



Christian Brothers Oceania Province
 Endorsed by the Oceania Leadership Team

November 2010 ~ December 2014

Values

The following values of Oceania Province are touchstones for each ministry to be a contemporary expression of Edmund's charism.

Presence

*Alive to the wonder of all creation
 opening us to intimacy
 with the Mystery of God.*

Compassion

*Opening our hearts to and standing
 in solidarity with the suffering world.*

Liberation

*Freeing and enlivening a world
 groaning under the weight of injustice.*

*(Oceania Province Directions
 2008-2014 p2)*

PROCLAIMING LIBERATION AND JUSTICE

*'Conscious of our own brokenness,
 we walk with people in need,
 especially those made vulnerable by society.*

*Our commitment to liberation and justice
 drives our decisions for ministry.*

*We engage in partnerships with those
 similarly committed within
 and beyond Oceania.'*

*(Oceania Strategic Directions 2008-2014,
 Direction 4: 'Proclaiming Liberation and Justice')*

Introduction

As people growing in awareness of our intimate connectedness within a creation story some 13.7 billion years in the making, we recognise the infinite possibilities of relationship with the Mystery we name God. These possibilities reveal themselves through our direct engagement with the joys and hopes, the beauty and awe, the grief and anguish of every element of life.

Attentive to each moment of our lives we are "opened to experience a sacred Presence that does not belong to any single party or culture or colour or creed – a Presence bigger than any religion." (Br Philip Pinto, Oceania Chapter 2008.)

Inspired by the life of Jesus and his living Spirit among us, we aim to live out the charism of Edmund Rice captured in the 200 year story of the Christian Brothers and those who share Edmund's dream. Every Edmund Rice Ministry exists to affirm and celebrate difference, to build life-giving community and to go to the depth of the compassionate heart by encountering Christ present and appealing to us in all people, but especially the poor and voiceless of our world.

Each Ministry makes a unique contribution to, and draws impetus from the Edmund Rice Network, which aims to foster partnerships at local, Oceania and global levels with groups and individuals who are moved by the Spirit to open their hearts to a world in need of healing, transformation and reconciliation.

Characteristics

An Edmund Rice Ministry is called to be imbued with, and constantly renewed by:

1 The Sacred

The Spirit in our midst inspires heart-centred presence whereby we

- Celebrate the beauty and dignity of all life.
- Affirm the interconnectedness of all creation as revealing something deeper and more intimate than our individual reality.
- Honour the charism of Edmund as a genuine response to the mystery of God.

2 Right Relationships

The vision of Jesus inspires compassionate presence whereby we

- Stand in solidarity with the poor and the earth.
- Challenge unjust structures and advocate for a just and sustainable world.
- Critique and respond to the impact of human activity upon the planet.

3 Prophetic Leadership

The Gospel insight of Edmund Rice inspires life-giving, transformative presence whereby we

- Discern and respond to the needs of the times.
- Take counter-cultural risks.
- Empower others to explore new possibilities.

4 Community

The tradition of the Christian Brothers inspires welcoming and inclusive presence whereby we

- Form partnerships with, and seek wisdom from, other faith traditions and cultures.
- Invite participation in, and commitment to, the life of the Edmund Rice Network.
- Extend a hospitable openness to all people.

5 Cross-Cultural Awareness

The call to discipleship inspires respectful and sensitive presence whereby we

- Promote self-esteem, dignity and a sense of purpose in all people.
- Seek to partner indigenous peoples, refugees and disadvantaged youth, in a manner that enables and enriches all parties.
- Explicitly address those factors that make people vulnerable to harm.