



# XAVERIAN BROTHERS ASSOCIATES COMMITMENT CEREMONY

{ SUNDAY, JULY 7, 2013 }

# LET US BEGIN

{ BROTHER COSMAS RUBENCAMP }

Thank you for your desire to walk with us as disciples of Christ and in the spirit and charism of our founder Theodore James Ryken. This is a moment of great joy for us, and I hope for you as well. Let us begin.

## OPENING SONG

*"The Summons Hymn"*

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?

Will you go where you don't know  
and never be the same?

Will you let my love be shown? Will you  
let my name be known, will you let my  
life be grown in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind  
if I but call your name?

Will you care for cruel and kind  
and never be the same?

Will you risk the hostile stare should  
your life attract or scare?

Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?

Will you set the prisoners free  
and never be the same?

Will you kiss the leper clean and  
do such as this unseen,  
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?

Will you love the "you" you hide  
if I but call your name?

Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?

Will you use the faith you've found to  
reshape the world around, through  
my sight and touch and sound

in you and you in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true  
when you but call my name.

Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.

In Your company I'll go where Your  
love and footsteps show.

Thus I'll move and live and grow  
in you and you in me.

## OPENING PRAYER

{ BILL GORMAN }

Implant within our hearts, O God, the fiery zeal of all your holy saints and of your servant Theodore James Ryken. May we, like him, and like your son, Jesus, be consumed with zeal for you, through our daily prayer, our acts of service, and our communion with one another. We bow before you in faith as we prepare to commit ourselves to these things. We ask this in Jesus' name.

*All: Amen*

## FIRST READING

*Matthew 5: 13-16* { ANN MARIE MARCELLO }

You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its taste, how can it be restored? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out. You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bushel basket. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.

In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good works and praise your Father in heaven.

The Word of the Lord

*All: Thanks be to God*

## PRESENTATION OF SERVICE

{ MIKE McGEEHIN }

We offer you now a cross as a symbol of your commitment to the poor, hungry, and marginalized. May this be a reminder to you of your call as a Xaverian Associate to offer service to others, to be salt of the earth and light for the world.

## SECOND READING

On Prayer { RICH COSTELLO }

Prayer is the internal awareness  
that God is with us—now,  
here, in this commitment we are  
about to make, and always.  
Prayer sees God everywhere and  
talks to God everywhere.  
It offers the uncertainties and worries of life to God.  
It trusts that no matter how bad any situation  
might be, we can walk through it because God is  
with us. Prayer is the simple consciousness that  
God is, that God is near us at all times, that God  
is closer to us than our own breath.

**Adapted from** *The Breath of the Soul: Reflections on Prayer*

## PRESENTATION OF PRAYER

{ GWEN COSTELLO }

We offer you now a copy of the book *The Breath of the Soul*, from which our reading just came. May it be a reminder to you of your call as a Xaverian Associate to spend time in daily prayer, aware that God is with you always.

## THIRD READING

{ BROTHER PAUL MURRAY }

As disciples of Jesus Christ, you are called to follow in his footsteps and minister God's healing touch of love to all you meet in your journey of life. It is through you that God desires to show unconditional love to the peoples of the world in these times. You have responded to the invitation: "Come follow me." Day by day you will need to renew your response.

Do not become discouraged over the difficulties you encounter. Remember, Jesus your brother has walked this path before you. Remember, too, if you allow yourself to be formed by God through the common, ordinary, unspectacular flow of everyday life, you will gradually experience a liberation and a freedom never before imagined.

**From** *The Fundamental Principles of the Xaverian Brothers*

## RECEPTION OF CANDLES

{ HUGH & KATHY BOYLE }

We invite both of you now to take a candle as a sign of your commitment and light it from the candle on our prayer table.

*(when candles are lit)*

May the light of Christ illumine your hearts and minds so that you may be able to reflect the warmth of Christ's love through prayer, service, and communion with us, the Xaverian Brothers and Associates.

## THE INVITATION

{ BROTHER COSMAS RUBENCAMP }

*All Associates should stand*

Are you willing to walk in a closer way with your God through commitment to daily prayer, meditation, and reflection?

**Response:** *We are.*

Are you willing to give yourself away as nourishment for others, especially the poor and marginalized, so they may experience the love of Christ through your compassion and love?

**Response:** *We are.*

Are you willing to find the depth of your giftedness in a life shared in communion with one another and with the Xaverian Brothers?

**Response:** *We are.*

May God who has begun this good work in you bring it to fulfillment in Christ Jesus.

**All:** *Amen*



## BLESSING OF THE PINS

{ BROTHER LARRY HARVEY }

*Explanation about pins*

May God bless these pins and all those who will wear them. May they be signs of prayer, service, and communion with the Xaverian Brothers. We ask this in Jesus' name.

**Response:** *Amen*

## INDIVIDUAL COMMITMENTS

{ JOHN GILLEN }

I invite you now, individually, to make your commitment to serve as a Xaverian Brothers Associate for one year.

After you have done so, extinguish your candle and come forward to sign your commitment and place it on the prayer table. Then receive your Xaverian Brothers Associate pin from Brother Larry as a sign of our fraternity and love for you.

*I, \_\_\_\_\_, as a Xaverian Brothers Associate, commit myself to daily prayer, acts of service to the poor and marginalized, and closer communion with the Xaverian Brothers.*

## BLESSING FROM BROTHERS AND ASSOCIATES

*(with hands extended toward the new associates)*

We welcome you into a closer relationship with us as Xaverian Brothers Associates. Together we will explore Xaverian spirituality, search for a deeper relationship with Christ, and live in a communion of prayer. Together we will explore ways to reach out to the poor and the marginalized, each in our own environments and life form. We believe that in the sharing of our lives and our faith with you, we will be stronger. We accept you as Associates with great joy and pledge to walk with you as you continue your faith journey as disciples of Jesus Christ.

**Response:** *Amen*

## SHARE THE PEACE OF CHRIST

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