



Edmund Rice Christian Brothers North America

A Province of the Congregation of Christian Brothers

September 2, 2020

Dear Brothers and All Who are Inspired by the Charism of Blessed Edmund Rice,

Greetings from the Province Center in Elizabeth, NJ. I hope that despite the many challenges presented by the coronavirus pandemic, all were able to enjoy a rest-filled and pleasant summer.

As the new academic year begins in all parts of the Province, let us hold in prayer all who are involved in our North American Consortium of Edmund Rice Schools. The challenges of COVID-19 have made the reopening of schools a monumental task. I am most grateful to our school leaders for their diligence and professionalism in responding to the obstacles before them. Let us pray for the safety and well-being of our students and colleagues as we continue to be attentive to creating a safe space for our students to learn.

With the new school year, we are also reminded that as Edmund Rice Christian Brother schools, we are called to be in solidarity with those on the margins of society and to be advocates for those who are treated unjustly. In this regard, with the events of this past summer that continue to greatly impact all people in our society, but in particular the unfair and unjust treatment of people of color, the Province has put together a working committee to help create lesson plans and a tool kit that can assist our schools in promoting an antiracism curriculum. It is our hope to present this to our school leaders at the October 7, 2020 school leaders Zoom meeting. Thus, let us also pray for and stand with our Black and Brown sisters and brothers during these uncertain times.

This upcoming Saturday, September 5, 2020, marks the 200th Anniversary of the signing by Pope Pius VII of the Papal Brief granting official approval from the Vatican recognizing the Christian Brothers as a Pontifical Congregation in the Roman Catholic Church. We invite all who are inspired by the charism of Blessed Edmund Rice to join with us in prayer to celebrate this joyous anniversary. Thus, attached please find a prayer service (prepared by Bro. Sean Whitty, Chair of the Province Life and Renewal Team) and a document (prepared by Bro. Michael Dredge from our European Province) explaining the significance of the Papal Brief.

Let us pray for the continued spreading of the charism of Blessed Edmund throughout the world and let us give thanks for the gift of Edmund's charism which serves as a guide for how we live our lives and educate our students in the 21st Century.

God bless,

Bro. Kevin M. Griffith, CFC
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