

BERSI 2011-2012: INITIAL APPLICATION

Blessed Edmund Rice Solidarity Initiative

Catholic Memorial School
235 Baker Street
West Roxbury, MA

Please note that space is limited for each trip and that these educational opportunities tend to be enormously popular. To guarantee your spot on one of these trips, please return this completed form with a check for \$100 made payable to Catholic Memorial School. Checks and Applications can be brought to the Main Office c/o Mr. Murray, or delivered directly to Mr. Murray.

Within three months of each trip, an orientation process, organized by the trip Managers, will be initiated.

APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION

Name:

Homeroom:

Grade:

Date of birth:

Parent's Email:

Home address:

City:

ZIP Code:

Home Phone:

**2011-2012 BERSI TRIPS: PLACE A "CHECK" NEXT TO THE TRIP YOU WILL TAKE.
ALL APPROXIMATE TRIP COSTS INCLUDE AIRFARE, MEALS, ACTIVITIES, AND HOTEL.**

Philadelphia (February 21-24, 2012): The third year of CM's wildly popular "Hungerfest" will again head to Philadelphia. Three Senior leaders will lead the participants in collecting food donations, which we will bring and donate to Philabundance, the organization that is responsible for supplying soup kitchens and shelters in Southeastern Pennsylvania. In addition to food, we will donate our time at Philabundance, Broad Street Ministry, and Project H.O.M.E., and of course while we serve the less fortunate, in the "Hungerfest" tradition, we will be fasting overnight in solidarity with those we will be serving. Some students will prepare the meals in the kitchen while others act as waiters and serve the guests as if they were at a restaurant. To switch gears, we will also take advantage of being in the City of Brotherly Love by running up the "Rocky" steps, touring the world renowned Philadelphia Museum of Art, and stopping by the Liberty Bell.

Approximate cost: \$400; Trip Manager: Mr. Patrick Murray

New York City (3 days, Dates TBA): Get a taste of the Big Apple! Enjoy the diversity, culture, and food of the big city, while staying at Iona College in New Rochelle. Stop in New Haven on your way down to view the exhibits at Yale University's world famous Peabody Museum. After you spend a day shadowing a student at Frederick Douglass Academy in Harlem, fill up on the soul food at Sylvia's and take in an improv show at a comedy club downtown. No visit to NYC would be complete without paying homage to the victims of 9/11 at Ground Zero, a stroll through Times Square, and a tour of the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Approximate cost: \$200; Trip Manager: Dr. James Keane

Washington, D.C. (January 20-23, 2012): Be a part of Catholic Memorial's annual participation in the March for Life. This group will visit all of the hotspots in the Nation's Capitol. We will tour the White House, the Smithsonian Museums, the Holocaust Memorial, and witness a changing of the guards at Arlington National Cemetery. Students will walk the historic National Mall and view the Lincoln, Washington, and Jefferson Memorial as well as the Korean, Vietnam, and WWII War Memorials. The group will celebrate Mass on Sunday in the Dahlgren Chapel at Georgetown University. The weekend will culminate with our participation in the March for Life through downtown D.C., concluding on the steps of the Capitol Building.

Approximate cost: \$300; Trip Manager: Mrs. Leah Ramsdell

Medjugorje, Bosnia (June 15-22, 2012): Be a pioneer on CM's first trek to Bosnia and Croatia. Fly into Dubrovnik and spend a night in the historic, walled city that George Bernard Shaw referred to as the "Pearl of the Adriatic." Travel down the coastline and into Medjugorje where you will live for the week with Ivan, one of six visionaries who have daily apparitions of the Virgin Mary. You will tour Podbrdo (Apparition Hill) where the Blessed Mother first appeared to the visionaries, and attend a seven language Mass at St. James Church. Visit Ladder's Castle, a residence whose doors are always open for priests and travelers. Volunteer your time at Cenacolo, a community of 900 addicts run by the Sisters of Charity, which boasts a 95% cure rate. Take some time to relax while you stop at a beautiful beach resort and taste authentic Bosnian cuisine.

Approximate cost: \$2200; Trip Manager: Mr. Christopher Boyle

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Peru (February 18-25, 2012): A BERSI destination since 2006, this trip will mark CM's fifth trip to Peru. A group of sixteen students and faculty members will explore the "underside" of Lima, Peru, including the *pueblo jovers* or "young towns" on the desert outskirts of Lima. This life-changing trip is intended to introduce students and faculty to the serious problems and issues that affect the lives of the poor in the Third World including illiteracy, malnutrition, and disease as they effect an urban population. Students will spend several days constructing housing at the Christian Brother school mission site, *Fe y Alegria 26*. A day will also be spent volunteering at the inspiring clinic of Dr. Tony Lazarro who treats the severely afflicted sons and daughters of the poorest of the poor. The group will visit *Villa El Salvador*, one of the largest and best-established base Christian communities in Latin America. In *Villa*, they will work at a *comedor* community kitchen, visit a clinic, and volunteer at a Church-run day-care center. In addition, the group will also experience a full day at the *Pachamamac* archeological dig. Throughout the trip, the group will also explore the food and culture of indigenous Peruvians.

Approximate cost: \$1500; Trip Managers: Mr. Peter McGovern

Dominican Republic (April 15-22, 2012): As a part of CM's second trip to the Dominican Republic students will immerse themselves in the history, culture, faith, and the current community development programs of *El Cercado*, Dominican Republic. Spend time with the youth group in El Cercado as they introduce local customs, food, social events, and sports. The group will also learn about the tremendous work being done through faith-based community organizing, rooted in Base Christian Communities (*comunidades de base*). The group will participate in an interactive history lesson by touring the colonial zone of Santo Domingo while witnessing the magnificent beauty of the country with excursions to the Cave of the Three Eyes and the Cave of Wonders. Students will gain exposure to a wide array of issues facing the communities in *El Cercado*. Students will meet formally and informally with human rights workers, agroforestry professionals, community health promoters, doctors, teachers, college students, and religious officials. Time will also be spent volunteering at the local *Fe y Alegria* school.

Approximate cost: \$1600; Trip Manager: Mr. Patrick Murray

Montreal (April 15-22, 2012): Spend a week experiencing the French influence through food, language, and culture in Quebec. For four days, get to know Montreal on guided tours of Old City and Montreal's Underground City, as well as connecting with local students from the Royal West Academy whose Social Justice committee will walk you through some of the issues that they address around town. Experience four ecosystems at once inside the city's Biodome, and visit Olympic Stadium, home to the 1976 Summer Games. The last three days will be in and around Quebec City, including rides along the Beauport Coast and a stop at Montmorency Falls (at 270 ft, they stand 100 ft higher than Niagara Falls). After a long day, eating dinner at the "Sugar Shack" will make you think you're a French-Canadian logger as you immerse in traditional feasting, songs, games, and dancing.

Approximate cost: \$1200; Trip Manager: TBA

El Salvador (April 15-22, 2012): By journeying to El Salvador participants will immerse themselves in the history, culture, faith, and current community based projects of this small Latin American country. Between soccer games with the locals, learn about the legacy of the church heroes and martyrs like Archbishop Romero, Fr. Rutillio Grande, and others, by meeting Salvadorans who continue their work today. Play games and sing songs with children from a local pre-school that, in addition to a good education, also provides meals and health and sanitary needs for children who otherwise may not have those necessities. Eat at a restaurant that employs local families to teach skills in catering and restaurant management in order to deter them from getting involved in gangs and organized crime. Participate in activities alongside various women's microenterprise cooperatives involved in sewing, cooking, and community nutritional projects to find sustainable and just ways to earn an income and support their families, while improving their communities. Travel to the mountains of El Salvador to see signs of the recent war in the parts of the country that experienced heavy conflict and learn firsthand about the community's efforts to rebuild, heal, and move forward together.

Approximate cost: \$1600; Trip Manager: Mr. Cappy Russell

CONSENT AND SIGNATURES

This application must be accompanied by a deposit of \$100 and must be signed by both the student applicant and a parent/guardian to acknowledge the following:

Admittance will be on a rolling basis beginning September 14, 2011. Space will be limited on these trips so interested applicants are encouraged to submit the initial applications early. Once accepted, a payment of ½ the cost (check made payable to CM) must be received at Catholic Memorial no later than November 15, 2011 to book travel.

BERSI participants are encouraged to defray costs through fundraising activities and ideas will be generated among the group about how to go about this. An exact cost for the trip will be determined three months prior to the trip, as will an exact itinerary. All trips must be paid in full by the date of departure.

Upon acceptance and receipt of deposit, we will notify the student and parents by mail of his acceptance into the program and of the date(s) of orientation meetings.

Signature of applicant:

Date:

Signature of parent/guardian:

Date: