

***Community Prayer
In Honor of the signing of the
Papal Brief on September 5, 1820***



Call to Prayer

***Leader: Brothers,
Today we celebrate a momentous occasion in the life of the Congregation.
On this date 200 years ago the small band of Edmund's Presentation Brothers received a Papal
Brief from Rome granting the Brothers a new identity
as Christian Brothers with a new Constitution.
Let us recall and reflect on the importance this brief was for the young Institute.***

Silent Reflection

Leader: God, come to our assistance.

***All: Lord, make haste to help us.
Glory to You, Source of all Being, Eterna Word and Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning, is now and shall be forever. Amen***

Hymn

Let All Things Now Living (Available on You Tube)

***Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
To God the creator triumphantly raise.
Who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,
Who still guides us on to the end of our days.
His banners are o'er us, His light goes before us,***

*A pillar of fire shining forth in the night.
Till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished
As forward we travel from light into light.*

*His law he enforces, the stars in their courses
And sun in its orbit obediently shine;
The hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,
The deeps of the ocean proclaim him divine.
We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing;
With glad adoration a song let us raise
Till all things now living unite in thanksgiving:
"To God in the highest, Hosanna and praise!" Amen.*

*Words: Katherine K. Davis
Music: Ash Grove*

Our Psalm of Praise Psalm 100

*Sing a joyful noise to the Beloved
all peoples of the earth!
Serve Love with a glad heart!
Join hands in the great
Dance of Life!*

*Know that the Beloved of your heart
is the Divine Presence!
Love created us, and we belong to
the Most High;
We are born to be loving,
expressions of the Creator's
Divine Plan.*

*Open the gates of your heart
with gratitude
and enter Love's court with praise!
Give thanks to the Beloved,
bless Love's holy Name!*

*For Love is of God, and lives
in your heart forever,
With faith, truth, and joy, now
and in all that is to come.*

*Glory to You, Source of all Being,
Eternal Word and Holy Spirit,
As it was in the beginning, is now
and will be forever. Amen.*

Reflection on The Papal Brief (Read silently)

Br. Rice had always envisioned the Institute reaching further and further from their beginnings in Waterford, and realized from experience that there would be a need to move Brothers freely from location to location. If a Brother could be selected as the overall leader of the Institute, rather than relying on the desires of the different local Bishops, the appropriate distribution of human resources would be more easily achieved.

When they concluded their deliberations, the Superiors carried the results of the work to each of their communities. Over the next two years, community meetings and additional meetings of superiors produced Constitutions which were strongly supported by Archbishop Troy of Dublin and sent on to Rome in 1819.

On September 5, 1820, Pope Pius VII signed the Papal Brief which gave approval to our Institute's first Constitutions, still largely based on that of the Presentation Sisters. In January of 1821 they received the Papal Brief through the hands of Father Peter Kenney, S.J.

Scripture Reading Luke 4: 16-20

Reader 1:

Jesus went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

***“The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”***

*Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down.
The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him.
He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”
The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

Papal Brief Constitution 1

Reader 2:

That these Religious Brothers, being instituted under the protection of the Holy Child Jesus, and the Patronage of the Blessed Virgin Mary, his Mother, shall make it their principal care to teach children, particularly the poor, the things necessary for a virtuous and Christian life; and that the main end and spirit of their Institute, must be an anxious solicitude to educate youth according to the maxims of the Christian law.

Intercessions and Our Father

Concluding Prayer

O God,

We thank you for the life of Blessed Edmund Rice.

He opened his heart to Christ present in those oppressed by poverty and injustice.

May we follow his example of faith, generosity and perseverance.

Grant us the courage and compassion of Blessed Edmund

as we seek to live lives of love and justice.

We ask our prayer through Jesus Christ our Brother and Savior.

Amen.

Blessed Edmund Rice, pray for us.

Mary, Mother of Perpetual Help, pray for us.

Live Jesus in our hearts forever.