

# BERSI 2009-2010: INITIAL REGISTRATION FORM

## *Blessed Edmund Rice Solidarity Initiative*

Catholic Memorial School  
235 Baker Street  
West Roxbury, MA 02132  
[www.riceinstitute.com](http://www.riceinstitute.com)

*This is an initial registration form. Students interested in participating in one of the following BERSI trips must complete this form and submit a check for \$100 made payable to "Catholic Memorial School." This registration form and the check for \$100 must be brought to the Main Office c/o Dr. Keane.*

*Students will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis. Please note that space is limited for each trip and that these educational opportunities tend to be very popular. However, if a trip does not take place or if a student is denied admission because the trip has already reached capacity, the registration fee will be refunded in full.*

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

**Full Name:**

**Homeroom:**

**Grade:**

**Date of birth:**

**Home address:**

**City:**

**ZIP Code:**

**Home Phone:**

**2009-2010 BERSI TRIPS: IN THE BOX TO THE LEFT PLACE A "CHECK" INDICATING THE BERSI TRIP YOU WISH TO TAKE. ALL APPROXIMATE TRIP COSTS INCLUDE AIRFARE, MEALS, ACTIVITIES, AND ACCOMODATIONS.**

**El Salvador (April 16-23, 2010):** Participants will have a life-changing, 7-day experience exploring Third World Central American culture and various Church efforts on behalf of the poor and marginalized in and around the city of San Salvador. The group will attend classes at the University of Central America in San Salvador while examining U.S. foreign policy through the lens of the 1980-1992 Salvadoran civil war. Students will discuss at length the writings of liberation theologians Ignacio Ellacuria and Jon Sobrino. They will also meet with various human rights agencies and Church groups who labor on behalf of human rights. A service component of this trip will include visiting the convent and cancer hospice where Archbishop Oscar Romero lived and was assassinated in 1980, volunteering at the Lidia Coggiola School--a preschool for children in *La Libertad*, and volunteering at an orphanage. The group will have lunch at the Women's Health Promotion Training Program Project at *Mejicanos*. They will also volunteer at a primary and secondary school in *El Zaité*, spend an evening at *Mujer y Comunidad* in *Zaragoza*, and explore the Pacific Coast in the beautiful city of *La Libertad*. Facility with Spanish is encouraged but not required. However, like most BERSI trips, this is not for the faint of heart. The experience is not scripted. Students will reflect upon and witness first-hand the poverty and oppression of Third World.

**Approximate cost: \$1300; Trip Managers: Dr. James Keane and Ms. Meg Chuckran (of Int. Partners in Mission)**

**Peru (June 18-25, 2010):** A BERSI destination since 2006, this trip will mark CM's fourth 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. Facility with the Spanish language is encouraged but not required. Again, this trip is not for the faint of heart.

**Approximate cost: \$1500; Trip Managers: Mr. Patrick Murray, Mr. Peter McGovern, and Mr. Joseph Cistone (of Int. Partners in Mission)**

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**South Korea (June 18-25, 2010):** Be a part of the second Catholic Memorial BERSI delegation to visit this unique land on the other side of the world. After one full-day of travel, students will arrive at Incheon International Airport in Seoul, South Korea as guests of CiCiEdnet Corporation, the Korean-based company that has been bringing international students to CM from Asia for the past five years. The group will spend eight days in Seoul and in the surrounding countryside, mountains, and rice paddies. Students will spend two days and two nights with various CM-Korean homestay families who will welcome the students as guests into their family routines and culture. The group will also spend a day at the prestigious *Korean Minjok Leadership Academy* (KMLA) where they will participate in academic seminars with their Korean counterparts. Two days will be spent at the *Weljeongoas* Buddhist Temple, the oldest and most established Buddhist temple on the Korean peninsula. At *Weljeongasa*, students and staff will dress, eat, and participate in yoga, prayer exercises, and meditation just like Buddhist monks. The group will also climb the higher elevations of *Seolak Mountain* as well as visit the *Gyeongbok Palace* and Olympic Park. The group will also visit with U.S. Army and government liaisons at the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) between North and South Korea and also attend a professional baseball game.

**Approximate cost: \$2500; Trip Managers: Dr. James Keane and Mr. John Mazza**

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**Puerto Rico (April 17-24, 2010):** This BERSI trip will allow CM faculty members and students an opportunity to explore the *real* Puerto Rico and to experience the island's culture, music, cuisine, beaches, art and most importantly: its people. The group will fly from Logan International Airport to San Juan's *Isla Verde Airport*. They will travel south through the central mountains to *La Parguera*, a coastal village famous for its bioluminescent bay. There they will explore this rare marine environment with the help of Dr. Sandra Moya of the University of Puerto Rico. The itinerary includes: visiting *Hacienda Buena Vista*, a coffee plantation on the outskirts of *Ponce*, meeting with a well-known advocate for human rights and Puerto Rican statehood, and exploring the caves of *Camuy* and the world's third longest underground river. They will visit the radio telescopes in *Arecibo*, visit the oldest Carmelite monastery in the Americas and explore the forts, churches and catacombs of colonial *San Juan*. The group will visit the *El Yunque Rain Forest*, spend a day at a Puerto Rican high school: *Academia Perpetuo Socorro*.

**Approximate cost: \$1300; Trip Managers: Ms. Naomi Lockwood and Mr. Thomas Jordan**

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**Eastern Europe (February 12-19, 2010):** A comprehensive tour of Eastern Europe that will include Krakow, Poland, the city of Prague in the Czech Republic and the German city of Berlin, students and staff will explore the history, theology, and unique culture of these areas as they relate to World War II, the Berlin airlift, and the 1968 Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia. The group will visit the Berlin Wall, Luftwaffe Headquarters, Brandenburg Gate, the old royal gardens at *Lustgarten*, and some of the best museums in the world. In Poland they will visit the concentration camp at *Auschwitz*, a Roman Catholic seminary, and a Church-run secondary school. In the Czech Republic the group will explore "Jewish Prague" as well as *Karlstejn* and *Konopiste* Castles. The group will also explore different facets of life in modern eastern Europe including a professional hockey game, art museums, and cultural events. A service component related to the work of refugees and their families will also be part of this trip.

**Approximate cost: \$1800; Trip Managers: Mr. Timothy Lewis and Mr. Brian Scott**

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This completed registration form and a check for \$100 made out to "Catholic Memorial School" must be returned to the Main Office c/o Dr. Keane. This form must also be signed by both the student applicant and a parent/guardian in order to acknowledge the following:

- **Admittance to the BERSI Program will be on a rolling basis beginning November 15, 2009. Space is limited on these trips. Once accepted, a deposit of \$700 (check made payable to "Catholic Memorial School") must be received by the Vice Principal's Office no later than December 15, 2009 to reserve airfare.**
- **Three months prior to the trip, an exact cost and a firm itinerary will be established. All trips must be paid in full by the date of departure.**
- **The student and his parents will be notified by mail of his acceptance into the program. The Trip Manager(s) will then contact the student and parents about mandatory orientation meetings.**

Signature of applicant:	Date:
Signature of parent/guardian:	Date:

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<b>CONSENT AND SIGNATURES</b>	
<b>Signature of applicant:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
<b>Signature of parent/guardian:</b>	<b>Date:</b>