



BROTHER RICE HIGH SCHOOL

Evening of Gratitude

Wednesday, September 12th at 7:00 pm

Welcome – Brian Dilworth, *Chief Advancement Officer*

Good evening, my name is Brian Dilworth – I am an alumnus from Brother Rice, Class of '83, who has the honor of serving at my alma mater on the school's leadership team as Chief Advancement Officer overseeing a dedicated team committed to advancing the mission of Brother Rice High School. On behalf of President Reidy and Principal Okuniewski, it is my pleasure to welcome you to our "Evening of Gratitude." Tonight, we express our gratitude to each of you for your leadership and loyalty to Brother Rice. Support such as yours makes possible our mission every day. Thank you for the confidence you have placed in us by prioritizing Brother Rice in your charitable giving. Before I introduce President Reidy for his prepared "Expressions of Gratitude" I would like to simply acknowledge the school's extraordinary Advancement Team with whom I am blessed to serve.

- Michelle Lievois – Director of Annual Giving and Scholarships
- Karen Rottenberk – Director of Communications
- Dan McGrath – Alumni Relations Coordinator
- Susan Reid – Special Events Coordinator
- Megan Marderosian – Irish Night Coordinator
- Mary Beth Dixon – Advancement Services and Data Management

Each of us are here to serve you so that through your "engagement in" and "stewardship of" the mission of Brother Rice High School together we will continue to ensure an exceptional Brother Rice Experience for the young men we serve. Thank you!

Reflections – "Expressions of Gratitude" - Tom Reidy, *President*

Welcome to our "Evening of Gratitude" honoring our lifetime, leadership, loyalty and legacy donors. On behalf of the Edmund Rice Christian Brothers and the Board of Directors of Brother Rice High School, please accept our shared gratitude for the commitment you have shown through your prioritized giving to Brother Rice in recent years.

In Catholic education, we see our actions as intrinsic expressions of our faith - the one Body of Christ interconnected by what we say and what we do. It is through the eyes of gratitude we see our own blessings and acknowledge those who made it possible. For students, teachers and administrators of Brother Rice, you are the

blessing upon which our aspirations have been made possible – program excellence, inspired instruction, exceptional learning, personal achievement, affordability and accessibility. You are the cornerstone upon which our mission is realized.

In recognizing our own beginnings, we acknowledge what made possible our opportunities. Each aspect of the Brother Rice Experience begins with the acknowledgement that all of us owe a debt of gratitude to those who came before us, and, as such, bear a responsibility to do our part to ensure the gift of Catholic education is passed from one generation to the next. That is the inspired calling of Edmund Rice, the lived example in the consecrated lives of the Christian Brothers, and the gift given to each of us gathered this evening. How often in our own lives have we had the wisdom, the depth of character, and the kindness of heart to recognize such a gift? Tonight, on this special “Evening of Gratitude” we pause to honor this gift given to each of us and now given by you to our students – the gift of Catholic education, the gift of possibility, the gift of opportunity. It is the legacy of Edmund Rice alive at Brother Rice High School. It takes root in each young Warrior - formed by the love of a family, nurtured by the wisdom of a teacher, and strengthened by a band of brothers. It is the lifestory of 10,000 alumni and the gift upon which 10,000 lives have been formed. Tonight, we offer “our gratitude” to each of you for your commitment to ensuring “the gift” continues to be passed “from one generation to the next.”

As President of Brother Rice, one of the most critical aspects of my role is to assemble a team of strategic thinkers and mission-centered leaders. The most critical of those key positions is the role of Principal of the school who partners with me in so many aspects of the educational mission and life of Brother Rice. We are blessed to have such an exceptional person serving in this position. It is my pleasure to invite Mr. Ed Okuniewski to share some reflections on “The Good News of Brother Rice”.

Celebrating The Good News of Brother Rice - Ed Okuniewski, *Principal*

I often feel I’m the luckiest man on earth because I find my hopes and aspirations of life rooted in God’s plan. It is a professional joy to be serving in this leadership role at Brother Rice. Most importantly, it is a personal joy to be ministering with exceptional teachers in service to the young men who walk our halls each day. These “warriors” truly are a “Band of Brothers” as they embody the spirit of brotherhood “with each other” and “for each other.” To witness simple acts of kindness, the camaraderie, and the spirit they share is contagious. I’d like to share a few points of pride that more fully tell the “Good News” of the young men we serve at Brother Rice High School:

- Our most recent graduates attend more than a dozen of the top-rated national universities and liberal arts colleges in America.
- In fact, nine of our graduates in the past two years alone are attending the University of Notre Dame.
- Our students give of themselves in service locally, nationally and even internationally from our Christ Child Volunteer Program to our Annual Mission Trip to Peru, the young men of Brother Rice offer more than 12,000 service hours annually to live out the mission of our school.
- From Honors courses to Advancement Placement courses to Dual-Enrollment courses, from National Merit Scholars and Academic All-State Teams to National Latin Exam Award Winners

and our championship Robotics and Debate Teams – Brother Rice students exceed inside and beyond the classroom at extraordinary levels because they are committed to personal and academic excellence.

That excellence is ignited and formed by dedicated teachers who know these young men, see the promise within, and inspire each of them to be their very best. On behalf of our teachers and our students they serve, thank you for making Brother Rice a priority in your lives. We are most grateful for your support.

“Our Mission, Our Moment” – Tom Reidy, *President*

The “Good News” Ed shared and the dozens of other accolades about our students would not be possible without the dedication, the commitment, the support from each of you. You make “whole” the mission of Brother High School. Your generosity this last year and in years past empowers the excellence of our mission. From our founding six decades ago - parents, grandparents, alumni, parents of alumni, and board members have partnered with us to not only sustain our mission, but to attain an aspiring vision that has ensured we continue to achieve excellence in all aspects of the school. As we express our gratitude to you this evening, we also ask for your continued support. In the weeks and months ahead please prioritize Brother Rice in your charitable giving

- Your leadership gifts to “The Fund for Rice” - our annual giving program – makes possible our mission each day.
- Your capital gifts to support special programs, facility enhancements, tuition assistance and faculty enrichment –distinguishes our mission each year.
- Your planned gifts will grow our endowment allowing the gift of a Brother Rice education to remain affordable, accessible and attainable for decades to come.

This is the gift of possibility and opportunity envisioned by Edmund Rice. It is the promise we make to one another as stewards of the mission today. Your philanthropy inspires our planning and defines our future. Please join me this year in writing the next chapter of the proud history of Brother Rice High School. Thank You.

Prayer of Gratitude - Brother James McDonald, CFC,

O Lord, Source of all comfort and consolation; source of all joy and meaning;

We call upon you to be with us this evening, and every day.

We ask for your divine blessings upon the mission, you have entrusted to the Christian Brothers, and now instilled to all gathered here in your name.

In gratitude for the good works of Brother Rice High School, and in gratitude for the blessings of this school as bestowed upon each of us in our lives, we say, Amen.

Live, Jesus, in our hearts. Forever!