



Students on Ash Wednesday at the annual XBSS Student Leadership Retreat in West Hartford, CT.

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- Brother Edward highlights some of our Xaverian educational efforts along with news around the Congregation.
- Our XBSS office holds the Student Retreat. Dr. Patrick Slattery updates us on future plans for XBSS. We also showcase the recipients of the Ryken Award.
- St. Xavier, Bungoma gathers for an orientation.
- We highlight the work of Brother Philip Revell at Xavier High School, Middletown, CT.
- A water well is installed in Congo providing a needed source of water.
- In *Call Fulfilled* we remember Brother James Mahoney (Brother Shamus).
- We share our newly designed website.

## FOCUSING ON XAVERIAN EDUCATION

**Brother Edward Driscoll | General Superior**

I want to thank you for your very loyal support of our Xaverian mission and life throughout the world. In this issue you will read about Xaverian education. I know you will feel confident about the future as you read the article by Dr. Patrick Slattery who is the Executive Director of our Xaverian Sponsored Schools. Dr. Slattery's plan for the future is not only comprehensive but also inclusive of all who make Xaverian education possible. As you read you will have the privilege of meeting Brother

Philip Revell, a native of England and former missionary in Congo, who is working in Campus ministry at Xavier, Middletown. I know you will enjoy reading about this year's student retreat. The retreat is a very life-giving experience for young people. The water well project in Congo reminds us of how diverse our Xaverian world is. The tributes to the staff members of our thirteen American schools who make Xaverian education happen each day as well as to the life of Brother James Mahoney put the human faces on our mission.

Xaverian education knows the secrets of success with young people. We let them know that they are okay just as they are. We create a community that gives them a sense of belonging. We convince them that they have something very good to offer others. All this is done in the context of Jesus' gospel. The students hear the message of God's love for them, experience the care of a Christian community and are shown what Christian service to the world is about.

## **XBSS STUDENT RETREAT**

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*Students from the 13 XBSS schools on their service day at the retreat.*

In early March, over 90 students and 20 adults representing our 13 Xaverian Brothers Sponsored Schools gathered in West Hartford, Connecticut for the annual Retreat which was rooted in the Fundamental Principles. Students from across our network of schools were invited to reflect on their lived experience of the Xaverian Charism within their schools and spiritual lives. After three days of bearing witness to one another and invited guests, the Junior participants embarked on a day of service, assisting eleven agencies serving the poor and marginalized in the greater Hartford community. By encountering those marginalized by society, the students were called to put their faith into action through authentic accompaniment and kinship. This five-day retreat culminated with school groups creating an action plan to further enrich the mission of Xaverian education back in their school communities. The XBSS office looks forward to supporting and sharing the transformative efforts these students will implement in their schools over the next year.

## **ST. XAVIER BUNGOMA, KENYA**

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St. Xavier High School in Bungoma, Kenya held an orientation for parents on February 18, just prior to the mid-term break. Pictured is all of the faculty, staff, students, and parents! Parents, and students alike, expressed their gratitude for the support of the Brothers and their benefactors in the establishment of this school.



## IN FURTHER SERVICE TO THE MISSION AND VISION OF XAVERIAN EDUCATION IN THE US

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**Dr. Patrick Slattery | Executive Director, XBSS**

In the spirit of Theodore Ryken's persistent plodding, our *Fundamental Principles* remind us that:

*You are called to a life of constant searching.  
Let the developments and changes of your times  
be a source both of confidence and challenge to you.*

These developments and changes of our times are the impetus behind our XBSS Strategic Plan which was approved by Chief Administrators, Board Chairs & Vice-Chairs, and the Members this past November. Theodore Ryken shared that “nothing special is achieved without much labor, effort, and zeal” and it's this persevering attitude to achieve greatness and mission that pervades our network and helps ensure a vibrant, sustainable future for our schools.

Nationally, Catholic school enrollment has dropped nearly 8% in the past six years whereas enrollment in our Xaverian Brothers Sponsored Schools has risen 7% in that same time frame. Enrollment gains are to be celebrated. They translate to more students being educated in a Xaverian, Catholic school, learning the history and legacy of our Founder in addition to receiving a stellar academic formation. While each of our XBSS schools operate with their own strategic plan, under the capable guidance of school and board leadership, XBSS as a whole also strives to make strategic decisions that best support the mission and vision of the network. In so doing, we help advance the great work occurring locally in each school, with a particular emphasis on mission and our Xaverian Charism.

The XBSS Strategic Plan seeks to engage all XBSS stakeholders – Xaverian Brothers, Members, School Board Directors, administrators, faculty, staff, and students – in further service to the mission and vision of a Xaverian Brothers Sponsored School. Through a collaborative approach, it seeks to strengthen the network by affording more intentional focus on the following:

1. Formational Programming
2. Governance review (Boards/Members)
3. Funding for XBSS Programming/Operations
4. Improved external branding/marketing of XBSS
5. Serving those on the peripheries.

The XBSS Office will regularly communicate progress in achieving the goals and objectives of the plan. The plan came to fruition through the generous support and tremendous work of so many people over the course of the past several years. The developments and changes of our times surely are a source of confidence and challenge to us, but ideally the achievement of our XBSS Strategic Plan goals, through significant labor, effort, and zeal, will help ensure that our Xaverian legacy and charism remains vibrant in our schools for years to come.

## ENCOUNTERING THE HEART OF XAVERIAN EDUCATION IN CAMPUS MINISTRY

Campus Ministry is at the heart of Xavier High School. For almost thirty years the office had been directed by Mrs. Andrea Hoisl. It is on the firm foundation that she established that the current team continues to build and adapt its ministry to the needs of the students. Brother Philip Revell, a native of England where he taught and served in Campus Ministry and administration for many years, is now in his third year of work in Campus Ministry at Xavier High School, under the direction of Mr. Peter Lyons and alongside Mr. John Guinan.

Brother Philip teaches two Junior Moral Theology classes and a Senior class in Peace & Justice and Christian Lifestyle. Coming back to teaching high school Religion has been a challenge for Brother Philip after over twenty years out of the classroom serving as a missionary and formation director for young Brothers in Congo. One challenge he encounters is responding to the questions and needs of a generation which has in some cases only a tenuous relationship with the Church. Catholic school is for many their only experience of Church. Brother Philip explains that, “The classes have a solid academic content but of greater importance is the need to foster development in the spiritual life and encourage a personal response to the call of God to become the persons He wishes us to be.”

In Campus Ministry, Brother Philip concentrates on students’ progress in Christian Service; working with Peer Ministers on the Spiritual Life Committee; preparing school liturgies; and working with his colleagues to organize and conduct class retreats, the Xavier Leadership Institute, and accompanying students on the service trip to Camden, New Jersey.

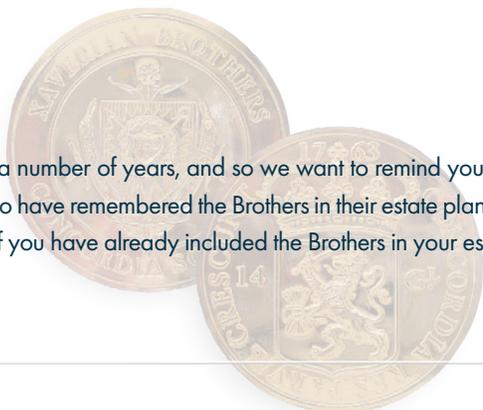
Twice a year, Brother Philip takes part in meetings of the Campus Ministry Teams from the New England schools of the XBSS and recently he joined the committee which is looking at the resources used by XBSS. Brother Philip said, “It is good to know that despite the limited presence of the Brothers in our schools our mission is supported and developed by so many talented and committed men and women.”



Brother Philip Revell, CFX

## 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).



## WATER WELL INSTALLED AT FORMATION HOUSE IN LIKASI, CONGO COMMUNITY



Our formation house, the community of Saint Charles Lwanga in Likasi, Democratic Republic of Congo, now has a water well! In late February, the hole was drilled and the water line connected to the house. The Brothers are gaining an hour of time before the start of classes and no longer have to tire themselves carrying water over a long distance. The community is thankful that they now have a reliable source of safe water.

## PERPETUAL VOWS

Brother Maurice Butanda from Congo, along with Brothers Anthony and Bernard from Kenya, began the 4-month program of preparation for final profession of vows in Rome in January. The 3 Xaverians joined 12 Brothers of the Sacred Heart in this program directed by Sacred Heart Brother Romeo Bonsaint and assisted by Xaverian Brother François Musongo. In a reflection on his experience in the program, Brother Maurice writes, “the program has edified and encouraged me for the next phase of my life as a Religious Brother.” He reflects on three simple directives he has discovered: “Do the good that God shows me, do it to the end, and do nothing more.”



*Brother Patrick Fumbisha, General Councillor and novicemaster, visits with Brother Maurice (2nd from right), with Brother Crispin and Brother Joseph Mbithi*

## 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.

## 2018 RYKEN AWARD WINNERS

On December 3, the Feast of St. Francis Xavier, the Theodore James Ryken Award is presented to a member of the faculty, staff or administration of each of the 13 Xaverian Brothers Sponsored Schools who exhibits a commitment to the Founder's vision. They are recognized as committed and dedicated individuals who proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ. They also spiritually nurture members of the school community; are committed to academic excellence; recognize the talents of individuals; know the importance of educating the whole person; and strive to fulfill the gospel call to peace and justice. Kudos to all of you! This academic year the following were presented the Theodore James Ryken Award at a school liturgy or celebration on the Feast of St. Francis Xavier:



**CHRISTINE GILL**  
Lowell Catholic School  
Lowell, MA



**ALEXANDER KISSEL**  
Malden Catholic School  
Malden, MA



**MARY JO DOHERTY**  
Mount St. Joseph High School  
Baltimore, MD



**JOANNA DOVE**  
Nazareth Regional High School  
Brooklyn, NY



**WALTER TOMBINI**  
Our Lady of Good Counsel  
Olney, MD

Receiving the Ryken Award was a humbling experience. I was fortunate to begin teaching at St. Xavier when there were still several Brothers on the faculty. Their dedication to the education of the whole person and to the creative ability of each person has continued to inspire me throughout the years.

— Mary Ann Bowman



**LORRAINE KAINZ**  
St. Bernard School  
Uncasville, CT



**JOHN BERGER**  
St. John's High School  
Shrewsbury, MA



**LIZ DOBROWOLSKI**  
St. John's Preparatory School  
Danvers, MA



**MARYJOY HURLBURT**  
St. Mary's Ryken High School  
Leonardtown, MD



**MARY ANN BOWMAN**  
St. Xavier High School  
Louisville, KY



**ROBERT NICHOLS**  
St. Xavier High School  
Louisville, KY



**COURTLAND MORSE**  
Xaverian High School  
Brooklyn, NY



**TOM BURNS**  
Xaverian Brothers High School  
Westwood, MA



**NICHOLAS GRASSO**  
Xavier High School  
Middletown, CT

I never imagined in my 30 years of working at Our Lady of Good Counsel, that I'd receive such an honorable award that exemplifies simplicity, humility, compassion, zeal, and trust.

— *Walter Tombini*

# Call FULFILLED

## **BROTHER JAMES MAHONEY, CFX (BROTHER SHAMUS)**

Brother James Mahoney was born in Malden, MA in 1933. Upon graduation from Immaculate Conception Boys' Catholic High School, James entered Sacred Heart Novitiate in Fort Monroe, VA where he received the habit of the Xaverian Brothers and religious name, Shamus. Brother James is survived by his older brother, Brother John Mahoney (Crispin) in whose footsteps he followed. Brother James would pronounce his first vows as a Xaverian Brother on the Feast of Saint Joseph whose humility and devotion to Jesus through his hidden life would provide Brother Jim with examples of how to live his call as a follower of Christ.

Upon completing his novitiate Brother would earn his BA in Physics at the Catholic University of America. Brother Jim possessed a brilliant mind for science and became a superb science teacher. His first teaching assignment was at Saint John's Prep in Danvers, where he spent five years from 1956 through 1961. From there he would be missioned at Cardinal Hayes in the Bronx, Notre Dame in Utica, NY, his alma mater, Malden Catholic, St. Joseph's Regional in Montvale, NJ, Xaverian Brothers High School in Westwood, and for 14 years at Saint John's Shrewsbury from where he would eventually retire in 2001. Brother spent forty-five years teaching high school science.

One of Brother Jim's talents was that he was a life-long learner gifted with a curious mind that served him well as a science teacher. Brother earned his Master in Teaching Science from the Catholic University in 1964, and a Master in Physics at Purdue University in 1972. Brother Jim's pursuit of knowledge would see him as a student at Manhattan College, Fordham University, City College, NY, Cornell, Boston University and William Patterson College in NJ.

It is always difficult to capture a person's spirit and his unique contribution to life. The task is particularly challenging in the case of Brother Jim. He was an extremely quiet man who did not engage easily in conversation. Yet his personal qualities speak so clearly of how he embraced the charism our Founder left us. Brother Jim did not need words to speak of his fidelity to his Xaverian vocation. His constancy in community, his example of dedication to contemplation and prayer, and his obedience to serve where needed speak so clearly of who Brother Jim was for his confrères. Brother was a humble person whose simplicity taught him detachment and gave his Brothers an inspirational example for our way of life. Brother's trust that God would not abandon him as Parkinson's progressed reveals the depth of his relationship with God.

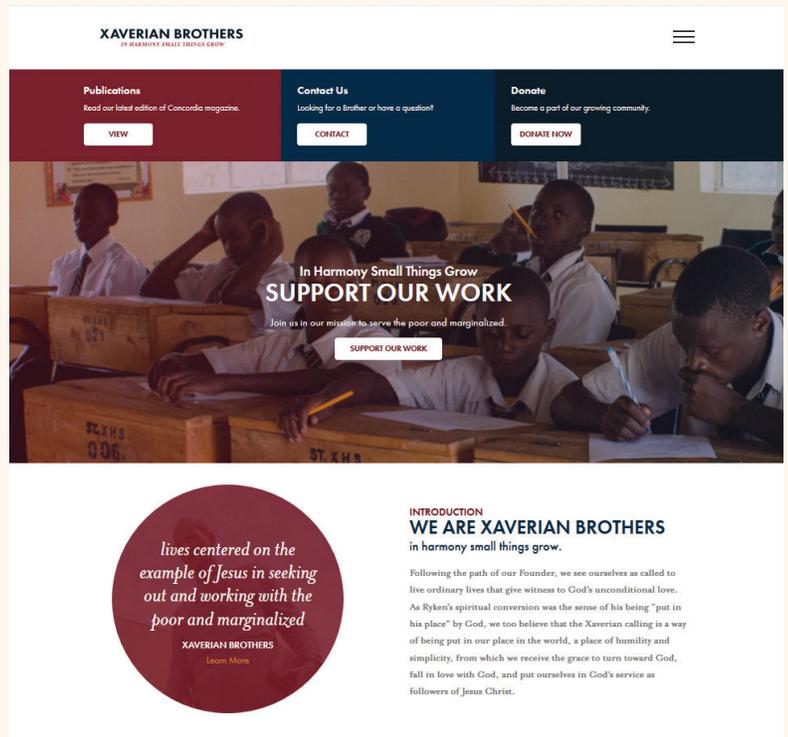




**XAVERIAN BROTHERS**  
4409 Frederick Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21229

## XAVERIAN BROTHERS WEBSITE REDESIGN

We are excited to share our newly redesigned xaverianbrothers.org website. ExitIO, located in Baltimore, MD, designed the new site with ease of use being the top priority, especially with respect to making gifts online. You can also find information about our missions around the world and our latest news. We hope that you will find our new website to be helpful and very user friendly.



**XAVERIAN BROTHERS**  
IN HARMONY SMALL THINGS GROW

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@XAVERIANBROS