



Concordia

FOLLOWING THE XAVERIAN WAY

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THE POWER OF HOPE: A VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF XBSS

Dr. Patrick Slattery | Executive Director, XBSS

It was day three of our XBSS Student Retreat at the Holy Family Retreat Center in Connecticut, and I waited by the door to greet the priests that would be helping with our reconciliation services. While our students were finishing up their lunch, I struck up conversation with one of our confessors who arrived early. With a defeated tone, he lamented about the ills of society. He voiced his lack of hope for our collective future. “Where is this society headed,” he rhetorically remarked as he headed up to the chapel to prepare for reconciliation.

Over the next two hours, students participated in a moving prayer service followed by the opportunity to visit one of the priests for reconciliation, which most did. At the end of our service, the previously dejected priest rushed up to me, grabbed my arm, and declared, “these students give me hope!”

Hope is a powerful instrument. It gives people a vision for something greater, something bigger than ourselves. Theodore James Ryken had it. St. Francis Xavier had it. The many Xaverian Brothers who have devoted their life to the mission of this congregation have had it. Even greater still, our Xaverian Brothers have instilled that hope in the culture and people who make up our 13 XBSS schools. It lives today and was clearly at work at the XBSS retreat.

It is my hope that the Xaverian educational ministry remains vibrant for generations to come. As I approach nearly 50 visits to our 13 schools in my first year, I sense from many the desire to build upon the foundation and legacy our Xaverian Brothers have fostered. To that end, we find ourselves in the midst of creating a XBSS Strategic Plan that will afford more clarity and direction for how the sponsorship office can best support the needs of our network schools, now and into the future. A steering committee is in place with representation from all key stakeholder groups across the network. As work

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Students gathered for the annual XBSS Student Retreat at Holy Family Retreat Center in West Hartford, CT.

IN THIS ISSUE

- Dr. Patrick Slattery writes about the good work happening in Xaverian Brothers Sponsored Schools and plans for the future. We also showcase this year’s recipients of the Ryken Award
- We highlight the retirement ministry of Brother Paul Cullen in South Carolina
- We share the first photos of St. Xavier High School in Bungoma, Kenya - the Brothers’ newest educational endeavor
- In *Call Fulfilled* we remember the remarkable life of Brother Martin Boone

continues on the plan through the summer months, it's our hope that the final blueprint will best serve our schools, raise the profile of the excellent work happening across our network, and ensure we keep Theodore James Ryken's vision for education alive and strong.

In the interim, the XBSS office continues to implement much of the great work initiated by Alice Hession and others. From the New Teacher Retreat to the long-standing XBSS Student Retreat, our office seeks to continue implementing those programs most warmly received by our schools. To assist with these goals, the office has recently hired Benjamin Horgan as the new Formation Director, beginning August

I. Ben will play a key leadership role within the sponsorship office, assisting with the articulation and perpetuation of the mission, vision, and philosophy of the Xaverian Brother Sponsored Schools.

Our vision for the future of XBSS would be meaningless without the students who grace the hallways of our 13 schools. These XBSS students are educated in a Xaverian, Catholic school. They are blessed to learn, laugh, and pray in a community that seeks to help, encourage, and edify one another. They are learning how to let God influence them through the common, ordinary, unspectacular flow of everyday life. They are our future, and they give me hope!

BROTHER PAUL CULLEN CONTINUES HIS MINISTRY IN HIS "RETIREMENT" YEARS

A Xaverian Brother for over 60 years, Brother Paul Cullen spent over 20 of his early years in education. In 1984, he joined the Brothers' community in Orangeburg, SC. Now "retired," Brother Paul remains a resident of Orangeburg, volunteering in various ministries.



Brother Paul Cullen, formerly known as Brother Elias, now in his 80's, continues his ministry through volunteer work at a local elementary school.



Brother Paul preparing the soil for the garden which produces crops which feed those in need.

Each spring, Brother Paul helps to plant a small garden at a friend's house. Last year, they were able to donate bags of tomatoes, squash, eggplant, and potatoes to Cooperative Church Ministries of Orangeburg throughout the growing season. He also volunteers at a local elementary school in Orangeburg, helping with field trips and classroom lessons from time to time. Brother Paul said, "They're learning and having fun at the same time." With the support of our faithful donors, Brother Paul and many other senior Brothers are able to continue their ministries through volunteer work.

ST. XAVIER HIGH SCHOOL, BUNGOMA, KENYA



In February, Brothers Edward Driscoll and John Hamilton visited St. Joseph's Centre in Bungoma, Kenya. A new school, St. Xavier High School, opened there in January. St. Xavier's is an all boys secondary school that builds on the tradition of the Brothers who first opened secondary schools in western Kenya in the 1950's.



NEW ENGLAND AREA ASSOCIATES

On Saturday, February 10, the New England Associates met at Malden Catholic High School. Mary Driscoll hosted the meeting and Brother Dominique Olondo was the presenter. Using a series of slides, Brother Dominique addressed Xaverian life and ministries in Kenya and the Democratic Republic of Congo. The Associates appreciated hearing about the various aspects of the Xaverian Brothers programs of formation as well as the numerous social and educational ministries undertaken by these two regions serving mostly the poor and marginalized. Gratitude was also expressed to Brother Dominique for his fine presentation and attentive and perceptive responses to questions related to both Regions' future sustainability.



Xaverian Associate, Mary Driscoll, and Brother Dominique Olondo.

2017 RYKEN AWARD WINNERS

On December 3, the Feast of St. Francis Xavier, the Theodore James Ryken Award is presented to a member of the faculty, staff or administration of each of the 13 Xaverian Brothers Sponsored Schools who exhibits a commitment to the Founder's vision. 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!

This academic year the following were presented the Theodore James Ryken Award at a school liturgy or celebration on the Feast of St. Francis Xavier:



JACK FLETCHER
*Lowell Catholic School
Lowell, MA*



JEFFREY SMITH
*Malden Catholic School
Malden, MA*



JASON ADER
*Mount St. Joseph High School
Baltimore, MD*



MARCUS SAMERSON
*Nazareth Regional High School
Brooklyn, NY*



AMY KERKHOVEN
*Our Lady of Good Counsel
Olney, MD*



DONALD MACRINO
*St. Bernard School
Uncasville, CT*

I AM WITH RYKEN BECAUSE

whether it is in the lab, in the classroom, or at home with my family, I strive to find God's love through the common, ordinary, unspectacular flow of everyday life.

Jason Ader, Mount Saint Joseph High School, Baltimore, MD



MICHAEL LAHEY
St. John's High School
Shrewsbury, MA



PETER MATHISON
St. John's Preparatory School
Danvers, MA



AMY CRICCHI
St. Mary's Ryken High School
Leonardtown, MD



CHUCK WILLENBRINK
St. Xavier High School
Louisville, KY



EDWIN L. NOE, III
St. Xavier High School
Louisville, KY



LINDA CORBETT
Xaverian Brothers High School
Westwood, MA



KEVIN McCORMACK
Xaverian High School
Brooklyn, NY



DONNA JASKOT
Xavier High School
Middletown, CT

I AM WITH RYKEN BECAUSE

for the past 30 years it has been a privilege and a blessing in my life to work with the Brothers, faculty and staff at Xavier High School fostering his vision for our students and their families. I am truly humbled and honored to receive this award.

*Donna Jaskot, Xavier High School,
Middletown, CT*

2018 XBSS STUDENT RETREAT



Fr. David Choquette, a graduate of Xavier HS, CT and a priest of the Diocese of Norwich, celebrating mass at the XBSS Student Retreat.

Our annual XBSS Student Retreat was held at the Holy Family Retreat Center in Connecticut from March 4 through March 8. Even a Nor'Easter, which canceled their community service day, could not dampen the spirits of the 78 juniors, 13 senior leaders, and 16 adult leaders. Students enthusiastically embraced whole group talks, faith sharing opportunities, Mass, prayer services, and cherished small group talks. Noteworthy, too, were talks from Dr. Chad Puclowski (Xaverian Brothers HS), Michael Driscoll (Malden Catholic), Chelsea Rafferty (Lowell Catholic), Michael Foley (St. Johns HS), and Kevin

Abdo (St. Johns HS). These five individuals are not only employed in an XBSS school, but they also attended the XBSS retreat as a student years ago. They offered the retreatants a unique perspective on our charism, mission, and why they returned to work in an XBSS school. The retreat as a whole served as a wonderful opportunity to further form our students to become Christian leaders who give their gifts as a gift to others. They were charged to return to their school communities and use the gift of their leadership to make a difference.

BROTHERS FROM AROUND THE WORLD MEET IN ROME



Brothers on the General Council and coordinators of the Kenya, Congo, and US Core Teams met in Rome, Italy in February to discuss the ongoing transformation process and what each region has done over the last several months. Brothers report very positively about the working sessions. Brother Michael McCarthy (USA) is pictured here with Brother Placide (DRC) and Brother Raphael (Kenya), two members of the General Council.

Call

FULFILLED

BROTHER MARTIN BOONE (LOYOLA)

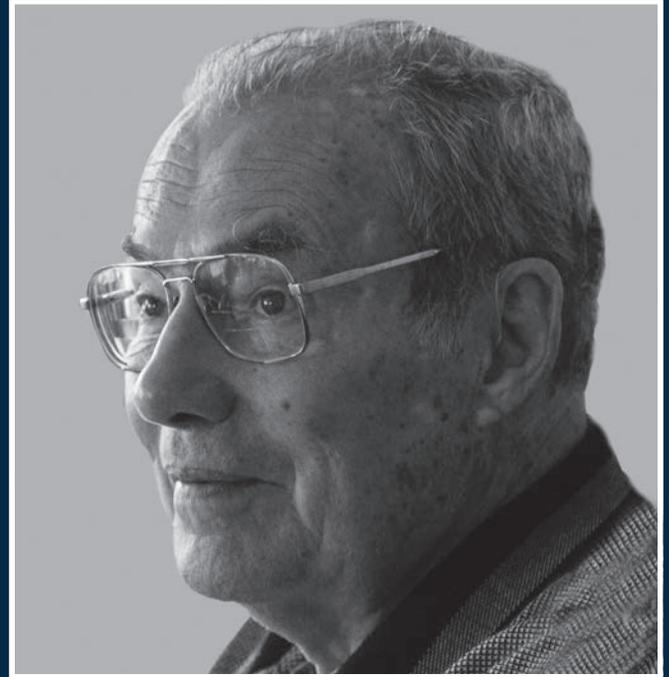
Martin Boone graduated from St. Xavier High School in 1951 and then the University of Louisville in 1956 with a degree in Electrical Engineering. He worked for several years as an engineer before joining the Brothers on July 8, 1958 and taking the religious name Loyola. He joined his older brother Kirby who had become a Xaverian ten years before. Martin early on heard a call to be among the poor and those suffering from injustice. Brother Edward Driscoll remarked in his In Memoriam, “Martin always emphasized that the gifts we bring as a Congregation to mission are our faith in Christ, our desire for justice and the generous use of our talents for the benefit of the people. Martin was truly committed to empowering the poor.”

After his first teaching assignment at Ryken High School in Leonardtown (1962-1967), Martin went to Bolivia where he spent ten years (1967-77) at our Escuela Normal (Teacher Training School) in Carmen Pampa preparing campesino youth to be teachers for their home parishes. Martin understood the life of campesinos. He would insist that our mission be directed to the poor who lived in the campo. Besides religious education and the academic program, Martin insisted that the students learn the value of working the earth and assisted them in cultivating and harvesting coffee, not only for the school but also for the neighboring communities.

He returned to the United States from 1977 to 1985, teaching at Good Counsel High in Wheaton, Maryland (1977-1979), and then becoming the Director of Migrant Ministry for the Diocese of Raleigh, North Carolina (1979-1985).

He returned to his beloved Bolivian people for three years, this time in Cochabamba, (1985-1988), before answering a call to minister to the Lakota Native Americans in South Dakota (1988-1989) and did pastoral ministry with Latin American migrants in Seattle (1989-1991).

Once again, feeling the missionary call, and responding to the Brothers’ desire to expand in Bolivia, he returned to Bolivia and spent the last twenty-five years of active ministry in Chinguri, Bolivia (1991-2016). In response to the Bishop of Aiquille, Martin established an alternative school that met the needs of the Quecha Indian population. He insisted that girls be a part



of this new venture, and not only designed but supervised the construction of this school, including a library, chapel and clinic. He remained at Escuela de Nuestra Señora del Rosario until the University of Cochabamba took over the facilities to further their collegiate program.

Upon his return to the States, Martin wanted to continue his life of service. He offered to use his Spanish to help Latinos in Louisville, Kentucky with the legal system and was involved in a program to mentor inner city children.

Brother Cornelius Hubbuch in his Eulogy of Martin described him as “a highly respected teacher and leader of the young people under him. He combined the virtues of strictness, fairness, and caring in asking for the best from these young men. As a result, many of his former students remained loyal to him and consider him a model of a man dedicated to the poor suffering from injustice.”

After a brief bout with cancer, Martin passed away peacefully at Nazareth Home in Louisville on January 14.



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XBSS MEMBERS AND CHIEF ADMINISTRATORS MEETING

Chief Administrators from Xaverian Brothers Sponsored Schools held their spring meeting in Boston in March. XBSS Members, who exercise governance authority in each of the XBSS schools, also participated in part of the meeting.

XAVERIAN BROTHERS
IN HARMONY SMALL THINGS GROW

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