

Opening Prayers for Meetings  
of Boards of Directors of  
Edmund Rice Christian Brother Schools

**Essential  
Elements  
Prayers  
for Boards  
2013-15**

Edmund Rice Christian Brothers  
Office of Education Services

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## ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS PRAYERS FOR BOARDS

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### I. Evangelize Youth within the Mission of the Church

**Opening Prayer:** O God, we thank you for the life of Edmund Rice. He opened his heart to Christ, present in those oppressed by poverty and injustice. May we follow his example of faith and generosity. As we begin our meeting, please help us to reflect on this Essential Element of an Edmund Rice Christian Brother Education and to keep our school faithful to its mission as a Catholic School in the spirit of Edmund Rice. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Reflection:** Please take five minutes to reflect on this first Essential Element and consider the questions below:

#### Evangelize Youth within the Mission of the Church.

- proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ in word and deed
  - permeate the entire curriculum, activities, and all aspects of the educational process with the Gospel message of Jesus Christ
  - encourage young people to a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ
  - provide opportunities for liturgies, retreats, vocation awareness workshops and daily prayer
- A. How has this Essential Element informed your board decisions over the past year **OR** how should it inform board decisions coming up?
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- B. Where have you seen this Essential Element in practice in the school **OR** where would you like to see it in practice?
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- C. How can you personally express Gospel values and come to a deeper relationship with God in your own life?
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**Sharing:** Go around the table and share your thoughts on one of the questions above.

**Concluding Prayer:** Thank you, gracious God, for your gifts of wisdom and insight. We pray for your continued guidance as we consider the important issues before us at this meeting. **Amen.**

***Live, Jesus, in our hearts! Forever!***



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## ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS PRAYERS FOR BOARDS

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### II. Proclaim and Witness to Catholic Identity

**Opening Prayer:** O God, we thank you for the life of Edmund Rice. He opened his heart to Christ, present in those oppressed by poverty and injustice. May we follow his example of faith and generosity. As we begin our meeting, please help us to reflect on this Essential Element of an Edmund Rice Christian Brother Education and to keep our school faithful to its mission as a Catholic School in the spirit of Edmund Rice. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Reflection:** Please take five minutes to reflect on this second Essential Element and consider the questions below:

#### Proclaim and Witness to Catholic Identity.

- give priority to religious instruction with opportunities for faith development and theological understanding
- participate in the sacramental life of the Church and model a living faith through the use of rituals and symbols
- foster devotion to Mary and the communion of saints
- ensure that Catholic identity permeates all endeavors: all classes and activities, procedures and policies, services and programs

A. How has this Essential Element informed your board decisions over the past year **OR** how should it inform board decisions coming up?

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B. Where have you seen this Essential Element in practice in the school **OR** where would you like to see it in practice?

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C. How can you personally proclaim and witness to your own Catholic identity (or that of your own faith tradition.)

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**Sharing:** Go around the table and share your thoughts on one of the questions above.

**Concluding Prayer:** Thank you, gracious God, for your gifts of wisdom and insight. We pray for your continued guidance as we consider the important issues before us at this meeting. **Amen.**

***Live, Jesus, in our hearts! Forever!***



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## ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS PRAYERS FOR BOARDS

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### III. Stand in Solidarity with those Marginalized by Poverty and Injustice

**Opening Prayer:** O God, we thank you for the life of Edmund Rice. He opened his heart to Christ, present in those oppressed by poverty and injustice. May we follow his example of faith and generosity. As we begin our meeting, please help us to reflect on this Essential Element of an Edmund Rice Christian Brother Education and to keep our school faithful to its mission as a Catholic School in the spirit of Edmund Rice. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Reflection:** Please take five minutes to reflect on this third Essential Element and consider the questions below:

**Stand in Solidarity with those Marginalized by Poverty and Injustice.**

- promote policies and structures that reflect a climate of compassion for the poor and disadvantaged
- include education and advocacy for peace, justice, global awareness, and care for the Earth
- prepare students to work toward the creation of a just society
- encourage ministry experiences that work with and serve the poor and marginalized
- support mission areas at home and abroad
- establish tuition and scholarship policies that open educational opportunities to the poor and disadvantaged

A. How has this Essential Element informed your board decisions over the past year **OR** how should it inform board decisions coming up?

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B. Where have you seen this Essential Element in practice in the school **OR** where would you like to see it in practice?

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C. How can you increase your own personal efforts to benefit poor and marginalized people **OR** foster justice, either locally **or** globally?

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**Sharing:** Go around the table and share your thoughts on one of the questions above.

**Concluding Prayer:** Thank you, gracious God, for your gifts of wisdom and insight. We pray for your continued guidance as we consider the important issues before us at this meeting. **Amen.**

***Live, Jesus, in our hearts! Forever!***



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## ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS PRAYERS FOR BOARDS

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### IV. Foster and Invigorate a Community of Faith

**Opening Prayer:** O God, we thank you for the life of Edmund Rice. He opened his heart to Christ, present in those oppressed by poverty and injustice. May we follow his example of faith and generosity. As we begin our meeting, please help us to reflect on this Essential Element of an Edmund Rice Christian Brother Education and to keep our school faithful to its mission as a Catholic School in the spirit of Edmund Rice. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Reflection:** Please take **five minutes** to reflect on this fourth Essential Element and consider the questions below:

#### Foster and Invigorate a Community of Faith.

- 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

A. How has this Essential Element informed your board decisions over the past year **OR** how should it inform board decisions coming up?

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B. Where have you seen this Essential Element in practice in the school **OR** where would you like to see it in practice?

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C. Where do you find your faith community? In your family? parish? this school? What can you do to enliven it?

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**Sharing:** Go around the table and share your thoughts on one of the questions above.

**Concluding Prayer:** Thank you, gracious God, for your gifts of wisdom and insight. We pray for your continued guidance as we consider the important issues before us at this meeting. **Amen.**

***Live, Jesus, in our hearts! Forever!***



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## ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS PRAYERS FOR BOARDS

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### V. Celebrate the Value and Dignity of Each Person and Nurture the Development of the Whole Person

**Opening Prayer:** O God, we thank you for the life of Edmund Rice. He opened his heart to Christ, present in those oppressed by poverty and injustice. May we follow his example of faith and generosity. As we begin our meeting, please help us to reflect on this Essential Element of an Edmund Rice Christian Brother Education and to keep our school faithful to its mission as a Catholic School in the spirit of Edmund Rice. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Reflection:** Please take five minutes to reflect on this fifth Essential Element and consider the questions below:

**Celebrate the Value and Dignity of each Person and Nurture the Development of the Whole Person.**

- promote respect for each individual as created in the image and likeness of God
- value the diversity of the human family and seek to reflect diversity among the students, faculty, and staff
- promote strong programs for personal, professional, and pastoral care
- offer co-curricular activities and programs that are important to a student's holistic education
- strive to provide just remuneration for faculty and staff

A. How has this Essential Element informed your board decisions over the past year **OR** how should it inform board decisions coming up?

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B. Where have you seen this Essential Element in practice in the school **OR** where would you like to see it in practice?

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C. Is there someone in your life that you find difficult to accept? Identify a positive quality in that person that you can value and maybe even celebrate or nurture.

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**Sharing:** Go around the table and share your thoughts on one of the questions above.

**Concluding Prayer:** Thank you, gracious God, for your gifts of wisdom and insight. We pray for your continued guidance as we consider the important issues before us at this meeting. **Amen.**

***Live, Jesus, in our hearts! Forever!***



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## ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS PRAYERS FOR BOARDS

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### VI. Collaborate and Share Responsibility for the Mission

**Opening Prayer:** O God, we thank you for the life of Edmund Rice. He opened his heart to Christ, present in those oppressed by poverty and injustice. May we follow his example of faith and generosity. As we begin our meeting, please help us to reflect on this Essential Element of an Edmund Rice Christian Brother Education and to keep our school faithful to its mission as a Catholic School in the spirit of Edmund Rice. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Reflection:** Please take five minutes to reflect on this sixth Essential Element and consider the questions below:

#### Collaborate and Share Responsibility for the Mission.

- empower all members of the community to share in the mission
- work with parents who are the primary educators
- collaborate with Edmund Rice Christian Brother ministries on local, regional, and international levels
- foster a deeper understanding of the vision of Blessed Edmund
- promote active participation in governance by boards and diocesan officials

A. How has this Essential Element informed your board decisions over the past year **OR** how should it inform board decisions coming up?

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B. Where have you seen this Essential Element in practice in the school **OR** where would you like to see it in practice?

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C. Where do you think you need to collaborate more **OR** take on more responsibility for the school's mission?

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**Sharing:** Go around the table and share your thoughts on one of the questions above.

**Concluding Prayer:** Thank you, gracious God, for your gifts of wisdom and insight. We pray for your continued guidance as we consider the important issues before us at this meeting. **Amen.**

***Live, Jesus, in our hearts! Forever!***



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## ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS PRAYERS FOR BOARDS

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### VII. Pursue Excellence in all Endeavors

**Opening Prayer:** O God, we thank you for the life of Edmund Rice. He opened his heart to Christ, present in those oppressed by poverty and injustice. May we follow his example of faith and generosity. As we begin our meeting, please help us to reflect on this Essential Element of an Edmund Rice Christian Brother Education and to keep our school faithful to its mission as a Catholic School in the spirit of Edmund Rice. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Reflection:** Please take five minutes to reflect on this seventh Essential Element and consider the questions below:

**Pursue Excellence in all Endeavors.**

- 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
- A. How has this Essential Element informed your board decisions over the past year **OR** how should it inform board decisions coming up?
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- B. Where have you seen this Essential Element in practice in the school **OR** where would you like to see it in practice?
- 
- C. While it may be foolish to pursue excellence in every endeavor of our personal lives, is there any endeavor where you feel you need to raise your personal bar and make more of an effort?
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**Sharing:** Go around the table and share your thoughts on one of the questions above.

**Concluding Prayer:** Thank you, gracious God, for your gifts of wisdom and insight. We pray for your continued guidance as we consider the important issues before us at this meeting. **Amen.**

***Live, Jesus, in our hearts! Forever!***