



PROVINCE NEWSLETTER

Edmund Rice Christian Brothers North America

A PROVINCE OF THE CONGREGATION OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS

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College Adviser and Counselor from ACND Is Nominated to Participate in University of Notre Dame's "Excellence In Teaching Conference"



Br. Tim Granzotto, CFC

Brother Tim Granzotto, CFC, Counselor and College Adviser at Archbishop Curley Notre Dame 6 to 12 Prep has been nominated to participate in the University of Notre Dame's "Excellence In Teaching Conference." The conference is offered by the Notre Dame Alumni Association where K-12 educators participate in a weekend of personal reflection and professional renewal. This award-winning conference will take place on October 14 through 16 at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana. It combines practical application and inspiration to empower educators emotionally, intellectually, and psychologically and challenge educators to move beyond teaching as a profession to 'teaching as a calling.'

Brother Granzotto holds a MA in School Counseling from the University of Detroit Mercy, a Professional Education Certificate, a MA in Business Administration, and a Bachelor of Science in Finance. He has most recently worked as a School Counselor for the Brother Rice High School in Chicago. This past summer, he helped out as a high school camp counselor and as teacher-ranger at Palo Alto National Historic Park. He will share his summer experiences along with a unique understanding of the Mexican-American War with ACND students.

ACND Principal, Brother Patrick Sean Moffett, CFC, Ph.D., expressed his thanks for this great initiative by the Notre Dame Club of Miami; the club's president, Mr. Brian Dosal and representative Mr. Guillermo Argumendo. "ACND has been often linked to the University of Notre Dame – first through the Brothers of the Holy Cross who taught at the school and, then, through the Notre Dame Academy, Archbishop Curley High School, and ACND graduates who selected Notre Dame to continue their education," commented Brother Moffett. "Our most recent Notre Dame graduate was Erdina Francillion just over a year ago."

Upon his return from the conference, Brother Granzotto plans to share his experiences with the Notre Dame Club of Miami.

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"In dangers, in doubts, in difficulties, think of Mary, call upon Mary. Let not her name depart from your lips, never suffer it to leave your heart, and to more surely obtain the assistance of her prayer, never neglect not to walk in her footsteps."

St. Bernard of Clairvaux

THE BROTHERS CEMETERY

West Park, New York

Address at the West Park Mass by Edmundian John (Daniel '80) Murphy

Good afternoon:

My name is John Murphy and I am an Edmundian. As I look about this gathering, I see individuals who are both professed and non-professed – yet all of whom share a common vocation, a common experience and a common brotherhood. And it is because of this bond that we can all sincerely say to each other – welcome home!

I am standing here this afternoon on grass that I helped to plant in 1981. I was a Novice and with my fellow group member, Joe Payne, was assigned by our Novice Master, Brother Derm Bray, to help Brothers Jerry Bullen and Simon Barry build the new cemetery. By the time we took first vows and left West Park, the field had been cleared and leveled, and the grass had begun to grow. Thirty years later, the grass has filled in and regrettably; so has the cemetery. Jerry Bullen lies beneath the grass that he taught us how to plant, and Simon and Derm rest closely by.

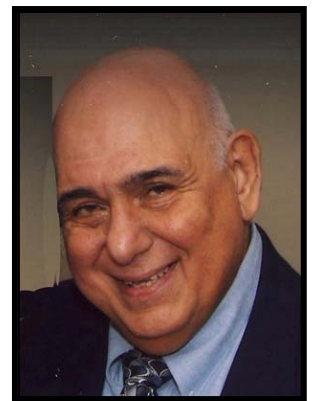


For many of you, I'm sure that it must be a strange feeling to have known most of the Brothers on the old side of the cemetery, and all of the Brothers on the new. They were the men who inspired us to leave our homes and journey to places called Lakewood, Kortright, West Park, and New Rochelle. They were our teachers, our group members, and fellow monks on the mission. They were our friends; they were our brothers. And today, we stand among them once again. And in so doing, we are eternally grateful to those individuals who in the 1980's came together and formed the Edmundian Society. They reached across the years to make it possible for all of us to once again be at home in West Park, in the company of our Brothers

both living and deceased. In a special way today, we remember, thank and honor one of those men, Vinny Russo.

For many of us, Vinny Russo was the Edmundian Society. And upon his passing, Edmundians Jack O'Keefe and John McCormack took the time to record their thoughts.

According to Jack, Vinny was the consummate teacher, dedicated coach, and a true Italian who valued real Italian food; not what was passed off as Italian food in refectories of the Irish Christian Brothers. He looked like a tough Mafioso, but nothing could have been further from the truth. Husband to Cathy, father to Anne and Carra, and grandfather to Vincent, the only type of Godfather Vinnie knew how to be, was that of loving Godfather to the Edmundians. With Brothers Mike Delaney and John McCarthy, Vinnie helped establish the Edmundians in 1986. He was elected Chairperson several times, and held that post until his passing. With Cathy always at his side, they made this event every year a special homecoming rooted in a spiritual communion between our Brothers both living and deceased. Thank you Vinny, and thank you Cathy for being a sister to us your brothers!



Vincent A. Russo
June 8, 1937- March 9, 2011

In the words of John McCormack, Vinny was the founder of the Edmundians. He designed, shaped and inspired this group. Of course he made sure that the Brothers' causes and missions received our support when they voiced their special need, but more than that - he connected

all of us through the magic of technology and the power of prayer. We read everything he sent us. And in that silent moment, we reconnected with our youth, and the young men with whom we began our journey. And while our vocation lead us to live our lives in different directions, his call for our prayers for special intentions, for the sick, and for the dying, united us in an **Apostolate of Prayer**.

Our loss, like that of the Russo family, is profound. He was the one key person who kept us linked together in our shared Brotherhood. He was a gift to his family, this Congregation and our Edmundian Society. His actions and goodness allowed us to realize that "**Providence was always our Inheritance**" and that Edmund is still guiding our lives. He lived Jesus in his heart until the very moment when he met Him - face to face.

So now in that spirit, Vincent Antonio Russo, we your Brothers calling upon the words of the *In Paradisum* of old, commend you with sincere thanks and love to your final mission:

*May the angels lead you into paradise,
May the martyrs come to welcome you on your way,
And lead you in to the Holy City – Jerusalem.*

*May the choirs of Angels welcome you,
And with Lazarus who once was poor,
May You Have Everlasting Life. Amen.*

THE BROTHERS' CEMETERY Los Angeles, California

Cantwell Celebration: September 24, 2011

The following was submitted by Edmundian John (Conan) McCormack, '60.

It was a rare overcast day on Saturday, September 24, 2011, but it didn't dampen our high spirits as we gathered at Calvary Cemetery in Los Angeles. Father Jim, C.M., was with us to celebrate the lives of our four Brothers buried there: Brothers John DeSales Walsh, John Calasanetius Hunt, John Damascene Carr, and Marcos Capistran Chavira. We were one with the East Coast celebration at West Park!

It is wonderful to know that these meetings are now being organized in other parts of the country for those who cannot go to West Park, NY. And it's comforting to feel that we can draw strength knowing that there are so many Edmundians who assemble at the sound of the whistle one more time to be together and revive the camaraderie that we forged together so long ago.

We celebrated the Mass in Cantwell's chapel surrounded by echoes of the past where Father Jim had us recall one special moment with a Christian Brother that helped us in our journey together. Again we were united with the celebration at West Park.

What is it that always brings us back together after all these years? Perhaps it is a combination of a sense of family and the whisperings of the Holy Spirit. Or could it be a strong sense of belonging to something larger than us? Whatever it is – it is always accompanied with laughter and a deep impulse to "tell a million stories." And believe me on Saturday we came close! Each had a telling incident that defined an exceptional moment in our lives –one that carried such impact that a half century later it seemed clear as the day it had occurred.

As we shared our lives with many whom we had never



John Hill; Reno "Tony" Frigo '64; Wally "Bruno" Bench '58; John "Patrick" Flynn '58; Ed "Joseph" Finegan '58

met before, a world of coincidence became evident. One small example is that John Flynn's wife was a schoolmate of mine in elementary school back in Manhattan, and they were married in my parish church. Who knew! "The world is a small place" became quite evident.

Conversation was effortless, and new "brotherly" friendships were formed. Our delicious buffet lunch gave occasion to even more stories filled with laughter and realization that we are truly connected through the charism of Blessed Edmund Rice.

In all we went away feeling invigorated with this "newness." Funny how a meeting of Edmundians can help you feel that you have just received a B12 shot!

A very special thanks is in order for Reno Frigo '64 who organized everything and saw it through – right down to the delicious buffet lunch!

Live Jesus in our hearts forever!

LIFE COMMITMENT PROGRAM Leavenworth, Kansas



**Br. Jason
Ford**

From July 21 – 29, 2011, Brother Jason M. Ford, CFC, participated in the *Religious Formation Conference's Life Commitment Program* at the Marillac Center in Leavenworth, KS. Jason joined fourteen other religious men and women under annual vows in this nine-day program in preparation for final vows in their respective religious congregations. Participants represented: the Sisters of the Lamb of God (AD); Marianites of Holy Cross (MSC); Sisters of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities (OSF); Congregation of Christian Brothers (CFC); Congregation of Divine Providence (CDP); Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration (FSPA); Society of St. Francis of De Sales (SDB); Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament (SBS); Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (PBVM); Congregation of Holy Cross (CSC); Religious of Jesus and Mary (RJM); School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND); Sisters of St. Francis of Penance & of Charity, Tiffin, OH (OSF); and the Congregation of Bon Secours (CBS). It was a truly international group with representatives from Asia, North America, and South America.

The conference, titled: *Religious Life as a Prophetic Enterprise in the 21st Century* focused on the commitment that religious make to their congregation, the Church, and God. Fr. Fintan Sheeran, SSCC, focusing on the challenges and opportunities in religious life in the 21st century, led the opening session. Fintan challenged each participant with the charge to be a voice within their congregations listening to the signs of the times. The second session focused on Theological Reflection and was led by Fr. Juan Molina, OSST. During this session participants had the opportunity to enter into the scriptures and reflect on how the word of God has called religious for centuries and where it is calling us today. Fr. Juan also led the third session focusing on the vow of poverty. The participants were invited to dive into their constitutions and rules and see exactly what it means to their communities to live a life committed to poverty in the 21st century. There was great dialogue between the participants as they discussed the similarities and differences of their communities' call to live evangelical poverty.



Front Row (L – R): Chuyen Nguyen, SDB; Meri Cari Paz, PBVM; Sandra R. Salazar, RJM; Caryn Crook, OSF; Debra Ann Bailey, AD; Melissa Schreifels, SSND; Chris Webb, CBS; Kristian Laygo, SDB
Back Row (L – R): Jason M. Ford, CFC; Virginia Milner, SBS; Sarah Hennessy, FSPA; Shirley Shafranek, OSF; Marji Filler, CDP; Yvonne DeBruin; Keri Burke, MSC; Nich Perez, CSC

The fourth session was led by Sr. Maria Cimperman, OSU, and focused on the vow of celibacy. Sr. Maria challenged the participants to understand chastity in the light of their relationship with God through prayer and discernment. Again, great sharing happened between the participants as they had a variety of opportunities to share how the vow of chastity is lived within their own communities and how their prayer life strengthens their call to “love as Jesus has loved us”. Sr. Kathleen Wood, SCL, began the fifth session on the vow of obedience with a brief overview of how obedience has taken shape over the history of the Church. The participants were led through a conversation about what it means to be obedient in the new millennium and how this openness and willingness to listen can and should strengthen the mission of their respective ministries and response to God’s invitation to serve the Church. Finally, Mrs. Yvonne DeBruin organized a day of integration for the participants. This final activity invited each of the participants to enter into a period of silent reflection on all they had heard and shared and to enter into a process of *Lectio Divina* with their application for wanting to participate in this program. Many were amazed at how much of the material covered over these nine-days was connected to their initial reasons for wanting to participate in the **Life Commitment Program**. Each day began in communal prayer focusing the day with scripture and songs. And each day ended with the celebration of the Liturgy.


For me the opportunity to gather with fourteen other men and women in a similar state of religious life was extremely powerful. In each of the small group opportunities we were able to talk openly and honestly about the joys and challenges of religious life. With each presentation we saw more clearly the value of all that we had learned in formation and in community life, it is amazing what taking time out of our busy schedules and looking back very carefully at our past can do. I had the chance to see how my formation over the past nine years has helped me to grow into the life of an Edmund Rice Christian Brother and how each of my ministry experiences and community experiences has added to that gift. When one is one of the few men in formation you often lose sight of the bigger picture and feel like a struggling swimmer just trying to stay afloat, this program allowed me the opportunity to see that this is not the case. Not only are the other participants a new support system, but also you look back and see all the Brothers, past and present, who are supporting you and holding you out of the rough sea. I am extremely happy and privileged that this was a part of my formation as I continue to discern God’s call in my life to serve Him, the Church and the mission and charism of the Brothers.

Brother Jason Ford, CFC, is currently on the staff of Archbishop Curley Notre Dame High School in Miami, FL, and is a teacher and the Coordinator of Campus Ministry.

Read more about Brother Jason Ford and his ministry in *Catholics On Call* at <http://www.catholicsoncall.org/day-life-christian-brother>

Blessed Edmund Rice Prayer Cards

Pray for us



Founder of the Christian Brothers
and the Presentation Brothers

With reverence in the
daily Mass and throughout the
Christian Brothers' ministries
and share in the prayer and good works of the
Congregation of Christian Brothers
around the world.

Requested by: _____

Address: _____

The Lord bless you and keep you,
the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you,
the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.

for the Christian Brothers

Blessed Edmund Rice Prayer Cards are a beautiful way to assure loved ones of your prayerful support. Our Prayer Card is a singular expression in honor of some special occasion or at a sorrowful time for a bereaved relative or friend.

The benefactor’s donation (payable to the Christian Brothers Foundation) benefits the ministries of the Christian Brothers.

If you would like a set of Prayer Cards, please contact:

Prayer Cards
Christian Brothers Foundation
33 Pryer Terrace
New Rochelle, NY 10804

alb@cbinstitute.org

JERICHO HOUSE Wainfleet, Ontario

Sister Jacquie Keefe, cssf, Joins GreenFaith's National Fellowship Program; National Initiative Trains Religious Leaders for Environmental Leadership



Sister Jacquie Keefe, cssf

GreenFaith announced recently that Sister Jacquie Keefe, of the Jericho House Youth Leadership, Justice (social & ecological) & Spirituality Centre, has been named a *GreenFaith Fellow* and will join the 2012 Class of the *GreenFaith Fellowship Program*. The Fellowship Program is a comprehensive education and training program to prepare lay and ordained leaders from diverse religious traditions for environmental leadership. "We're thrilled to welcome Sister Jacquie to the Program," said Rev. Fletcher Harper, GreenFaith's Executive Director. "We look forward to working with her to support her growth as a religious-environmental leader and congratulate Sister Jacquie on receiving a GreenFaith Scholarship."

Through three residential retreats, monthly webinars, and extensive reading, Sister Jacquie will receive education and training in eco-theology, "greening" the operation of institutions, environmental advocacy, and environmental justice. Each Fellow writes his/her own eco-theological statement and carries out a community leadership project mobilizing religious leaders in relation to an environmental issue. Upon graduating, the Fellows will join the Fellowship's alumni/ae network and mentor other emerging leaders in this field.

The GreenFaith Fellowship is an opportunity for Sister Jacquie to fine-tune her ability to work with people toward the creation of sustainable communities. Sister Jacquie says that the GreenFaith Fellowship operates on principles advocated by Jericho House in the development of collaborative and respectful relationships across boundaries of race, creed and class in an effort to maximize relational power for positive change.

Sister Jacquie will join a class of 25 Fellows from diverse religious backgrounds. The Fellows represent over ten religious denominations, including Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Evangelical, Roman Catholic, mainline Protestant, and Unitarian Universalist. Fellows work in a wide variety of settings, including congregations, universities, campus ministries, NGO's, and denominational organizations.



GreenFaith's Executive Director, Rev. Fletcher Harper, directs the Program, with support from a multi-faith and multi-disciplinary faculty. "This program will offer these leaders the opportunity to become well-trained leaders in religious environmentalism," said Harper. "They will help create an environmentally just and sustainable world."

GreenFaith is an interfaith environmental coalition whose mission is to educate and mobilize diverse religious communities for environmental leadership. Founded in 1992, GreenFaith is a leader in the fast-growing religious-environmental movement and has won national and international recognition for its work. For more information, see www.greenfaith.org.

GreenFaith is grateful to the Kendeda Sustainability Fund for support for the Fellowship Program. For more information, visit www.greenfaith.org.



ERCBNA
Justice Peace Integrity of Creation
Promoting social justice and eco-justice



ARCHBISHOP CURLEY NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL

Miami, Florida

Archbishop Curley Notre Dame HS 6 to 12 Prep Welcomes Its 58th Freshman Class



**Ms. Lisa
Morales**

On August 22, 2011, energy and excitement filled the hallways of Archbishop Curley Notre Dame 6 to 12 Prep as faculty, student leaders, and Brother Patrick Sean Moffett, CFC, Ph.D., ACND's Principal, welcomed its 58th Freshmen Class. Freshmen and transfer orientation day consisted of group meetings where students rotated throughout the school in areas such as: activities/sports, academics/guidance, campus ministry, and computer lab. A mini schedule allowed students to become acclimated with their daily routine, find their lockers and meet with all of their teachers.

The day concluded with a meeting with ACND's Coordinator of Campus Ministries, Brother Jason M. Ford, CFC, and a pep rally organized by student leaders. Students and their family then gathered at a welcome Mass where ACND senior Celine Wassaf read the Prayer of the Faithful. The Prayer was offered as a gesture of unity with all young people around the globe and support for Miami's Archbishop Thomas Wenski who participated this past week at the 26th World Youth Day in Madrid, Spain.

This year ACND will hold events that highlight the role and importance of educators:

On September, 10, 2011, the school's ACND Gallery of Art featured the paintings and sketches of six Archdiocese of Miami teachers – Ms. Wilma DeVoe and Ms. Vivian Macia of St. Agnes; Mr. Kerry Ware of St. Patrick; Mr. Don Clerveaux of St. Mary's; Ms. Catherine Wichmann of St. Anthony; and Mr. Yunier Oliver Cervino of ACND. "Teaching Artists – A Catholic Tradition" was an exhibit that intended to demonstrate the talent of those who teach about art and the passion and the dedication that they inspire. Its purpose was to showcase the importance of art within our Catholic school tradition and its power to be used as a teaching tool.

On February 8, 2012, the school will hold its Second Annual Heritage Day, with the theme "A Call to Educate." School alumni/ae who have chosen education as a profession will gather together to share their experiences with current ACND students. The day will include group interviews conducted by student leaders in homeroom classes, a school-wide assembly, and a Mass of Thanksgiving.

In preparation of this event, students in this year's Advanced Placement History courses will be researching the impact of the school's graduates on Catholic and public education in Miami and throughout the United States. The educators will represent graduates from Archbishop Curley High School, Notre Dame Academy, and ACND who have either worked or retired from educational institutions that include nearly all of the Archdiocese of Miami elementary and secondary schools, two Catholic private universities, and Miami-Dade public schools and colleges.



**ACND alumna, Maria Giani '10,
welcomes her sister, Lourdes Giani, who
is now an ACND freshman.**

The coming together of students past and present in a 'living history day' began last year at ACND's 50th year celebration of being the first high school in Florida to break the barrier of racial segregation. A documentary of last year's event titled "History Detectives" by professional photographer Tom Salyer has been welcomed as a significant contribution to the archives and research center of the Museum of History, Miami; as well as to historical institutions in New York, Philadelphia, and Boston.

**New scholarship honors Msgr. Vincent Kelly;
It will be offered to deserving student at Curley Notre Dame High**

The following was written by Ana Rodriguez-Soto, and printed in the Florida Catholic



Ana

Rodriguez-Soto “I never thought it possible that I could be as involved in a school community as I am here,” said Jesús, who thanked Msgr. Kelly for the scholarship during the Mass in honor of the latter’s retirement from archdiocesan-wide work.

“I have become a well-rounded individual because of the opportunities I have been able to take advantage of. Going to Curley isn’t just going to school every day. It’s going to a place where I can feel that I belong to an extremely diverse family. I have been able to develop leadership skills athletically and academically as well as spiritually and morally. If I had attended another school, I don’t think I would have been as involved as I am here and I wouldn’t have been as devoted to what I now love to do. That is why I want to thank you for giving me the chance to come to this school,” Jesús said.

Brother Sean Moffett, principal at Curley Notre Dame, described Jesús as a “gifted honors student, effective student leader, very active in promoting spiritual and charitable causes.”

Brother Moffett added, “Jesús’ parents have very limited means and recently have experienced added challenges but they could not be more generous with their time and their willingness to help.”

“Jesús’ mom, in fact, is frequently offering coffee and donuts (at St. Mary Cathedral) for some cause. I’ve known her to walk from St. Mary’s to ACND just to help with the clean up for some event,” Brother Moffett said.

Msgr. Kelly called the scholarship “payback time,” since he received his education from the Christian Brothers, the same religious community whose members now administer Curley Notre Dame.

“It’s so wonderful to have the scholarship in my honor for a student there,” Msgr. Kelly said.



Archbishop Thomas Wenski, Jesús Vasquez, Msgr. Vincent Kelly, Brother Sean Moffett, principal of ACND

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NOTE TO EDMUNDIANS

Note from Edmudian Reno (Tony '64) Frigo

Gentlemen --- Dick Hill pointed out to me something very peculiar in the Cantwell chapel Saturday. In the back of the chapel there is a large, metal cross in the middle of the wall and to the left, stacked vertically, are two pictures, each of one of a co-founder of The Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary. This religious order is the one that taught at SHM, across the street from Cantwell back "in the day." To the right of the cross is NOTHING but empty wall.

The back wall of the CSHM HS chapel sorely needs two 11X16" pictures, one of Blessed Edmund and a second of Bro. Thomas Benedict Regan (first principal of Cantwell H.S.). Is this something that our Society can make happen? If so, the pictures/drawings should be 11" wide by 16" tall.

If not Bro. Regan, I have a drawing of Fr. Patrick J. O'Dowd in my senior yearbook that would work. He was the one that chose the two properties and had the schools built that would eventually become SHM and Cantwell H.S. Cantwell's first semester back in 1946 was conducted on the top floor of his grammar school in nearby East Los Angeles. He was a long, close friend of the Christian Brothers until he passed in 1963.

What are your thoughts?



Jericho House, Wainfleet, Ontario

Jericho House Youth Leadership, Justice & Spirituality Center is an ecumenical and interfaith retreat center in the Catholic tradition. An ideal location for retreats, meetings, conferences, and seminars.

Info: Jericho House 10845 Rathfon Road, Port Colborne, ON L3K 5V4;

P: 905-834-0533, F: 905-834-5230

www.jerichohouse.org

The Jericho House Team:

Sister Jacquie Keefe, cssf, Brother Bill Carrothers, CFC, Mr. Gary Bowron

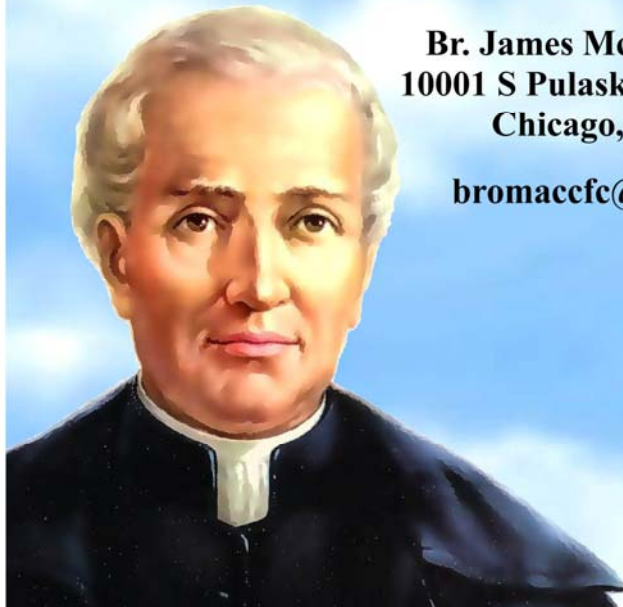
250 Invitations for Edmund's 250th Birthday

June 1, 2012 will mark the 250th anniversary of the birth of Blessed Edmund Rice.

Between now and then, help us invite 250 men to consider becoming Brothers.

You know someone who you think might make a good Christian Brother.

Send his name and address, or e-mail address to:



Br. James McDonald, CFC
10001 S Pulaski Road, Rm 111
Chicago, IL 60655

bromaccfc@yahoo.com

In the tradition of Blessed Edmund Rice, the founder, the Congregation of Christian Brothers is an international community of vowed religious Brothers living and praying in community and missioned by the Church for Christian education. The men the Christian Brothers seek to join with them are Catholic men who sense a call to live in fraternal community and who wish to minister in the educational apostolates of the Church, especially to youth. They are men with the religious inspiration and dedication necessary to live a life of consecrated celibacy and who, through vows of poverty and obedience, place their gifts, talents, and possessions at the disposal of the community in order to meet the needs of God's people. Please contact one of the Brothers listed above.

More information on the Edmund Rice Christian Brothers at these links:

Global Edmund Rice Network
Edmund Rice Christian Brothers NA
Edmund Rice International
Christian Brothers Vocations
Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation

www.edmundrice.net
www.ercbna.org
www.edmundriceinternational.org
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