

## PROFILES of Edmund Rice Christian Brothers North America: Summer 2017



“Cast your nets into the sea.”

Artist Brother Kenneth Chapman, CFC      Studio at Iona College, New Rochelle, NY  
View: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=np-VS\\_lqTjk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=np-VS_lqTjk)

### Mission Frère: Edmund Rice Young Adult Ministry

Ministry to and with young adults is the theme of this edition of *PROFILES of Edmund Rice Christian Brothers North America*. The four gospels have occasionally been read as a handbook of the school of discipleship in which Jesus prepared His chosen friends for their post-Resurrection mission. Here we see Him teaching the *good news* the disciples were to be and to proclaim to subsequent generations of believers. He prepares them for challenges. He promises the Holy Spirit as companion and guide. Christian Brothers embrace these lessons as a personal and communal call to live and invite others to live lives enriched by the joy of this *good news*.

The document, *Essential Elements of an Edmund Rice Christian Brother Education*, emphasizes active engagement in building prayerful and reflective communities attentive to those most in need and offering opportunities for service and advocacy. Leadership workshops, advocacy projects, and mission immersions have prepared graduates of our schools and colleges to take their place in building a better tomorrow for themselves and the larger world community. With the establishment of a new office of

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY we seek to engage alums in the on-going work of nurturing and developing the Edmund Rice Network.

Brother Timothy Smith, CFC, appeared in a previous edition of PROFILES. He is again featured as he now assumes the role of Director of Young Adult Ministry. Brother Christian Hazeley, CFC, a member of the West African District of Christian Brothers, is studying at Iona College in New Rochelle. Brother Michael Segvich, CFC, has served as president or principal of several schools across the United States and will be the Chicago area contact person for the Young Adult Ministry outreach. Brother Charles Gattone has been Provincial of the former Western American Province of Christian Brothers. He is currently on the faculty of Vancouver College in British Columbia, Canada, and has agreed to be the Young Adult Ministry contact for the west coast of North America.

Each of the Brothers involved understands that our role in the development of the Young Adult Ministry is primarily that of inviting and supporting the engagement of a new generation in being the *good news* of Jesus Christ.

**Brother Gregory Timothy Smyth, CFC**



Brother Timothy Smyth has accepted the nomination to be director of the Mission Frère Young Adult Ministry, coordinating alum networking and vocation discernment activities of the Province's Office of Educational Services.

ACTION Leadership Workshops and the MISSION IMMERSIONS heighten awareness within the Province and the Edmund Rice School Network of the potential impact of our student leaders in building the Church of today and tomorrow. As students move on to colleges, universities, and career paths, we seek to sustain the spirit cultivated in their secondary schools and through these programs. The administrators of the Edmund Rice Schools Network have noted the importance and value of keeping alums connected to each other and to the spirit of PRESENCE, COMPASSION AND LIBERATION nurtured in their high school years. Initial efforts at linking ER groups on college and university campuses, offering opportunities for short and longer term volunteer engagement, and inviting participation in domestic and international mission experiences now call for heightened coordination.

The Province has asked the Office of Educational Services to extend its current mandate to embrace a post-secondary component of youth services. To assist in this effort, the Province will fund a new position within the OES dedicated to leadership development programs for young adults. The location within OES is intended to facilitate the continuity of engagements such as ACTION, mission immersions, volunteer services, vocation discernment, and faith development. Brother Tim has been a part of many of these efforts in the past and welcomes the challenge of moving them all to a new level.

Personal contact, peer interaction, social media, and opportunities for community engagement, shared ministry, and prayer will be essential components of the out-reach. Links to school campus ministries, immersion experiences in Brownsville, Texas and Hendricken House in Peru, and the Edmund Rice International engagements in New York City and Geneva suggest the range of opportunities open to young adults who have heard the call of the Gospel in their Edmund Rice Education.

Concluding his charitable outreach work at Casa Los Hermanos and his role as Religious Education Minister at St. Leo's Parish, both in Bonita Springs, Florida, Brother Tim is now moving to the Christian Brothers' Community, East Harlem, New York. While his work will be bringing him to college and university campuses around North America, his new home base is the site of Mission Frère Harlem. The center offers spiritual and professional support to religious serving in the Harlem area and is planning accommodation and discernment opportunities for volunteer groups and those engaged in United Nations advocacy programs. Brother looks forward to the coming together of shared enthusiasms for proclaiming the *good news*.

### **Brother Christian Hazeley, CFC**

The city of Bo in Sierra Leone on the West Coast of Africa was home to Christian Hazeley and his five brothers and a sister. When their father, a police chief, was assigned to the city of Port Loko, Christian went with him and attended Port Loko Catholic Secondary School. On graduation, he earned admission to the Port Loko National Teacher Training College where he attained a Higher Teachers Certificate.

Elected President of the Catholic Student Association at the College he became the liaison between the Teachers' College and the Congregation of Christian Brothers. The Brothers sought opportunities to promote vocations to religious life among the students. Christian organized the meetings.



He felt a call to the service of the Lord as a religious. He says that there was a crisis moment when he could not make up his mind if his call was to be a priest or a brother. He recalls coming home from a full day of teaching and coming across a pamphlet on the Edmund Rice Christian Brothers. As he read he realized that it was the life he was already living, but without community. He picked up the phone and called the Brother Vocation Director.

After a series of e-mails and phone calls he welcomed an invitation to a fourteen week “Come and See” experience along with twenty five other discerning young men. They passed three weeks in a formation house learning the story of Edmund Rice and being introduced to aspects of community living. They were then sent to various missions of the Brothers for a nine week immersion. Christian joined a community of four in the village of Blama, where he taught classes in social studies and religious moral education, prayed and ate with the Brothers, attended meetings, and had one to one chats with the vocation and postulant directors. At the end of the immersion, he and the companions who had completed the “Come and See” course returned to the formation house for a week of evaluation. The program completed, Christian was invited to apply to begin formal formation as a Christian Brother.

He then went to his father and shared his intentions. His father simply asked “are you happy about it?” Christian responded yes but only if he would have his father’s blessing. “Yes, you have my blessing.” Christian’s mother, in the home village, needed a fuller conversation. He struggled to relate in a language she could understand a world she never had experienced. She responded: “If this is what you want to do, do it.” Later both parents became very supportive of each stage of his vocational journey.

In the meanwhile, the Superintendent for the school in which Christian taught expressed disbelief and labeled as foolishness the sacrificing of a paid job and a desirable and assured teaching position in a state school. "What if they decide they do not want you? Then you will have lost your monthly salaries."

Christian found himself on the edge of indecision. He was late for his appointment to report to the Postulancy. Then, when he did arrive, he was there only a few hours when his father called to say that Christian's younger sister just died. At her funeral, he again struggled with the decision and the recommendations of the Superintendent before returning to the Postulancy in Bo.

After a year, he joined men from the two other African Postulancies, as well as a group from Papua New Guinea, at the Christian Brother Novitiate in Tamale, in the country of Ghana, also in West Africa. He recalls the richness of the cultural exchanges and the shared gifts they brought to ministries in a clinic serving the outcasts, victims of AIDS, TB, poor and the mentally challenged, cleaning their living areas, serving them food, and listening to their stories.

Upon completion of the Novitiate year, Brother Christian was missioned to the Ngala community in Sierra Leone where he taught in the secondary school and engaged in the local parish outreach programs to work with the poor. He particularly delights in recalling the evening sharing among the Brothers of the adventures and blessings of their day. After two years, he was appointed bursar for the community.

His next assignment was back to Tamale, in Ghana, as a community superior. Here he taught and served as school bursar. Here, too, it was the outreach to the poor and the evening shared prayer that nurtured his vocation. Recognizing Christian's gifts as an educator and administrator and his commitment to service, Province Leadership invited him to take time for advanced studies at Iona College in New Rochelle, New York. Here the local Brothers' Community, in collaboration with the administration of the College, has provided unique educational opportunities to young brothers from Africa. Christian found a warm welcome, a stimulating academic program, and the opportunity to join with the Brothers and the College community in service and advocacy for the poor and marginalized. Interviewed for this Profile, Christian began and ended with the expression: *I am grateful to God and to the Brothers.*

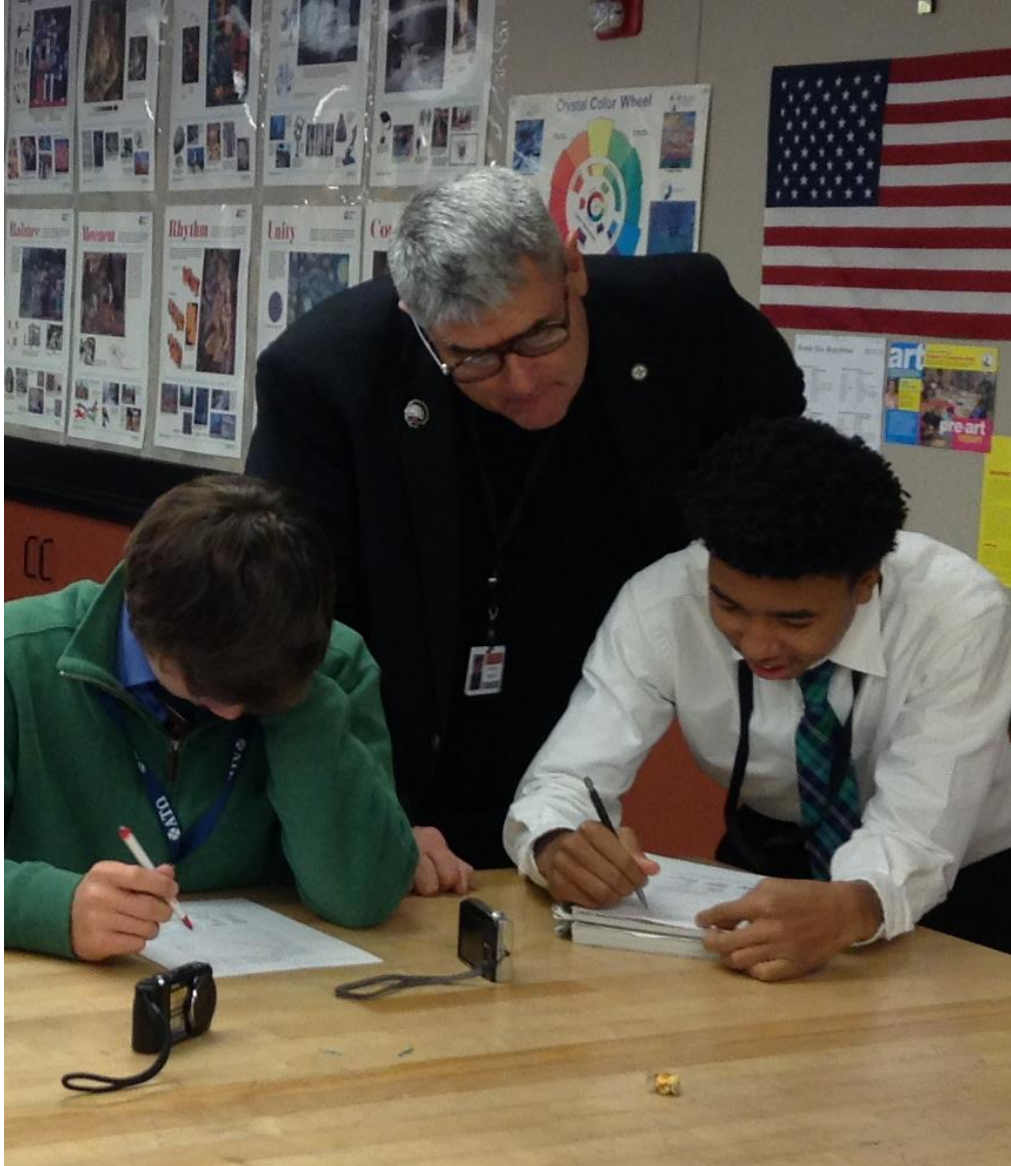
### **Brother Michael S. Segvich, CFC**

Brother Michael Segvich's curriculum vitae reveals that half of his years in religious life have been in the role of Principal or President – five schools in four states. He comments:

*This is my 49th year in the Brothers, but I have been associated with the Brothers since 1961 when my oldest brother decided that he wanted to go to a Catholic high school and tested at Brother Rice, which because it was oversubscribed, led to his being recommended to try St. Laurence which was just opening in the Fall of '61. He did, and as they say, the rest was history.*

*A key factor in my vocation was the summer after I graduated 8th grade and was anxiously anticipating beginning high school at St. Laurence, when I was afflicted with rheumatic fever which resulted in some other related physical issues and challenges, etc., that in a nutshell left me bedridden until November. A senior Brother graciously gave up his free time once or twice a week to come over to our family house to tutor me in Latin and English particularly. As a result,*

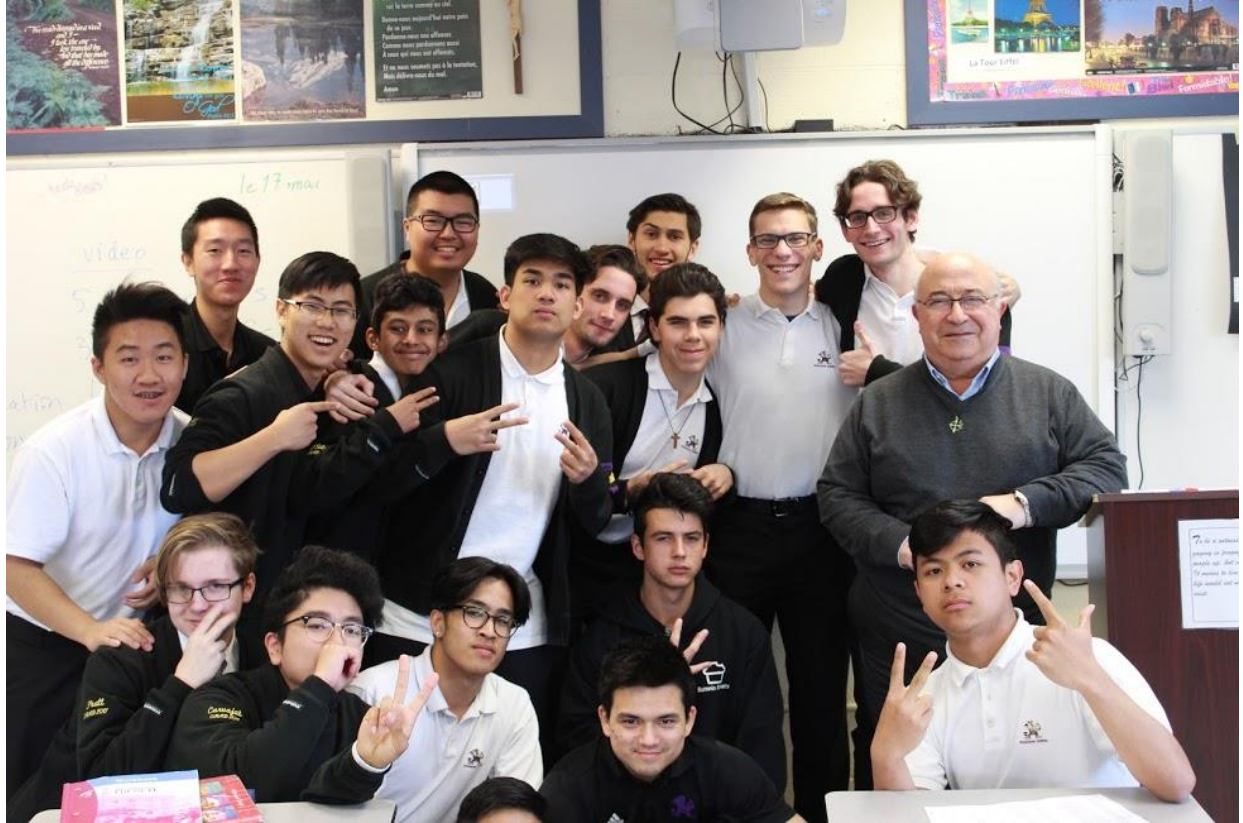
*when I actually got to school in early November of 1964, I was not too far behind and actually made the honor roll for the first semester. I always attribute my vocation and my school performance to the kindness this Brother showed me.*



*I attribute any success which I may have had as a Principal to advice which my Brother predecessors offered: "Be yourself" and "Be visible."*

Now resettled in his hometown, Chicago, Brother Segvich lives in the Brothers' Callan Novitiate in the Hyde Park area. He will be one of the contact persons for university students and others in the Mid-West seeking to know more about the vocations to the Brothers or engagement in the Young Adult Ministry.

## Brother Charles Joseph Gattone, CFC



Brother Charles Joseph Gattone began his teaching career at St. Laurence High School in Chicago. Having also taught at Leo and Brother Rice High Schools in Chicago, he was appointed Principal at Seton High School in Chandler, Arizona. A few years later he was named Director of Education for the whole Western American Province of the Congregation of Christian Brothers. This assignment was interrupted a year later when he was elected and appointed as Province Leader, one of the younger men to hold such a responsible position.

As he came to the end of his term he helped facilitate the joining of the Eastern, Western, and Canadian Provinces of Christian Brothers into the unified Edmund Rice Christian Brothers North America Province. Once out of Province Leadership he welcomed the opportunity to return to teaching and campus ministry at Vancouver College in British Columbia, Canada – where he is pictured here with some of his students.

Brother Charles, in his role as Provincial and then later as an elected at-large representative to the Brothers' General Chapters in 2008 and 2014, has participated in articulating the vision of what it means to be Brother in the world and the Church of today. He shares this insight with his students and co-workers attesting to new life in the Province and Congregation and our enthusiasm for community engagement in projects of Presence, Compassion, and Liberation.

At Vancouver College he directs Encounter Retreats. Students openly share their faith journeys and testify to the ways the Spirit is present in their daily lives. Brother invites them to give expression to these gifts in the larger school community and beyond. He nurtures the hope that some will heed the call to the life of Brotherhood in which he finds great fulfillment and joy.



*We introduce the Religious Brother within the Church-Communion, as part of the one Chosen People, in which each one is called to radiate the richness of his particular vocation. .... the heart of the identity of the Religious Brother, namely fraternity, is a gift that is received (mystery), a gift that is shared (communion) and a gift that is given away (mission)*

**Identity and Mission of the Religious Brother in the Church**  
Vatican Document approved by HH Pope Francis, Oct. 4, 2015

The logo of the Congregation of Christian Brothers: The Celtic cross (wood) attests to the spirit of faith of our founder, Blessed Edmund Rice. A widower, father and businessman, he responded to the call of Jesus, "... sell what you have, give to the poor, and follow me." He and his fellow brothers, grounded in a heart-centered, Eucharistic spirituality (monstrance), came together in community, prayer and service. The promptings of the Holy Spirit continue to bring our message of Presence, Compassion, and Liberation to youth, especially the poor, throughout the world (green sprouts). Visit our website to fill in the rest of the story:

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