

Gathering the Dreamers

Melbourne 3- 5 May 2018



Last week over 100 representatives from across Oceania Province, Edmund Rice Foundation and Edmund Rice Education Australia came together in Melbourne for the *Gathering the Dreamers* Event. Delegates from Ministries, the Christian Brothers, Schools and the Network reflected on the 150 years since the arrival of Br Ambrose Treacy and imagined a future for the Edmund Rice Movement.

EREA thanks and congratulates the Christian Brothers for organising, hosting and resourcing such a powerful and important gathering for carrying the Charism forward.

Highlights

- > Affirmation of the important and valuable work that has and is being carried out across Oceania, inspired by Edmund and Jesus, over the last 150 years
- > Reflecting on the immense scope of Br Ambrose Treacy's ministry and hearing in his own words his thoughts on this mission
- > Naming the pain and anguish that has occurred for some who were educated over these 150 years and reaffirming our apology and a commitment to healing
- > Exploring the best ways to continue to work collaboratively between schools, ministries and the broader Edmund Rice Movement
- > Identifying ways of supporting each other through the sharing of wisdom, skills and resources
- > The presence of the Congregation Leadership Team from Rome and sharing the global perspective they bring
- > An inspiring evening of conversation with Br Hugh O'Neill and Br Philip Pinto - the current and former Congregation Leaders of the Christian Brothers
- > Visiting the St Joseph's Flexi Learning Centre (North Melbourne) and hearing about their work
- > Being challenged to consider how an Edmund Rice Movement could name, connect, nourish and illuminate the emergence that is already in process and to seek "the root of the root of the root" of our mission in this world
- > Considering how to live beyond "old" religious language to understand and re-envision our contribution to the work of the Charism in the world today
- > The naming and celebration of parenthood, mothering and the feminine as part of this realisation of a new way to be Edmund Rice Movement people and asking how are we in relationship with each other
- > Philip Pinto reflecting back the thoughts of the listening group each morning reminding us of a new consciousness that was emerging - that the movement is in each one of us and we are in the movement
- > Recommitting to the original mission of walking in relationship with those on the edges of society and those made poor
- > Connecting this gathering with the EREA Congress in September so that the Dreaming will continue

EREA offers a Liberating Education, based on a Gospel Spirituality, within an Inclusive Community committed to Justice & Solidarity