



Brother Edward engaged in discussion with Brothers Patrick (left) and Brother Placide (center).

## LISTENING DEEPLY TO THE HOLY SPIRIT'S CALL AMONG THE XAVERIAN FAMILY

**Brother Edward Driscoll | General Superior**

In June, Brothers from the United States, Congo, and Kenya participated in a grace-filled series of meetings in Rome to share and update each other on the Congregational transformation process. These Brothers serve as the Integration Team for the Graced Crossroads process we've undertaken. An aspirational image that came out of our integration meeting was that of the "one village." This image calls the Brothers to share their struggles and their successes and to see the interconnected nature of the issues we encounter no matter what the region.

The grace of these days invited us to accept God as He was giving Himself to us in a variety of situations. In our morning prayers, each region was asked to focus the prayer and reflection on our *Fundamental Principles*, our Founder's charism and to share some thoughts about transformation seen through the lens of its

culture. Our prayers invited us to see God in the diverse cultural expressions of our life as Xaverians. One grace was the call to accept God in what unites us and makes us equal—our deep fraternal love that impels us to respond to our common call as Xaverians to follow Jesus.

The invitation to listen deeply to what was stirring in each of us and in our community was also a grace. We talked about the critical issues facing our Congregation in our respective regions. We listened deeply to the words and feelings that each Brother was sharing. In our listening, another grace began to emerge. Trust. Trust allowed us to speak more freely with each other, to agree and disagree and to resolve differences in a very fraternal way. Listening in this manner, at times, is also a struggle. Our listening, however, became part of our prayer.

In the other branches of the Xaverian family -

our Associates and Partners in the mission of XBSS - the Graced Crossroads process continues as well. Our Associates in the United States remain an active community. Just last month, a group of 13 Associates came together with 10 Brothers for a Retreat at Mount St. Francis in Indiana. Earlier in the summer, a similar gathering took place among the Associates and Brothers in the Maryland area. In New England, Brothers and Associates gathered on the Feast of the Assumption for prayer and a meal. We will be engaging our Associates in the Graced Crossroads process as well, inviting them to experience the "one village" and be nourished by the charism of the Brothers in their spiritual life, in their commitment to service and in their commitment to be in communion with the Brothers.

Our new Executive Director of Sponsorship, Dr. Patrick Slattery, has spent the summer

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months visiting each of the XBSS schools, meeting with administrators and board members and discovering the richness of the network. Our Sponsored Schools are a unique historical expression of our educational and missionary aims in the United States, and as such they express a desire to grow in a deeper harmony with the charismatic identity of the Congregation, continuing to fulfill the mission of the Brothers.

Finally, we seek renewal as we continue to live our mission, which makes the process of transformation a dynamic one. This year we will mission three additional Brothers from Congo to join Brother Joseph Ngoie in further planting the Xaverian charism in Haiti. This growing missionary region represents the persistence of our way of life and the gift that our charism remains for the world today. Brothers Vincent, Adolph, and Apollinaire will carry the hopes of the Congregation as they seek to further share with the Haitian people our unique Xaverian way of life.

## XAVERIAN ASSOCIATES MEET IN BALTIMORE AND LOUISVILLE

### LOUISVILLE ASSOCIATES HAVE A 'BLIC' EXPERIENCE AT RETREAT

By Marty Carraro | A 1969 graduate of Flaget High School and a recent member of the Xaverian Associate Program.



Associates and Brothers from the Louisville area at their retreat in August. Some of the Brothers visible in the photo are Brother Paul Murray, Brother Ward, and Brother Martin Boone.



Executive Director of XBSS, Dr. Patrick Slattery, talks with students at the New Teachers Orientation in August.

On Saturday, August 5th, the Louisville Xaverian Associate Group gathered for their Annual Retreat. The 13 Associates and 10 retired Brothers enjoyed the day together sharing ideas on spirituality in the context of Xaverian history.

After beginning with prayer and 30 minutes of socializing with coffee/pastries, the group participated in a most unusual introduction experience. The participants did not introduce themselves but were introduced by someone at their table after a 10 minute meet and greet discussion. This started the day in a very warm and creative way that carried throughout the retreat. It was a more effective introduction than standing to talk about one's self.

After the introductions the group was inspired by two presentations that were historical journeys through the life of Xaverian Spirituality followed by table discussion which included everyone having the opportunity to share his/her experience of Xaverian Spirituality.

The first presentation was given by Alice Hession, former Director of the network of the 13 Xaverian Sponsored Schools. She probably knows the Xaverian Brothers better than any other non-Xaverian Brother. She spoke of numerous Brothers who influenced her, especially the way each Brother was able to develop his own personal spirituality, but done in the context of community.

Ms. Hession spoke about her "blic" moment (blink of an eye) where she knew the Holy Spirit was speaking to her. Her presentation proved to be an emotional outpouring of several personal moments in her life that were unexpectedly infused moments of grace. Then everyone at table was invited to share moments in their lives when they were touched by Christ, often in the ordinary flow of life.

Later, Brother Ward O'Connell (65 years a Xaverian Brother), spoke about the history of the Brothers' emphasis on the "Dignity of a Person" and the personal humility which are cornerstones of Xaverian Spirituality. His reflections on the importance of the Mass were very helpful.

Wrapped in his presentation were the importance of "Balance" and "Accepting" as a way to live our lives.

Experiencing how the Associates related to the Brothers and vice versa, it was evident that the Associate Program is alive and well.

## **BALTIMORE ASSOCIATES: LIVING THE PRESENT WITH PASSION**

In early June, Associates and Brothers from the MD/VA/PA region met at the Generalate to pray and reflect together. The gathering started in the chapel at Mount St. Joseph with a prayer service based on the first of Brother Edward Driscoll's threefold reflections which he shared in his letter for the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker: Remembering our Past with Gratitude. As part of the prayer, they remembered with gratitude the many Brothers and Associates who helped shape the past. One person said, "There are so many Brothers I could name who influenced me that we would be here all morning if I said each name and how thankful I am for every one."

*\*Editor's note: In addition to the Associate gatherings held in Louisville and Baltimore, Associates and Brothers gathered in Danvers, MA on the Feast of the Assumption, August 15th.*



*Seated: Hugh Boyle, Kathy Boyle, Brother Tom Murphy, Peg Weidner. Standing: Brothers Paul Murray, Mike McCarthy, Dan Doherty, John Mahoney, Steve Strausbaugh, Edward Driscoll, and Chuck Belzner, Mike Buckley. Also present were Brother Bob Arrowsmith and Jeannette Suflita.*

The second theme: Living the Present with Passion, was the centerpiece of a lively picnic lunch conversation. Around the table, each person shared what was going on in his/her life and the ministries they were currently involved in.

The last part of the gathering included some comments by Brother Edward around the third theme: Embracing our Future with Hope. He outlined the new model for the congregation, "Graced Crossroads."

## **BROTHER JOHN MAHONEY COMPLETES 15 YEARS OF VOLUNTEER SERVICE IN BALTIMORE**

In June, Brother John Mahoney completed 15 years of volunteer service at the soup kitchen of the Catholic Worker (Viva House) and My Brother's Keeper in Baltimore, MD. Danise Jones-Dorsey, Executive Director of My Brother's Keeper, had this to say about Brother John, "Brother John adamantly believes that all created by God including the 'least, last, lost and overlooked' should be treated with dignity. Brother John takes his vocation and faith seriously. The word 'faith' is an action word for him. In response to his baptismal call, Brother John decided to share his time, talent and treasure with the staff and guests of Irvington's My Brother's Keeper." Brother John and Brother Daniel Lynch recently relocated from the community where they lived in Baltimore to Xaverian House, Danvers. During his years in Baltimore, Brother Dan also did volunteer work tutoring at Baltimore's Learning Center. Even though age is slowing them down, Brothers John and Dan will continue their volunteer service while receiving the care and additional assistance that living in community at Xaverian House provides.



## XAVERIAN BROTHERS HIGH SCHOOL, WESTWOOD, ALUMNUS REMEMBERS BROTHER BEDE

During Teacher Appreciation Week, Bill Nemitz shared, in an article in the Portland, Maine Press Herald, why Brother Bede Benn was so memorable to him. Bill graduated from Xaverian Brothers High School, Westwood, MA, in 1972. Brother Bede was his Algebra teacher in 1968-1969. Bill remembers how Brother Bede seemed to know every student in the school and how he would so genuinely greet the students with care. In his article, Bill shared that he struggled with math. Brother Bede patiently worked with him after class. Bill said that he wrote this article about Brother Bede because, "Not long after Brother Bede passed away, I came across the video on the Xaverian Brothers website of him talking about his life. I was so struck by his humility and serenity - the relatively short clip stayed with me for months. Then came National Teacher Appreciation Week, coinciding with the first anniversary of his death. Even a year later, the timing felt perfect." We thank Bill for remembering this fine Xaverian Brother in his column and for allowing us to share it. You can read Bill's article at: <https://xavb.ro/rememberingBede>



*Brother Bede from a yearbook photo during his teaching days. You can watch the video of Brother Bede at <https://xavb.ro/BrBede>*

## XAVIER COMMUNITY CELEBRATES BROTHER BRIAN DAVIS

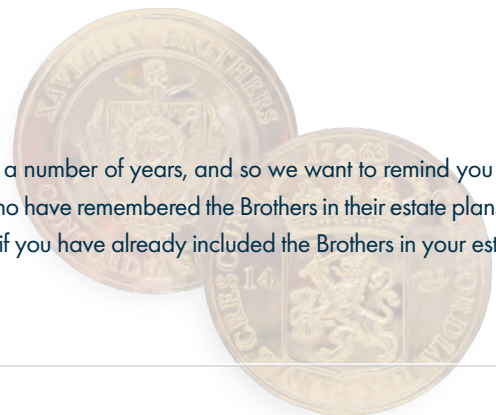


On Pentecost Sunday, June 4th, the Xavier High School, Middletown community gathered to celebrate Brother Brian Davis' eight years of service to the school as Headmaster. Brother Brian completed his term of ministry as Headmaster on July 1st. General Superior, Brother Edward Driscoll thanked Brother Brian for his years of dedicated leadership to Xavier High School. Former student and former Board Chair, Dr. Perry Sangalli, President of St. Xavier High School in Louisville, KY, expressed words of gratitude to Brother for all he has accomplished during his term of office. Mr. Brendan Donohue, Xavier's Principal, presented him with a basket from the faculty and staff. Mr. Dennis LaVette also presented him with a gift from the Board of Trustees conveying their sincere appreciation. Mr. David Eustis succeeded Brother Brian as Headmaster on July 1st.

*Photo of Brother Brian Davis, CFX courtesy of Xavier High School*

## 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 WELCOMES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DR. PATRICK J. SLATTERY**

Dr. Patrick J. Slattery, who was appointed the new Executive Director of Sponsorship for Xaverian Brothers Sponsored Schools (XBSS) in March, officially began his duties in early July. A graduate of Xavier High School, Middletown, CT, Dr. Slattery leads the Sponsorship Office at a time of growth and transition for Xaverian education in the US. He brings a wealth of experience as a math teacher, technology director, dean of students, residential life director and head of school in Catholic and independent school education. His most recent position was as Superintendent of Schools for the Archdiocese of Omaha, Nebraska, where under Patrick's leadership the Archdiocese saw unprecedented enrollment growth, especially in providing access to Catholic education to a diverse population of students. Prior to that he served as President and Principal of Skutt Catholic High School in Omaha. Dr.

Slattery completed his undergraduate education at the College of the Holy Cross; earned his M.Ed. in Administration, Planning and Social Policy at Harvard University; and completed his Ed.D. at Creighton University.

Dr. Slattery spent his first weeks on the job visiting all 13 of the XBSS schools, meeting with administrators, board members and some faculty, as well as connecting with leaders in education with other religious congregations. In August, he oversaw the orientation program for new faculty for XBSS and also returned to his *alma mater*, Xavier High School, to guide the faculty and staff in their opening of school year retreat. Dr. Slattery's passion for Catholic education, his vision for how Catholic schools, and in particular Xaverian education, can serve the needs of the Church for years to come, and his depth of experience as teacher, administrator and faith-filled leader will build on the tremendous work of Alice Hession, and our previous Sponsorship Directors.



*The coordinators for the XBSS New Teacher Gathering with Dr. Slattery. Pictured from left to right: Robert Gregory, Brother Richard Lunny, CFX, Gary Gruneisen, Rachel Bruce, Gail Dennig, and Dr. Patrick Slattery.*

## **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.

# Call FULFILLED

## BROTHER COSMAS, CFX

A humble Xaverian, whose confidence in God's goodness and friendship found expression in his outreach to those on the margins be they the poorest of the poor in Haiti, those relegated to the sidelines because of their race or sexual orientation, or those whom society didn't value because of a disability or other perceived inadequacy, passed peacefully and fearlessly into the arms of his all loving Creator on May 5, 2017. Brother Cosmas was living proof that humility and selfless service is not to be equated with mediocrity or maintaining the status quo. His life and ministry touched many personally and, because of the example they found in Cos (as he was known to so many), they in turn committed themselves to improving the lot of hundreds of thousands of others around the world.

Harry Rubencamp, a native of Manhattan on Central Park West, first encountered the Xaverian Brothers as a 9th grader in 1946, at the Good Counsel Annex of Cardinal Hayes High School in New York City. He was so enamored with the Brothers that with his parents' blessing he left Manhattan and threw his lot in with the Brothers, first as an aspirant at St. Joseph Juniorate in Peabody, Massachusetts where he completed his high school education, and subsequently as a novice when he travelled to Fort Monroe, Virginia and entered Sacred Heart Novitiate in 1950. It was in September of 1950 that he was given the religious name, Brother Cosmas. His first teaching assignments after receiving his BA at Catholic University were at John Bapst High School in Bangor Maine (1956-1958) and Ryken High School (1958-1961) Leonardtown, MD. He would go on to advance studies in Theology, earning his doctorate at Georgetown



University, while he taught at Xaverian College, Silver Spring or at Georgetown, where he was an assistant professor from 1969-1971.

In 1971, Cosmas and a band of other Brothers brought the Xaverian mission to "manifest the compassionate love of God" back to the Diocese of Richmond, where we had served faithfully for many years, until the early 1960's. For forty-two years, he ministered in the Diocese, over thirty of those as Diocesan Director of Campus Ministry and Young Adult Ministry. The retreat programs he and other Brothers instituted in the Diocese were extraordinarily successful. Through his office, he also oversaw volunteer ministry, a parish-twinning program with the Diocese of Hinche, Haiti, and outreach to those marginalized in the Church or society.

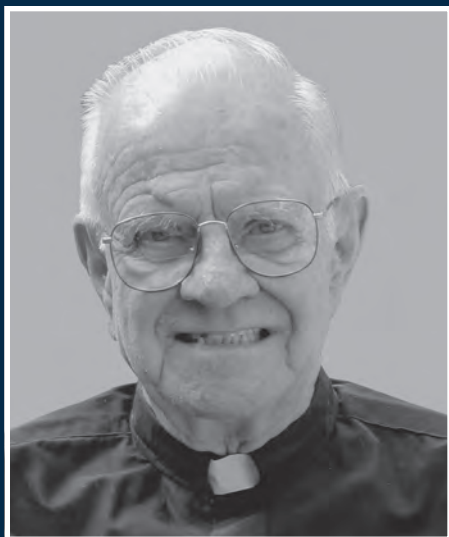
Haiti became a particular passion of Brother Cos and he worked tirelessly to improve the lives of ordinary Haitians, to address injustice and support those oppressed. He made over 70 trips to Haiti and on most of those trips he was introducing other

Americans to the plight of the Haitian and the situation in Haiti. Many Xaverians were also included on those visits and the Congregation's commitment and presence in Haiti today is a direct result of Brother Cosmas. When one thinks of the ripple effect of his commitment to Haiti – those he directly touched and assisted, in turn assisting others and so on – it is truly astounding. In his last years at Xaverian House in Danvers, when his battle with cancer was sapping his strength, he remained keenly interested in this ministry and made his final visit to Haiti a year before his death.

Deacon Christopher Malone of the Diocese of Richmond, in his homily at Cosmas's funeral, observed how Cos always reflected a calmness borne of certainty that all was going to work out as it was supposed to, all the time. Chris went on to say that Cos was absolutely clear that he wanted all of us to share in his conviction that his going from this world to the next should be a cause of joy. In his characteristic way, Cos commented to him before he died, "I have believed in this hope all of my life. Why would I doubt now that what I have come to believe as true, would be anything less than I hoped for?"

## BROTHER LABRÉ, CFX (ARTHUR J. DILLON)

Arthur Dillon was raised, with his three sisters, in the Flatbush section of Brooklyn. The Dillon family was a member of Holy Cross parish where young Arthur met the Xaverian Brothers who taught the fifth through eighth grades. Upon graduating from Holy Cross, Arthur went



to the Brothers' Juniorate in Peabody, Massachusetts. On March 19, 1952, he received the religious habit and the name 'Labré' at Sacred Heart Novitiate in Fort Monroe, Virginia. On March 19, 1954, Brother Labré made his first profession of vows and began his university studies at The Catholic University of America earning his BA in History.

Brother Labré's first assignment took him to Saint Xavier High School in Louisville, Kentucky where he spent six happy years (1957-1963). He next was assigned to the recently opened Nazareth High School in his native Brooklyn. During the twelve years that Brother Labré was at Nazareth (1963-1975), he earned his Master's from the University of Notre Dame. His teaching ministry next brought him to Mount Saint Joseph High School in Baltimore, Maryland (1975-1979), then to Xavier High School in Middletown Connecticut (1979-1981). After a sabbatical in 1981-82 that brought him to the Sangre de Cristo Spiritual Center in Santa Fe, New Mexico, he then was stationed at Saint Joseph's Regional High School in Montvale, New Jersey, for five years (1982-1987). Labré then returned to the Xavier community from 1997 to 2012 when he retired at Xaverian House in Danvers, Massachusetts.

Labré spoke often of his three sisters and the love and attention he received from them, spoiling him in his beloved New York City, on the Connecticut Shoreline, in upstate New York and on a much-enjoyed trip to Europe. Despite significant memory issues later in life, Labré never forgot the feeling of being cherished by his family members.

Always exuding a warm hospitality, Labré entertained others with his quick wit, which he often used with a touch of sarcasm to counter any argument. He was able to talk about a wide variety of topics and was not shy about disagreeing or expressing his own well thought out opinion.

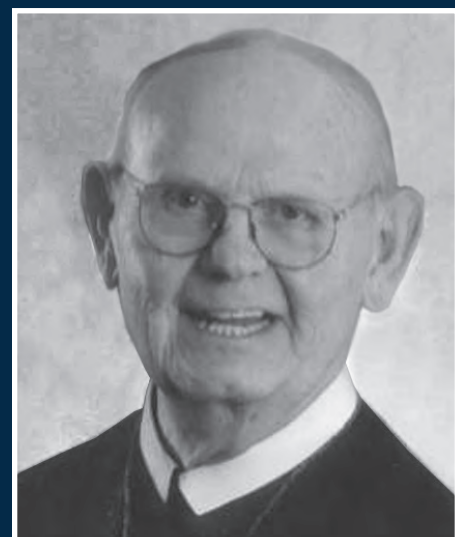
Labré's last years at Xaverian House were difficult due to his battle with colon cancer and the slow onslaught of dementia. Brother Robert Green in his eulogy remarked "Labré bore his illness with courage, faith and appreciation for all who were helping him." He passed away on May 3, 2017.

#### **BROTHER LLOYD, CFX**

A native of Baltimore, Anthony Markowski grew up in a predominantly Polish neighborhood. He attended Mount St. Joseph High School, graduating in 1948. After serving time in the US Army during the Korean conflict, he discerned his vocation and then entered the Sacred Heart Novitiate in Fort Monroe, Virginia on July 8, 1955. On September 8, he received the religious habit and the religious name of Brother Lloyd. He pronounced final vows in 1962 after serving as a teacher in a number of educational settings in Massachusetts including St. Joseph's School in Somerville, and the Working Boys' Home, Newton Highlands, and in Staten Island, at Mount Loretto.

Brother Lloyd labored diligently to earn his BA from Saint Francis College, Brooklyn in 1973. He spent his teaching career in

our elementary schools in Brooklyn at Holy Cross and Holy Name schools, at Leonard Hall Junior Naval Academy in Leonardtown, Maryland and Don Bosco Hall, a home for boys in Detroit, Michigan. After the Congregation focused less emphasis on elementary education, Lloyd taught in Maryland's St. Mary's County at Father Andrew White School in Leonardtown, Holy Angels School in Avenue, and St.



John's School, Hollywood ending his teaching career in 1985. Before moving to Xaverian House in Danvers in 2013, Lloyd worked for Leonardtown Printing Press and did volunteer work at St. Aloysius Church in Leonardtown.

Brother Edward, in his remembrance, said that perhaps Lloyd's signature gifts were his unswerving devotion to our Blessed Mother, his fidelity to the Xaverian vocation and his sense of responsibility for his ministries. Lloyd was an accomplished harmonica player and was ever ready to play for an audience of one or more. He was a source of pleasure of the Carmelite Sisters, staff and patients at Marian Manor Nursing Home in South Boston where he peacefully died on July 25.



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## GRACED CROSSROADS ENCOUNTER IN HAITI

In late August, Brother Ghislain Lembe from Congo traveled to Haiti to visit Brother Joseph Ngoie and bring him up to date on the Congregational Transformation process. Brother Ghislain also had the opportunity to visit some of the Xaverian network of friends while in Haiti. He and Brother Joseph travelled to visit *Sant Zaverian* alumnus Esperandieu Cenat at the orphanage he operates, St. Francis Xavier Orphanage in Petite Rivière de l'Artibonite. They also visited Hinche and the home where Brothers Harry Eccles and John Mahoney lived for many years. Later this year, three other Brothers from Congo will join Brother Joseph and extend the Xaverian charism in Haiti.

*Pictured: Brother Ghislain (center), Brother Joseph (bottom right) and Esperandieu Cenat with the young people at the orphanage Cenat operates. (Photo courtesy of Esperandieu Cenat)*



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IN HARMONY SMALL THINGS GROW

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