The background of the cover features a stylized world map in a light yellow color against a darker yellow and orange gradient. A large, dark red cross is superimposed over the map, extending from the top to the bottom of the cover. The title text is positioned in the center-right area, overlaid on the cross and the map.

# Edmund Rice Education Beyond Borders

*Edmund Rice*

# **EREBB**

**Working with the poor, it soon becomes apparent that unjust structures ensure that the poor remain poor. Brothers have learned that advocacy on behalf of those who have no voice is an important dimension of their ministry.**

## **EDUCATION THROUGH UBUNTU**

**UBUNTU** –        'I am because we are'  
                      'I am who I am because of who we all are'

**"Umuntu ngumuntu ngabantu",** - a person is a person through other people

**'UBUNTUFICATION OF EDUCATION'**

'To put humanness at the heart of education'

We cannot shine or progress when others are left behind.

**UBUNTU** stops the 'othering' of those different to us

# OVERVIEW

In Nairobi, Kenya, in 2014, a group of Edmund Rice educational leaders gathered to explore the strengthening and deepening of our network of schools around the world. At this gathering **Edmund Rice Education Beyond Borders** (EREBB) was formed.

In South Africa in 2015, EREBB Lead Schools will gather to further develop ways of connecting for the purpose of the vision of EREBB – **To provide a transformational education for justice and liberation**. It promises to be an exciting and important event in the history of Edmund Rice education globally. The theme of **Educating with Ubuntu** has been selected which reflects the place we will be gathering and the best ideals of our global network. Over 60 participants from our 40+ Lead Schools (and delegates from all our Southern African schools) will be part of the conference.

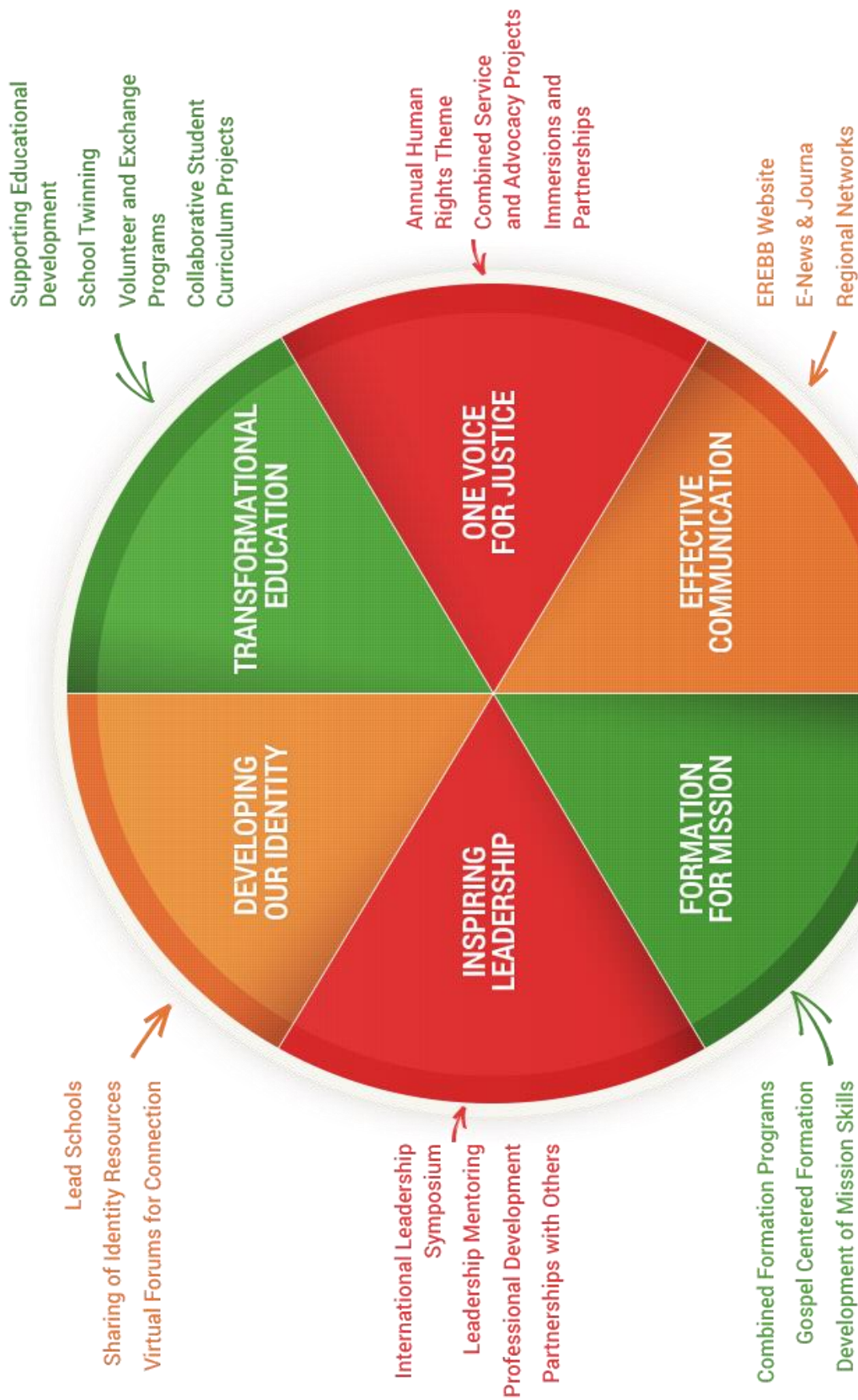
The following provides some of the initial information that will enable you to begin planning for this event. Over the coming months further information will be sent out about the conference.

## BROAD AIMS

The Lead School conference aims to:

- ❖ Provide opportunities for schools around the world to connect with Edmund Rice schools in South Africa;
- ❖ Enable participants to learn from the Rainbow Nation's experience and be immersed in the ideal of UBUNTU;
- ❖ Provide a forum to share the current expressions of the Charism in education as it exists around the world, particularly at the school level and connections with the wider Christian Brother and Edmund Rice Networks;
- ❖ Share ways that schools are already connecting and present new ways of engaging "beyond borders";
- ❖ Explore and vision possibilities for future collaboration between Edmund Rice schools through the development of the Lead Schools Network and clusters of schools around the vision of a *Transformational Education for Justice and Liberation*.

# Priorities & Actions



# One Voice for Justice:

**We are committed to:**

We are committed to: Being educational communities that are immersed in each other's realities, striving to make justice, peace and human rights a global reality.

## Priorities and Actions

### **Annual Human Rights Theme**

in collaboration with Edmund Rice International, schools across the network support a human rights issue

### **Combined Service and Advocacy Projects**

opportunities for schools to collaborate on combined service and advocacy projects

### **Immersions and Partnerships**

mapping of immersion programs and focusing on mutually beneficial partnerships

ST MARY'S HAS BEEN SELECTED TO BE AN AMBASSADOR FOR NELSON MANDELA DAY AND HAVE FORMAL LINKS WITH THE NELSON MANDELA FOUNDATION

## **HOW DO WE ADVANCE EREBB IN ST MARY’S?**

- Rebranding of existing initiatives
  - Catholic Caring
  - Homeless Outreach
  - Mental Health Workshops
  - Christmas Carols in the Community
  - Zambia Immersion 'Inverse Immersion?'
- Advocacy of local Human Rights issues associated with above
  - Child Poverty
  - Homelessness
  - Mental HealthRaise awareness in local community
  - 'Detention for Attention'
  - Lobbying locally and nationally to address
- Links with CB Schools locally and globally
  - Abbey CBS – Co-celebration of Nelson Mandela Day
  - Involve other ER Schools?Formal links established with - Boksburg CBC Johannesburg
  - St Pius X Chatswood Sydney
- HoD RE – review of ER Project Year 8 – email exchange with Chatswood
  - 'What does it mean to be part of an ER School?'
- Coordinator of LLW – Year 10 Human Rights topic – Skype link with Boksburg CBC re: what does the legacy of Mandela mean to you?

EREBB should be about all of us going beyond confines of comfort and helping our students reach the next level of social development

## . Schools Worldwide

*"I would like to call on young people to commit themselves to activities that contribute toward achieving their long-term dreams. They have the energy and creativity to shape a sustainable future."*

**Wangari Maathai**

## . One Voice for Justice

*"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."*

**Nelson Mandela**

## . Inspiring Leadership

*"One child, one teacher, one pen and one book can change the world."*

**Malala Yousafzai**

## . Inspiring Leadership

*"If we are to teach real peace in this world we shall have to begin with the children."*

**Mahatma Gandhi**

## . Formation for Mission

*"Aspire not to have more, but to be more."*

**Oscar Romero**





## Preamble

In May 2014, leaders representing Edmund Rice Education across the globe gathered in Nairobi, Kenya to establish an inclusive international network of Edmund Rice educational communities. Founded on the accumulated wisdom of this gathering, Edmund Rice Education Beyond Borders seeks to develop current expressions of the Vision of Blessed Edmund Rice in these educational communities for the world.

## Vision

Inspired by the teachings of Jesus, Gospel values 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 recognising 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, gather 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; and
6. Forming leaders capable of inspiring communities to undertake this global mission.

We do this in partnership with others of like-mind and vision.



# Edmund Rice Education Beyond Borders

## Priority Action Areas



### Developing Our Identity

Supporting each other in developing an Identity that reflects our shared ethos and Catholic character while recognising our diversity.

#### 1. Lead Schools

- initially 1-6 schools from each region work together to form links and collaborate

#### 2. Sharing of Identity Resources

- development of avenues for sharing of, identity, mission, formation and charism resources

#### 3. Virtual Forums for Connection

- development of opportunities for various groups to connect using technology

### Transformational Education

Working in partnership throughout the world to support quality and transformational education.

#### 1. Supporting Educational Development

- working with and supporting schools in the developing world

#### 2. School Twinning

- development of a schools twinning program

#### 3. Volunteer and Exchange Programs

- opportunities for volunteer and exchange programs across the network

#### 4. Collaborative Student Curriculum Projects

- opportunities for students to connect and undertake joint learning projects

### One Voice for Justice

Being educational communities that are immersed in each other's realities, striving to make justice, peace and human rights a global reality.

#### 1. Annual Human Rights Theme

- in collaboration with Edmund Rice International, schools across the network support a human rights issue

#### 2. Combined Service and Advocacy Projects

- opportunities for schools to collaborate on combined service and advocacy projects

#### 3. Immersions and Partnerships

- mapping of immersion programs and focusing on mutually beneficial partnerships

## Effective Communication

Using available technologies, to connect, gather and journey together.

### 1. EREBB Website

- development of a central website to share news, resources and events

### 2. E-News & Journal

- regular communication across the network

### 3. Regional Networks

- opportunities for regional gatherings that promote global networking

## Formation for Mission

Providing opportunities for formation that nurtures a Gospel spirituality and challenges us to embrace a church of, with and for the poor.

### 1. Combined Formation Programs

- development of combined formation programs and opportunities for staff to access existing programs

### 2. Gospel-Centered Formation

- opportunities to deepen an understanding and commitment to gospel centered formation

### 3. Development of Mission Skills

- sharing of resources that develop staffs skills in mission integration

## Inspiring Leadership

Forming leaders capable of inspiring communities to undertake this global mission.

### 1. International Leadership Symposium

- a leadership symposium (2016) that gathers key leaders from schools across the network

### 2. Leadership Mentoring

- mentoring opportunities for emerging and beginning leaders

### 3. Professional Development

- opportunities for staff to access educational professional development through school visits and using technology

### 4. Partnerships with Others

- forming collaborative links with other groups /organisations who can support the mission of EREBB



# Program

## SATURDAY 10 OCTOBER

8.30am Freedom and Liberation in the Rainbow Nation  
Pre-conference program briefing over breakfast  
9.00 Depart for experience  
**Accommodation** Europrime Hotel Boksburg (Sat) Soweto Homestay (Sun)

## MONDAY 12 OCTOBER

5.15pm Gather in foyer of Hotel for transfer to CBC Boksburg  
5.45 Welcome Dinner and Ubuntu Drumming Circle  
9.00 Return to accommodation

**Accommodation** Europrime Hotel Boksburg

## TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY 13/14 OCTOBER

Morning Depart for School Visits (time TBA)

**Accommodation** Various venues organised by Host School

## THURSDAY 15 OCTOBER

Morning Delegates travel to Good Shepherd Retreat Centre  
12.30pm Lunch  
1.30 Welcome and Opening Ritual  
3.30 **Keynote: Educating with Ubuntu - Rev Sidwell Molgothu**  
*Rev Molgothu is a veteran of South Africa's liberation struggle, a social activist for the poor and marginalised and a minister of the Methodist Church.*  
4.45 Our Global Network: School Showcase  
6.00 Dinner  
7.15 Our Global Community: Connections & Opportunities  
8.15 Evening Prayer  
8.30 A chance to relax, share a drink and chat

**Accommodation** Good Shepherd Retreat Centre

## FRIDAY 16 OCTOBER

7.00am Morning Eucharist with Archbishop of Pretoria, William Slattery  
8.00 Breakfast  
9.00 EREBB: Building a Global Village – Foundations and Frameworks  
10.30 Morning Tea  
11.00 EREBB: Current and Existing Global Connections  
12.30pm Lunch  
1.15 Depart for Liliesleaf  
2.30-8.00 **Liliesleaf: A Place of Liberation Experience**

### Presentation: Nelson Mandela Foundation

*The Nelson Mandela Foundation is the custodian of Nelson Mandela's life and times; is a committed facilitator of his living legacy; and is mandated to promote his lifelong vision of freedom and equality for all. The Foundation initiated Mandela Day, a global schools and youth service program that EREBB Lead Schools can become involved with.*

### Tour of Liliesleaf

*Liliesleaf was the nerve center of the liberation movement in South Africa and a place of refuge for its leaders, including Nelson Mandela. Today Liliesleaf is one of South Africa's foremost, award-winning heritage sites, where the journey to democracy in South Africa is honoured and dialogue towards a better world occurs.*

### Keynote: Dr Mosibudi Mangena

*Dr Mangena is a former South African Cabinet Minister (Education and Science and Technology), was a political prisoner at Robben Island and liberation activist.*

**Accommodation** Good Shepherd Retreat Centre

# Educating with Ubuntu



## SATURDAY 17 OCTOBER

- 7.30am Morning Prayer
- 8.00 Breakfast
- 9.00 Lead School Action Planning & Strategizing 1
- 10.30 Morning Tea
- 11.00 Lead School Action Planning & Strategizing 2
- 12.30pm Free time to explore Hartbeespoort
- 4.00 Lead School Action Planning & Strategizing 3
- 5.00 EREBB Congress 2016 – Kolkata, India: Visioning the possibilities
- 6.00 Dinner
- 7.15 EREBB Lead Schools: Reflecting on where we are at
- 8.15 Evening Prayer
- 8.30 A chance to relax, share a drink and chat

**Accommodation** Good Shepherd Retreat Centre

## SUNDAY 18 OCTOBER

- Early morning Sunday Eucharist
- 8.00am Breakfast
- 9.00 EREBB Lead Schools: Commitment and moving forward
- 10.30 Morning Tea
- 11.00 Closing address – EREBB Chair
- 11.30 Evaluations and Farewells
- 12.00 Closing Ritual
- 12.30pm Lunch
- 2.00 Depart for Airport (earlier transfers organised for earlier departures)

**Thanks, Ngqiyabonga, Enkosi, Inkomo, Xe a leboha, Dankie**

The Edmund Rice Schools of South Africa  
 Organising Committee: Br Michael De Klerk, Dermot Connors, Patrick Salvage,  
 Sharon Van Vuren, Peter Ross, Wally Borchard and Brian Garrone  
 Facilitation and Prayers/Rituals: Sr Michael Burke, Sr Biddy Rose-Tiernan,  
 Br Alfred Banda, Br Sean D'Souza  
 Conference Secretary: Helen Bird  
 Administration Support: Bessie Mutswa, Bellinda Gilbertson and Khang Nguyen

African Province of the Christian Brothers  
 Plaphama Initiatives: Judy Connors and Lindwe Ishabalala  
 Edmund Rice Foundation (Australia): Anthony Ryan  
 Rev Sidwell Mokothu and Dr Mosibudi Mangena  
 Nelson Mandela Foundation and Liliesleaf Heritage Site  
 Good Shepherd Retreat Centre and Archbishop William Slattery  
 EREBB Leadership Forum

# EREBB Lead School Conference Program

## SOUTH AFRICA 2015



# MY SOUTH AFRICA

My South Africa is the working-class man who called from the airport to return my wallet without a cent missing. It is the white woman who put all three of her domestic worker's children through the same school that her own child attended. It is the politician in one of our rural provinces, Mpumalanga, who returned his salary to the government as a statement that standing with the poor had to be more than just a few words. It is the teacher who worked after school hours every day during the public sector strike to ensure her children did not miss out on learning.

My South Africa is the first-year university student in Bloemfontein who took all the gifts she received for her birthday and donated them - with the permission of the givers - to a home for children in an Aids village. It is the people hurt by racist acts who find it in their hearts to publicly forgive the perpetrators. It is the group of farmers in Paarl who started a top school for the children of farm workers to ensure they got the best education possible while their parents toiled in the vineyards. It is the farmer's wife in Viljoenskroon who created an education and training centre for the wives of farm labourers so that they could gain the advanced skills required to operate accredited early-learning centers for their own and other children.

My South Africa is that little white boy at a decent school in the Eastern Cape who decided to teach the black boys in the community to play cricket, and to fit them all out with the togs required to play the gentleman's game. It is the two black street children in Durban, caught on camera, who put their spare change in the condensed milk tin of a white beggar. It is the Johannesburg pastor who opened up his church as a place of shelter for illegal immigrants. It is the Afrikaner woman from Boksburg who nailed the white guy who shot and killed one of South Africa's greatest freedom fighters outside his home.

My South Africa is the man who went to prison for 27 years and came out embracing his captors, thereby releasing them from their impending misery. It is the activist priest who dived into a crowd of angry people to rescue a woman from a sure necklacing. It is the former police chief who fell to his knees to wash the feet of Mamelodi women whose sons disappeared on his watch; it is the women who forgave him in his act of contrition. It is the Cape Town university psychologist who interviewed the 'Prime Evil' in Pretoria Centre and came away with emotional attachment, even empathy, for the human being who did such terrible things under apartheid.

My South Africa is the quiet, dignified, determined township mother from Langa who straightened her back during the years of oppression and decided that her struggle was to raise decent children, insist that they learn, and ensure that they not succumb to bitterness or defeat in the face of overwhelming odds. It is the two young girls who walked 20kms to school everyday, even through their matric years, and passed well enough to be accepted into university studies. It is the student who takes on three jobs, during the evenings and on weekends, to find ways of paying for his university studies.

My South Africa is the teenager in a wheelchair who works in townships serving the poor. It is the pastor of a Kenilworth church whose parishioners were slaughtered, who visits the killers and asks them for forgiveness because he was a beneficiary of apartheid. It is the politician who resigns on conscientious grounds, giving up status and salary because of an objection in principle to a social policy of her political party. It is the young lawman who decides to dedicate his life to representing those who cannot afford to pay for legal services.

My South Africa is not the angry, corrupt, violent country whose deeds fill the front pages of newspapers and the lead-in items on the seven-o'clock news. It is the South Africa often unseen, yet powered by the remarkable lives of ordinary people. It is the citizens who keep the country together through millions of acts of daily kindness.

*Professor Jonathan Jansen is the Rector and Vice-Chancellor of the University of the Free State*



## Edmund Rice Schools



*"Never tire of working for a more just world,  
marked by greater solidarity" Pope Francis*