

Shared Reflection:

What thought would you like to share with your colleagues?

(Sixth Reader)

A quotation from Blessed Edmund's Writings:

"O God, did we even now rightly begin to serve you, your loving heart would take us all to its final embrace."

(Leader)

Closing Prayer:

Creator God, we thank you for the life of Edmund Rice. He opened his heart to you present in those oppressed by poverty and injustice. May we follow his example of faith and generosity. Grant us the courage and compassion of Edmund as we seek to live lives of love and service. **Amen**

***A Reflection on
The Seventh Essential Element
of an Edmund Rice Christian Brother Education***



Pursue Excellence in all Endeavors.

(First Reader)

Introduction:

Blessed Edmund Rice was given the grace to respond to the call of Jesus by identifying with Christ in the poor. His example evoked a deep awareness of God's loving presence in all with whom he came in contact. He also awakened within them a consciousness of their dignity as children of God. He invited his followers to share the Gospel insight to reach out to the needy, especially the materially poor.

(Leader)

Opening Prayer:

God, our Father, in your love for us, you have held nothing back from us, even your Son. Help us to draw upon the grace that you provide to become a community of believers always willing to grow in love of you and service of others. We pray this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

(Second Reader)

A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.

*Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be satisfied.*

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

*Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

*Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you
and utter every kind of evil against you because of me.*

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven."

(Third Reader)

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your heavenly Father, for he makes his sun rise on the bad and the good, and causes rain to fall on the just and the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what recompense will you have? Do not the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet your brothers only, what is unusual about that? Do not the pagans do the same? So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect.

(Fourth Reader)

The Essential Elements of an Edmund Rice Christian Brother Education calls educational ministry sites and those working in them to . . .

Pursue Excellence in all Endeavors.

This is accomplished in our school when we ...

- promote a strong academic curriculum and cultivate a desire for excellence
- develop an educational culture that fosters the growth of the whole person, higher-order thinking, and life-long learning
- We embrace our internationality and share our joys and challenges.

(Fifth Reader)

Reflection:

Jesus provides our mission, it is the Mission of the Church -

Love your enemies.

Pray for those who persecute you.

Does our excellence encompass who we are,
not just what we do?

How do our graduates exhibit the excellence we profess?

What are some unique activities or experiences that we provide our students in pursuit of excellence?

Your thoughts:
