

# XAVERIAN BROTHERS

IN HARMONY SMALL THINGS GROW

Summer Appeal 2019



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

## DEAR FRIEND,

A difference! In fact, a world of difference distinguishes a Xaverian education. Inherent to the Xaverian tradition is 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; and 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. The five-day retreat was an in-depth experience of what our Holy Father, Pope Francis, calls “the culture of encounter.” 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. Just after the retreat, I received a letter from Matthew Padgett.



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



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

In his letter, Matthew said, “I am eternally grateful for the privilege to attend the XBSS retreat because of the new friendships I made and because of how confident I have become in my faith. I will never forget it. I am a new person.” This retreat made a difference for these students.

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. 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 in response to make their school more inclusive and reflective of the values that should inform how we address today’s challenges. 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, supported in their learning and growth as young women and men. A Xaverian education does just that. It’s 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 alumni of a Xaverian Brothers Sponsored School, you also make a difference. Your own education, your belief in its value, 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.



*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.*

With gratitude in Christ,

**BROTHER EDWARD DRISCOLL, CFX**  
*General Superior*