



The new community of Xaverian Brothers working in Fungurume, DR Congo: Brothers Jean de la Croix, Marc Kabwita, François Kilonda, and Maurice Butanda

FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE FOUNDER: STANDING WITH RYKEN AND MARCHING ON IN FAITH

Brother Edward Driscoll | General Superior

I am delighted to share some good news. The news is simple and clear: our Founder's charism, the very spirit that impelled him to form our band of Brothers, is very much alive today. It calls us as Brothers, Associates, and Partners in mission to new life. As you read the stories in this edition of *Concordia*, I hope you can sense as clearly as I do that the same Spirit who moved our Founder one hundred and seventy-nine years ago is still actively inspiring our Xaverian family today.

In Africa, the Spirit is encouraging our Congolese and Kenyan Brothers to take a risk. This risk involves our willingness to listen for and to respond to what the world needs of us today, with the particular gifts that we and the Xaverian charism can offer. As General Superior

I am edified by what is happening in Africa. You can read about our new foundation in the city of Fungurume in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Four of our Brothers have taken over direction of a group of schools that serve a diverse group of people. In addition to providing direction in the quality of the education offered, our Brothers are working to instill Catholic values and identity at the schools. Even they draw parallels to the experience of our Founder and our pioneer Brothers in both Belgium and America. I should mention as well the determination of our Brothers in Kenya who are expanding the good work of the Ryken Centre for Hope — a rescue center for street children. In addition, next month they will welcome the first group of students at the new St. Xavier Secondary School in Bungoma, Kenya. This school will

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

IN THIS ISSUE

- Brother Edward updates us on new mission developments in Africa
- Brother Jean de la Croix writes about the new mission of the Xaverian Brothers in Democratic Republic of Congo
- We learn about Brother James Connolly's prison ministry
- We learn about the fall gathering for the chief administrators of Xaverian schools, as well as read about Founders Week and the "I am with Ryken" social media campaign
- Xaverian Associates gather in the Maryland area
- In our Call Fulfilled we read about Brother Raymond Hoyt who passed away in October after suffering from ALS

begin simply, without great cost or construction, using the facilities already available to enroll the first group of young men. However, as the school grows and develops, a great investment will be needed to build out the campus. Up in Lodwar, in the Turkana Desert, Brother Louis Calmel and three other Brothers have already moved into the new St. James Secondary School — a school we staff on behalf of the Diocese of Lodwar.

In this *Concordia* you will also read about the enthusiasm of our students, teachers and Brothers in our Sponsored Schools in the United States. At the end of November we celebrated Founder's Week, the week from the anniversary of the death of Theodore James Ryken on November 26 until the Feast of St. Francis Xavier on December 3rd. We

conducted a social media campaign, "I am with Ryken," to highlight our Founder's charism, his mission, as well as the zeal for the Gospel that our patron, Saint Francis Xavier exhibited. I believe you will be moved as you read in this *Concordia* how the Spirit is stirring our Brothers to move more and more to the periphery in areas unfamiliar to the Congregation. These are powerful stories and I hope you are inspired by them and enjoy them. Of course, your support of the Congregation — of our senior Brothers, our missionary endeavors and our Sponsorship Office — makes you a partner in the work of evangelization we undertake.

I always feel privileged to share with you what is essential to the Xaverian spirit. I ask for your continued interest in our story, your continued relationship with our Brothers, and your generous support.

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THEODORE JAMES RYKEN: A NEW MISSIONARY EXPERIENCE

by Brother Jean de La Croix Kalumba, CFX

[Brother Jean sent us an account of a new mission in the Congo. There, four Brothers committed to this mission: Brothers Jean de La Croix Kalumba, François Kilonda, Marc Kabwita and Maurice Butanda.]

We began this new mission in September 2017. At first, we would leave Likasi early each day by shuttle bus to arrive in Fungurume on time. The bus service is reliable. Today Fungurume is not as it was in the 1960's when it was the last mission of the Benedictine Fathers in Katanga. Today Fungurume is the crossroads of several peoples coming from diverse areas of the country as well as from other countries. These people are looking for gainful employment at the mining company. As is true in the Third World, people are always moving around looking for ways to survive, be it through small businesses.

Originally the officials of the mining company tried to employ local people, but due to the lack of competency, they were forced to recruit from other cities of the province. Today in Fungurume there is a mix of people. Some come from the cities, others from the countryside. This social division is also reflected in the education level of the people. We are experiencing this difference in the schools under our management.

The presence of the Brothers among these people who are on the periphery of society is very opportune. We have the great opportunity to provide a quality education to these young people. Education remains the only way to give young people a real chance to build their future as well as that of the nation.

Fungurume is also a crossroad where several religious denominations meet. It is no secret that in Africa churches grow like mushrooms. This poses a problem for us. The children attending the schools we manage come from all these churches. This is a real challenge. For example, during the opening Mass at one of the schools some teachers as well as some pupils did not understand the Eucharist. We realize we have a lot of work to do in grounding the educational program in the values of the Gospel.

As for the school community, the reception we received was not what one would expect, neither by the parents' committee nor the teachers' union. We quickly realized that we do not share a common vision with the child at the center. The meetings revolved around the question of money. At times opinions were fiercely expressed. Their questions focused on the previous managers. The teachers wanted to know how much money was left in the account.

As for teaching materials and equipment, the six primary schools are adequately equipped by the mining company. The children had books for reading. The secondary schools are still developing especially the technical sections (industrial electricity, general mechanics, etc.). At the moment we are looking for ways to cooperate with technical schools in Likasi including the CFP (professional center for the railway company) that the Xaverian Brothers once managed and the Saint Francis Xavier Technical School in Panda.

On the feast of St. Francis Xavier, the Brothers in Likasi invited a delegation of 16 teachers from Fungurume to witness our fratern in grand to be welcomed into the Xaverian education community. It is our hope that the spirit of our Xaverian Apostolate will gradually be imbued.

We know that religious life is defined by the mystery of Jesus' earthly life, which in reality is the life of the Trinity. We want to dedicate our community of Brothers in Fungurume to Christ. So we choose to name our community the Community of Christ the King, which is composed of Brothers Maurice, Marc, François and Jean de La Croix. We are currently located in a rather tumultuous neighborhood which has heavy traffic and lots of noise. We live in a leased house as did the first community on Ezelstraat in Bruges.



Students in a primary school classroom with their instructor.

To face all these challenges, we need your prayer and your support so this mission can go forward. May Christ always live at the center of our life as the sole master of this evangelical undertaking which at the same time is the work of the entire congregation.

PROFESSION OF PERPETUAL VOWS

Saturday September 9, 2017, Brothers Alain-Maximilien Kalunga, Rutal Bulongo, and Trésor Malenga, made perpetual vows. The celebration of the Eucharist took place in the Church of St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus. Nearly all the Brothers from the region took part in the celebration, as well as many other religious, family members and friends of the Brothers. It was truly a beautiful and prayerful celebration. Brother Patrick Fumbisha represented the General Superior by receiving their vows. It was a double celebration as it also served as a commission service for Brother Vincent Ilunga who was preparing to travel as our second missionary to Haiti. Brother Vincent just completed his term as Regional Coordinator of the Congo. After the Mass, a festive meal was offered to all the guests.

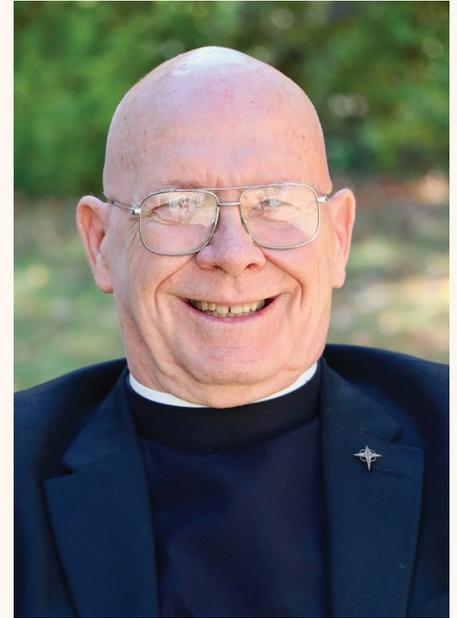


BROTHER JAMES CONNOLLY SHARES HIS MESSAGE WITH PRISONERS

While working in Campus Ministry in South Carolina in the late 90's, Brother James Connolly was introduced to the warden of the maximum-security prison in Allendale, SC. She spoke to him about the need for a good male role model and chaplain for the prison. Brother Jim brought the idea to the Brothers in his community. At the time, the Brothers had received a never before translated letter from their founder, Theodore James Ryken, in which he spoke of his wanting his Brothers "to work with those on the margins of society." The response from the Brothers in his community in South Carolina was, "You cannot be more marginalized than being in prison or jail."

After agreeing to give prison chaplaincy a try and going through training, Brother Jim began his volunteer work in prison ministry, being available for pastoral counseling with inmates, grief counseling, offering prayer and communion services, and scripture courses. After serving on the Congregation's International Leadership Team, Brother Jim found himself back in prison ministry in Sarasota, Florida in 2012. This past year, Brother Jim returned to New England. Not wanting to fully retire, he began volunteering at the Essex County House of Corrections.

Brother Jim explains that he has chosen to use his gifts and talents as a Prison Chaplain because, "Folks that are incarcerated have no voice in our society and few are willing to advocate for them. I have always found the incarcerated men grateful for my presence and for giving my time as a volunteer chaplain. When growing up my parents taught me to respect others as human beings. This is what I have tried to do in all my ministries over the years."



Brother James Connolly joined the Xaverian House community after years of doing prison ministry in Florida.

XBSS CHIEF ADMINISTRATORS MEETING



Xaverian administrators at their fall meeting in Baltimore (clockwise, from lower right): Alex Zequeira, St. John's Shrewsbury; Frank Espinoza, St. Xavier, Louisville; Perry Sangalli, St. Xavier; Don Macrino, St. Bernard's, CT; Providencia Quiles, Nazareth RHS, NY; Mary Joy Hurlburt, St. Mary's Ryken, MD

From September 24 through 26, the chief administrators from the 13 XBSS schools gathered in Baltimore for their fall meeting. On Monday the 25th, Brothers John Hamilton and Larry Harvey lead the group in a day of reflection on the theme: "Xaverian Education: Creating a Culture of Encounter for the Common Good." They used readings from Pope Francis, texts on the theme of the "common good" as well as Xaverian Brothers documents (Fundamental Principles, Charism Study) to introduce a Xaverian context on the "common good." They then invited personal reflection as well as discussion on how Xaverian schools are called to radiate a different set of values that encourage uniqueness, coming to know oneself as created by God, and placing one's unique self in service to the common good. On Tuesday, September 26, XBSS Executive Director Patrick Slattery spent some time engaging the administrators in discussion about future direction for the network. The feedback from the reflection day and the business session was positive.

BALTIMORE ASSOCIATES GATHERING



Left to right: Mike Buckley, Br. Dan Doherty, Br. Mike McCarthy, Br. Jerry O'Leary, Jeannette Sufllita, Br. Paul Murray, Br. John Hamilton, Br. Bob Arrowsmith, Br. Tom Murphy, Hugh Boyle, Kathy Boyle. Also present was Peg Weidner.

On Saturday, September 30, Associates and Brothers from the Maryland/Virginia/Pennsylvania region met for a gathering and reflection.

The morning reflection began a juxtaposition of two quotations: "We have to get used to the idea that at the most important crossroads in our life there are no signs" (Ernest Hemingway). "Where I am going you know the way." Thomas said to him. 'Master, we do not know where you are going: how can we know the way?' Jesus said to him, 'I am the way'" (John 14:4-6).

During the prayer, each person silently reflected on several questions posed by Henri Nouwen: Did I offer peace today?

Did I bring a smile to someone's face? Did I say words of healing? Did I let go of my anger and resentment? Did I forgive? Did I love?

Both the quotations and the reflection questions gave rise to an open, trusting, and sometimes difficult discussion. Several members noted that, in spite of the difficulties and challenges of our times, they find comfort in family, friends, and community and in the opportunity to share their worries, concerns, and differing perspectives with each other without judgement or blame, genuinely trying to determine how Jesus, "the Way," would want them to proceed. Brother Paul noted that the same openness characterized meetings taking place on the new model for the congregation, "Graced Crossroads."

FLAGET ALUMNI ASSOCIATION LUNCHEON

In October, in Louisville, KY, Brothers Ward O'Connell, Tom Murphy, Pete Mahoney, Dan Conaghan and Michael McCarthy attended a luncheon hosted by the Flaget High School Alumni Association. Brother Michael McCarthy was invited to speak at the luncheon. The Alumni Association meets each month for lunch and often features a speaker. The Xaverian Brothers taught at Flaget from the day that the school opened in 1942 through the school's closing in 1974.



Call FULFILLED

BROTHER RAYMOND HOYT, CFX

On October 9, 2017, Brother Raymond Hoyt died peacefully after an 18 month struggle with ALS. He was 64 years of age and had been a Xaverian Brother for 46 years. A natural as a teacher, Brother Ray continued to instruct in his struggle with ALS. He attended Xaverian Brothers High School, Westwood, MA as a young man, graduating in 1970, and he offered the best lesson of his life to the young men, as well as to the entire XBHS community, in his last year as a teacher and administrator at the school.

Born in Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts. He was the oldest child of Frances and Raymond Hoyt, Sr. Brother Raymond is survived by his father, as well as his sister, Elaine, and brothers Russell, Randy and Robert.

After completing his undergraduate degree at Boston College, Brother Raymond's life as a Xaverian would take him from St. John's in Shrewsbury, MA, to Xavier High School in Middletown, CT, then on to our mission outreach in Orangeburg, SC where he was Principal at Holy Trinity Catholic School. He then returned to his *alma mater*, Xaverian Brothers High School, as a teacher and following this he served as administrator. He also served as Principal at St. Xavier High School in Louisville, KY where he also taught a French class. He then returned to Xaverian Brothers High School in 2003 and continued his ministry as an administrator and teacher.

Brother Ray was masterful whether teaching French or English, honor students or strugglers, teenagers or



teachers new to Xaverian Brothers Sponsored Schools. For many years, Raymond was a key member of the annual XBSS Student Retreat as well as the annual New Teachers Gathering. Raymond's ability to tell a story, to communicate a point, to generate positive energy with plenty of humor was outstanding.

On June 20, 2016, Brother Raymond was diagnosed with bulbar ALS which affects speech, swallowing and breathing. His signature gift of communication would gradually be taken from him. In his *In Memoriam* of Brother Raymond, General Superior Brother Edward Driscoll wrote, "I am sure Raymond understood more than most of his Brothers the meaning of our Founder's statement, 'O Lord, I cannot understand Your ways, but I must adore them.'"

Although it was sometimes difficult for Raymond to grasp what was happening to him, his fidelity to his vocation, the support of his family, friends, and of the XBHS community — especially Brother Daniel Skala who walked with him every

step of the way — sustained him. He continued to work up through April of 2017, when his condition necessitated his move to Xaverian House, Danvers and the care that facility provides to our elderly and infirm Brothers.

Less than a month before he died, Brother Raymond shared with the community at Xaverian House some of the challenges of his life since the diagnosis. He wrote to them,

Brothers, I want to thank you all for your kindnesses to me. Those who picked me up when I fell, those who help clear my dining room space, those who say 'hi' to me when I can't answer back. I'm afraid of the future and what will happen to me. I know it's all in God's hands... I would ask for your prayers and watchful eyes. March on.

Brother Raymond Hoyt

A few weeks later, he would be transferred to Kaplan Family Hospice Center in Danvers where his family and the Brothers from Xaverian House were able to accompany him in his last days. He died peacefully on the morning of October 9th. His wake was held in the chapel at his beloved Xaverian Brothers High School and the funeral liturgy celebrated at St. Timothy's Church, Norwood, with his good friend from his days at Xavier High School, Fr. Gerry Kirby, as the main celebrant. Brother Edward Driscoll delivered the eulogy, using an apt quote from Henry Adams as a theme, "A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops."



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THE THEODORE JAMES RYKEN SOCIETY

We invite you to become intimately involved in the Xaverian Brothers' Mission through your interest, moral support, prayers and donations by joining the Theodore James Ryken Society. Members of this Society believe so strongly in the Xaverian Mission that they commit themselves to invest \$1,000 or more each year to benefit a number of Xaverian Brothers' mission initiatives, including the care of our aged and infirm Brothers.

To learn more about the Theodore James Ryken Society and the specific projects and programs that we are asking for your support of, contact our Advancement office at development@xaverianbrothers.org or by telephone at 410-644-0034.

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