



# Concordia

## Following the Xaverian Way

### An Extraordinary High School Ministry

**T**he Joseph of Arimathea Society, named after the person who provided for Jesus' burial, is alive and well at St. Xavier High School in Louisville. Students there act as pallbearers and provide a Christian burial service for deceased individuals of Jefferson County who do not have the funds to be buried in a private cemetery. Many of these individuals die alone and have no one at the end of their lives to pray for them. Members of the St. Joseph of Arimathea Society are there to give dignity to each

decedent and to carry them to their final resting place.

The Society has been called upon to bury the homeless, some of whom died on the streets. They have buried murder victims who died in the prime of their lives. They have buried babies and children whose death tore at the hearts of their parents. They have buried the elderly and disabled who had lost touch with their families.

Since its beginning in 2006, members of the St. Joseph of Arimathea Society have performed burial services



*Students show deep reverence as they accompany the poor to their final resting place.*



### In this issue

- Students at St. Xavier in Louisville accompany the deceased to their final resting places.
- The Brothers are now “wired” with a presence on Facebook, Twitter, and the blog [www.Livingthecharism.com](http://www.Livingthecharism.com)
- Xaverian High School in Brooklyn weathered storm Sandy with prayers from the XBSS network.
- An interview with Brother Vincent Misiati offers new insights about the mission of the Brothers in western Kenya.
- We congratulate this year’s Ryken Award winners, exemplary educators all, and we say farewell to Brother Ronald “Yogi” Bonti, CFX.
- Congressman Romano Mazzoli shares why he has the Brothers in his estate plans.



for over 800 people. Originally, burials took place in the county-owned River Valley Cemetery. After it filled, burials moved to Meadowview Cemetery where they have now been taking place for two years. Beginning

**Kudos to these St. Xavier students for being there when no one else could attend to the deceased.**

with just a few students, the St. X group currently includes about 45 students. Over 150 St. Xavier students have participated over the society's six-year span. Additionally, twenty faculty members and numerous parents have regularly attended ceremonies.

A typical burial takes place between 10:00am to 12:00pm. Six to eight Society members, a faculty leader and parent make the half-hour drive to Meadowview Cemetery to perform a funeral and a graveside service. Conducted against a backdrop of on-ramp traffic entering the Gene Snyder Freeway, the students quietly and prayerfully pay respect to

a person that none of them ever knew. They dutifully carry the casket from the hearse into the shelter, conduct a prayer service, and then carry the casket to the graveside for burial. In the cold of winter, during rain storms, and even over summer break, young men from St. Xavier volunteer their services when needed.

Each young man who has participated in these burial ceremonies is performing a valuable service for the people of Jefferson County. Each is also assisting the grieving families.

Each young man is also learning what it means to be a responsible member of his community, offering his talents for the benefit of others. But most importantly, members of the St. Joseph of Arimathea Society give dignity to each individual who dies alone.

The group at St. Xavier has formed numerous partnerships to help complete the burials. They engaged five other high schools and two universities, each of whom formed a St. Joseph of Arimathea Chapter. Also, Owen Funeral Home, the Catholic Parish of the Epiphany, St. Edward Catholic Church, Eon U.S., Sullivan and Cozart General

## Remembering Family and Friends

Did you know that the Xaverian Brothers have Perpetual and Annual Remembrance Cards for deceased loved ones? Get Well, Thank You, and Birthday prayer cards are also available. Card recipients are remembered at Masses celebrated at Xaverian communities around the world. The usual offering is \$10 for Perpetual Remembrance and \$3.00 for the Annual Remembrance and other cards. For more information or to request cards, send an email to [development@xaverianbrothers.org](mailto:development@xaverianbrothers.org).



Contractors, JRA Architects, and Metro Parks have become partners, providing funds, goods and services.



*The Greater Louisville Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals, working to advance philanthropy through education, training, and mentoring, presented its 2012 "Outstanding Youth in Philanthropy Award" to the St. Xavier Joseph of Arimathea Society. This award recognizes an individual or a group of young people who demonstrate outstanding commitment to the Greater Louisville/Southern Indiana community. Pictured here are the students and faculty members who attended the presentation ceremony.*

# "Seeing" One Another Through Technology

By Christopher Irr

*"Nothing in the world can be compared to the human face.  
It is a land one can never tire of exploring."*

—Carl Th. Dreyer, Danish Film Director

Video chat technology has finally arrived for the Xaverian Brothers! From Apple's **FaceTime**, to the technology of **Skype**, to the group chat and live streaming capabilities of **Google+ Hangouts**—all are allowing for more frequent encounters with faces we rarely see in the flesh. (In addition to those pictured with this article, also check out the faces of Brothers Lawrence Harvey, John Hamilton, John Olsen, Jerry O'Leary, Postulants Maurice Butanda and Joseph Mbithi, and more on (<http://facebook.com/XaverianBrothers>).

The relative ease of **Google+ Hangouts** has made it a favorite here at the Generalate for Associate meetings and live webcasts. Four of our Associates, Chris Spahr, Jonathan Dohanich, Chris Roberson, and Greg Mason, are spread throughout the Midwest and east coast, and can't be here in Baltimore for regional meetings with Brother Jerry O'Leary and me. So we are now able to meet online, and we're finding it works very well. We have conversations and participate together in prayer with little more than a pixel or two out of order!

**Google+ Hangouts** was also a wonderful solution for the recent XBSS Student Retreat Opening Prayer Service, which Alice Hession, Director of Sponsorship, decided she wanted to webcast live this year. It was a huge hit! We had over 150 viewers of the live webcast, and we just eclipsed 400 views of the recorded video, which can still be seen here on **YouTube**: <http://wp.me/p36Kiu-iH>. And the numbers do not represent the XBSS students, teachers, staff, and parents, as well as Brothers who have not before had the opportunity to attend the retreat.

In addition to the video technologies now being used by the Brothers, we have also ventured into social media, so that we can "give a face" to the Xaverian mission on the web. **Twitter**, **Facebook**, and our blog, *Living the Charism*, each play a unique role in our online presence. Our **Twitter** account (@XaverianBros) is tweeting the Death Anniversaries of the Brothers, as well as short anecdotes, just a sliver, about them.

**Facebook** is our home for photo albums, videos, and blog posts. It allows people to follow our feed (or "Like" the Xaverian Brothers), which gives us the chance to keep folks updated day-to-day with any news or upcoming events, as well as faces they rarely see, as mentioned above (<http://facebook.com/XaverianBrothers>). We can also share information from the Associates and schools there, and from the travels of the Brothers the world over.

We're increasingly adding new videos to our **YouTube** channel (<http://youtube.com/livingthecharism>). Over the

last six months we have collected many hours of video interviews with Brothers around the world.

Our **Living the Charism website** (<http://livingthecharism.com>) is where we are trying to give people the materials and information they need to live and pray in communion with the Brothers. Our audience is the Associates, XBSS Collaborators, and the Brothers themselves, but we believe that the Xaverian charism is so universally powerful that any spiritual seeker can gain insights through the blog's materials, articles, and prayers.

Finally, we continue to communicate through our website ([www.xaverianbrothers.org](http://www.xaverianbrothers.org)) where you can get up-to-date news about the retired Brothers, our missions, activities involving our XBSS network, and where you can make safe online contributions.

So I hope that our web presence will continue to be a fruitful mode of communicating and sharing faces. Through the various forms of media, our goal is to provide an opportunity to encounter one another in new and exciting ways.

*Christopher Irr, Coordinator of Membership for the Xaverian Brothers, has been instrumental in helping all of us "see" one another more often.*



- (1) Associate Richard Costello,
- (2) Associate Kathy Boyle,
- (3) Brother Dominique Olondo, (4) Associate/XBSS Alice Hession,
- (5) Brother Harry Eccles, (6) Brother Peter Kelly (RIP),
- (7) Brother Cosmas Rubencamp, (8) Brother Paul Scanlon (RIP).



# How Xaverian Weathered Hurricane Sandy

By Erin Cicalese

Xaverian High School in Brooklyn was affected by Hurricane Sandy in many ways, both simple and far reaching. Nearly 400 of our students and faculty/staff lived in "high impact" areas affected by the storm. While the physical campus on Shore Road sustained no actual damage from the storm, our school community suffered a great deal. Students and staff from Staten Island, Rockaway, Breezy Point, and other low-laying areas of Brooklyn and Queens suffered unspeakable losses. Some ran to escape rapidly rising waters, while others ran with nothing but the clothes on their backs from their homes, which were being engulfed by flames. Students witnessed or heard stories of close friends, neighbors, and relatives sustaining injuries and, in rare cases, dying from those injuries. There were some families who lost everything, their homes, possessions, and vehicles.

As a school community, we immediately identified all students and staff in need of immediate assistance and reached out to both them and their families.

The most frequent request in the days immediately following the storm was for school uniforms, warm clothing, and school supplies. The school organized a uniform and everyday goods drive and distributed items to anyone in need. Guidance

counselors and campus ministers tended to the students' emotional needs.

**Xaverian was a safe haven where students felt secure and enjoyed a sense of normalcy.**

By and large, the entirety of the school community reported being grateful to be back in a regular school routine. Xaverian was a safe haven where students felt secure and

finances became devoted to storm cleanup.

While many of our students have returned to their homes, we still have families who are displaced and renting apartments or living with relatives and friends. Our families continue to face daunting financial challenges as they await insurance payments and struggle to rebuild. Therefore, Xaverian's tuition revenue has decreased.

We are working hard to bridge the gap by bolstering our Hurricane Sandy Relief fund.

Xaverian received an outpouring of love and support from many of the other XBSS schools. They hosted fundraisers and generously donated substantial sums to our Relief Fund. Students and their families were particularly touched to receive a care package containing gift cards and personal notes of support from Saint Patrick's School in Rockville, MD.

During the difficult days following the storm, being a part of the XBSS network helped in many ways, the most important of which was prayer. Knowing that we were in the thoughts and prayers of so many

Xaverian communities was a wonderful source of support for our students and their families.

*Erin Cicalese is Director of Communications at Xaverian High School in Brooklyn, New York.*



*Students from Xaverian's middle and high school grades extend a heartfelt thank you to all who offered prayers, well wishes, and donations as they and their families recovered after Hurricane Sandy.*

enjoyed a sense of normalcy, although many were displaced from their homes. Xaverian immediately launched the Hurricane Sandy Relief Fund, which, among other things, enabled families to apply for financial aid and tuition assistance as their

# Meet Brother Vincent Misiati

Interviewed by Christopher Irr

**O**n a mild afternoon in the lush village of Bungoma, on the western Kenyan border, we sat down with **Brother Vincent “Vinny” Mukwenyi Misiati** to chat about his development of the farm on the Brothers property (named Saint Joseph Centre). We also talked about his work in formation with the younger Brothers and his booming and boisterous laugh.

## What are you up to these days?

At the moment, I’m involved in two things; one is formation, and the other is farm management. I got into it because when I came here for my final vows preparation, the place was falling apart. And I felt there was a need for me to come and make it look much better and eventually sustain itself. By doing that, we’ll help some people get employment while also providing food for the Brothers.

## How much of your vision for this property has been realized so far?

So far as percentages go, I would say a quarter, because I just started last year. That is when I had my first major crop, which was maize. And I got 103 bags of maize. I sold some of them, but I told the community and then the workers, that I am expecting to sell more in the month of May so that I can raise money to do other projects.

One of those other projects is building a secondary school on the property. Vinny sees the school as an opportunity for the Brothers to give local children an education and also train them in marketable agricultural skills.

## Why is it important that the Saint Joseph’s Centre community be self-sustaining?

One of the reasons is financial support for the Brothers in Kenya. Right now our support comes from

the States. So, I felt like if at least we get a little bit of money—making better use of this lovely property—even if it’s two-thousand a month or so, we can continue to operate. That’s what motivated me to develop the farm.

## Talk about your work in formation here in Bungoma.

Other than teaching, I participate in day-to-day activities like prayer, mass, community recreation, and meals, and I try to give joy to the young Brothers. To me that is more important than classroom work. When I can help our young men to be happy and feel a sense of belonging, I look at that as my personal formation work.

Then also I teach. I have a lesson called Skill Development, where my objective is to show how the five postulants can adopt skills and then see how they can develop those skills as they prepare to be Xaverian Brothers.

I think my own formation was more structured, geared toward the intellectual. We had lessons, everything was scheduled, and we had exams. So it was more of a school, more about intellectual formation than personal formation.

## Where did you get such a great laugh?

I can’t really tell you where it comes from; it comes from God! Many people say that that is how they know where I am. They just follow the laugh to Vincent!

*Christopher Irr is Coordinator of Membership for the Xaverian Brothers. He interviewed Brother Vincent on a recent trip to Kenya.*



Here Brother Vincent is standing in the room where his maize is bagged to sell locally.



Brother Vincent checks in on his lone pig at St. Joseph’s Farm in Bungoma.



This field where goats currently graze, is likely to serve as the central campus of a Xaverian Brothers boarding school on the St. Joseph’s Centre property in Bungoma.



# A Call Goes Out

## XAVERIAN BROTHERS

We are men who have freely chosen to live a life of love in faith and trust as disciples of Jesus Christ in the Congregation of the Brothers of St. Francis Xavier. We are Brothers and volunteers who call one another to a contemplative stance in the world and to direct ministry with the poor and marginalized in Latin and North America, Europe, Africa, and Haiti.

For Life Commitment  
or Volunteer Programs, Contact:

**Vocations/Volunteer Programs**  
4409 Frederick Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21229

phone: 410-644-0034  
e-mail:

[vocations@xaverianbrothers.org](mailto:vocations@xaverianbrothers.org)



*We share our lives and faith  
as Missionaries, Educators  
and Pastoral Ministers.*

[www.xaverianbrothers.org](http://www.xaverianbrothers.org)

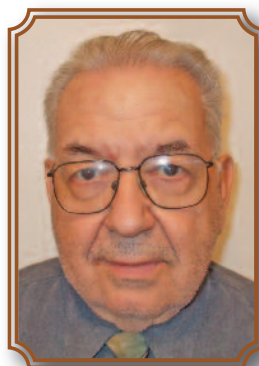
# A Call Fulfilled

Complete text of eulogies for some of the Brothers are accessible  
on our website: [www.xaverianbrothers.org](http://www.xaverianbrothers.org)



**Brother Ronald Anthony (Vernon) Bonti**, CFX, a member of the community at Xaverian House, died on March 14 at the age of 80 at Kaplan Family Hospice in Danvers, MA. Born in Brooklyn on March 23, 1932, he had been a member of the Congregation for 62 years. His Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on March 16 in the chapel at St. John's Preparatory School. Burial in the Brothers' cemetery in Danvers followed. Brother Lawrence Harvey, General Superior offers the following insights into his life.

"Ronald Bonti entered the Xaverian novitiate at Old Point Comfort, VA, on September 19, 1949, received the habit on the Feast of St. Joseph (March 19) 1950, and made his first profession of vows on that same Feast Day in 1952. Having received his undergraduate degree in 1955 from the Catholic University of America with a concentration in Mathematics, Physics, and Chemistry, his first teaching assignment was at Mount St. Joseph, Baltimore, from 1955-1961. He then was transferred to Flaget High School in Louisville where he taught until 1964. At that time, he responded to the call to mission in Bolivia where he spent 13



years, until 1977, teaching at Xaverian missions in Bolivia. He returned to his native Brooklyn in 1977 and was assigned to Xaverian High School until 1987, when he became, along with his sister Olga, a caregiver for his mother. After her death he became the director of the Brothers' Community at Xaverian High School, a position he held until 2006. Here he was known for his kindness and gentleness with the Brothers,

as well as his sense of humor. In 2007, after suffering some medical setbacks, and with fewer Brothers in residence at Xaverian High School, he stepped down as director. He spent his last few years at Xaverian House in Danvers, MA.

Brother Ron got the nickname "Yogi" at Mount St. Joseph HS while he was Assistant to the athletic director, Brother Bartel Brady. In those years Yogi Berra, hero of the New York Yankees, was often pictured in the local paper. Bartel and others saw the resemblance right away—Ron looked like Yogi Berra! So they started calling him "Yogi," and the nickname stuck.

*Please pray for the repose of his soul.*

## Did You Know?

**There are 13 Xaverian Brothers Sponsored Schools.  
Here's a list of school names and places.**

Lowell Catholic High School, Lowell, MA; Malden Catholic High School, Malden, MA; Mount St. Joseph High School, Baltimore, MD; Nazareth Regional High School, Brooklyn, NY; Our Lady of Good Counsel High School, Olney, MD; St. Bernard High School, Uncasville, CT; St. John's High School, Shrewsbury, MA; St. John's Preparatory School, Danvers, MA; St. Mary's Ryken High School, Leonardtown, MD; St. Xavier High School, Louisville, KY; Xaveria Brothers High School, Westwood, MA; Xaverian High School, Brooklyn, NY; Xavier High School, Middletown, CT

# Congratulations to Our Ryken Award Winners!



The educators pictured here are the winners of the Theodore James Ryken Award for this school year. They are recognized as committed and dedicated individuals who proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ. They also spiritually nurture members of the school community; are committed to academic excellence; recognize the talents of individuals; know the importance of educating the whole person; and strive to fulfill the gospel call to peace and justice. Kudos to all of you!



Andrew Collins, Our Lady of Good Counsel, Olney, MD



Judy Haley, Lowell Catholic, Lowell, MA



Josephine Morgan, Mt. St Joseph, Baltimore, MD



Patrick Yanchus, St. John's Prep, Danvers, MA



Penny Stephenson, Nazareth Regional, Brooklyn, NY



Wayland Currie, St. Bernard's HS, Uncasville, CT



Mary Iuso, St. John's HS, Shrewsbury, MA



Sherry Endicott, Malden Catholic, Malden MA



Joan Stevens, St Mary's Ryken, Leonardtown, MD



Luis R. Salomon, St. Xavier, Louisville, KY



Steven Steinbergher, Xaverian Brothers HS, Westwood, MA



John Dormer, Xaverian HS, Brooklyn, NY



Brendan Donohue, Xavier HS, Middletown, CT





Xaverian Brothers Generalate  
4409 Frederick Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21229

Non-profit org.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
St. Meinrad, IN  
Permit No. 16

## Saying Thanks to the Brothers



*Congressman Mazzoli (3rd from left), receiving his Concordia Society coin, flanked by Brothers from Ryken House: Bob Arrowsmith, Director, Peter Walsh, Giles Crowell, George Willenbrink, and Peter Fitzpatrick.*



*Helen Mazzoli loved the Brothers and supported her husband's desire to leave a legacy to them.*

Congressman Romano Mazzoli's decision to include the Xaverian Brothers in his estate plans and become a member of the Concordia Society was truly a joint decision. Mazzoli, a 1950 graduate of St. Xavier in Louisville, often visited the Brothers at Ryken House, especially his former teacher, Brother Omer (James Smith). His wife of 52 years, Helen, was always with him on these visits. He lost his beloved Helen last June, but still stops by to visit the Brothers with her in his heart. "Remembering the Brothers in our estate plans was something both of us wanted." Mazzoli was a member of Congress from 1971-1995 with Helen by his side and supporting him every step of the way. He is welcomed cheerfully at Ryken House and knows that the Brothers appreciate his thoughtfulness toward them, whether it is spirited political conversation or through the Concordia Society.

## All Are Welcome

Those of you who have been faithful and generous supporters of the Xaverian Brothers over the years are invited to join the **Xaverian Brothers Concordia Society**. This Society and its benefits acknowledge those who have remembered the Brothers in their estate plans. When you remember the Brothers in this way, you automatically become a member of the **Concordia Society**.

**Your generous bequest will help us defray some of these escalating costs:**

- Care and support for our growing number of aged and infirm Brothers
- Our educational efforts through our Xaverian Brothers Sponsored Schools Office
- Our missionary activities and the growth of the Congregation in some of the poorest areas of our world.

**For a list of benefits and other information, contact Ray Alcaraz at the Xaverian Brothers Development Office: [ralcaraz@xaverianbrothers.org](mailto:ralcaraz@xaverianbrothers.org)**

