight into the workings, departments, issues, partnerships, terms and recourses of the United Nations. Along with teaching sessions, activities, meetings with other NGO's, group discussions and presentations from the International Labor Organization and Ireland's Permanent Missions, we were able to attend a Universal Periodic Review for the counties of Côte d'Ivoire and Albania at the United Nations.

This program has made me more aware of the capacity and functions of the United Nations in Geneva, particularly its crucial role on working for peace, human rights, the well-being of all and promoting sustainable development through the adopted Sustainable Development Goals and their conjunction with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. There is always more to learn, but I feel better equipped to inform the students and adults that I interact with of the importance of knowing how the UN and its broader array of mechanisms operate. Perhaps most importantly, I am excited for the possibilities that each of us have to engage with advocacy at local and international levels. As an Edmund Rice Community we all have the responsibility to advocate for the voiceless in our schools, our communities, our nation and our world.

I am humbled and honored to have been able to participate in this training. I thank all those who supported and encouraged me to have this opportunity.

Live Jesus In Our Hearts...Forever.



(above) Palma School's Mia Mirassou stands outside the UN headquarters in Geneva. (below) Mia posing with other ERCB Network members inside the UN after the Universal Periodic Review.

ADVOCACY AT ALL HALLOWS

-Br. Jim Hamilton



On Holy Thursday morning, April 18, seventy-five All Hallows students held an advocacy morning for Montefiore Children's Hospital of the Bronx. The day began with a prayer followed by brief informational video about the many miracles that take place at Montefiore and how we can help continue that good work. Several students offered their reflections about their time in Montefiore Children's Hospital and other children's hospitals in the New York City area. After these emotional testimonies, the students and others marched in a 5K around the adjacent Joyce Kilmer Park. We were able to raise \$1,000.00 from the combined sponsorships for the walkers and the proceeds from a dress down day held on Wednesday, May 1. An additional \$1,000.00 was donated from people and parishes connected with All Hallows, for a grand total of \$2,000.00. The morning proved to be a beautiful way to begin the Easter Triduum.

Several senior social justice classes at All Hallows organized informational group projects as they investigated various social justice topics. The projects consisted of the creation of printed materials as well as a short infomercial which summarized the social justice concern, prospective answers to the challenge and Catholic Church teaching. The students also wrote short announcements which brought attention to the social justice concern.

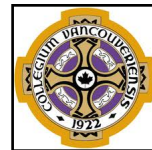
The Blessed Edmund Rice Society continued to assemble and donate "blessing bags" for the homeless of the Bronx. The blessing bags consist of water, juice, snacks and personal items. Ministries of the Bronx, a part of the Archdiocese of New York Propagation of the Faith that operate a food truck which provides food, comfort and prayer for the homeless of the Bronx. We are pleased to have assembled and donated nearly two hundred blessing bags to Lamp Ministries this year.



(above): All Hallows' students and staff members pose in Joyce Kilmer Park during their advocacy day for Montefiore Children's Hospital. (below): Senior students present to their peers regarding environmental concerns during their senior social justice class this spring.

ADVOCATING THROUGH IMMERSION

- Lilian Vernier, Vancouver College



SOUTH BRONX, NEW YORK: New York City is often described by its iconic landmarks and sights. However, it is really the forever changing people of the city who make it the place it is. Amazing people with amazing stories, stories which the members of Vancouver College's Bronx Outreach Team had the honour to be a part of, if only for a short time. Ask any of the young men and they would likely tell you that the best part of their trip was the time spent with the students of Public/Middle School 29 and St. Anne's after-school care program. These great kids live and attend school in one of the poorest communities in the United States, a huge contrast to the privileged backgrounds most of us on the trip come from. Walking through the Bronx on the first day, it was already very obvious how different this community was from our own communities. A little unnerved by the time we arrived at PS/MS 29, the suggestion by our teacher to go talk to the middle schoolers having lunch was followed apprehensively. We began by tossing a football amongst ourselves, until a boy from grade 8 walked up and joined us. This would eventually become an intense game of two-hand touch football that helped bring us all together. Sport allowed us to break down the barriers that were keeping us apart, and we developed many relationships over the week while we volunteered at the school. Both there and at St. Anne's after-school care program, getting to know the kids and learning about their goals and hopes was amazing. Despite the adverse circumstances they were in, we spoke to kids who dreamed of becoming FBI agents, artists, joining the military so they could help people; students who loved math and science, and who were brave enough to come up to us and make a connection rather than the other way round. Yet, they were also very aware of the situation they were in. One group of grade 3 girls remarked how "this is a ghetto school" when asking why we had come. They had trouble understanding why someone would want to spend time in a place they knew, even in grade 3, that people looked down on. I was lucky to be put in a grade 4 classroom while at the school, and the absolute affection of the kids was amazing. Throughout the trip, it was inspiring to see the conviction and affection these students had, and an important reminder that no matter where we live, we are all a lot more similar than we think. This trip was an important reminder of the humanity we all share, as well as our individual responsibility to love all people as Jesus would.

LIMA, PERU: Twelve students and three teachers embarked on a journey of service to Peru over Spring Break. The experience was immersive and focused on culture, spirituality, and advocacy. The team built two homes for families in need, painted numerous other homes, and volunteered at a school. Much was experienced and reflected on during this immersion trip. "If you have come to help the poor, you're wasting your time, but if you've come because you believe your liberation is bound with mine, let us work together" said Brother Stephen Casey. There is a social stigma towards developing countries that ascribes the local civilians to be poor yet they possess wealth in areas our society may easily overlook. Community is the most critical part to a happy life and that is exactly how the people of Peru live. They were happy. They did not need the latest pieces of technology or clothing the "rich" have. Maybe the reality was that they are more "rich" than we are but one thing holds true, they live like us. From rich to poor we are one and the same. Seeing the contrast in Miraflores to Jicamarca only added to this message. The rich lived in skyscrapers, the poor in huts, still, everyone is human and we all share the same likeness. We learned that we need to be the spark in one's life so they can begin to grow a burning fire of hope and success. Hope is their final puzzle piece to having a great life and it is our job to provide it to them. Vancouver College's 2019 Pilgrimage to Peru was truly special and one the team will never forget.

-Marcus Saldanha '19



(above): students pose in front of one of the houses they painted in Lima, Peru.
(below): Students pose on the steps of Colombia University's library during their South Bronx Immersion trip.



JERICO HOUSE- A BLUE COMMUNITY

- courtesy of canadians.org



The Council of Canadians welcomed the latest Blue Community into the fold yesterday. Jericho House in Wainfleet, Ontario is a youth leadership, social & ecological justice, and spirituality centre just a stone's throw from Lake Erie on the Niagara Peninsula. Our new Executive Director, Molly Kane delivered the Blue Community certificate yesterday afternoon to Jericho House's Board of Directors. The community cited their proximity to Lake Erie and a prolific spring in the conservation area next to their property amongst their reasons for wanting to commit to the principles of being a Blue Community. Blue Communities support the idea of a water commons framework, recognizing that water is a shared resource for all. They recognize water and sanitation as human rights, ban or phase out the sale or use of bottled water in their facilities and promote publicly financed, owned and operated water and wastewater services. A "Blue Community" recognizes its responsibility to promote the right to water. Because water is central to human activity, it must be governed by principles that allow for reasonable use, equal distribution and responsible treatment to preserve water for nature and for future generations.

Here are the resolutions passed by Jericho House that make them a Blue Community:

Whereas, Jericho House is located .08 km from Lake Erie, a major fresh water resource; and Whereas, Jericho House borders the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority's fresh water Quarry; and

Whereas, water is a gift held in common by all of us, the human and other than human; and Whereas, water is a common good that is shared by everyone and is the responsibility of all; and

Whereas, water is essential for all of life and must be governed by principles that allow for reasonable use, equal distribution and responsible treatment; and Whereas, there is increasing pressure by business and other entities to put water up for sale and to privatize water services; and Whereas, many Canadians, especially many Indigenous Peoples, are deprived of clean and safe drinking water and adequate sanitation; and Whereas, each responsible and rational person has an obligation to protect, to preserve and to use wisely this water as a commons and as a public trust; and Whereas, the adoption of a water commons framework to address pollution, degradation, depletion, and privatization at the community level is crucial in the global struggle to preserve water and ensure fair access to all; Therefore, the Board of Directors of Jericho House has passed the following resolution, that Jericho House be designated a Blue Community and proceed with the necessary application process.

Be it further resolved that Jericho House commit itself to:

*Advocate for the recognition that water is a human right. Recognizing that the corporate takeover of water is an underlying cause for the privatization of water and its infrastructure. We will join and/or support individuals and groups who advocate for safe, clean water and sanitation and who resist the corporate takeover of water. Advocate for the protection of public ownership and operation of waters and watersheds with governing bodies on the municipal, provincial, national, and international level for the development of plans of action, establishment of monitoring and accountability mechanisms and ensuring affordable services for all. Monitor use of water. Use only the amount of water needed. Refrain from using bottled water where potable water is available. Advocate the protection of waters and watersheds with faith groups. Include references to care for water in all the presentations we make. Ensure good maintenance of taps and other domestic water lines in our facilities. Monitor and limit how much plastic goods we purchase and use. Write letters and sign petitions related to the protection and preservation of water. Continue to educate ourselves in these matters. Include in all Jericho House's **Terms & Conditions** the designation that Jericho House is a Blue Community and, as such, a **Bottled Water-Free Zone**.*

We make this commitment for the good of all in keeping with the integrity of all creation and in a spirit of humility and gratitude for water and the many gifts lavished on us by the Creator.



To learn more about Canada's Blue Communities, click here: [BLUE COMMUNITIES](#)

ADVOCATING AT TAMPA CATHOLIC

- Jina Masters



Tampa Catholic High School is wrapping up this school year with service and advocacy opportunities that reach a variety of vulnerable persons in our community. We've been facilitating art activities at a local assisted living facility, getting our hands dirty with clean up efforts at St. Jude's Cancer research fundraiser, and made our last of 722 PB&J sandwiches to feed the homeless and hungry in Tampa. May Blessed Edmund continue to inspire our advocacy efforts throughout the summer months!



Tampa Catholic students work on art projects with residents at a local assisted living facility.



Tampa Catholic students making some of the 722 sandwiches they distributed to those experiencing homelessness.

ADVOCACY AT IONA PREP



In summer 2018, Iona Prep teacher and Human Rights Club Co-Moderator Patricia Gray traveled to Ghana, where through Catholic Relief Services (CRS), she learned about the incredible programs that support some of the world's most marginalized people. While in Ghana, Pat "ran into" CRS speaker and Ghana native Thomas Awiapo, who had previously visited Iona Prep to speak about Operation Rice Bowl. After her visit to Ghana last summer, Pat coordinated with CRS to invite Thomas back to Iona Prep to speak to students about the importance of Operation Rice Bowl in his own life, and the lives of thousands of others whom it benefits.

In preparation for Thomas' visit during the 2018-2019 school year, Iona Prep's Human Rights Club partnered with Catholic Relief Services (CRS) to raise funds for and awareness of CRS' important work abroad and their Operation Rice Bowl Initiative. Throughout the school year, Iona Prep students sold fair trade items that were bought through CRS' various fair trade programs. All of the proceeds that students raised were donated back to CRS that was presented to Thomas during his April visit, which coordinated with the ERCBNA Province School Leaders meeting at Iona Prep. To learn more about Thomas' Story, please click here: [AWIAPO](#) (courtesy of Catholic NY).



(above): Thomas Awiapo speaks to Iona Prep students and ERCBNA School leaders during an April visit. (below): Iona Prep Human Rights Club present Thomas with a \$2,000 check.

During the 2018-2019 school year, members of Iona Prep's junior class chose a specific human rights/justice topic to focus their Junior Service Project on. Throughout the year, many students have partnered with local organizations or causes in order to complete their service project. Next year as seniors, students will take what they learned from their service project to create a digital Advocacy Project aimed at bringing awareness and possible solutions to the topics they've focused on.

Pictured Top (L-R): Alex, Mason and Connor focused on Fair Trade items, raising money for Operation Rice Bowl by selling items throughout the year.



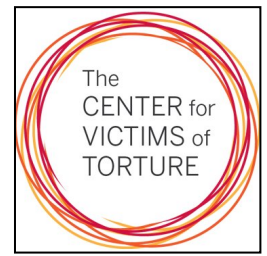
Pictured Middle (L-R): Michael and Will (along with two non-pictured members) focused on revitalizing Iona Prep's recycling program. Students put posters with recycling guidelines in classrooms throughout the building; ensured that each classroom had proper recycling bins, and started a composting program during lunch periods.



Pictured bottom: Will partnered with local organization Neighbor to Neighbor to learn about issues surrounding homelessness. Will collected hundreds of pairs of shoes which were donated to the organization.



ADVOCATING FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS



The following message comes from the Center for Victims of Torture, which works with and advocates for victims of torture across the world and trains others to prevent future incidents of torture. Recently CVT has been advocating for asylum seekers from Central America, many of whom arrive at the U.S. Mexico border as victims of tortures themselves. Please read below to learn more about how you can advocate for asylum seekers.

The Trump administration just launched a major new offensive on the legal *right* of survivors of torture and other horrific abuses to seek asylum in our country:

Giving Border Patrol agents the power to, in effect, summarily reject an asylum seeker's case and deport her almost immediately right back to the violence and persecution she'd just escaped.

You can imagine how difficult it is, even in the current, non-adversarial process, for a woman to describe, for example, the gang rape she endured in her home country. Even with our own highly skilled and compassionate counselors, it can take many visits before a survivor is able to share such excruciating memories.

Now imagine forcing that woman to share those intimate details with a uniformed, armed, police-like officer who may have just apprehended her at the border.

That's what the Trump administration's new measure would do. And it would result in the almost immediate deportation of many of the *most* endangered asylum seekers.

The Center for Victims of Torture (CVT) is working furiously to block this outrageous new assault, and [we need you to weigh in with your members of Congress immediately.](#)

Border Patrol agents are law enforcement officers, charged with securing the border and apprehending immigrants.

They have absolutely no business conducting so-called "credible fear interviews," the crucial first step in an asylum case that requires the asylum seeker to share often deeply painful information about the trauma she's experienced.

And that is exactly what the Trump administration is trying to change. They have requested \$23 million in emergency funding from Congress to give Border Patrol agents the power to make this critical initial determination of an asylum seeker's claim.

[Please, click here now to tell Congress to reject this cruel new assault on asylum seekers.](#)

ADVOCACY SPOTLIGHT

JUSTICE BEYOND BORDERS

In conjunction with the May 5th Founder's Day Celebration, Edmund Rice Education Beyond Borders and The Justice Desk of South Africa have partnered to create the Justice Beyond Borders Campaign. This campaign encourages us all to engage with those beyond our borders, as well as to fight for justice for them. With this campaign they will be following a trend that many other parts of the Edmund Rice Network have been looking at; namely; what is the response to those people we see around us but are Beyond our Borders. Some countries have concentrated on Refugees, how to eradicate poverty, Xenophobia etc. There is so much that can be done in your community or school. What will you choose to do? Please share your campaign choice with us all!

To learn more about the campaign and find ways to participate, click here: [JUSTICE BEYOND BORDERS](#)

WE PLEDGE TO STAND UP AGAINST ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION WITHIN OUR SCHOOL, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY.

WE PLEDGE TO STAND IN SOLIDARITY WITH WITH ALL PEOPLE.

WE PROMISE TO HELP EDUCATE OUR FELLOW STUDENTS, COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND FAMILIES ABOUT THE DUTY WE ALL HAVE TO PROTECT AND UPHOLD OUR HUMAN RIGHTS AND LIVE IN A SOCIETY FREE FROM DISCRIMINATION.

WE PROMISE TO SPEAK OUT WHEN ANOTHER PERSON IS TREATED UNJUSTLY.

WE PROMISE TO DO OUR PART IN MAKING OUR SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY ONE WE CAN BE PROUD OF AND A HOME FOR ALL.

WE PLEDGE TO PROMOTE JUSTICE #BEYONDBORDERS AND SAY NO TO ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION!

BEYOND BORDERS

BEYOND BORDERS

EDMUND RICE EDUCATION
Beyond Borders



The Justice Desk

UPCOMING EVENTS




JUNE 20 - JULY 4

EDMUND RICE EDUCATION BEYOND BORDERS SYMPOSIUM
LIMA, PERU



JULY 17 - JULY 25

PILGRIMS IN PERU
LIMA, PERU



JUL 24 - 29

ECOLOGY RETREAT AT JERICHO HOUSE
WAINFLEET, CANADA



SEPTEMBER 19 - 22

ACTION STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE
KEARNEY, NEW JERSEY



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](#)

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