



# Edmund Rice Christian Brothers North America

## A Province of the Congregation of Christian Brothers

May 30, 2014

Dear School Leaders,

As the school year is ending, I want to take a few moments to share some reflections on my recent visit to Nairobi, Kenya for the ***Inaugural Gathering of Edmund Rice Education Beyond Borders.***

For six days Network Directors, Heads of Schools, and Board Directors from all Christian Brother provinces, districts, and regions met to share, dream, and develop a plan to form an international network of Edmund Rice educational communities. The new Congregational Leadership Team joined us for a number of sessions and shared informal time with the participants. They have wholeheartedly endorsed the work of the gathering.

The initial day was spent in hearing about the educational centers in each of the provinces around the world. To give you a feel for the scope of Edmund Rice education across the globe, here are the *unofficial* numbers of schools in this network!

District / Province	Countries	Schools and Educational Centers
East Africa	Kenya	1 School and 2 Educational Centers
	Tanzania	1 School
	South Sudan	1 Teachers College
Southern Africa	South Africa	7 CB Schools / 2 Co-owed Schools / 3 Associate Schools
	Zambia	11 Schools / 1 Youth Center
West Africa	Gambia	1 School - Suspended for now
	Ghana	2 Schools
	Liberia	1 School
	Sierra Leone	5 Schools
Australia		45 CB Schools + Associate Schools & Flexible Learning Centers
England		12 Schools
India		20 Schools / 4 Study Centers / 2 Street Projects
Ireland		37 Primary Schools / 60 Secondary Schools
New Zealand		5 Schools
North America	Canada	2 Schools
	United States	16 Schools
North Ireland		9 Schools
South America	Argentina	1 School
	Bolivia	1 Street Project
	Perú	2 Schools
	Uruguay	1 School



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In each presentation, a clear message of shared values and a deep desire for transforming the lives of young people could be heard. How each region brings alive the charism (ethos) of an Edmund Rice education may be captured in different words; the end results are the same. We value the development of Gospel spirituality; inclusive communities; liberating education; excellence in education; and solidarity and justice.

The delegates left Nairobi with a working draft of the vision and commitments that will bring *Edmund Rice Education Beyond Borders* into reality. I share them with you in their **draft form** to simply give you an idea of the focus for the next three years. I will continue to work with six other global leaders to develop a **Strategic Plan** for engaging all of our educational communities in the network. I will be reporting back to you in September with more details and invite schools to find ways of engaging in projects and activities “beyond borders” with our colleagues in Edmund Rice education.

### **Vision**

Inspired by the teachings of Jesus and the spirit of Edmund Rice, we commit ourselves in global solidarity to transformational education for justice and liberation.

### **Shared Commitment**

In this spirit of global solidarity, we are committed to:

1. Supporting each other in developing an identity that reflects our shared ethos and Catholic character while recognizing our diversity;
2. Working in partnership throughout the world to support quality and transformational education;
3. Being educational communities that are immersed in each other’s realities, striving to make justice, peace, and human rights a global reality;
4. Using available technologies, to connect and journey together;
5. Providing opportunities for formation that nurtures a Gospel spirituality and challenges us to embrace a church of, with, and for the poor;
6. Forming leaders capable of inspiring communities to undertake this global mission.

I look forward to engaging with the schools in North America as this global network of Edmund Rice education grows over the next few years. We will be deeply enriched in the exchange of ideas and growing contact with our colleagues across the globe.

Wishing you many blessings as summer approaches – may you find moments of relaxation and renewal.



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Director