



Brothers gathered at the Profession of Vows in Congo

## AROUND THE CONGREGATION

**Brother Edward Driscoll | General Superior**

The older one gets the more quickly time flies. By that standard, I feel like Methuselah! Since our last *Concordia* time has truly flown by. A lot has happened. As you'll see in this issue, the Xaverian mission is alive and well and growing on three continents! We welcomed fourteen Bolivian women and men, who knew our Brothers, to our Associate Program. We also welcomed Mr. Ben Horgan as Director of Formation for XBSS. In the States our sponsorship team has been busy introducing new administrators and teachers to our Xaverian mission. Mission permeates the story of the ministry internship of our young Kenyan Xaverians. Let me just highlight a few of the other good things happening around the Congregation.

I have had the good fortune to spend some weeks visiting our Brothers at Ryken House, Louisville and Xaverian House, Danvers. The devotion with which these elderly Brothers care for each other is truly inspirational. In addition to serving each other in community, many of the Brothers also continue to be engaged a few days a week in working with refugees, the elderly, disadvantaged children and the homeless. You'll see a photo and caption about two of our Brothers who recently returned from years of mission work in Kenya. Another one of our Brothers, Brother Brian Vetter, returned last year from Bolivia. Now Brother Brian is on the frontline working with Catholic Charities on the border in Texas. I hope to visit him soon and to tell more of his story in a future *Concordia*. While some American Xaverians have returned

from missionary work outside their home country, two of our Congolese Brothers just recently joined our mission in Haiti, where they will reside at *Sant Xaveryen* and also become involved in teaching and health care work around Port au Prince.

As you'll notice in the photo above, our Brothers in Africa are growing and expanding our mission there. A prior issue of *Concordia* spoke about St. Xavier High School in Bungoma, Kenya, which is mid-way through their first academic year and getting ready to begin the next phase of renovation and construction in order to accept their next class. Also, in Bungoma, our Ryken Centre for Hope - a program for street children - is looking to break ground on

## IN THIS ISSUE

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- Brothers' ministry internship in Kitale, Kenya
- XBSS new Administrators and new Teachers meet in Baltimore
- We welcome new Associates in Bolivia
- Brothers Mike Foley and William Cushing return to the States after many years of missionary work in Africa
- In Call Fulfilled we remember Brothers Daniel O'Brien and Frederick Codair

a permanent home. Neither of those projects could happen without the financial support of our faithful donors. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, thanks to the assistance of our friends at Xaverian College, Manchester, England, our Good Shepherd Home has seen some needed improvements. And the work of our senior Brother in Congo, Brother Victor Kazadi who works with a cooperative established by the late Brother Joris of Belgium, has benefited from the creation of fish farms, also through the generosity of Xaverian College, Manchester.

“Go, then, to peoples everywhere and make them my disciples.” Jesus’ command is clear and guides our mission. Our Rule exhorts us as disciples of Jesus to follow in His footsteps and

to minister God’s healing touch of love, through word and deed, to all whom we meet in our journey of life.

God continues to bless our Congregation and we continue to do God’s work to the best of our ability. When times are difficult, our Founder’s words are a source of strength, “Nothing special is achieved without much labor, effort and zeal.” In the coming months, I will be meeting with members of our Theodore James Ryken Society and Concordia Society to share with them the good news of the Congregation at regional meetings. I look forward to those opportunities. Thanks so much for the support, appreciation and generosity you have for the Brothers. Be assured of our prayers!

## WELCOME NEW ASSOCIATES IN BOLIVIA



Welcome and congratulations to our friends in Bolivia. On Saturday, July 7th, 16 individuals joined our Xaverian Associate Program. Andres Pardo, former student of the Brothers in Bolivia, spent many months organizing the retreat and translating our Associate material into Spanish. We are excited to share our charism with our newest Associates with the promise of our support and prayers. Welcome to all!



*Brother Christopher Mwima (far right) stands behind Bishop Maurice, the Bishop of Kitale, at the dedication of a new sub parish in the diocese.*

## **BROTHERS VISIT KITALE, KENYA**

Over the summer, Brothers Christopher Mwima and Stephen Obara of the Karen-Nairobi, Kenya community completed a ministry internship in Kitale, Kenya where they also participated in the opening of a new sub parish, St. Gabriel Liyavo. Bishop Anthony Maurice of the Diocese of Kitale was the main celebrant.

While in Kitale, Brothers Christopher and Stephen helped a young child named Maxwell, who was attacked by jiggers, a parasite. Maxwell is an orphan and HIV victim. He was staying with his grandmother after being abandoned by



*Brothers Christopher and Stephen with Tabitha, a 109 year old woman who lost her home and was sleeping on boxes and clothes.*



his uncle. Brothers Christopher and Stephen are working with the Daughters of Charity to find a suitable and safe home for Maxwell.

They also meet a 109 year old woman named Tabitha. The Brothers, working together with the Daughters of Charity encountered her, living alone, having been moved to Kitale squatters' land since 1994 due to land clashes that took place that year and led to the loss of her entire family and land. When the Brothers entered her house, she was laying down on boxes and old clothes, with no bed. Brother Christopher shared that he was happy to pray, share, and listen to her. "She touched me when she talked about true forgiveness and poverty for the kingdom of God." The Brothers returned to her house and delivered a bed.

*Brothers Christopher and Stephen with Maxwell, who was attacked by jiggers, a parasite.*

## **XBSS NEW TEACHERS ORIENTATION**



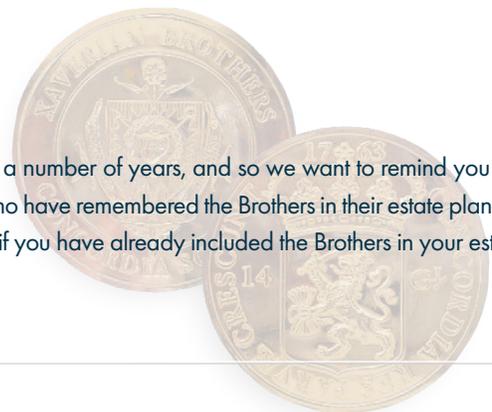
*Pictured left to right:  
Dr. Patrick Slattery, Mr.  
Ben Horgan (new XBSS  
Director of Formation), Mr.  
Gary Gruneisen, Brother  
Richard Lunny, CFX, Mr.  
Robert Gregory, and Mrs.  
Rachel Bruce*

In early August, 54 individuals from ten Xaverian Brothers Sponsored Schools gathered in Baltimore for the annual XBSS New Teacher Orientation. Over three days, these new members of the XBSS community shared in prayer, formation, and fellowship. This group of new teachers heard presentations from students from Our Lady of Good Counsel and Mount Saint Joseph's High Schools, veteran lay faculty members from across the network, and from a panel of Brothers. The aim of this retreat was to invite these new collaborators into the legacy and charisma of the Xaverian Brothers. After being together for just 40 hours, our newest collaborators left energized and excited to enter into their new roles as Xaverian educators. As the academic year begins for our schools, we ask that you keep our new teachers and staff in your prayers.



## **Concordia** SOCIETY

Many of you have been faithful and generous supporters of the Xaverian Brothers over a number of years, and so we want to remind you about the Xaverian Brothers Concordia Society. This Society and its benefits acknowledge those who have remembered the Brothers in their estate plans. For a list of benefits and information on how you can include the Brothers in your estate plans, or if you have already included the Brothers in your estate plans, please contact Stephanie Stricker at 410-646-6777 or [sstricker@xaverianbrothers.org](mailto:sstricker@xaverianbrothers.org).



## XBSS NEW ADMINISTRATORS

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In July, Dr. Patrick Slattery, Executive Director of XBSS and Brother Richard Lunny, Sponsorship Associate, held the XBSS Administrators orientation at the Xaverian Brothers Generalate in Baltimore, MD.

*Pictured left to right: Karen Chalif (Xaverian Brooklyn), Carolyn Herman (Xaverian Brothers HS), Sam Bianco (Mount Saint Joseph), Patrick Slattery, Brother Richard Lunny, Kristen Hayes (Xaverian Brooklyn), Crystal Dunkin (St. Mary's Ryken), Ted Currie (Xaverian Brothers HS), and Dr. Shari Berga (Our Lady of Good Counsel HS).*

## WELCOME HOME

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Brothers and former Brothers, mostly from the class of 1961, gathered on Saturday, July 7, to welcome home Brothers William Cushing and Mike Foley. After dinner, there were brief speeches and a toast followed by an open conversation with Brothers Bill and Mike about their missionary years and ministerial involvements in Africa. Brother Mike lives with the community at Ryken House, Louisville where he volunteers, and Brother Bill has joined the community at St. John's HS, Shrewsbury, MA.



*Left to right standing: Bro. Jim Eckert (Campion), Bro. Richard Cook (Justinian), Bro. Ron Santoro (Fidelis), Bill Madden, Joe Perini, Bob McDowell, Peter Weston, and Bro. Edward Rice (Brendan). Center standing: Bro. Mike Foley (Cyril) and Bro. William Cushing (Henry). Front: Bro. John Sullivan (Columkille), Brother Richard Mazza (Saverio)*

## THE THEODORE JAMES RYKEN SOCIETY

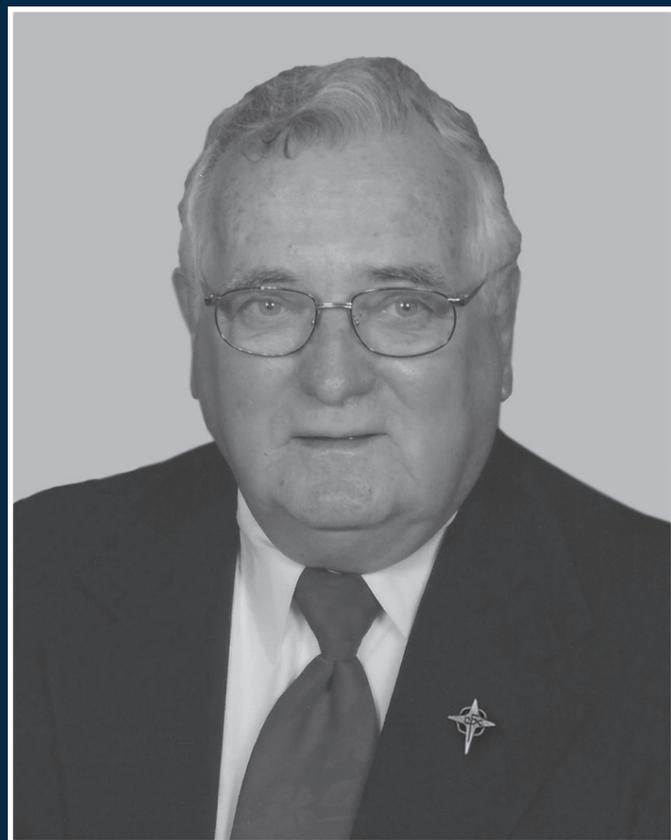
The Theodore James Ryken Society recognizes friends of the Xaverian Brothers who are intimately involved in the mission of the Xaverian Brothers through their interest, moral support, prayers and donations of \$1,000 or more annually. To learn more about The Theodore James Ryken Society and the specific projects and programs for which we are soliciting support, contact our Advancement office at [development@xaverianbrothers.org](mailto:development@xaverianbrothers.org) or by telephone at 410-644-0034.

## **BROTHER DANIEL O'BRIEN (BROTHER PACIFICUS)**

Brother Daniel O'Brien was born and raised in Brooklyn, and first met the Xaverian Brothers as a student at Holy Name Grade School. Later he attended Saint Francis Preparatory High School run by the Franciscan Brothers of Brooklyn. After graduation in 1948, he entered Sacred Heart Novitiate in Fort Monroe, Virginia where he received the habit and the religious name, Brother Pacificus. After novitiate, he did his studies at Catholic University of American earning his BA in English in 1953.

Brother Dan's ministry in Xaverian schools began with his first mission at Saint Xavier in Louisville in 1953. He then went on to teach at Mount St. Joseph's in Baltimore before being asked in 1957 to join the faculty of Mayfield College, a boarding school for boys run by the Xaverian Brothers in England. In 1959, he was assigned to St. Francis de Sales High School in Utica, NY, and then the following year went to Leonardtown, MD where, for nine years, he served on the faculty of Ryken High School, taught Philosophy to senior novices at Sacred Heart Novitiate and was on the staff of the Juniorate. In 1969, Dan went to Xaverian High in Brooklyn and began a six-year ministry at The Candidacy House, a program for young men interested in the Brothers vocation. Dan's last seven years of secondary school ministry were at Our Lady of Good Counsel in Wheaton, Maryland.

The year 1983 ushered in the second part of Dan's life as a Xaverian. He was involved for a time with prison ministry as a chaplain in Memphis, Tennessee. Then, he spent several years working for JONAH whose mission was to provide affordable housing for the poor, especially minorities. He later went to Jackson, Tennessee, where he was involved in adult ongoing formation at St. Mary's Church. He retired to Ryken House in 2008. After nine years of suffering from Parkinson's disease, Brother Dan passed away peacefully on April 13 at Nazareth Home in Louisville.



In his In Memoriam of Brother Dan, General Superior Brother Edward wrote, "Certainly throughout his life, Dan came to understand, as our Fundamental Principles remind us, that the cost of his being a disciple of Jesus as a Xaverian Brother was his very life. For his generosity and faithfulness to his call, we thank God for the grace with which He blessed Dan and we pray for his eternal peace with the Lord."

## **BROTHER FREDERICK R. CODAIR (BROTHER CAHIL)**

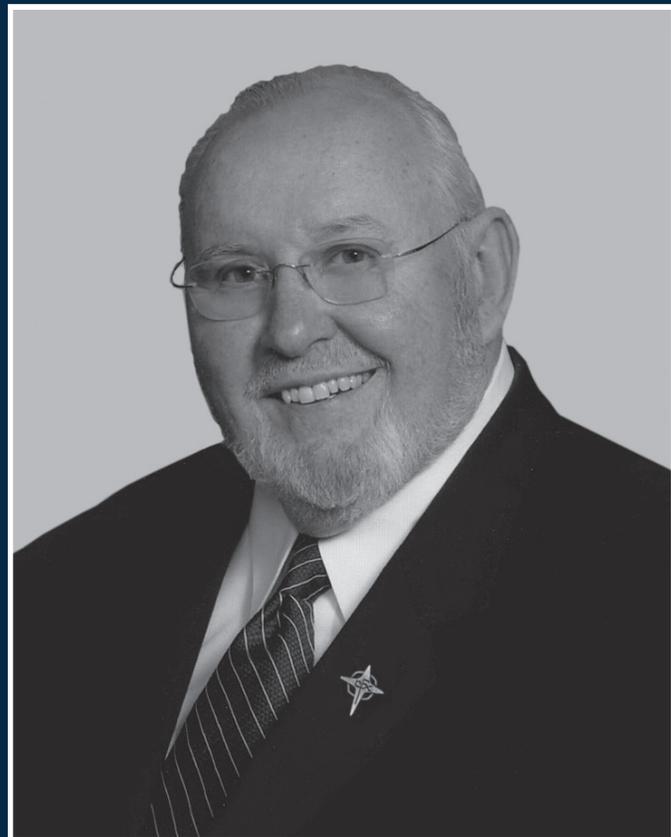
Few teachers have influenced their students as has Brother Fred Codair. Seen through the eyes of fourteen year olds, Brother Cahil was an imposing figure who commanded the attention of the forty or so freshmen in his Latin class at his first mission at Xaverian High School, Brooklyn in 1958. The students soon recognized that they were the beneficiaries of a highly talented teacher, who knew the secrets of outstanding teaching. He engaged his students in learning with his enthusiasm, his humor and his fast pace of instruction. Gifted with a keen perception of the individual, Brother Cahil built a rapport with his students that benefitted their learning.

Frederick Codair was born in Beverly, Massachusetts and graduated from Saint John's Preparatory School, in Danvers in 1952. He entered the Congregation of Xaverian Brothers on September 19th of the same year, where he was given the religious name Brother Cahil. After first profession of vows, he went to Xaverian College in Silver Spring, Maryland where he earned his BA in Latin and Greek from the Catholic University of America in 1958. For the next forty years, he would be engaged in high school education both in the United States and England.

As mentioned earlier, Brother Fred started his teaching ministry at Xaverian High School in Brooklyn. He then taught at St. John's, Shrewsbury, MA before heading to Manchester, England in 1963 where he taught at Xaverian College for four years. Upon his return to the States, Fred taught for a brief time at St. John's Prep. Then, beginning in 1971, Fred would spend nine years at Malden Catholic serving first as Librarian, having earned his MLS from Catholic University, and then as Headmaster from 1977-1980. From 1980 to 1998 Fred served as librarian at Bishop Fenwick High School in Peabody, MA.

A lifelong learner, he studied at St. Ann's College in Oxford, England and also spent time in Paris studying French. Gifted with a very sharp intellect, his fields of interest were many: theology, spirituality, language, the history of our Congregation and computers, to mention a few.

Fred joined the community at Xaverian House, Danvers in 2007 and continued to assist in the library at St. John's Prep until his health deteriorated and his mobility become



more limited. He passed away peacefully a little before 10am on July 14, 2018. At the eulogy given at his funeral liturgy held at St. Richard's Parish in Danvers, his good friend Brother Robert Green summed up Brother Fred's life as a Xaverian saying, "Those who were blessed to have Brother Fred (Cahil) as a teacher, will attest to the impact he had on them. They may not be ready to explain the Ablative Absolute, but they will speak warmly of a prepared, friendly and respectful educator who tried to bring out their best and to foster in them a desire to be lifelong learners."



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## BROTHER JOSEPH VISITS CONGO

Brother Joseph Ngoie took time out of his home visit to Congo to share with our young Brothers at the formation house in Likasi about missionary life, particularly our mission in Haiti, and especially *Sant Zaverien*. Brother Joseph oversees the *Sant* with Brother Vincent. Two other Xaverians have joined them, Adolph and Apollinaire. With Brother Bill Griffin working at St. Gabriel school, that brings our total number in Haiti to five!



**XAVIERIAN BROTHERS**  
IN HARMONY SMALL THINGS GROW

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