



Brother Edmond Ongoma Juma (right) interacts with the kids at Ryken Center of Hope in Bungoma, Kenya.

## VISITATION OF GENERAL SUPERIOR AND COUNCIL TO KENYA

In early December, Brother Daniel Skala, General Superior, along with Brother Patrick Fumbisha, Vicar, and Brothers Dominique Olondo, Brian Davis and Lawrence Harvey made an official visitation to Kenya, fulfilling one of the first directives from the 28th General Chapter that was held in July. Although Brother Daniel had been to Nairobi previously when he served as Vicar General, this was the first opportunity that he and General Counselor Brother Brian Davis had to visit the Brothers' other missions in East Africa. In Nairobi, they convened a regional assembly that brought together all the Brothers in the region for 2 days of prayer and discernment. While Brother Daniel gave an opening address, Brother Patrick Fumbisha gave a keynote presentation based on the "ubuntu spirituality" – an African concept that places emphasis on common humanity

rather than individuality. It is often characterized by the expression, "I am because we are." A key focus of the assembly was establishing themes for the Brothers' life and mission in Kenya and then calling forth new leaders for the region. As Brother Daniel and the Council wrote in their letter to the



Brothers gathered in the chapel during their assembly in Nairobi.

### IN THIS ISSUE

- XBSS Founder's Week
- St. Xavier Breakfast with the Brothers Club
- Generalate Employee Spotlight
- Ryken Society Luncheons
- Third-Year Postulants
- Sant Zaveryen Haiti Resident Receives Agronomy License
- Call Fulfilled: Brothers Henry Marino, Arcadius Alkonis, and Philip White

Brothers in the region following the assembly, "We take from our discussion and discernment with you a renewed hope in the life and mission of our Kenyan community. We were moved

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

at a deep level at the concluding prayer service as each of you placed your discernment regarding a future leadership team on the altar. We sensed in that symbolic gesture a desire on the part of many of you to put personal preferences aside and discern the needs of the entire region ahead of your personal preferences.”

Following the regional meeting, Brother Daniel and the Council traveled north to the Turkana Desert to visit the Brothers’ community in Lodwar, where they had the opportunity to see the newly constructed St. James Junior Seminary – a boarding school for young men discerning a vocation to priesthood and religious life. Part of the enduring legacy of the Brothers’ ministry in Kenya has included this kind of education and formation work, not just for clergy and religious, but for developing good lay leadership in the church in Kenya. Brother Moses Barasa serves as the head of school and is assisted by Brother Bernard Jumah. Brother Simon Wasike joins them in forming the community at St. James and works with a feeding program for the incredible number of Turkunan people who are suffering as a result of drought and famine.

Leaving Lodwar the leadership team then traveled to western Kenya to the Brothers’ newest mission works there, the Ryken Center of Hope – a rescue center for street children – and St. Xavier High School, a boarding school for boys. In their message to the Brothers after their visit, the leaders of the Congregation wrote, “In our visits to the Nairobi formation community, to St. Xavier High School, the postulancy and the Ryken Center of Hope in Bungoma, and to St. James in Lodwar, we heard from many people and saw the Xaverian Mission thriving. We witnessed the many ways our confreres incorporate our founding charism in their institutions and daily lives. Our visit to Lodwar and Bungoma provided us insight on the growth that is taking place in the region – our work at the new St. James Junior Seminary, the continued development of St. Xavier High School in Bungoma, and the recently constructed Ryken Center of Hope.” They concluded, “with full recognition of our challenges, what we experienced in Kenya throughout our visit was good. We have seen the many ways the Xaverian Charism influences the lives of our brothers, those they serve, and their partners in mission.”

Top: Brother Moses Burasa gives a tour of the seminary grounds to Brothers Brian and Patrick. Middle: One of the wings of the seminary school. Bottom: Brothers Daniel Ssmymo, Dominique Olondo, and Daniel Ongeso inspect the new laboratory at St. Xavier, Bungoma.

## XAVERIAN BROTHERS SPONSORED SCHOOLS CELEBRATE FOUNDER'S WEEK

Each year, the thirteen Xaverian Brothers Sponsored Schools within the U.S. observe Founder's Week as a way of celebrating its school's Xaverian mission. Spanning from November 26th (the anniversary of Ryken's death) to December 3rd (the Feast of St. Francis Xavier). Founder's Week links our schools' observance of Thanksgiving and Advent by showing gratitude for the legacy that the Xaverian Brothers have given. This timeframe reflects the intent of these mission driven activities, as they challenge our school communities to reflect on the history and traditions of the Brothers and to look ahead with joyful hope for the future of Xaverian education.

Throughout Founder's Week, the XBSS network takes time to pause and gather in prayer on the Feast of St. Francis Xavier. Here, faculty members from each school are recognized with the presentation of the Ryken Award for embodying the mission and charisma of Xaverian education. In addition to these celebrations, schools are quite creative in how they



Students from St. John's Prep raised over \$3,000 to purchase and build beds for the homeless. The students gathered in the gymnasium to assemble and paint the beds.



Above, Xaverian High School in Brooklyn hosted a Cabaret event for local seniors, who enjoyed dancing, refreshments, and music played by students. Bottom, students from Nazareth High School gather around an image of our Founder, T.J. Ryken at a Founder's Week Mass.

continue to honor and educate students on the foundations of the Brothers. Students from St. John's Prep raised over \$3,000 to purchase and build beds for the homeless as part of their Founder's Week service project. Modeled after the famous "Flat Stanley" books, Lowell Catholic invited students 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. Student leaders at St. John's High School served a Belgian waffle breakfast for their peers in campus ministry. Xaverian High School in Brooklyn hosted their annual Café Cabaret, where local seniors are invited to the school for an afternoon of refreshments and Christmas cheer. These are just some of the many ways that our Sponsored Schools seek to integrate their Xaverian mission and heritage into their school communities.



## ST. XAVIER BREAKFAST WITH THE BROTHERS CLUB

On October 29th at 7:30am, twenty St. Xavier sophomores and juniors arrived at Ryken House with donuts, juice, and gallons of milk in hand to have an early morning gathering with the Brothers. St. Xavier junior, Carter Spalding, with the help of faculty member, Karen White, initiated this new club called “Breakfast with the Brothers.” Brothers Louis Calmel, Dan Conaghan, Michael Foley, Cornelius Hubbuch, and Kenney Gorman happily participated in this first monthly gathering.

*Top, Brothers Kenney Gorman and Cornie Hubbuch speak with students. Below, Brother Michael Foley shares conversation and breakfast with the visiting students.*

## GENERALATE EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

*“I feel blessed to be a part of the Xaverian Brothers organization.”*

Rhonda Tully joined the staff at the Xaverian Brothers Generalate in 2010. Having previously worked for Cardinal Gibbons High School (the former St. Mary’s Industrial School), she was familiar with the Brothers. She said, “When I walked through the front door for the first time, a feeling of calmness, quiet, and peace enveloped me. An indication of what I needed at the time, but still surprising and wonderful.” A few years ago, Rhonda was promoted to the role of Chief Financial Officer. While her position of CFO does not directly serve a ministry, she plays an important role in ensuring that resources are available to those who do. She is responsible for budgeting, investments, and reports to support leadership decisions. She also ensures that controls are in place to safe guard the property of the Brothers. In addition to her role at the Generalate, she sits on the board for Mother Seton Academy, Baltimore. She is also a member at the YMCA and she and her husband, Jim, are active with the Delaware Center for the Inland Bays, an organization near their home town.



## RYKEN SOCIETY LUNCHEONS

This past fall, generous donors, Associates, Brothers, and XBSS collaborators gathered in Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, and New York for luncheons hosted by our Advancement Office.



Top: Brother Matthew Burke and Hon. Romano Mazzoli at Audubon Country Club, Louisville, KY. Middle, left: Brother Daniel Skala speaking at the luncheon at Spinelli's, Lynnfield, MA. Middle, right: Brother Brian Davis speaking at the luncheon at the Bridgeview Diner, Brooklyn, NY. Bottom, left: Carolyn Knop, Betty Smith, and Marilyn Allen at Audubon Country Club, Louisville, KY. Bottom, right: Brother Michael McCarthy and Kathy Boyle at the Luncheon at Turf Valley, Ellicott City, MD.

## THIRD-YEAR POSTULANCY

In September, the Brothers in Nairobi, Kenya came together to celebrate the Mass for the Rite of Acceptance into the Third-Year Postulancy. During the Mass each postulant made an Act of Commitment. Following the liturgy, the postulants celebrated by cutting a cake after enjoying a wonderful meal of ugali and fish!

The Third-Year Postulancy is the first time these young men gather in an international community. Postulants this year come from DR Congo, Kenya, Uganda, and the US.



Brothers Joseph Mbithi Mwangela, Peter Francis Belmonte, Raphaël Busangu Mwananyembo, Augustin Odia Nyambi, Alexander Brian Musoke, Father Patrick (C.M.), Dominique Omedjunga Olondo, Samuel Ambrose Ng'ang'a, Fabian Kabwe Mutombo, and Jean-Luc Kasongo Mupenda.

## JACKY RECEIVES HIS AGRONOMY LICENSE IN HAITI

Duvil Jacky arrived at *Sant Zaverien*, our ministry in Haiti that supports young people who are seeking university degrees, in April 2014 with his father Duvil Josner. He came from Pandiassou where the Xaverian Brothers are well known and many young men have benefited from relationships with our Brothers.



Jacky Duvil and Brother Joseph Ngoie at Jacky's exam presentation.

Jacky spent five years at Episcopal University in Haiti studying Agronomy Science. Before receiving the title of Engineer in Agronomy Science, Jacky was required to do an oral examination from memory. On December 20, he had his oral exam on the subject "Peasant adaptation strategies in the face of climate change in the municipality of Hinche, case of Juanaria, first municipal section."

The board of examiners appreciated this subject because he was the first to take up the effects of climate change on our world.

Jacky is the second student to finish his university since the *Sant* was reestablished in Lilavois Croix des Bouquets after the earthquake in 2010. He is grateful to the congregation of Xaverian Brothers for their support, especially through Brothers Joseph Ngoie, Adolph Kabulo, and Vincent Mutombo.

In the midst of the current turmoil in the country, our Brothers continue their ministry accompanying young men and have expanded their ministry to include the teaching that Brother Vincent does, as well as the health care that Brother Adolph provides.

# Call FULFILLED

## **BROTHER HENRY FRANCIS MARINO, CFX (BROTHER RIGO) 1934 - 2019**

Brother Henry was born and raised in Brooklyn, the son of Henry and Lucia Marino, immigrants from Sicily. Henry was the youngest of four children. He had three sisters. The Marino's formed Henry in the love of family, Church, the value of education and naturally his love of the Italian language, cuisine and culture. Henry graduated from



New Utrecht Public High School in 1952. After being admitted to Saint John's University, Henry completed his undergraduate degree in English Literature in 1956.

Henry entered Sacred Heart Novitiate in Fort Monroe, Virginia on July 8, 1956. On September 8, he received the habit and the religious name 'Brother Rigo.' Throughout his life, Henry would use his many talents to help others: his perception of the individual, his creativity and imagination, his ability to communicate, build relationships, his love of teaching, and his sense of

humor!

In 1958, after novitiate he was sent to Saint Joseph School in Somerville, MA and then in 1959 to Holy Name School in Brooklyn. In 1962, Henry went to Saint Xavier High School where his impact is still evident, and from 1968 to 1986 Henry would teach at Mount Saint Joseph High School in Baltimore and then at Xaverian, Brooklyn.

In 1986 Henry enrolled in the Institute of Spirituality and Worship at the Jesuit School of Theology in Berkeley, CA. Helping others, belonging to a team, listening and relating to others gave Henry great energy. This was especially true during his twelve years at Malden Catholic, where he worked with the Campus Ministry team from 1996 to 2008.

Henry possessed a uniquely human spirit, he was a unique expression of God's love.

## **BROTHER ARCADIUS, CFX (ALFRED STANLEY ALKONIS) 1930 - 2019**

Brother Arcadius was born Alfred Stanley Alkonis in Lynn, Massachusetts on December 20, 1930 to Anna and Stanley Alkonis. Stanley was from Lithuania and Anna was from the then Czechoslovakia. Arcy, as he is affectionately known, is one of three children. He is survived by his sister Doris and his sister Alice predeceased him. Upon graduating from Saint Mary's High School in Lynn in 1948, Alfred entered Sacred Heart Novitiate in Virginia to begin his life's journey as a Xaverian. On March 19,

1940 he received the habit and the religious name "Arcadius."

Arcadius' journey as a Xaverian Brother is best represented by ever increasing concentric circles beginning in Lynn and taking down the east coast, then to several places in Kenya, and finally back to his beloved Danvers where he taught from 1985 to 1997, retiring to serve as St. John's Prep Library volunteer.



Arcadius' assigned ministries consisted of teaching on the elementary level at Holy Cross and St. Teresa's in Brooklyn, as a high school teacher at Saint Joseph's Prep in Bardstow, Cardinal Hayes in the Bronx, and Saint John's Prep in Danvers. While in Kenya, Arcadius taught at the teacher training colleges in Eregi and Kitale and at the following secondary schools: Our Lady's in Kaimosi, Saint Joseph's in Kitale, Mumias Secondary School in Mumias, and the Malindi Girls' School in Yala. Before returning to the States, Arcadius also taught for six years at St. Peter's Seminary in Mukumu.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



## XAVIERIAN BROTHERS

4409 Frederick Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21229

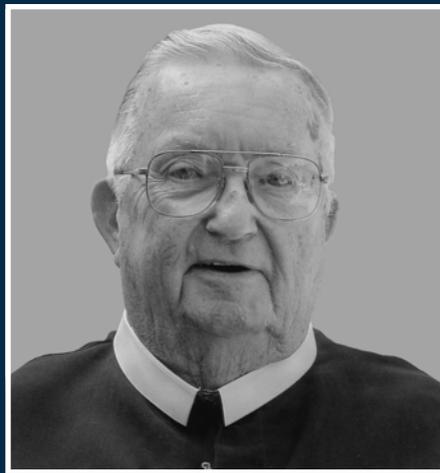
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

The Xaverian journey that Arcy began seventy-one years ago in Virginia led him into an ever expansive world. Arcy's desire to learn and to know, his genuine care for people, his love of history, and his gift for telling captivating stories helped him make his Xaverian world one without boundaries. Arcy, fortunately, experienced a peaceful end of life.

### **BROTHER PHILIP G. WHITE, CFX (BROTHER CLAVER) 1925 - 2019**

Brother Philip was born in Boston on March 21, 1925 to Mary and Harry White. He was one of five children. His two sisters and two brothers have pre-deceased him. Phil grew up in Quincy, Massachusetts. He met the Xaverian Brothers as a student at Mission Church High School in Roxbury.

On August 15, 1943, having entered Sacred Heart Novitiate in Virginia, Phil received the Xaverian habit and religious name "Brother Claver." Two years later, on the same date, Phil made



his first profession of vows. He was faithful to his call as a Xaverian Brother for seventy-six years.

Phil showed great generosity when his university studies were interrupted in order to help staff Saint Mary's Industrial School in Baltimore, Maryland, and, as challenging as it was, Phil always spoke of his time at Saint Mary's with appreciation. He served there until it closed in 1950.

Phil continued his studies and earned his BS degree from Loyola College

in Baltimore, MD and his Masters from Boston College. He would also do graduate studies at Columbia University and Fordham in New York City as well as Mohawk Community College in Utica and Keene State College in New Hampshire. His teaching assignments include Flaget in Louisville, St. Francis De Sales in Utica, Cardinal Hayes in the Bronx, and Saint John's Prep and Malden Catholic in Massachusetts.

In 2001 Phil spent a year at Ryken House in Louisville, Kentucky. He animated the community with his stories, his enthusiasm, and his willingness to roll up his sleeves and help the community function. No task was too menial for Phil.

Phil's ability to fit in and be at home in community and Phil's enduring relationships with former students were impressive. He was always appreciative of his former students' kindness to him. He would spend hours making and painting wooden cutouts as a token of thanks.