



A MONTHLY LOOK AT CRUSADER NEWS AND EVENTS FOR THE BROTHER RICE PARENTS, STUDENTS AND STAFF



## A Message from the President *Edmund Rice - a brief Biography*

In last month's article, I explained the origins of Founder's Day, and I promised that I would begin a brief biography of Blessed Edmund Rice in this month's article. So, most of what follows has been culled from several websites. I offer my deep appreciation to the original authors.

At this year's Founder's Day assembly, which we celebrated at Brother Rice High School on January 14, I explained to the assembled students, faculty, and Hall of

Fame Members that Edmund Rice has been called a "Man for Our Time". Who of us has not faced the joys and sorrows of life? Who of us has not faced daily challenges? Who of us has not had to make difficult decisions?

As you will see, Edmund was no exception. Yet through it all, Edmund remained faithful to himself, to his faith, to his country, and to his friends and followers. He is a role model for all of us. We are truly fortunate to have such a man as the namesake and patron of our school.

Edmund Rice was born in Westcourt near the village of Callan in County Kilkenny in the South East of Ireland on June 1, 1762. His parents, Robert and Margaret Rice, were farmers. Edmund had six brothers and two stepsisters, Edmund's mother having married previously. The family spoke Irish and English.

Ireland in 1762 was under British rule, and the anti-Catholic Penal Laws, were in force. The Penal Laws severely limited the career prospects of Catholics. Opportunities were limited to farming, emigration, religious life or the world of business.

Because of the Penal Laws, Edmund was forced to receive his primary school education from a "hedge school". These were illegal schools established by traveling teachers. Edmund's parents provided his religious education and were assisted by a local Augustinian Friar, Patrick Grace.

Edmund later attended a commercial academy in Kilkenny, which prepared him for his future business career. From his youth, Edmund was attracted to the business world.

At the age of 17, Edmund began an apprenticeship with his uncle, Michael Rice, in Waterford - the second busiest shipping port in the world at the time. Edmund, a hard worker, eventually became the manager of the business. At the age of 24, Edmund's uncle signed his business to him. By now a shrewd businessperson, Edmund invested his growing fortune in land and property.

He also led a vibrant social life, and his pastimes included riding horses, boating and dancing. At the age of 25, Edmund married Mary Elliott, the daughter of a local businessperson. However, just a few short years later, Mary was killed in a horse riding accident, and the baby she was carrying was born prematurely and with special needs. The baby was christened Mary, and Edmund's stepsister Joan would look after her for the rest of Mary's long life.

Upon the death of his young wife, Edmund's world fell apart. He withdrew from his friends, and his business was left to others to manage. Nothing interested him until...

To be continued.



## From the Principal's Desk

I'd like to present some thoughts, as I have in previous years, on **spring break trips**, especially those that cater to young college and high school students.

In recent years we have witnessed a huge growth in these trips for high school students.

Tour companies and resorts that usually cater to college students have been actively seeking high school students in order to fill these trips for the weeks near Easter vacation. These unchaperoned, vacation destinations are notorious because of their potential for alcohol abuse and other destructive behaviors. Many of these destinations openly advertise their parties and alcohol availability. On behalf of the entire school community, I strongly discourage these unchaperoned spring (as well as any time) break trips. In general, the trips encourage reckless behavior and are contrary to our values as parents, educators and a school community. I believe that more bad than good can come from them.

Our Brother Rice men are intelligent and good. We trust them. We instill in them and educate them to "Act Manfully in Christ Jesus." Because we care for them, we must stand together as parents and teachers to discourage these trips. If we, as parents and teachers, join together and say with one voice that these trips are inappropriate and unacceptable, then standing firm will be easier for everyone.

Senior parents/guardians will receive a packet of information regarding **graduation** and related items around the Easter break. The graduation Mass/reception, held in our gym, will be on Tuesday, May 25; the graduation ceremony, held at SXU's Shannon Center, will be Thursday, May 27. The Mass/reception, which is optional but strongly encouraged, is intended for the graduate and his parents/guardians; admission to the graduation ceremony, May 27, will be by ticket. As mentioned, further details are forthcoming.

Last but certainly not least, my **congratulations** to the 56% of the seniors who made one of our honor rolls; 53% of our juniors; 57% of the sophomores; and 60% of the freshmen! A number of our students were "so close" in making the honor roll but I'm getting "pledges" that they'll try all the harder for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter. As I have told our Crusaders many times before, their main academic "job" is to attain honor roll status; I am so proud that most have met the challenge.

"...our prayers for you and your family this day and everyday; God bless."

# BROTHER RICE MOTHERS' CLUB

From the President – Jan Hickey

A big THANK YOU to the Dads' Club for sponsoring the **25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mother-Son Dance** held on January 16<sup>th</sup>. The dance was a very special night for the moms and their sons. And let me tell you....our Crusader men can dance!

A **fashion show** "wrap up" meeting was held on January 25<sup>th</sup>. Once again many, many thanks to everyone involved in producing our biggest fundraiser of the year. It was a huge success. Mark your calendars now for November 7, 2010.

Our next **General Meeting** will be held on Wednesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:30 pm in the Library. We look forward to seeing everyone.

Don't forget the **Mother/Son Mass and Breakfast on February 7<sup>th</sup>** at 10:00 am. This is always a beautiful and memorable day spent with our sons in prayer and fellowship. Contact **Anne Minnella at AEM68@aol.com** for more information.

At our March and April Board meetings we will be setting up **committees** (chair & co-chairs) for events for the **2010-2011** school year. Anyone interested in volunteering is encouraged to attend. Volunteering to chair/co-chair a committee does not mandate attendance at every board meeting.

If you have any questions on upcoming events don't forget to check the website for more information or call me directly at 708-873-0890.

**Visit the Brother Rice website...just click on the Mothers' Club tab for more info.**

## Calendar of Events

**February 7**

Mother/Son Mass and  
Breakfast, 10:00 am

**March 3**

General Meeting, 7:30 pm  
Everyone is welcome...  
NEW faces are  
always welcome!

**March 12**

St. Baldrick's Day

**April 7**

General Meeting, 7:30 pm  
and April Shower to benefit  
the Courage Program

**April 28**

Teacher Appreciation  
Luncheon

# BROTHER RICE DADS' CLUB

[crusaderdads@gmail.com](mailto:crusaderdads@gmail.com) for more information

**JUNIORS:** The John Hosty "Crusader" Award is a **\$1500 scholarship** presented annually to an outstanding member of the **Junior** class. John Hosty was a past president of the Dads' Club and a member of the Br. Rice Hall of Fame. This scholarship is intended to honor his commitment and service to the Br. Rice community.

Students applying for the Crusader Award must have a minimum GPA of 2.50 and be involved in at least one extracurricular program. **Applications** will be available in the Main Office through the month of February and must be returned by March 1. A committee of active Dads' Club and Alumni Dads' Club members will interview each of the **5 finalists**. Each **finalist will receive \$500** applied to next year's tuition and the **winner will receive an additional \$1000** applied to next year's tuition.

All of the finalists will be invited to the **Annual Dads' Club/Mothers' Club St. Patrick's Day Dinner** on **March 17th** and the winner will be announced that evening. Good luck to all of our applicants.

**Visit the Brother Rice website...just click on the Dads' Club tab for more info.**

## Calendar of Events

**March 17**

Annual Dads' Club/  
Mothers' Club  
St. Patrick's Day Dinner

# INTERNATIONAL RUGBY COACH TO VISIT BROTHER RICE

Eddie O'Sullivan, the former head coach of the Ireland's National Rugby Team during the last Rugby World Cup, and current coach of the USA Eagles, and Nigel Melville, the current CEO of USA Rugby, and former head coach of the USA Eagles, will speak to the Chicago Rugby Community at **Brother Rice High School on Thursday, February 25<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm.**

There will be a dinner served and then a panel discussion on the growth of the game of the rugby at the high school level and what is currently being done to facilitate growth at the game at the grade school level, in addition to a general discussion about the game of rugby both here in America and around the world. In addition, Eddie and Nigel will talk about their coaching experiences at both the USA and international levels and what it takes to develop young talent in the United States.

The International Rugby Board has targeted the United States as a country where they need to see the sport gain acceptance. The United States is one of the few countries in the developed world where rugby is not a common sport played in age-grade and high school levels. In addition, Eddie O'Sullivan and Nigel Melville will hold a coaching session for all interested Chicago-area rugby coaches prior to the dinner. The coaching session is scheduled to start at 5:00 pm, with dinner starting at 7 pm in the school cafeteria.

The preliminary cost for dinner and the panel discussion will be \$15 per person. All proceeds from the event will go to the benefit of the **Brother Rice Rugby Club.**

# School News

**2010-2011 Registration** begins in early February.

Registration cards:

- will be given to each student along with a description of classes
- must be signed by your son's teacher for leveling
- must be signed by a parent

The **signed card and a \$200 non-refundable registration fee** and must be turned into the **Finance Office** by **February 22, 2010**. This is not a tuition deposit and is non-refundable. If not returned by **March 2<sup>nd</sup>**, an **additional late fee of \$100** will be charged and the school will assume that your son will not be attending Brother Rice High School next year.

**Financial aid applications and scholarship forms** for the 2010-2011 are now available in the Finance Office. These applications must be filed yearly and must be returned to PSAS by **April 23, 2010**. If you have any questions, please call the Finance Office at 773-429-4365.

## JUNIORS: ACT Prep Class

Registration for the Brother Rice class begins February 1<sup>st</sup>.

- **\$65 per student** covers all of the materials (excluding calculator) and the College Visions Workshop fee.
- Classes are taught by Brother Rice faculty.
- **Session 1** will be from 3:00- 4:30pm for **non-athlete** students beginning on **March 8<sup>th</sup>**.
- **Session 2** will be from 11am- 2:00pm for **athletes only** beginning on **March 14<sup>th</sup>**.
- A **College Visions Workshop** will be held on **March 25<sup>th</sup>** from 6:15 to 9:15 pm in the Theology Center.

The deadline for registration is **February 28th, 2010**. Visit [www.brrice.org](http://www.brrice.org) for the **full class schedule** and more information.

## CAFETERIA

Since last May, students can use a **computerized point of sale system (POS)** in our school cafeteria. Students are assigned accounts to deposit money for breakfast, lunch, milk or ala carte items. Each student uses a PIN code to access his account, which is the student's ID number. The student's picture comes up when their ID is punched in, to eliminate the use of your child's card by other students if it is lost. You can limit how much your child spends daily and you can view your child's account history by contacting Food Service Manager Dawn Tobar.

**To open an account**, a deposit of your choice (\$100.00 is recommended) should be brought or mailed to Food Service Manager Dawn Tobar in the Brother Rice cafeteria. Payments may be split between siblings and can be made in cash or by check (**PAYABLE TO FSP**). Deposits and **additions to current accounts** must include your child's name, grade, ID number and the amount of the deposit. We will alert your child that his account needs to be replenished when he has reached a low balance of \$5.00 or less. Any remaining balance at the end of the school year will be rolled over to the following school year. If you have any questions regarding the POS system, please contact Food Service Manager Dawn Tobar at 773-429-4352.



**Saturday, March 27  
7:30 pm**

Featuring **DICK BIONDI**

RAFFLE TICKETS \$50 each  
Only 1500 will be sold  
First Prize **\$25,000 CASH** or a  
**2010 FORD MUSTANG COUPE**

Dance Tickets \$20 each  
First floor seating fills quickly  
Make your reservation early

Raffle & Silent Auction Items Welcome

Contact Jean at [jslattery@brrice.org](mailto:jslattery@brrice.org)  
Or call 773-429-4473

## CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

### MARCH

- March 3** Mothers' Club Board Meeting
- March 5** **3rd Quarter Ends**
- March 6** Freshman Registration
- March 10** Dads' Club Board Meeting
- March 11** **30 Minute Schedule**
- March 12** Dads' Club Texas Hold'em
- March 14** Sons of Italy
- March 15** Report Cards Issued  
Edline Update
- March 17** Mothers' & Dads' Club  
St. Pat's Dinner
- March 12** Parent-Teacher Conferences  
**30 Minute Schedule**
- March 19** **No Classes**
- March 20** Grade School Band Contest
- March 24** Alumni Dads' Club Meeting
- March 25** Market Day Pick-up
- March 27** Gold Key Dance & Raffle
- March 30** Edline Update

### APRIL

- April 1** **30 Minute Schedule**

*\*Calendar Highlights current at time of printing –  
please check website for updates*

## VOLLEYBALL

On Saturday, **February 27<sup>th</sup>**, Brother Rice will host the **Inaugural Illinois High School Volleyball Coaches' Clinic** in conjunction with the AVCA (American Volleyball Coaches Association) and Sports Imports, Inc. (makers of the Senoh volleyball system used in the Olympics and by Brother Rice).

On Sunday, **February 28<sup>th</sup>**, Brother Rice will host the **12<sup>th</sup> Annual Grade School Volleyball Coaches' Clinic**.

Further information on all the above upcoming events as well as the 2010 Brother Rice **volleyball schedules** for all levels are now posted at [www.brvolleyball.com](http://www.brvolleyball.com). Contact Brother Paul Jekes, CFC- Head Volleyball Coach- at [pjebes@brrice.org](mailto:pjebes@brrice.org) for additional questions.

### Memorial & Special Occasion Cards

*These cards are available in the Main Office.*

If you would like cards mailed to your home, please email Mrs. Glotz at [dglotz@brrice.org](mailto:dglotz@brrice.org) or call 773.429.4349.

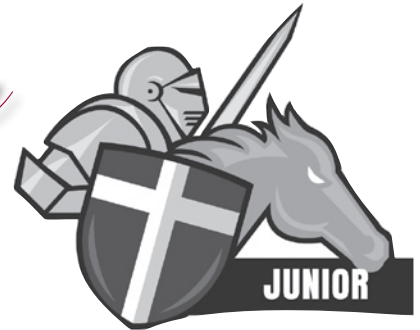


Brother Rice High School  
10001 South Pulaski Road  
Chicago, Illinois 60655-3356

**Return Service Requested**

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
South Suburban,  
Illinois  
Permit No. 160

# Annual Fund Derby



The **Juniors** are in the lead for both participation and total dollar amount.

Thank you for your supporting your son's class(es) and the 2009 – 2010 Annual Fund.  
For more information, contact Gus Sundermeier - gsundermeier@brrice.org or 773-429-4477.

## Coming Off the Turn

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Son(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Year(s) \_\_\_\_\_

I/We choose to support the Brother Rice ANNUAL FUND.  
Please accept my/our gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

Enclosed is a CHECK payable to *Brother Rice High School*.

I/We PLEDGE the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.  
Please send pledge reminder in the month(s) of \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

CHARGE my/our gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to:

Visa     MasterCard     Discover

Acct Number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration \_\_\_\_\_

Signature (*required*) \_\_\_\_\_

Corporate Matching Gift Form enclosed or completed online.  
Double or triple the impact of my (or my spouse's gift).