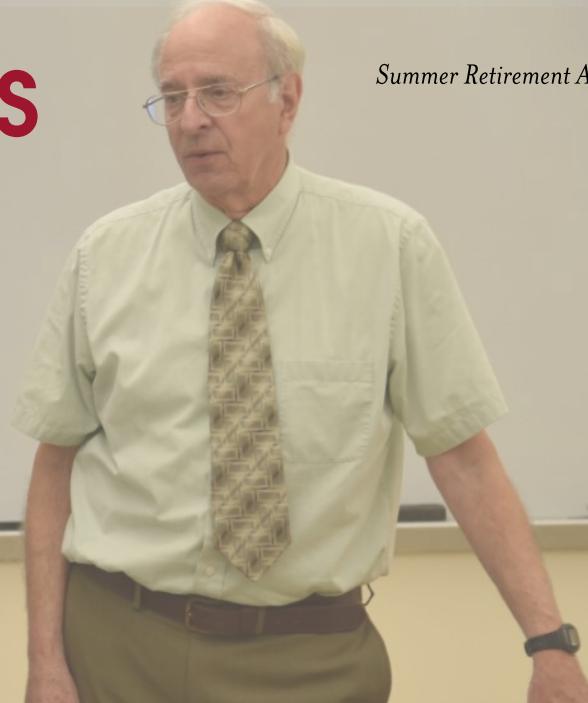


XAVERIAN BROTHERS

IN HARMONY SMALL THINGS GROW

"They call me out of myself and invite me back into the human circle with
 more humility, gratitude and generosity, content to offer what I can,
 receive what is given to me and to leave the rest in the hands of God."

Summer Retirement Appeal 2020



DEAR FRIEND,

For Brother Joseph Pawlka, the prospect of "retirement" is difficult to face. Since 1960, Brother Joe has served the mission of the Xaverian Brothers. Like so many of our Brothers, Joe continued active ministry well beyond the age most people retire. This year marks the 60th anniversary of his entrance into the Xaverian Brothers. We are grateful for the many ways he has served our mission. His service is a gift to the Church, to the Congregation, and to his students and colleagues. "I was attracted to the life of a Brother through the witness of the Brothers I had in high school," he said.

At St. Francis DeSales High in Utica, NY, where the Brothers taught before opening Notre Dame High School, Brother Joe experienced the dedication, community life, playfulness, prayerfulness, and care for others as well as a love of teaching that has forever affected his life.

Upon high school graduation, Joe completed his novitiate, followed by undergraduate studies at Catholic University. Brother Joe served as a teacher, administrator, and counselor first at Cardinal Hayes in the Bronx, followed by many years at Xavier High School in Middletown, CT and the past 26 years at Xaverian Brothers High School, Westwood, MA.



Brother Joe smiles while sporting his Xaverian Brothers High School jacket at Xaverian Brothers High School in Westwood, MA.

He also spent a considerable number of years doing formation work for the Brothers both in the U.S. and in Africa. His most memorable moments center on his life in community with Brothers where he has been

blessed by having lived with inspiring, interesting, talented and prayerful men. Brother Joe has felt blessed to engage with hundreds of collaborators and students - unique, talented, enthusiastic, creative - with gifts and needs, joys and sufferings, humor and sadness.

Walking alongside students for a stretch of their life's journey has been nothing short of an honor that's given him the opportunity to encounter wonderful expressions of God's unbounded love.

"They call me out of myself and invite me back into the human circle with more humility, gratitude and generosity, content to offer what I can, receive what is given to me and to leave the rest in the hands of God," he said, acknowledging that what inspires his zeal is knowing God called the Xaverian Brothers into being, walking with and guiding them as they live into their commitment to their vocation.



Reflection at Evening Mass by Brother Joe Pawlika, July 24, 2013

"Through the promptings, encouragement and support of the Brothers, I have been led into deeper faith and trust in the Spirit of God as He leads us along a road with constantly new horizons."

As Brother Joe leaves the counseling office he looks forward to the next horizon in his life as a Xaverian Brother. He is not unlike the many Brothers before him who left their years of active ministry to serve the Brothers' mission in new ways as volunteers and in a deepened ministry of prayer and gospel witness manifesting God's compassionate love to all.

Your support helps provide for our retired and infirm Brothers as they live out this phase of their religious lives. More importantly, it helps the Congregation as we provide the medical attention and caring environments that enable them to continue living their vocation as religious brothers. You can be assured that all our brothers pray for you and all our benefactors daily.

Thank you for helping ensure our mission continues to thrive, especially during these difficult days.

God bless you and your family.

Brother Daniel

BROTHER DANIEL SKALA, CFX

General Superior