

Please include Issue and Date: Volume 5, Issue 10 – November 14, 2020



## Antiracism in ERCBNA Schools



In response to racial injustice spurred by the murders of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery and Breonna Taylor, a group of ERCBNA educators met during the summer of 2020 to create resources to promote antiracism. [This link](#) contains a variety of antiracism resources related to education, mental health, prayer and faith as well as reading and media suggestions. ERCBNA schools are encouraged to utilize these materials to promote conversations surrounding racial justice and antiracism during the 2020-2021 school year.



## 15 Years of Immersion in Peru



Over the last 15 years, members of Edmund Rice Christian Brother schools from around the world have had the opportunity to walk in immersion with the people of Peru, who have so generously shared their homes and their lives with those who visit. For many who have participated in this trip, it has been a truly life changing experience. These are the 15 years of stories and experiences of the Lima, Peru immersion program, told by Peruvians, and the more than 1,000 people from around the world who have walked alongside them. [Please click here to read more.](#)





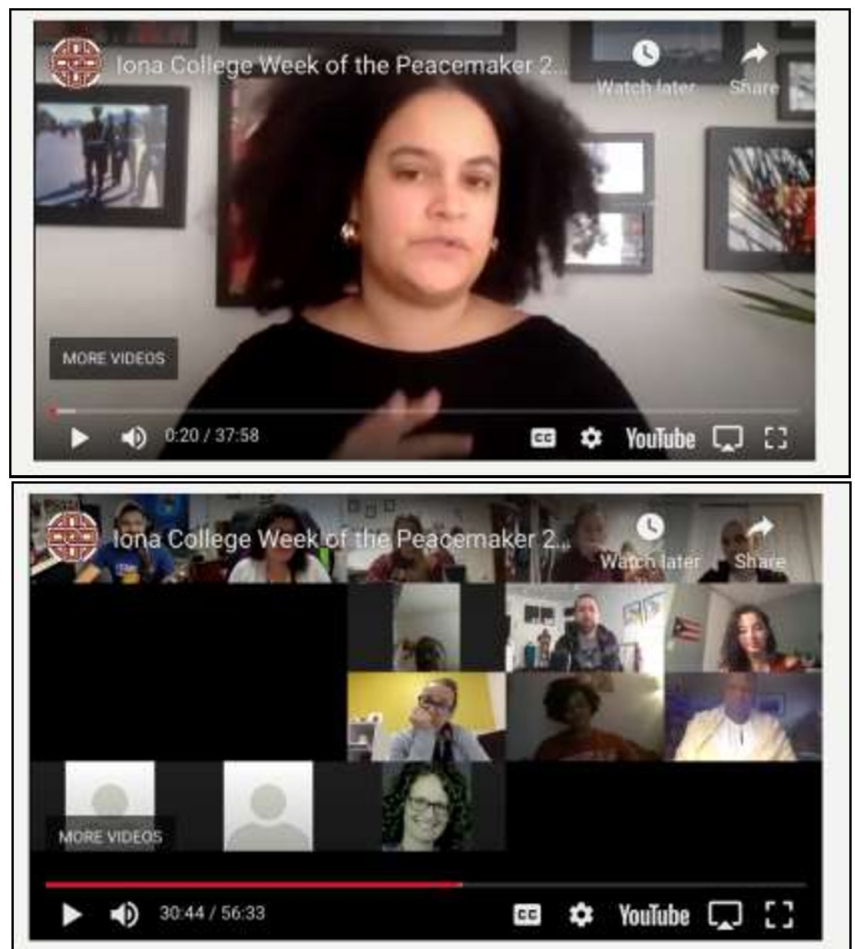
## The Week of the Peacemaker at Iona College

### *Racism and the Pandemic: Who is safe? Who is well?*



Each year, Iona College's Office of Mission and Ministry dedicates a week to promoting the values of peacemaking and social justice, values that are foundational to an Edmund Rice Christian Brother education. This year's Week of the Peacemaker was held virtually from October 25-31 and featured a variety of events centered around race and the COVID-19 pandemic.

To view recordings of the various online events from this year's Week of the Peacemaker, please [click here](#).





## 2020 Advocacy Coordinator Workshop

On October 1, Advocacy Coordinators from ERCBNA schools met via Google Meet to hold our bi-annual advocacy workshop. The event had originally been planned as a 3-day in-person workshop in Tampa, Florida, but due to the ongoing pandemic, the workshop was moved to a digital format.

This year's workshop was focused on discussing the aforementioned antiracism resources that ERCBNA staff members created this summer. Advocacy Coordinators also discussed the various human rights topics that they hoped can be addressed in our schools throughout this 2020-2021 school year.

### **Edmund Rice Youth Ambassadors**

At the workshop, the **Edmund Rice Youth Ambassadors** program was also discussed. This program allows 1-2 students from nominate and select 1-2 students from their school community to serve as sort of liaisons between your school community, the ERCBNA Province and Edmund Rice International. To learn a bit more about the program, [click here](#). The first meeting will be held on November 19<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM (EST) and schools are asked to [register here](#).



# Making Strides Against Breast Cancer

*Michael Dermody, Catholic Memorial*

Despite the pandemic, Catholic Memorial still raised awareness for breast cancer this year and hosted its very own socially distant Making Strides for Breast Cancer Walk on campus. In keeping with the theme of this year's American Cancer Society initiative, "Share the Light," each grade partook in their own prayer service then heard a testimonial talk from either Ken Martin (CM Class of 1977 and current Member of the Board of Directors for American Society), Colleen Penkala (Current Director of Annual Giving at CM and former American Cancer Society employee) or Ethan Gallery (Current Junior whose mother has been diagnosed with breast cancer and beaten it five times). Students then did a 1.5 mile walk around campus in solidarity with those suffering from breast cancer. Along the walk were pink ribbons which every student wrote on their own who they walked for. It was an incredibly meaningful day and way to still raise awareness during these unprecedented times. In the end, CM was recognized by the American Cancer Society as National Leaders in the fight against breast cancer, having raised over \$250,000 over the past 15 years.







## Human Rights During COVID-19: A Conversation

On September 30, students from Colegio Cardenal Newman in Buenos Aires, Argentina and Iona Preparatory in New Rochelle, New York met via Google Meet to have a discussion surrounding the realities of COVID-19 in each of their countries.

The students had a conversation about the ways in which the COVID-19 pandemic has affected everyday life in their countries of Argentina and the United States. They also spent time discussing how certain groups were marginalized during the pandemic and how each country's government responded to these needs.



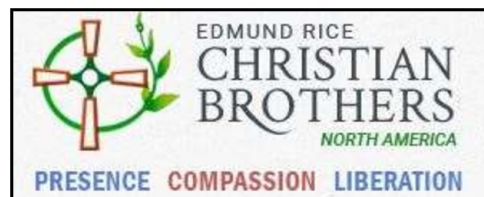
## News and Upcoming Events + Programs

### U.S. UPR Review at the United Nations



The United Nations (UN) holds a Universal Periodic Review for every nation that is a member of the UN. This process allows for the review of the human rights record of each nation, and a subsequent for each nation to display how they have “responded” to improve human rights concerns in their country. The United States UPR was held on November 9<sup>th</sup> at the U.N. in Geneva. To watch a recording of the livestream of this UPR, [please click here](#). To read the report that Edmund Rice International contributed to, [please click here](#).

### *Lima, Peru Digital Immersion Program*



Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, immersion trips to Peru have been postponed until 2022. But Br. Steve Casey will be hosting digital immersions for schools around the world so they can experience the Peru trip virtually. [Please click here for more information.](#)

### Palma to be featured on Lisa Ling’s *This is Life* on CNN.



The Palma School will be featured on an upcoming episode of Lisa Ling’s *This is Life*. Palma’s work and partnership with Soledad State Prison will be featured on an episode airing on Sunday, November 29<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 PM (Eastern Time). Please check your local listings for the air time in your location.

## Action Alerts

**[Urge Congress to Restore U.S. Refugee Program](#)**- The United States has historically resettled more refugees annually than all the other countries in the world combined, welcoming an average of 95,000 refugees per year. Since 2017, the U.S. Refugee Program, which determines the number of refugees allowed to resettle in the U.S., has shrunk from allowing 110,000 people to just 18,000 this year. Click on the link above to urge Congress to take action on re-expanding this crucial program.

**[Tell The World Bank to Stop Financing Fossil Fuels](#)**- Last month, the World Bank held its annual meetings. Groups from all over the world have called on the World Bank to stop financing fossil fuels and companies that promote them. Click on the link above to urge the World Bank to stop its practice of financing fossil fuels.

**[CMSM JP Alert](#)**- Click on this link for CMSM's Justice and Peace Alert, which contains a number of action alerts, events and resources, including many centered around November's Black Catholic History Month.

## Recommended Reading

[Pope Francis Closes Door on Death Penalty in 'Fratelli Tutti' \(America Magazine\)](#)

[Where Do We Go From Here: Reimagining Our Broken Criminal Justice System \(Jesuits.org\)](#)