



# PROVINCE NEWSLETTER

## Edmund Rice Christian Brothers North America

A PROVINCE OF THE CONGREGATION OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS

Volume 7, Issue 4

February, 2012

### Iona College New Rochelle, NY



The Iona Spirituality Institute is honored to welcome **Carol Lee Flinders** (author of *Enduring Grace: Living Portraits of Seven Women Mystics*, *At the Root of This Longing: Reconciling a Spiritual Hunger*

and *a Feminist Thirst, Rebalancing the World*, and *Enduring Lives*) to offer a whole day interactive retreat, **Rivers of Light, Channels of Grace: Mother-lines of Spirit in the Christian Mystical Tradition.**

Biological mother-lines are the channels through which our evolutionary inheritance flows. Spiritual mother-lines are those we enter by choice, when we take our evolution into our own hands. They can include our mothers and grandmothers, but our favorite teachers can turn up there, and so can women we've never met. When Dorothy Day chose Saint Therese of Lisieux as her patron saint, she became, in effect, her daughter in spirit; but Therese herself had formed the same kind of relationship with Saint Teresa of Avila when she joined the Carmelites. And at critical moments in her reform of the Carmelites, Teresa herself had looked to Saint Clare of Assisi.

And so it goes. Spiritual mother-lines are a tremendous resource for women and girls everywhere. But to understand fully why this is so, we need to know something about mother-lines of the body, the intellect, and the imagination as well. Thanks to dazzling contemporary breakthroughs in fields as diverse as anthropology, neuroscience, endocrinology, primatology, cognitive psychology, and genetics (and thanks to the women who have entered all of these fields!), we can.

This day-long workshop with Carol Lee Flinders will begin with a survey of some of the most important findings of what we might call "the new biology:" extraordinary discoveries about maternity itself; about the special connections between mother, daughter, and granddaughter; about the critical role of "allo-mothers," and more. We'll touch on some of the ways in which this powerful motif emerges in literature and film, and we'll reflect on some of the moments when we've experienced it in our own lives.

In the afternoon we will look directly at stories – at the remarkable ways in which spiritual mother-lines have functioned in the lives of mystics, seekers, religious writers, and spiritual activists as diverse as Saint Catherine of Siena, Saint Therese of Lisieux, Dorothy Day, Sigrid Undset, and Denise Levertov, among others. Finally, recognizing the extent to which connection with her spiritual mother-line

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Breathe on me, breath of God, fill me with life anew, that I may love the things you love, and do what you would do.

Breathe on me, breath of God, until my heart is pure, until with you I have one will to live and to endure.

Breathe on me, breath of God, my soul with grace refine, until this earthly part of me glows with your fire divine.

Breathe on me, breath of God, so I shall never die, but live with you the perfect life in your eternity.

*Edwin Hatch, 1835-1889*



[www.ercbna.org](http://www.ercbna.org)

Compassion and liberation  
in the spirit of  
Jesus and Edmund

can render a woman fearless, resourceful, and radiant, we will think together about the implications of all of this for our own lives – as daughters, mothers, and grandmothers; as mentors, teachers, artists, activists -- but most of all, as spiritual seekers.



Carol Lee Flinders received a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from the University of California at Berkeley, specializing in medieval studies. She then spent 15 years writing about natural foods, co-authoring the popular Laurel's Kitchen cookbooks and writing a weekly syndicated newspaper column. She has taught courses in mystical literature at UC, Berkeley, and at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley.

Carol is a Fellow of the Spirituality and Health Institute, Santa Clara University, and serves on the Board of Advisors for the REVEAL conference. She is currently adjunct faculty at the Sophia Center in Culture and Spirituality, Holy Names University, Oakland, CA, where she teaches courses on mysticism and

contemplative spirituality.

**When:** Saturday, March 3, 2012, 10 am-5pm

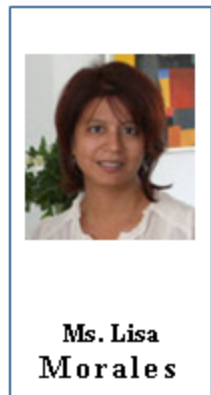
**Where:** Arrigoni Center, Iona College  
45 Mayflower Avenue, New Rochelle, New York

**Offering:** \$35 includes registration, lunch and refreshments; Iona Students Gratis; Iona Staff \$20

**RSVP:** [914 633 2590](tel:9146332590) or [kdeignan@iona.edu](mailto:kdeignan@iona.edu)

## ARCHBISHOP CURLEY NOTRE DAME PREP Miami, FL

### ACND 6 to 12 Prep Hosts a Group of Students and Staff from Iona College, New York



**Ms. Lisa  
Morales**

Recently, the Archbishop Curley Notre Dame Prep community welcomed a group of 13 faculty members, staff and students from Iona College, New Rochelle, NY. The group was coordinated and led by Tiffany DiNome and Dr. Jennifer Bacon, Ph.D.

The Iona in Mission's visit was intended to expose their students to something other than college life. The City of Miami was chosen because of its diverse population, connection to the Edmund Rice Christian Brothers, and variety of ministry options. The visiting students, who are currently pursuing degrees in social work, education, or psychology, were delighted to have an opportunity to spend some time with ACND's middle and high school students.

While visiting ACND, the mission group shadowed ACND's veteran teachers, assisted with English Language Learning students in the school's Learning Center, worked alongside guidance counselors, and experienced the daily classroom routine of the middle school students from ACND's the Brother Rice Honors Academy.

Once the school day ended, the Iona in Mission group spent time listening to ACND students discuss college choice issues as well as cheering for ACND sports teams during home games.

The visit also included helping to organize and run a prayer service with the ACND Prep community dedicated to remembering the second anniversary of the Haiti Earthquake, and spending a day at Camillus House, located in Downtown Miami, serving meals and providing other needed services to Miami's poor.

Upon concluding her visit to ACND and Miami, Flo Maroney, an Iona Senior, commented, "At Archbishop Curley Notre Dame, I have been lucky to interact with the bright future of American society. Many of these young adults are immigrants or the product of immigrants and I cannot help but think of the trials and

tribulations my relatives overcame when they also traveled to a new land carrying nothing but hopes and dreams.”

From the founding of Archbishop Curley High School and Notre Dame Academy in 1953-54 and through their eventual merger in 1981, ACND has been enriched by the educational traditions and charism of the Priests of the Archdiocese of St. Augustine and Miami; by the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary; the Sisters of St. Joseph and the Brothers of the Holy Cross. Since 1985, the Archdiocese of Miami has entrusted the administration of the school to the Congregation of Christian Brothers.

For more information about the role of the Congregation of Christian Brothers at Archbishop Curley Notre Dame 6 to 12 Prep, visit [www.acnd.net](http://www.acnd.net).



**Students from Iona College participate in a variety of activities with students from Archbishop Curley Notre Dame 6 to 12 Prep while visiting Miami as part of their involvement with the Iona In Mission program.**

## EDMUND RICE INTERNATIONAL



The Edmund Rice International Board has recently approved a policy regarding the acceptance of Volunteers/Interns from within the Edmund Rice Network to work with the ERI Team in Geneva.

The team will therefore be open to the possibility of accepting a limited number of interns/volunteers from 2012.

Experience as a volunteer or intern with ERI provides:

- exposure to the UN system and a range of global issues, with a focus on human rights
- possibilities for networking with a range of NGOs and international organizations
- the chance to work with a small NGO in a friendly, supportive environment
- links with people and issues at the ‘grassroots’ in over 30 countries
- the chance to experience the concentrated human diversity of Geneva with its vibrant intern social life.
- opportunities for language study and enrichment- live in a safe, relatively small city, in the heart of Europe

Volunteers/Interns are expected to pay their own fares and to be responsible for their own food and accommodation in Geneva.

Selection of Volunteers/Interns will require the endorsement of their local ERI contact in the Province or District of the Christian Brothers or Presentation Brothers through whom the application will be made.

Those interested could email Br. Brian Bond [bbbond@edmundrice.org](mailto:bbbond@edmundrice.org) for further information and for the details of their local ERI contact.

# JERICO HOUSE MINISTRIES

Wainfleet, ON

## Growing in Faith and Fellowship for Environmental Justice



Sr. Jacquie  
Keefe

At this time in my life I felt the Spirit calling me to “perceive with eyes that see” (cf. Deut 29:3, Jn 12:40) and take steps to live more passionately this call for justice for all humans, non-humans and the cosmos. This call attracted me to the 18-month GreenFaith [Fellowship Program](#), which combines education, training and skill development for social and ecological justice. I joined 24 lay and ordained leaders from diverse religious traditions (Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Evangelical, Roman Catholic, mainline Protestant and Unitarian Universalist) who want to live environmental leadership and want to speak more emphatically about environmental concerns, such as the condition of our global eco-systems, climate change, and environmental toxins that are affecting human populations, the earth and so much more. I wish, like many, to use my skills to work with people for sustainable communities.

My ministry is one of education and professional facilitation with [Jericho House](#), a youth and adult leadership, ecological and social justice, and spirituality centre in the Niagara region of southern Ontario. I am a Co-Director of Jericho House with Br. Bill Carrothers, a member of the Congregation of Christian Brothers. Jericho House is an ecumenical and inter-faith retreat centre. It is situated on 17 acres of Carolinian forest and abuts our partner, the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, which oversees 450 acres. We facilitate leadership conferences, confirmation retreats, faith and spirituality courses for teachers, eco-spirituality retreats, etc. The GreenFaith [Fellowship Program](#) models similar goals and principles which [Jericho House](#) advocates in the development of collaborative and respectful relationships across boundaries of race, colour, creed and class in an effort to maximize relational power for positive change.



Within the 2012 GreenFaith [Fellowship Program](#) there are three residential retreats, monthly webinars and extensive reading and education in eco-theology, environmental advocacy, and environmental justice. Each of the Fellows writes an eco-autobiography and theological statement and develops and completes a religious-environmental leadership plan that engages communities in the geographic region and/or place of worship in networking and mobilizing religious leaders and peoples towards transformation for justice for the earth and the cosmos.



The first residential retreat was on November 7-10, 2011. The Fellows of 2012 gathered at the [Archdiocesan Youth Center](#) in Kearny, New Jersey, for an environmental justice retreat. Through prayer, ritual, networking, an EJ (environmental justice) Tour, discussions and reflections, all walked away more aware of the social determinants of health, the cumulative impacts of environmental degradation, the Community Protection ordinance in Essex County, and how to be part of decision-making for land use change, green jobs, energy sustainability and hope.

Dr. Ana Baptista of [Ironbound Community Corporation](#) spoke during the EJ Tour of the hope of this group of men and women who will not give up their power to multinational interests amid injustices and hazards to the land and people in Essex County. These threats include:

- incinerators and active industrial wastes
- two miles of proposed hydro wires
- smoke stacks



- 500 trucks passing by a school or daycare area in one hour
- planes landing and taking off every three minutes
- coal-fired power plants

Those from poor, immigrant, or refugee background are 40 percent more likely to live in one or more of these compromised environments. One statistic we heard was that while 700 people died in Essex County in one year from gunshot wounds, 7000 people died in that same year from the health impacts of pollution.

Together the members of the Ironbound Community Corporation are making a difference. Some of the people in the community are being trained to stand in the public forum to right the wrongs of poor decision-making.

So that we would not lose hope, in Essex County or at home, we saw a light amid the darkness: we toured the [Greater Newark Conservancy](#), which promotes structural change for environmental stewardship to improve the quality of life in New Jersey's urban communities through environmental education, community gardening, beautification of neighbourhoods, job training opportunities and environmental justice advocacy.

I continue the journey with GreenFaith. May we all continue in the power of imagination for effecting positive planetary transformation. God's Blessings!



### **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: 905-834-0553, F: 905-834-5230

[www.jerichohouse.org](http://www.jerichohouse.org)

The Jericho House Team:

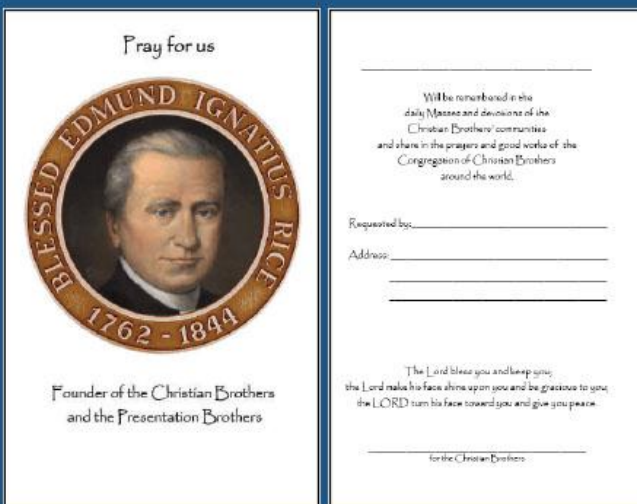
Sister Jacquie Keefe, cssf, Brother Bill Carrothers, cfc, Mr. Gary Bowron

## **HISTORICAL NOTE**

**January 20, 2012**

January 20<sup>th</sup> is a special feast day for the Congregation of Christian Brothers. It was on this day in 1822, which at the time was the Feast of the Most Holy Name of Jesus, that the Brothers formally accepted Pope Pius VII's Papal Brief of Approbation and then elected Brother Edmund Rice as the first Superior General, [know today as the Congregation Leader]. Pope Pius VII's Papal Brief of Approbation was issued earlier, in 1820, in response to Brother Rice's application to the Holy See for recognition of the Congregation as an Apostolic Institute. In his Papal Brief of Approbation Pope Pius VII granted Brother Rice's petition and approved the Society of Religious Brothers as an Apostolic Institute.

# Blessed Edmund Rice Prayer Cards



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](mailto:alb@cbinstitute.org)



ERCBNA

**Justice Peace Integrity of Creation**

Promoting social justice and eco-justice



**CAST YOUR NET WIDER**

**[www.edmundrice.net](http://www.edmundrice.net)**

**your global net for your global network**

What is a  
Brother?

An Answer to  
God's Call.



We connect with the poor and the marginalized in our world.  
We share and reflect our experiences in the light of the Gospel.  
We find our hearts transformed.  
We are Christian Brothers.  
*What we do with our hearts affects the whole universe.*



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.

Are you being called to be brother to the world?  
Congregation of Christian Brothers • [www.cfvocations.org](http://www.cfvocations.org)

**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](http://www.edmundrice.net)  
[www.ercbna.org](http://www.ercbna.org)  
[www.edmundriceinternational.org](http://www.edmundriceinternational.org)  
[www.cfvocations.org](http://www.cfvocations.org)  
[www.edmundriceinternational.org/jpic](http://www.edmundriceinternational.org/jpic)