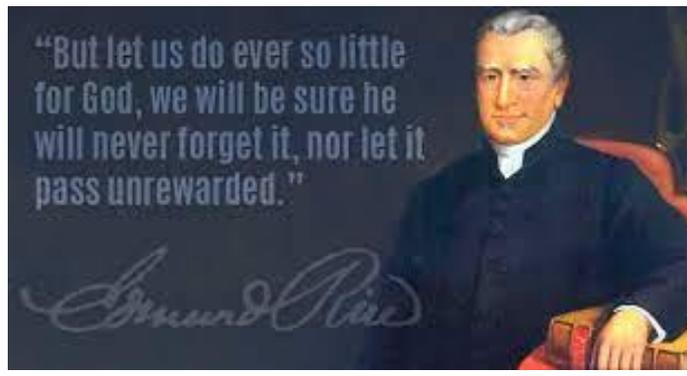


School and Community Prayer
Ending the
25th Anniversary Year of Blessed Edmund's Beatification

Feast Day of Blessed Edmund Rice
May 5, 2022

*“To clasp the hands in prayer is the beginning of an uprising
against the disorder of the world.” (Karl Barth-Theologian)*



Introduction

Leader:

*This past year we have celebrated the 25th anniversary of the
Beatification of Blessed Edmund Rice as we
looked to the future inspired by the example of his life.
The charism of Edmund is indeed alive and well in the Edmund Rice Network.*

*As we celebrate Edmund Rice's feast day today, let us take some time to reflect
on his life and the wonderful gifts of freedom and love
he brought to the suffering Irish youth of his day.*

Call to Prayer

All: Creator God,

Today we thank you for the life and work of this gifted man, Blessed Edmund Rice.

*He opened his heart generously to Christ present and appealing to
him in the poor who were oppressed and imprisoned by poverty and injustice.
May we follow his example of faith and generosity by using our gifts and talents
to bring peace, freedom, love and justice to today's troubled world.*

We ask our prayer in Jesus' name. Amen.

Reading from Sacred Scripture (Luke 4:16-30)

This Gospel is the account of Jesus at the Nazareth synagogue, right as he was starting his public ministry. Jesus gets up to read one of the lessons. He unrolls the scroll of the prophet Isaiah, and he reads this passage from Isaiah 61:

*“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives
and recovering of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,
to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”*
Then Jesus rolls the scroll back up, and he says to the congregation,
“Today this Scripture is being fulfilled in your hearing.

The Good News of our Lord Jesus Christ.
All: Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Reflection

We, the baptized and anointed, as followers of Jesus, are called to proclaim his message of liberation for all who are oppressed and to bring the light of justice to all who live in the darkness of war, violence and hatred.

Moment of Silence

***Hymn: Let There Be Peace on Earth
Boys Choir of Harlem on You Tube***

*Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me
Let There Be Peace on Earth
The peace that was meant to be
With God as our Father
Family all are we
Let me walk with my brother
In perfect harmony.*

*Let peace begin with me
Let this be the moment now.
With ev'ry step I take
Let this be my solemn vow*

*To take each moment and live
Each moment in peace eternally
Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me.*

Intercessions

Leader: Jesus prayed often and so did Blessed Edmund Rice. They believed that the power of prayer could change minds and hearts. Let us never underestimate the power of a prayerful and listening presence nor the single act of human kindness to bring about change in our world. With these thoughts in mind, let us make our prayers known to our God.

1. Blessed Edmund Rice lived through a time of war, disease and famine. Today we pray for peace in Ukraine and for all who are suffering because of tumult, war and violence. God of Love, give consolation to the suffering and strengthen men and women who are bringing solace and aid to them, we pray to the Lord. R.

Response: LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER

- 2. In his own day, Edmund Rice welcomed people from many different backgrounds and countries into the port city of Waterford. He helped them find jobs, set up a business and start a new life. God of all peoples, give us a deep respect for people of diverse backgrounds and cultures. Help us to welcome refugees, asylum seekers and all who ask for our help, we pray to the Lord. R.***
- 3. Edmund Rice loved and was deeply rooted in the land and culture of Ireland. God of creation, give us the wisdom and creativity to face the challenge of climate change with courage. May we take very seriously and act on the challenge placed before us by Pope Francis in his letter Laudato Si on the care for the Earth, our common home, we pray to the Lord. R.***
- 4. Edmund Rice lived a long and full life. God of Life, we ask you to bless and guide all young people. Help them to live life to the full and grow in their faith and in a spirit of generous service to others, we pray to the Lord. R.***
- 5. Edmund Rice was an educator who liberated people. We pray today for all school communities in the Edmund Rice tradition for all those engaged in the work of education. May all teachers be committed to a liberating education which helps young people live a full and free life, we pray to the Lord. R.***

***Leader: Loving God,
Your faithful servant, Blessed Edmund Rice, said these words to his Brothers which
are echoed down to us today:***

“Were we to know the merit and value of only going from one street to another for the love of God, we should prize it more than gold or silver.” (Edmund Rice to Bryan Bolger, 1810.)

*And “Be intent on prayer and whatever may happen will turn to our good.”
(Edmund Rice in letter convoking the 1829 Assembly)*

We now pray in the words that Jesus taught us:

OUR FATHER

Closing Prayer

*O Gracious and Loving God,
Give us the courage and compassion of Blessed Edmund as
we seek to support one another, protect the vulnerable and
care for the earth, our common home.
We make this prayer through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.*

BLESSED EDMUND, OUR BROTHER...PRAY FOR US!

MARY, MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP...PRAY FOR US!

LIVE, JESUS, IN OUR HEARTS... FOREVER!

