



Brother Robert Green in the Xaverian House Chapel speaking to middle school students from Xaverian Brothers High School, Westwood and St. John's Preparatory School, Danvers, during Founders Week in December. The visit to Xaverian House was part of the Founders Week activities.

WE ARE GOD'S LOVE POURED OUT

Brother Edward Driscoll | General Superior

I am happy to share with you some of the mission activity of our Brothers and lay colleagues throughout the world. In this *Concordia* you will meet Brothers ministering in Congo, USA, Haiti and Kenya. You will also see how our schools in the US celebrated Founders Week and the Feast of St. Francis Xavier. Finally, you will read inspiring stories of three of our American Brothers who have completed their earthly mission.

The word 'mission' has many meanings. Pope Francis speaks of Jesus' mission in this way. "In Christ our life itself is mission! We are mission because we are God's love poured out." In His earthly life Jesus became aware of this mission—to be the face of the unseen God, to make the love of His Father visible, active and accessible in the whole world

so that 'we all may be one.' In his final hours, Jesus shared His deepest desire for his followers. "As I have loved you also should love one another" (John 13:34). Later Jesus would say, "You will realize that I am in the Father and you are in me and I am in you." Jesus made mission inclusive. It transcends nationality, race, tribe, sexual identity, religion and social status.

Our Xaverian Rule of Life reminds us that "God desires to manifest His love to all peoples of the world in these times," so they too can experience communion with the God of love and each other. I thank you for your interest and belief in our mission. You also are Mission.

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- Construction begins for a new building at the Brother George Center for Street Kids in Likasi, Congo.
- We celebrate our generous donors at regional luncheons.
- In *Call Fulfilled* we remember Brothers Edward Bozzo, Edwin Boissonneau and Richard Hastings.
- St. Kevin's, Lodwar, Kenya alumni say farewell to Brother Louis Calmel as he returns to the US.



NEW BUILDING DEDICATION AT ST. XAVIER, BUNGOMA

On December 13, 2018, the Brothers in Kenya gathered for the dedication of the new classroom block at St. Xavier High School, Bungoma, a boys secondary school. The school took in its first group of students at the start of the new academic year in January, 2018. Now they will welcome their second group of students and will continue to expand facilities as the school grows.



Above: St. Xavier High School, Bungoma, Kenya students and faculty with Father Bramwell after the dedication of their new building.

Right: Fr. Bramwell planting a tree as part of the dedication ceremony.

COME TO THE BORDER

Brother Brian Vetter learned first-hand what Pope Francis calls the Way of the Heart—a spiritual path serving Christ’s mission. In 2017, after twenty-seven years teaching and working with children abandoned to the streets in Bolivia, Brian decided to return to the States. He had no plans for ministry back home. A good friend, a Maryknoll Sister, said to him, “Come to the border.” Since January 2018 Brian has been ministering at the Annunciation House in El Paso, Texas. Started in 1978 this community’s mission is to witness to the gospel by a simple lifestyle of service lived in solidarity with the poor, undocumented immigrants, and street people of the border area. Their ministry is one of hospitality, advocacy, and education.

Brian recalls the first woman he helped to make calls. They contacted the social worker at the shelter where her five-year-old son was being detained. The social worker told the mother that the five-year-old refused to come to the phone because he felt his mother had abandoned him. The social worker coaxed the child to the phone. Patiently and gently but with tears in her eyes his mother continued to repeat to her son that she loved him and did not abandon him.



Brother Brian Vetter at the Annunciation House in El Paso, TX, where he volunteers.

That she had no choice. Brian shared how he was affected, “I kept thinking how senseless this pain and suffering was. What damage had been done to this child?”

Those ministering at Annunciation House understand what Pope Francis means when he says, “The poor have the hidden power to transform us...They can change us when we listen deeply to them. Only then can we be their voice.”

BROTHER ADOLPH JOINS THE SANT ZAVERYEN COMMUNITY IN HAITI



The *Sant* Community recently welcomed Brother Adolph Kabulo. Brother Adolph, a native of the Democratic Republic of Congo joined the Xaverian Brothers in 2008, pronouncing his first vows in 2012 and his perpetual vows this past July. Brother Adolph’s original field of study was in health care, so in addition to teaching in the Brothers’ missions in Congo he also worked in the local clinic. He is getting acquainted with life in Haiti and is spending time these first few months studying Creole. Brother Joseph Ngoie and Brother Vincent Ilunga are both very happy to welcome their confrere to the *Sant* and look forward to assisting him as he develops his ministry in the Croix des Bouquets neighborhood. Upon arriving in Haiti, Brother Adolph visited St. Gabriel School in Fontaine, where Brother Bill Griffin teaches and volunteers. Brother Adolph and Brother Bill Griffin are pictured together (left) during that visit.

THE MISSION GROWS IN CONGO



The ground is prepared for the foundation of the new center in Likasi.

A moment of thanksgiving was recently shared by the Brothers' Commission for Human Development in the Congo. The Commission visited the construction site at the Brother George Center for Street Kids. This very needed Center was started by Frère Georges, one our Belgian Brothers who was completely mission-driven and committed to the poor, and especially the youth of the Congo. Brother George spent over 50 years in the Congo. The present Commission for Human Development consists of Brothers Zacharie, Ananie, Vital, Serge, Alain and Gracien. They were accompanied by Brothers Joseph Kibambe, Rutal and Patrick, a former aspirant and friend of the Brothers.

THEODORE JAMES RYKEN SOCIETY LUNCHEONS

This past Fall, our Advancement Office hosted regional luncheons to thank our generous donors, celebrate their friendship and bring them up to date on the life of the Congregation. Lead donors Scott Haner from Louisville and Ginny and John Heinrich (MSJ) participated in the luncheons, explaining their commitment to the Brothers as members of the Theodore James Ryken Society.

top left: Ginny and John Heinrich, and Scott Haner at the Baltimore, MD luncheon; bottom left: Brother Harry Eccles and Thomas Head at the Louisville luncheon; bottom right: Brothers, Associates, XBSS collaborators and generous donors at the Brooklyn luncheon.



FOUNDERS WEEK

Each year, the thirteen Xaverian Brother Sponsored Schools within the U.S. observe Founders Week as a way of celebrating their school's Xaverian mission. Spanning from November 26th (the anniversary of Ryken's death) to December 3rd (the Feast of St. Francis Xavier), Founders Week falls between Thanksgiving and Advent. This timeframe perfectly reflects the intent of these mission driven activities as they challenge our school communities to reflect on the history of the Brothers with gratitude and look ahead with joyful hope for the future of Xaverian education.

This year our schools participated in the #IAMWITHRYKEN campaign, where students, faculty, and staff, reflected on the values and actions of the Founder and shared how Ryken's legacy has influenced their lives. Participants wrote their reflections on posters stating why they stand with Ryken and shared them on social media platforms. Also, theology classes across the network integrated lessons on the history and mission of St. Francis Xavier, Theodore James Ryken, and the Xaverian Brothers into their curriculum. Outside of



A Lowell Catholic student with his version of "Flat Ryken."

the classroom, each of our schools gathered for a celebratory liturgy on the Feast of St. Francis Xavier. It is customary at this liturgy to present faculty and staff members with the Ryken award, an honor bestowed once a year to a community member that exhibits the charism of the Xaverian Brothers in their work, relationships, and spiritual life.

Schools were quite creative with this year's Founders Week celebrations. Students and faculty at Malden Catholic, St. John's Prep, and Xaverian Brothers High Schools visited the retired Brothers at Xaverian House. Brother Robert Green gave middle school students from St. John's Prep and Xaverian Brothers High School a tour of Xaverian House and spoke to them about the life lessons of the Fundamental Principles. Lowell Catholic created a "Flat Ryken" campaign, modeled after the famous "Flat Stanley" books, to engage their middle school and high school students. Their students were invited to keep a paper cut out of Ryken with them in their everyday goings to show how they integrate the proud tradition of their school into their lives. These are just some of the small yet innumerable ways that Xaverian Brother Sponsored Schools seek to integrate their Xaverian mission and heritage into the lives of their communities.



Students from Xaverian Brothers High School celebrating Founders Week - one dressed in the Xaverian Brothers' habit and his classmate showing his #IAMWITHRYKEN poster.

Call FULFILLED

BROTHER EDWARD G. BOZZO, CFX



For those who had any significant contact with Brother Edward Bozzo, the words that his former superior Brother Climacus (Harold Boyle) used to describe him would ring so true: “Brother Kurt’s religious spirit is simple and humble. He is devoted to his religious duties and is exemplary in community.” Like Brother Alberto, his natural brother, the call to “the life of love in faith and trust as a disciple of Jesus in the Congregation of the Brothers of Saint Francis Xavier” was grounded in his early formation. The young Edward Bozzo would have encountered a vibrant spirit of religious at St. Michael’s in Brooklyn where he would have been taught by Brothers such as Claude, Gilroy, Jogues, Randal, Donald, and Thomas More. An outstanding student, Ed graduated from Saint Michael’s in June 1950, and entered Sacred Heart Novitiate in Fort Monroe, Virginia in September of the same year. On the Feast of Saint Joseph 1951, Ed received the religious habit of the Xaverian Brothers and the name ‘Brother Kurt.’ After novitiate, Ed would attend the Catholic University of American earning his BA in Spanish in 1956, and his Bachelors in Theology in 1962. From 1961 to 1964, Ed lived with the community at the Generalate

in Rome while studying for his Licentiate at the Lateran University. Upon return to the United States, Ed would spend from 1964 to 1970 teaching New Testament and Moral Theology at Xaverian College in Silver Spring, Maryland. In 1969, Ed earned his doctorate in Theology from Catholic University.

Ed would then teach for thirteen years at Saint John’s Preparatory School Danvers and, in 1986, he would join the faculty at Malden Catholic High School where he would spend the next thirty-two years. During those years he lived in community with the Brothers at Vinton Street in Melrose, MA. Ed’s life ended tragically when he was hit and dragged by a hit and run driver while out for his morning walk on July 9, 2018. He died as a result of his injuries six weeks later on August 20.

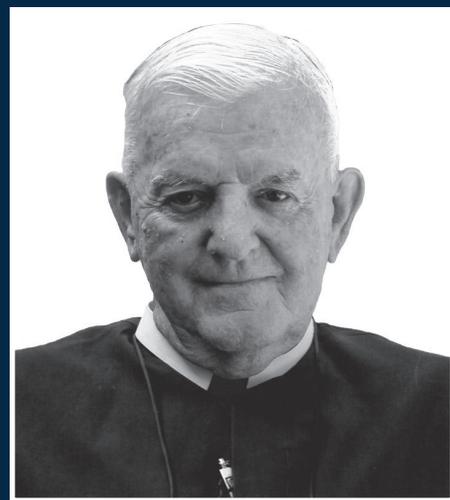
There is no simple answer to the question of evil. Brother Ed taught that reality in his Moral Theology classes. How we respond to evil, however, is tied up with the meaning of life that we discover in our relationship with God and each other. Ed discovered that meaning many years earlier in the simplicity of his family life, the inspiration of his call to follow Christ as a Xaverian Brother and the joy he experienced in community with his Brothers in Melrose and in his teaching and serving others. We pray in thanksgiving for Ed’s life. May he now enjoy the peace Christ promises us as he joins his parents, sisters, and brothers.

BROTHER EDWIN, CFX

Brother Edwin (Patrick Joseph Boissonneau), our oldest Xaverian Brother, marked seventy-eight years in the Congregation on August 15, 2018. He

passed away 10 days later on August 25th.

Brother Edwin was born in Black Lake in the Province of Quebec, Canada to Odilon and Orea Boissonneau. However, he was brought up in Malden, MA, along with his two sisters, Irene and Fernande, and two brothers, Roland and Roger. Edwin completed his freshman year (1936-1937) at Malden Catholic when Brother Gilbert was principal before entering St. Joseph’s Juniorate in Peabody. Upon graduation from the Juniorate in 1940, Edwin entered Sacred Heart Novitiate in Fort Monroe, Virginia. He received the habit of the Xaverian Brothers and the religious



name ‘Edwin.’ After three years of study at Catholic University (1941-1944), he was sent to Saint Matthew’s Grade School in Brooklyn. He finished his undergraduate degree in French at St. John’s University. He would also earn his Masters in French from St. John’s.

Edwin’s teaching ministry encompassed elementary, secondary and college instruction. He taught at Mt. St. Joseph High School in Baltimore (1947-1949) before spending seven years at St. Michael’s in Brooklyn (1949-1956) where he was revered by his students.

From 1956-1958, Edwin would serve as the Director of Studies at St. John's Prep and then return to Brooklyn where he taught French at St. Michael's/Xaverian High School from 1958-1960. He would also teach at Xaverian College before returning to St. John's Prep from 1962-1969. Edwin volunteered for our missions in Kenya and spent from 1969-1975 in Mumias. Upon returning to the United States, Edwin taught at St. John's Prep from 1975 to 1993 before joining our community in Venice, Florida. Edwin returned to Xaverian House in 1997, and was a member of the community until his death.

The words of one of his former students help describe Edwin's spirit. As a student at St. Michael's in Brooklyn, Don Reilly had Edwin for French and basketball. "Brother Edwin was 'all things to all students.' I saw that quality in him in the classroom, on the basketball court and in general conversations with him. Crowds of students always surrounded him at lunchtime and after school."

Love of his Xaverian vocation, the importance of his relationship with God and his loyalty and helpfulness to his Brothers in community are lessons we learn from Edwin's life. All who knew him will also remember his humor and his fierce competitiveness whether for sports at Saint John's Prep or the Patriots or Red Sox or his famous Friday night poker games.

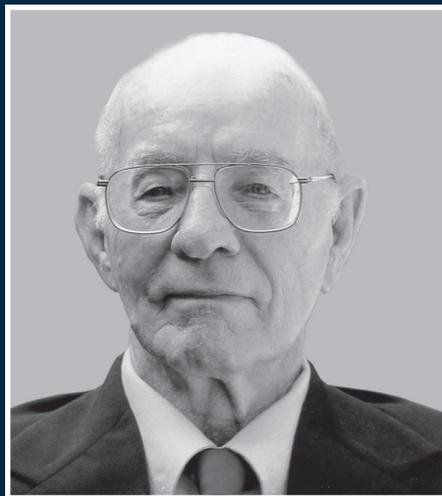
May Brother Edwin enjoy the peace that Christ promises to those who do the will of His Father.

BROTHER RICHARD HASTINGS, CFX

John Richard Hastings was the loving son of Raymond and Catherine (née Camerford) Hastings. Richard grew up in the Flatbush neighborhood of Brooklyn where he first met the Xaverian Brothers who taught at

Holy Cross Elementary School.

Richard's call to the Xaverian Brothers came early in his life. Upon graduating from Holy Cross Elementary School in 1944, Richard entered Saint Joseph Juniorate in Peabody, MA, a preparatory high school for young men considering their vocation to



the Xaverian Brothers. During high school, Richard demonstrated strong academic ability, mechanical aptitude, self-discipline, respect for others and a mature sense of responsibility. Among his peers, Richard was also seen as a very strong athlete.

Richard graduated from Saint Joseph Juniorate in 1948, and entered Sacred Heart Novitiate located in Fort Monroe, VA, where he would spend the next two years studying the Rule of the Xaverian Brothers along with the essentials of the spiritual life. On August 15, 1948, Richard received the religious habit of the Xaverian Brothers and the religious name Brother Ivo.

Richard did his undergraduate studies at the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC. Five years later he would complete his Master's Degree in Industrial Arts at New York University. Brother Ivo's first teaching assignment was at Cardinal Hayes High School in the Bronx, followed by two years at Saint John's Prep, Danvers, before returning to Cardinal Hayes for one

more year. He would spend the next twenty-three years in Maryland and Kentucky where he taught at Good Counsel High School Wheaton (1961-1972) and at Saint Xavier High School in Louisville (1972-1984).

In 1984, Richard decided to try ministry outside of our traditional schools. Richard would spend the next thirteen years ministering first in a special school for poor children in David, Kentucky, which is located in Appalachia. Richard would then move to Camden, Mississippi to Sacred Heart School, a small Catholic school dedicated to the education of poor African American children. Richard was a new person as a result of his involvement with these schools. Perhaps his sense of mission was inspired by a new 'purpose'— helping those whom others were not serving.

In 1997, Richard would retire first to Saint Mary's Ryken in Leonardtown, MD and then to Xaverian House in Danvers, MA.

As we know 'religious' do not really 'retire.' Richard did not retire from his mission. He carried out his mission by participating in the House Council and in community meetings on transformation, by his repairing things in the house that needed repair, by his fidelity to the spiritual exercises. Richard remained faithful to the call he first heard in his family and with the Xaverian Brothers seventy-four years ago as an eighth grader at Holy Cross Elementary School.

Richard edified his Brothers daily by his faithfulness to the Prayer of Centering. One could see him several times a day in quiet prayer in the chapel. Richard's mission was completed when he passed away as a result of a heart attack on November 10, 2018. May he now rest in the Peace of Christ and enjoy intimacy with the Father.



XAVERIAN BROTHERS
4409 Frederick Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21229

FAREWELL BROTHER LOUIS



It was a happy, funny, and memorable moment as the alumni of St. Kevin's from 1993 through 2014 gathered at St. James Seminary, Lodwar to say a word of thanks to their father, brother, headmaster, and teacher, Brother Louis Calmel. Memorable events, often humorous, were shared by the first students Brother Louis admitted to St. Kevin's in 1998. The memories were as fresh for him as if they happened yesterday. Brother Louis returned to the US in December after having served the people of the remote and desolate Turkana region of Kenya for 25 years. He has joined the community of Brothers at Ryken House, Louisville.

XAVERIAN BROTHERS
IN HARMONY SMALL THINGS GROW

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