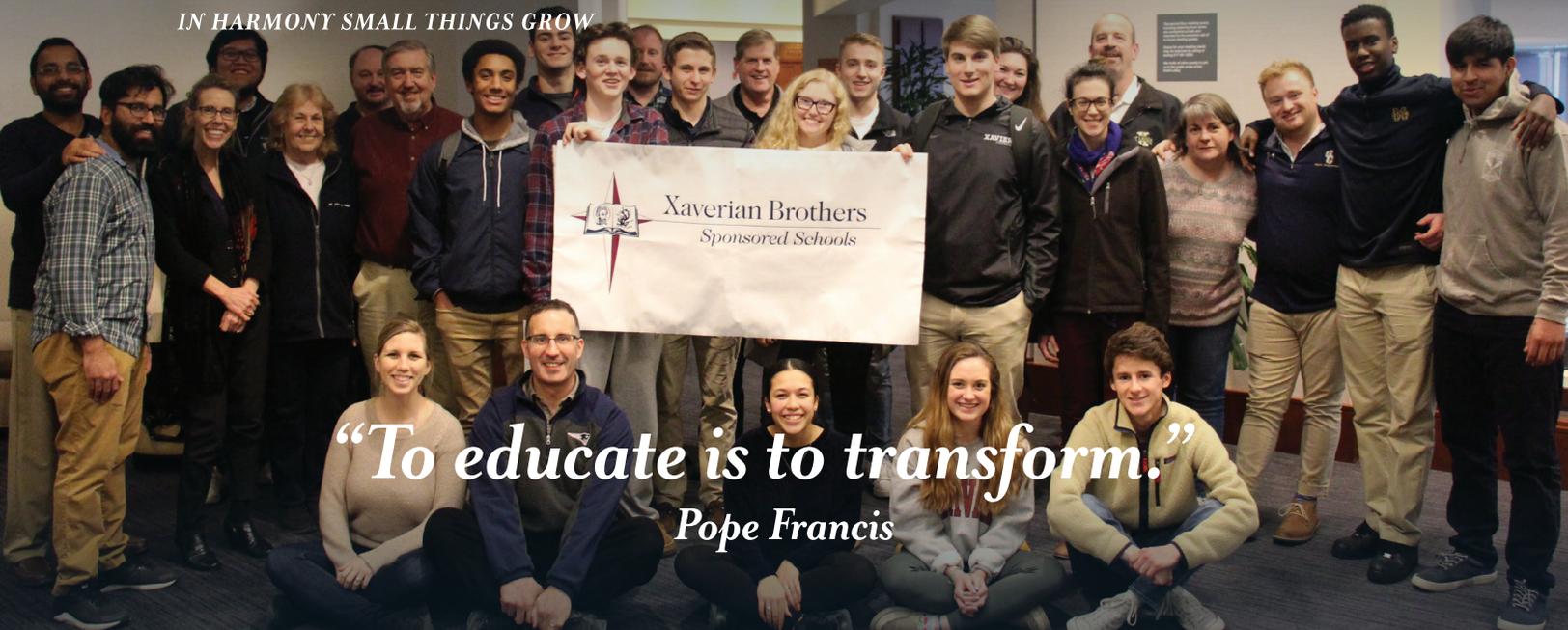


XAVERIAN BROTHERS

IN HARMONY SMALL THINGS GROW

XBSS Appeal 2019



DEAR FRIEND,

A difference! In fact, a world of difference! Everyday administrators, teachers, counselors, and support staff create a world of difference in the lives of the students attending the thirteen XBSS schools. That difference distinguishes a Xaverian education. Inherent to the Xaverian tradition are a clear mission grounded in the gospel of Jesus; an educational program responsive to the needs of today's young people; educators who really care that students learn and develop their gifts; an intangible spirit that helps students feel they belong and have something good to offer our world. This tradition has a long history.

Our Founder shared a simple threefold vision with the first Brothers: to form students in the love of God; to provide them with a solid education not only to make a living, but also to understand life in light of the gospel; to inspire them to use their talents to make our world a better place for all, engendering an attitude of hope. Keeping the vision alive given the challenges of today's world requires us to have the deep belief, heartfelt courage and the same tenacity that our first Brothers had. Our Sponsorship Office through its many formational activities aims at building faith, courage, and perseverance. Two recent events underscore their

efforts – the annual XBSS Retreat and the spring gathering for chief administrators of our schools.

In early March, over one hundred students gathered for the Annual XBSS Student Retreat. As with any retreat, the team of leaders, teachers, and students from the Sponsored Schools, gave presentations, led prayer, built community, and accompanied the students in service to those in need. The five-day retreat was an in-depth experience of what our Holy Father, Pope Francis, calls “the culture of encounter.”



Faculty and Students on the annual XBSS Student Leadership Retreat engage in a day of service to serve those most in need.

For Pope Francis, “the culture of encounter” refers to the way Jesus met other people. In his encounters with others, especially those on the margin of society, Jesus reveals the Father’s unconditional love for the individual. His prayer is always we “may all be one” (John 17:21).

During the retreat the students experienced directly the ‘oneness’ of the culture of encounter. They did so in meeting each other, in discussions, in prayer sessions, and in service to those in great need. Through belief, respect, and care for people who are different from themselves, these students learned the lesson that Jesus the Teacher underscores: we share a common humanity.

At the end of March, I attended the XBSS Chief Administrators meeting. A major focus of the gathering was a prayerful reflection on some difficult challenges facing all educators, ranging from issues of cultural and ethnic diversity and inclusion, to those related to sexual identity and orientation, to meeting the needs of students with learning differences. More often than not, these issues can be politicized with little consideration of the human person or Catholic identity. A panel of outside experts with vast experience in Catholic education, law, and health care provided wonderful case studies and helpful counsel. Some of our own administrators led a sharing session on what they are doing to make their school more inclusive and



In May, the XBSS campus ministers from the New England area met at Lowell Catholic for prayer, fellowship, and sharing of best practices.

reflective of Gospel values. I was inspired by the intensity of the concern and commitment expressed by the Chief Administrators to create a culture of encounter where students feel safe and accepted and where they are supported in their learning and growth as young women and men. It makes a world of difference!

One hundred and eighty years ago our Founder made sure that the lessons of love that Jesus, the Teacher, taught would be essential to a Xaverian education. These same lessons, whether presented in the context of the XBSS Retreat or in the gatherings of school administrators, continue to make a difference.

As a friend of the Brothers, you also make a difference. Your own experience of a Xaverian education, your belief in its value, relationship with the Brothers, and your financial support make a world of difference. Your gift helps our Sponsorship Office to provide programs needed to form Board members, administrators, and faculties in the spirit and values that distinguish a Xaverian education. May I thank you in advance for your support and ask you to continue to help us make a difference? Your gift helps shape a future of hope.

With gratitude in Christ,

BROTHER EDWARD DRISCOLL, CFX
General Superior



Mr. Sean Hurley (Board Member, Malden Catholic), Mrs. Maryellen DeMarco (Head of School, Lowell Catholic), and Mr. Bob Alesi (President, Xaverian High School) presented at the NCEA Convention this past April on the innovative ways that Xaverian Brothers Sponsored Schools are increasing enrollment.