CONCORDIAL FOLLOWING THE XAVERIAN WAY



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Pictured above: Brother Daniel Skala, C.F.X., General Superior (center) stands with newly professed Brothers Daniel, Pierre, Albert, Patrick (Regional Coordinator), Joseph (Novicemaster), Hertier, Felix, and Bernard.

Visitation to Congo

Brotherhood, learning, and surprises from God, all of these were part of a July visitation to Congo. Brother Daniel Skala, C.F.X., General Superior, and the General Council, Brothers Patrick Fumbisha, Dominique Olondo, Brian Davis, and Lawrence Harvey visited the Brothers, schools, communities, and social ministries. A warm welcome at Lubumbashi airport and wonderful hospitality at the scholasticate with a traditional Congolese dinner celebration inaugurated the first trip to the Congo since the pandemic closed travel.

The General Superior received the vows of the novices, the temporary professed, and Brother Ferdinand, who transferred into the community. The profession mass, filled to overflowing, was celebrated by Bishop Gaston Ruvezi with all the exuberance and joy of a Congolese liturgy. The celebration continued with family, friends, priests and religious from the local community.

Brother Dan and the Council also facilitated an assembly with nearly 50 Brothers in Lubumbashi.

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Dispatches from Haiti: Turmoil, Service, and Hope

Since the beginning of the year, the climate has remained tense in the Haitian capital of Port au Prince. Clashes between armed gangs continue with the national police not being able regain control. According to the explanations of civil protection officials, the violence in Port au Prince caused the displacement of at least 9,000 people.

"The situation in the capital remains tense and we fear another escalation of violence in the area," said Brother Vincent Ilunga. "Thank you for all the people who pray for us and may the Lord bless our congregation."

Earlier this year, a current Sant student, Dr. Yvronel Joseph, ran a four-day dental clinic offering free or highly discounted dental service to over 130 patients in his hometown, Fontaine. Dr. Yvronel Joseph is also a graduate of St. Gabriel's School in Fontaine where Brother Bill Griffin is on the staff.

Dr. Yvronel feels as if he's beginning to fulfill his life-long mission of returning the gift of his education to his home village which has no dental services. He passionately explained that it is his gratitude for the gifts he has received that encourages him to gift others with his services. He said, "It's services to help people that are more important than money." He thinks that this perspective will develop Haiti.

When asked how he and the other doctors could afford to sponsor the clinic, Yvronel responded, "I save every penny I can, skip buying meals and ask other doctors to help me fulfill my mission of service. Enough believe in me and it all adds up."

Pictured right: Sant student, Dr. Yvronel Joseph treats a patient during a dental clinic for his community. Pictured below: Brothers Vincet and Adolph lead a spiritual day of recollection on the book of Revelation.





Recently, Brothers Vincent and Adolph organized a spiritual day of recollection for the Sant Zaveryen students. It took place at Saint Charles Seminary, hosted by the Scalabrini Fathers.

Students were able to meditate on chapters 2 and 3 of the book of Revelation.

"The letters to the seven churches show us what is happening on the ground," stated Brother Vincent. "There is a need to make a choice between good and evil. Who do we follow? Who do we serve? The book of Revelation shows us the consequences of this choice in the days to come. The book ends with the day of the great judgment of all the earth. Those who have chosen to follow Jesus will go to eternal life. The others, those who have chosen evil will go to torment, true separation from God for all eternity. And any involvement in church activities must be an act of love."

The students found the day of recollection to be inspiring.

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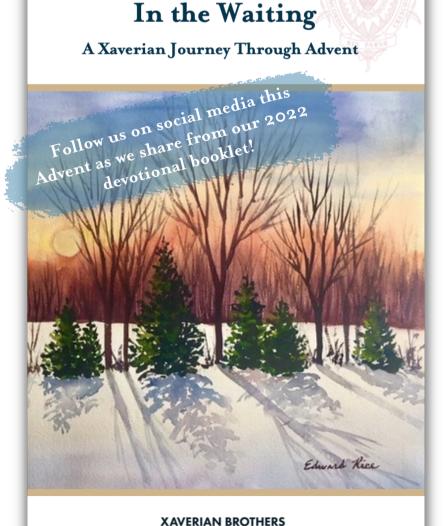
On August I, our new novices entered the novitiate.

Paulin Kazadi Mwema was born on September 14, 1996, in Likasi from Cléophas Mbale Mwema and Charlotte Tshibola Mputu. He is the fifth born of a family of seven: four girls and three boys.

André Kabongo Kabongo, son of Paul Kabongo Katshiambala (deceased) and Rose Tshiambi Mutshipayi. He is the third born in a family of six, four boys and two girls and was born in Kananga, on May 30, 1995. In high school, he was trained in marketing.

Romain Banza Budimo, commonly known under the nickname Héritier. He is a native of Likasi and second in a family of six, two boys and four girls, he was born on December 31, 1997, from Jean-Paul Banza Budimo and Francine Banza Ngoie.

Joseph Mambubgi Ngongo was born in Lubumbashi on April 25, 1995, from Jean Mangili and Jeanette Mukaïna. He is the sixth born in a family of ten: six girls and four boys. As a child, he was an altar boy and reader in his parish. He studied bio-chemestry in high school.



ADVENT 2022

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Visitation to Congo

A wonderful dialogue on mission and discernment of leadership was the agenda of the assembly.

Brother Dan met with each Brother individually, where he said he "encountered God" and was shown "the way to God's love" in each man with whom he spent time.

In meetings, "We listened to each as he reflected on his life and vocation," said Brother Dan. "I saw the passion and enthusiasm for mission, the fragility, vulnerability and the face of God in each as well as the abundant life of the Spirit in the region."

I learned how my small world view can now be expanded

- Brother Brian Davis

Pictured bottom:
Students at the Bon
Berger Center in
Likasi gather for a
photo with Brothers
Dan and Brian.
The center, which
focuses on helping
street children
receive education,
faith, and hope, is
led by Brother
Zacharie.



Pictured left: The General Superior and Council in procession at the first profession.
(Left to right)
Brothers Brian
Davis, Patrick
Fumbisha, Daniel
Skala,
Dominique
Olondo, and
Lawrence
Harvey.

"I felt God was calling me to remember to love the Brothers, so many of them new to me, to keep them in prayer, and to share with others their story and ministries, not well known to most of us in America," Brother Brian Davis reflected. He was inspired by the faith of the Congolese people whose service he and the Council saw as an authentic sign of God's care for the region.



"I was surprised by the depth of poverty of so many people," stated Brother Brian. "I especially remember on our drive to Kasenga, much of it on a dirt road, looking out at little villages: homes without utilities often taken for granted in the West. There was also many young children and mothers."

Brother Patrick Fumbisha shared a startling fact, that nearly 80% of the population of Congo lives in destitute poverty. However, amid this spiritual pilgrimage, Brother Dan meditated on what really matters in life: the ability to recognize Jesus.

At the regional assembly for all, Brother Dan encouraged the Brothers to live the Xaverian way by committing their lives to one another and the mission.



Pictured above: (Front) Brothers Pierre, Augustin, Victor Kazadi, Felix, (Back) Fabien, Daniel. Hertier.

"The mission begins with knowing how to see grace, especially by seeing how God works in our lives, not only in life's grand moments, but in the ordinary ways of our everyday lives." Brother Dan stressed, "Our unique Xaverian mission is not what we do; it is what is done to us and how we are transformed by our everyday lives."

Mission is about real people witnessing God's love. The Brothers were reminded that they were chosen by God, selected for a special mission, for the sake of letting others know they are chosen, and beloved of God, too.

"When we live each day with an awareness of the present moment, that's mission," he declared.

Among the ministries visited was the nearly complete Complexe Scolaire Rijken, a private Catholic school that includes a primary and secondary school on a large property in Kipushi. Brother Jean Paulin will serve as the director of the primary school and Brother Vital as the secondary school's director.

"We need to spread the good news of the school and ministries of our Congolese, and hope that some of our American donors will reach out to them," urged Brother Brian. He hopes for more vocations to join the Congolese Brothers, who are already stretched thin trying to cover many needs.

While the schools need families who can pay at least some tuition, they serve many who simply cannot afford payment.

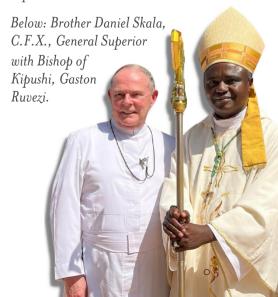
Before departing, the General Council affirmed the new regional council which had been chosen as a result of discernment at the regional assembly. Being together deepened the bonds between the Brothers and was a reminder that multiculturality is a dynamic characteristic of today's Xaverian Brothers congregation. This month, a visitation to Kenya is taking place.



The Brothers Community at Kasenga: Brothers Dominique, Brian, Albain, Augustin, Joseph Ngoie (regional coordinator), Larry, Nestor (aspirant), Ghislain, Patrick, Dan, Germain, Hubert.



Above: Brothers Jean Paulin, Brian Davis, Vital, and Daniel Skala at the new school in Kipushi.





For Dr. Ben Horgan, a vocation in Catholic Education is something that chose him. A proud graduate of St. John's High School in Shrewsbury, MA, Ben was first introduced to the Xaverian Brothers there, gradually living into his calling.

Having worked with the Brothers since 2018 when he was hired as the Formation Director of the Xaverian Brothers Sponsorship Office, Brother Daniel Skala, C.F.X., General Superior, invited Ben to also take on supporting the formation of the Xaverian Associates and Brothers.

"As the new Director of the Associates Program, I look forward to getting to know our Xaverian Associates and supporting them in their commitment to the mission and spirituality of the Xaverian Brothers," Ben stated. "In this new role, I will be partnering with Associates and the Brothers, supporting them in providing resources and opportunities to further enhance their experience."

Ben received a Bachelor of Art in Religion and Philosophy from Bates College, a Master of Theological Studies from Loyola University in Maryland, and a Doctorate of Education from Creighton University where his dissertation focused on Board formation and development in Xaverian Brothers Sponsored Schools.

Over the past four years he has partnered with administrators, board members, faculty, staff, and students to animate the Xaverian mission and charism in support of our schools.

"The pandemic has challenged our ability to connect and be present to one another," Ben said. "As we enter into a new way of proceeding, I look forward to bringing our Associates together and finding new opportunities to reinvigorate this element of the Congregation's ministry."

Ben acknowledged that he is new to the Associates program and enters the work with great humility.

"I look forward to collaborating and supporting the evolving needs of the Associates and taking their lead on where they would like to see these efforts grow and evolve," he affirmed.

Throughout Ben's life, the Xaverian Brothers and their partners in mission have mentored and supported him professionally, spiritually, and personally. He is humbled to support his Xaverian family within the schools and now with the Associate's program. He looks forward to continuing to develop enduring personal relationships that make the Xaverian Brothers charism so distinctive.

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XBSS: The Brothers' Mission Lives On

"The Brothers' mission is our mission." Those words came from an enthusiastic new XBSS teacher at an August retreat and orientation. "We need to give the gift we received as a gift," said another.

The XBSS Sponsorship Office welcomed over 50 new faculty, staff, and administrators from the Xaverian network to the Baltimore area where participants were introduced to the fundamentals of the Xaverian charism, reflected on what makes Xaverian education distinctive, and had the opportunity to grow in fellowship with peers; beginning to build the enduring personal relationships we champion.

Retreatants had the opportunity to hear from students about their experience at Xaverian schools, met Brothers from a variety of ministries, and pray together as they prepared to begin their new positions. When asked about the insights gained through the experience, one participant shared, "I am excited about teaching this year, even more than before. I am excited to be teaching in a school where I can help students grow spiritually, as well as academically."

Earlier this summer, XBSS educators gathered in Louisville for an Experienced Teacher Retreat. The theme for the gathering was "Rooted in Mission... Ready to Answer." Attendees were afforded time for prayer, reflection on the calls of Xaverian Brothers Sponsored School, and discussion on the challenges of roles and the need for renewal. While on the retreat, attendees visited St. Xavier High School, celebrated Mass alongside several Brothers who visited from Treyton Oak Towers, and embarked on a short pilgrimage around the city to sites of particular significance in the history of the Brothers.

This Spring, Presidents, Principals, and Corporate Members from XBSS converged on Baltimore for a meeting that began with prayer and discussion, followed by a keynote presentation from Dr. Ben Horgan, XBSS Formation Director, on the topic of enduring personal relationships and the Xaverian mission. Attendees spent time in small groups discussing that which gave them hope for continued diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging work in their schools as well as challenges they face.



Pictured above: Cathy Reynolds, Director of Mission and Identity at St. Xavier HS, Rachel Bruce, English Dept. Chair at Mount Saint Joseph, Dr. Patrick Slattery, XBSS Executive Director and Dr. Ben Horgan, XBSS Formation Director at a new teachers retreat in Baltimore, MD.



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THE SCHOOL THAT LIVES ON

St. Michael's Diocesan High School

In 1926, on the corner of 43rd street in Brooklyn, a story began that so far, has no ending. That story was, and still is, St. Michael's Diocesan High School. Though long since gone, the legacy thrives in the hearts and minds of alumni to this very day.

"As long as these guys are still breathing, they're not letting it go," said St. Michael's Alumni Association President Anthony (Tony) P. Zupo, a 1959 graduate, now in his 25th year serving the role. "The enthusiasm is still as if it was 60 years ago!"

It was here that the Xaverian Brothers taught a ragtag band of Brooklyn teenagers how to live, learn, and laugh: never failing to see the humor in life, and left such a drastically positive impact that a passion and zeal continues burning unmistakably, nearly a century later.

"Many of us would not be where we are today if it weren't for the Brothers," wrote Tony in the Spring 2022 edition of 'The Michaelog' - the alumni association's newsletter.

The Michaelmen, especially those formed by the Brothers, have given their talents to their country, families, and church.

"Their contributions to society are a tribute to the Brothers that were a part of their lives," stated Tony.

Upon the school's opening, when the Brothers arrived at St. Michaels, they were met with students that didn't likely know what a "Brother" was. But, as Bob Whelan, '40 wrote, "mutual suspicion gave way to forbearance, then tolerance, then patience, understanding, love, admiration, and finally a devotion that cannot seem to die, if the alumni association is any criterion."

With schools centered in Kentucky, Maryland, New York, and Massachusetts, there was an interesting mix of German, Irish, and Italian Brothers, who made up the faculty.

"Consequently, you see in the typical Xaverian Brothers community the exactness of the Germans, the humor of the Irish, and the emotions of the Italians," wrote Tony.



The staff of The Michaelog – Dick Driscoll, Phil Minardo, Nick Imperato, Pat DiNapoli, Ed Kelly, Jack Leah, and Joe Carabetta.

Tom Bundrick, '49, stated: "While St. Michael's had an outstanding faculty and was a formidable institution of learning, it was a terrible school in terms of amenities. Today it would likely be closed as a firetrap. But this lack of physical charm is perhaps one of its endearing qualities. We had to share the school with grammar school kids. There was no gym. Our sports teams had to travel like gypsies to find 'home courts.' PE was conducted in the school yard year-round. There were no lockers and there was only one bathroom to accommodate the entire school — and it was down in the hidden labyrinths of the building."

And yet a school without amenities, looked down upon by the world's standards, was and remains highly regarded and exalted among the alumni, rich in lifelong treasured experiences.

Examining the influence the Brothers had on the students, it extends far beyond 1960, when the last Michaelmen graduated. Over 2,500 graduated from the school. Counting the children and grandchildren of alumni, there is likely over 10,000 indirectly effected by the influence the Brothers had on their grandfathers. Alumni recall how the Brothers didn't preach from the pulpit, rather they blended in amid the ordinary and unspectacular situations teachers encounter. They were first to admit their imperfections yet had a way of treating all students alike and had no tolerance for those who ridiculed others.



"Memories never go away with these guys," said Tony. "The unbelievable contributions these men have made on society and the world, from fundraising for charitable events, to scholarships to attend Xaverian High School, and over 6 million to support needs of retired Brothers, is all truly remarkable."

Tony describes the Michaelmen as the most wonderful men he's ever met in his life, "chomping at the bit" to see classmates and reminisce at reunions, lives as civil servants, professional businesspeople, priests, and religious. An active high school alumni is rare enough, and one for a defunct school is nearly unheard of. Yet the Association has a dues-paying membership of approximately one-third of those eligible, which is about three times what some of the best colleges can hope for. Many who never had any connection with the school participate in alumni functions. What was the divine link that sparked all this other than the enduring personal relationships and loving bonds formed by the Brothers?

"I cannot stress enough the sincere love that every Michaelmen has for the Xaverian Brothers that taught them," Tony shared. "Everyone has a favorite story." Alumni describe not a day going by without an amusing tale or incident which broke the tension of a typical high school day.

The spirit of devotion to the Xaverian Brothers and to St. Michael's manifested itself beyond comprehension

St. Michael's Diocesan High School opened its doors to the first freshmen class in 1926 and closed the same doors to the last senior class in 1960. What happened in-between is a commendable feat. Over 2,500 young men were exposed to an environment that fostered a commitment to God, country, and one another. And the best was yet to come. A resurgence in devotion emerged with annual reunions increasing in alumni attendance, and in 1992, when the administration of Xaverian High School. Michael's successor, asked the Alumni Association to fund the building of a chapel, a tremendous outpouring of support ensued. The St. Michael's Chapel was dedicated two years later with Bishop Joseph Sullivan, '48, presiding, giving St. Michael's a permanent home.

"The spirit of devotion to the Xaverian Brothers and to St. Michael's manifested itself beyond comprehension," wrote Tony.

In harmony, small things grow, as evidenced by a small group of nondescript men with hearts on fire to make a difference that burns brightly and continues to live on.

Call FULFILLED



BROTHER
PAUL CULLEN
C.F.X.
(ELIAS)

Paul was born in the Dorchester section of Boston in 1934. His family

eventually moved to Worcester where he attended St. John's High School on Temple Street, graduating in 1952. After attending the College of the Holy Cross for two years, he entered the Xaverian Brothers in 1954, received the habit and the name Brother Elias. After his first profession in 1956 he went to study at Catholic University. He then began his educational ministry teaching at St. John's Prep, Keith Academy, and then as the Assistant Headmaster at the new Malden Catholic. He was appointed to serve as Director of Formation, first at Malden Catholic and later at Newton Highlands. He would receive a graduate degree in spirituality from Fordham University and later spent 10 years teaching religion, social justice and doing retreat work at Xaverian Brothers High School.

In 1984, Brother Paul along with three other Brothers were the pioneers at a new province ministry in Orangeburg, South Carolina. They were soon busy with a variety of formal and informal ministries among the mostly black community.

The vitality of the community and the Brothers openness to the Spirit and commitment to Christ attracted others to the parish and mission school programs. Soon people were seeking Paul out for pastoral counseling and spiritual direction.

Paul's 37 years in SC demonstrated his lifelong commitment to Christ. He became a witness and advocate for justice for women in the Church. In his friendly, forthright way, he made known to the hierarchy the roles which Catholic women are called and needed to play in the Church's work.

He also involved himself demonstrating for peace and justice at local events in Orangeburg and at the state capital in Columbia.

In 2021, Paul made the difficult decision to retire to Xaverian House. He was only there a few months, when he was diagnosed with cancer. In February, he chose to go to Mary Immaculate Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. In May, Paul began hospice care and died peacefully on May 29.

Brother Robert Green in his eulogy for Paul remarked, "Paul was a dedicated follower of Christ whose faith in God inspired him to bring joy and hospitality to the sisters and brothers he met. He was always very affirming of others, confident of God's love for him and them. He was not afraid to speak out when he knew of situations needing change."



BROTHER J. CONAL OWENS C.F.X.

Born John Francis Owens in Lowell, MA, to Irish immigrant parents, he attended St. Michael's Grammar School and, for two years, Keith Academy, where he fell under the influence of the Xaverian Brothers.

Deeply influenced at Keith by Brother Paul of the Cross, a man bursting with vitality and enthusiasm, and in love with his vocation, John Owens decided to test his own vocation and transferred to St. Joseph's Juniorate in Peabody, Massachusetts where he graduated in 1946.

In February of that same year, John entered the novitiate at Old Point Comfort, Virginia. On August 15, 1946, he received the habit and the religious name Conal. He loved his new name and used it for the rest of his life.

Brother Conal made his first profession in 1949. Instead of beginning his university studies, he was assigned to St. Patrick's School in Baltimore. Over the next ten years he was the Xaverian version of a utility player, filling in as needed at six Xaverian grammar schools and secondary schools in New York, Maryland, and Massachusetts. In 1959, Conal was assigned to teach at Mission High School in Roxbury, MA and after four years became principal until the Brothers withdrew from Mission in 1965.

Like so many Brothers, Conal pursued his university studies on weekends and summers. He proved to be an excellent student, earning his BA and MA degrees in history and political science at Boston College. In 1981, Assumption University conferred upon him an honorary doctorate.

In 1965, Conal was assigned to St. John's High School where in 1968 he was appointed Headmaster. He used his considerable educational experience and talents to improve and expand the school over the next 33 years. In 2001, Conal stepped down from being the chief administrator and remained on campus as Headmaster Emeritus. He remained active and shared his wealth of knowledge and wisdom with the school as well as on the finance committee of the Congregation and on a variety of XBSS boards.

During the last 20 years of his life Conal also generously helped the Venerini Sisters in stabilizing their academy in Worcester. He also reached out in service to the Poor Clare Nuns of Del Ray Beach, FL, helping them save their monastery and promising he was not going anywhere until the Sisters were able to sell their convent and find a new piece of property. They closed on that transaction a few days before his death. He died on May 7, two days after his 93rd birthday.

The Bishop of Worcester joined many priests, fellow religious, family and friends as well as the St. John's school community in celebrating his funeral at the school. It was a fitting tribute to a man who had dedicated the better part of his life to St. John's, making it the excellent Xaverian school it is today. Brother Conal was a Xaverian Brother for 76 years.



BROTHER ROGER DEMON, C.F.X. (AMAAT)

Brother Roger Demon was born and raised in Knokke, Belgium where he first met the Brothers at St. Bernardus school.

He was shaped by characteristics of the Flemish culture: the primacy of the Catholic faith, the importance of family, the cultural values of hard work, mastery, simplicity of lifestyle and the genuine desire to serve others. Roger witnessed injustice and oppression as a nine-year-old when the Nazis occupied Belgium. He lived under the occupation for five years.

Brother Roger's faith in God was steadfast. He entered the Congregation in 1948 and received the habit and the religious name Brother Amaat. After finishing his initial formation and university studies, Brother Roger was assigned to the Xaverian missions in the then Belgian Congo in the 50s and 60s. Our original contract with the Colonial Government was to staff schools for the children of Belgian and European professionals working in the Congo. Like other Xaverians before him, Brother Roger was committed to provide an education for Congolese children. As Headmaster of le Collège Sacré Coeur in Likasi (currently known as Tutazamie), Brother Roger integrated the school well before the rebellion that led to independence. Brother Roger had a deep and abiding love for the Congolese.

Returning to Belgium in the early 70s, Brother Roger's talents and skills as an administrator were recognized and he served the Belgian province as Headmaster of Saint Bernardus School in Knokke and later as Headmaster of Saint Francis Xavier Institute (de Frères) in Bruges. He also served as Provincial of the Belgian Province as well as serving the Congregation as a General Councilor under numerous General Superiors. In 1979, Brother Roger was appointed to a small group of Brothers who were tasked to rewrite the Xaverian Constitutions and produced what we now know as our Fundamental Principles.

Upon his retirement as Headmaster in Bruges, Brother Roger returned to Congo to assist the region with the formation of young Brothers. He taught English to our Congolese postulants and later would spend months of the year working with our novices from both Congo and Kenya. He was very demanding of them. In good nature the Congolese Brothers would call him the 'demon', a play on his surname, 'Demon.' His students, moreover, speak English extremely well.

As Brother Edward Driscoll said in his In Memoriam for Roger "Much labor, effort and zeal along with a deep love for the Congregation impelled Brother Roger to achieve many special deeds in his ordinary and unspectacular life. Certain experiences of his youth shaped Brother Roger's passionate embrace of our Xaverian way of life. The Eucharist enkindled in Brother Roger the fire of Christ's gospel."

Brother Roger passed away peacefully on Friday, May 27 from complications resulting from a fall just a few months before his 91st birthday on July 9. He was a Xaverian Brother for 74 years.



XAVERIAN BROTHERS

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General Council Completes Session in Rome

The General Superior and Council met monthly via Zoom due to pandemic restrictions. For the first time since December 2019, the General Council met in person this Spring at Casa Bonus Pastor in Rome, Italy.

Pictured left: Brothers Patrick Fumbisha, Lawrence Harvey, Daniel Skala, (General Superior), Dominique Olondo, and Brian Davis.

XAVERIAN BROTHERS

IN HARMONY SMALL THINGS GROW

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