

Your thoughts:

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



Shared Reflection:

What thought would you like to share with your colleagues?

(Fifth Reader)

A quotation from Blessed Edmund's Writings:

"Each Brother is an open letter from Christ - a message written, not with ink, but in the Spirit of the living God, with a faithful heart to carry it."

(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**

Foster and Invigorate a Community of Faith.

Introduction:

(First Reader)

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.

Opening Prayer:

(Leader)

Father, Son, and Spirit, the three of you are one, a community of love. Help us to continue to build our families and our school community as one of loving concern so that we can care for each other and extend that care to the larger community. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

(Second Reader)

A reading from the Gospel according to John

"I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me will be thrown out like a branch and wither; people will gather them and throw them into a fire and they will be burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you. By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love. "I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete. This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I no longer call you slaves, because a slave does not know what his master is doing. I have called you friends, because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father. It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you. This I command you: love one another."

(Third Reader)

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

Foster and Invigorate a Community of Faith.

This is accomplished in our school when we ...

- provide a disciplined, safe atmosphere in which students are free to grow and take responsibility for their own learning and for the life of the community
- sustain compassionate, respectful relationships among all stakeholders
- be in union with the Church through commitment to service and formation of community
- encourage faculty and staff to give daily witness to their integral role in communal faith formation
- embrace the human condition and welcome God's healing

(Fourth Reader)

Reflection:

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

If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love. Love one another.

How do we show concern for the welfare of each and every person in our school community?

What initial impression do we hope to convey when visitors enter our school?

How do we cultivate appropriate behavior of our students in other venues?

How do we encourage our students to be accepting of those who are "different."