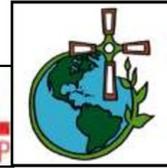


Please include Issue and Date: Volume 5, Issue 9 – September 14, 2020

## ADVOCACY PERSONS OF THE YEAR

**PALMA SCHOOL**  
KNOWLEDGE • SERVICE • LEADERSHIP

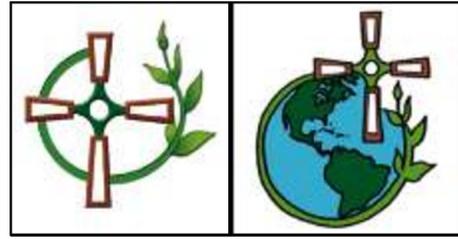


In early August, Palma School Campus Ministers Jim Micheletti and Mia Mirassou were named the co-recipients of the 2019-2020 ERCBNA Advocacy Person of the Year Award. The ERCBNA Blessed Edmund Rice Advocacy Person of the Year Award was created to recognize an ERCBNA School staff member who has demonstrated exceptional commitment to promoting advocacy efforts throughout the academic year.

Their work over the past year surrounding the promotion of advocacy, social justice, and human rights has been impactful and inspirational on so many levels. Jim and Mia's leadership in Palma's partnership with CTF Soledad Prison has allowed Palma community members to learn invaluable lessons about injustices that plague America's prison systems. In addition to this work, their work with and dedication to Salinas Valley's immigrant groups and those experiencing homelessness has allowed the Palma school community to learn how to serve and advocate for truly marginalized members of our world.

To see the full, video presentation of the awards, [click here](#).

# ANTIRACISM IN ERCBNA SCHOOLS



Throughout the summer of 2020, a group of administrators, teachers and staff members from ERCBNA schools have met virtually to create resources and lesson plans surrounding antiracism to be used this year by staff in ERCBNA schools. These resources have been put on a website that will be accessible to all ERCBNA school members after it is introduced to ERCBNA Presidents and Principals at their October 7<sup>th</sup> meeting.

In addition to these resources, the ERCBNA Advocacy Office is putting together a video of Edmund Rice students and staff members promoting antiracism in our schools. The theme of the video is: **“I am for 3 and 5”**-- with reference to [Essential Elements 3 and 5](#).

We hope that this video will include 2 short video clips from each school: 1 from a student and 1 from a staff member from your school, with each using the following scripts:

(Student) “My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am a (grade) student at school name. As a student at an Edmund Rice School, I am for 3 and 5.

(Staff) “My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am a job/role at school name. As a staff member of an Edmund Rice School, I am for 3 and 5.

Videos can be emailed back by September 20<sup>th</sup> to [missionfrereadvocacy@gmail.com](mailto:missionfrereadvocacy@gmail.com).

## COFFEE WITH EDMUND THE ADVOCATE

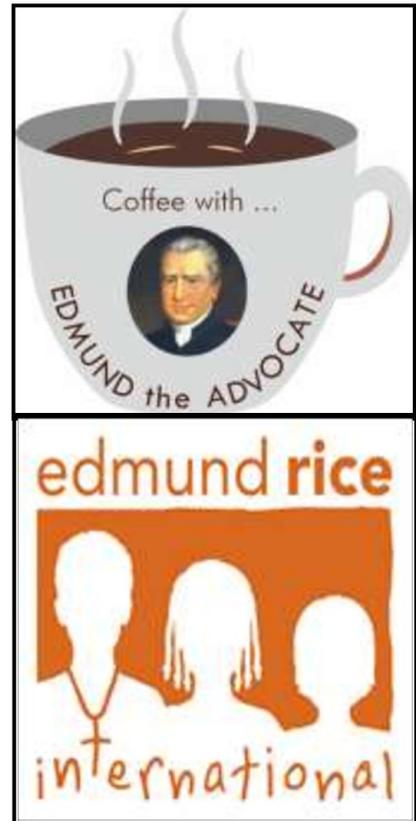
On August 28<sup>th</sup>, members of the ERCBNA Province and Latin America region joined Edmund Rice International for an online Zoom webinar, Coffee With Edmund the Advocate. This webinar was centered on exploring Edmund Rice's life as an advocate for human rights and social justice, in the context of the work being done today.

The event was moderated by Brother Kevin Cawley, CFC, and included keynote address by Brother Raymond Vercruysse, CFC, that explored Edmund Rice's life as an advocate in the context of the goals of the Edmund Rice Christian Brothers: presence, compassion and liberation. Five panelists spoke about the advocacy work that they are engaged in across North and South America. The panelists included: Sean D'Alfonso, ERCBNA Advocacy Coordinator; Jim Micheletti, Campus Minister, Palma School; Mia Mirassou, Campus Minister, Palma School; Paola Miranda, Latin America Region Advocacy Coordinator; Brother Stephen Casey, CFC, Director of the ERCBNA Immersion Program.

More than 140 participants from around the global Edmund Rice network joined the call and asked many great questions surrounding advocacy.

To see the entire video of the North and South America webinar, [please click here](#).

To see the webinars from all four Provinces, [please click here](#).



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## **DIGITAL IMMERSIONS IN 2020-2021**

*LILIAN VERNIER, VANCOUVER COLLEGE*

In light of the cancellation of the ERCBNA immersion program for the 2020-2021 school year, Vancouver College will be creating a Virtual Immersion program. We will be setting up 12 students with three teachers for the Peru and Brownsville immersions, and 24 students and 3 teachers for the South Bronx. The goal will be for each team to highlight the social justice issue, raise awareness at the school, create a scholarship for each of the three schools, raise funds, and connect with other Christian Brothers schools virtually and work together (hopefully). We are going to develop an immersion trip to a northern indigenous community. We will continue to work with the Downtown East Side (which is referred to as the poorest postal code in Canada) where students go to prepare food on a weekly basis. We will continue with our program called Bumpin' Bakery which also serves the Down Town East Side every Sunday morning providing muffins, coffee, and sandwiches.

**If you are interested in learning more about digital immersions like Vancouver College's, or connecting with other Edmund Rice schools via Zoom or other video conferencing platforms, please email Sean D'Alfonso at [spd@cbinstitute.org](mailto:spd@cbinstitute.org).**



## ERCBNA SUMMER PROJECTS

*ED SADJAK, ST. LAURENCE*

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago operates an emergency food pantry located in the school basement at St. Blase Parish in Summit, IL. Due to the pandemic, many people in the surrounding community have lost their jobs and now turn to this food pantry to make ends meet in putting food on the table for their families. Since March, the number of people coming to the food pantry has tripled, with over 4,000 packages being distributed each month.

The Albertine Sisters, who run the food pantry, were in need of volunteers and donations of food, and the St. Laurence HS community responded immediately. Campus Ministry was

able to organize two teams of volunteer students, even though school was on summer break and in the midst of isolation due to the pandemic. One team was responsible for preparing and packing food products and the other team was responsible for loading the carts with the care packages and bringing them to the people in need.

In addition to the donation of gift cards from food stores so the Sisters could purchase the most needed food products, the St. Laurence HS community has pledged to sponsor food drives to help support this food pantry and to continue to encourage student participation in volunteering to help those less fortunate.





## JINA MASTERS, TAMPA CATHOLIC

Tampa Catholic has initiated several partnerships with local assisted living facilities and started pen pal programs with the residents. We created and will be creating ecology opportunities such as roadside clean ups and river clean ups. Both allow for proper distancing. We are also promoting opportunities in the community that are aligning with CDC guidelines. For example, working at the warehouse with Feeding America, promoting sustainable farm work and a partnership with the Humane Society of Tampa.

Tampa Catholic High School has begun an arm of service and advocacy dedicated to making ecological strides in our surrounding community. Our student body has begun volunteering at local sustainable farms and organizing monthly river clean ups. A few of our faculty members have even gotten in on the action with the inception of our "Garden of Eden" committee dedicated to lawn care maintenance for elderly neighbors in the surrounding area. Melding our efforts to care for God's creation and lend a hand for those in need is just the kind of hybrid charity we think Blessed Edmund would be proud of.



## **Action Alerts:**

[Learn How to be an Advocate for Safer, Healthier Prisons during COVID-19](#)

[Tell AG Barr to End Federal Executions](#)

[Urge Congress to Restore the U.S. Refugee Program](#)

## **Links/Resources:**

[The Shooting of Jacob Blake is a Wake-Up Call \(from the Atlantic.com\)](#)

[2020 Election Resources from Maryknoll Global Concerns](#)

**UPCOMING EVENT:** The Iona College Br. William B. Cornelia Lecture shown below will be streamed live on Instagram at 12:00 PM on Thursday, September 17<sup>th</sup>. The Instagram account is: @ICMINISTRIES



## BR. WILLIAM B. CORNELIA LECTURE

# "What Christian Institutions need to learn from the Black Lives Matter Movement"



**Rev. Dr. Tamara Henry**  
**Vice President of Academic Affairs and Academic Dean**  
**New York Theological Seminary**

Tamara Henry is the vice president of academic affairs and academic dean at New York Theological Seminary. Previously, Dr. Henry served as director of two of the seminary's degree programs, the Master of Arts in Religious Education and the Master of Arts in Youth Ministry, and as assistant professor of religious education

A scholar and practitioner in the areas of religious education and youth ministry, and her research and writing interests explore how religiosity found in popular culture and womanist spirituality can generate theological pedagogies that are liberative for marginalized youth and young adults. Dr. Henry's teaching expertise focuses on engaging pedagogies of resistance within classroom settings in ways that reframe noninclusive theological assumptions within curriculum.

A passionate scholar practitioner serving both the church and the academy, Dr Henry is also an ordained minister of the American Baptist Churches USA. She has over two decades of experience serving youth and young adult ministry practitioner within urban congregations and is currently a member of the ministerial team at Lenox Road Baptist Church in Brooklyn New York. In addition to ministry in the local church, Dr. Henry frequents as an itinerant preacher/speaker and youth and young-adult program consultant for religious and educational organizations, both locally and nationwide.

**Thursday, September 17th**

**Noon**

**Murphy Center**

**live streaming @icministries**

The lecture is co-sponsored by the Office of Mission and Ministry, the Driscoll Professorship in Jewish-Catholic Studies, and the faculty steering committee for the Catholic Intellectual Tradition.