

# Concordia

FOLLOWING THE XAVERIAN WAY



## *In This Issue*

- Called to Something More: XBSS Retreat Recap
- Updates from Bungoma
- Mission Thrives in South Sudan
- XBSS & SNDEN Host Board Forum
- Pope's Visit to Africa
- Belgium Brothers New Quarters
- Generalate Spotlight
- Updates from Haiti
- 2022 Ryken Awards
- Brothers In History

## Called to Something More

Eager to make new friends and build connections, students at the 2023 Xaverian Brothers Sponsored Schools Leadership Retreat arrived at the Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center in West Hartford, CT, with open hearts.

Building upon the momentum of last year's retreat which reunited students in-person after a virtual session was held in 2021 due to the pandemic, an amplified thrill to connect across the network was on the top of everyone's mind.

"My favorite part was just meeting everyone," said one student from Mount Saint Joseph High School in Baltimore, MD. "I absolutely love meeting new friends."

Each day, packed with meaning, laughter, and wisdom, was meticulously designed to leave students with an unforgettable bonding experience and deepened sense of faith. Through daily prayers, guest speakers, shared meals, thought-provoking activities, and group discussions, 121 students experienced their "connectedness" to the Xaverian charism firsthand.

*Continued on Page 6*



## Reception Held for Two New First Year Postulants in Bungoma, Kenya Emphasizes Cost of Discipleship



*Pictured: New Postulants, Brothers, and Families at the St. Joseph Center in Bungoma, Kenya*

This winter, a reception was held at St. Joseph Centre in Bungoma, Kenya for two new first year Postulants, Willis Ochieng' and Eliud Barasa. Brother Dan Ssenyomo, C.F.X. was in attendance for the welcoming mass as well as Brother Kevin Masese, C.F.X. and Fr. Nahero. The following is an excerpt from Fr. Nahero's homily:

*"The call to follow Jesus is a high and costly calling. Those who give their lives to Jesus are submitting to a life of self-denial, sacrifice and suffering, but it's also a life that leads to joy and peace and hope. As those who are in Christ, we must strive to love Him above all and be willing to suffer whatever opposition our commitment to Him may bring. But we can endure with hope knowing that there is joy and eternal life for all who are His. Everything we have is an out-right gift from God. We owe Him everything, including our lives. It is possible to give God money, but not ourselves, or to give Him lip-service but not our hearts. A true disciple gladly gives up all that he has in exchange for an unending life of joy and happiness with God. God gives without measure. The joy He offers no sadness or loss can diminish. The cross of Christ leads to victory and freedom from sin and death."*

## Mission Continues in South Sudan

Brother Bernard, C.F.X. has started adult catechesis in the South Sudanese community of Nadapal. Following in the footsteps of St. Francis Xavier who, in his missionary work, made great efforts to learn the language of the people he was trying to evangelize, Brother Bernard is taking on the challenge to learn Arabic for easy communication. He extends his thanks for the Congregation's leadership and support.

"It is God's work that is being done in South Sudan," he said. "And it is God who will see it through to completion."

Brothers Festus and Bernard extend deep gratitude for financial support that has provided a motorbike for quick local transportation.



*Pictured right: Brothers Festus and Bernard on the new motorbike*





# Board Forum Brings Together XBSS & Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur



*Pictured left: Bill Ryan, a consultant, coach, and educator dedicated to improving the governance of nonprofits.*

From April 2-3, a Board Forum was held in Massachusetts for XBSS & Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur with over 100 attendees from across network schools and ministries! Day one was hosted at Xaverian Brothers High School in Westwood, MA. The following day was held at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel in Norwood with various speakers and break out sessions.



*Pictured above: Sister Mary Angela Shaughnessy, Sister of Charity of Nazareth and Brother Daniel Skala, C.F.X., Xaverian Brothers General Superior. Both spoke on Q&A panel on legal issues, board policy and decision making. Pictured left: Julie Dowd, Director of Mission Integration for the Sponsorship Office of the East-West Province of SNDeN. Julie spoke on mission as inclusion and building capacity as Board Members for diversity, equity, and inclusion leadership.*



**"Board Role in Advancement"**

*Pictured left: Larry Furey, Founder of Partners in Mission. Pictured right: Brother Richard Lunny, C.F.X., XBSS Associate Director.*



*Pictured right: Dr. Ben Horgan, XBSS Formation Director, Kathleen Colin, Executive Director of Sponsorship for SNDeN's East-West Province, and Dr. Patrick Slattery, XBSS Executive Director.*





# Pope Francis Visits Congo & South Sudan



During the Holy Mass, Pope Francis edified Catholics in their faith in Christ. He assured them that God, who hears the cries of the suffering, will provide comfort. Among the young people, the Pope emphasized their place as the future of the country and to take up their position in building a better Congo. He called them to fight against anti-values, among which he focused on corruption, encouraging youth to be honest. Brother Ghislain, with fellow diocesan youth chaplains, was attentive to the Pope's address and relayed the message among the young people of Kilwa-Kasenga.

It was a moment our Brothers in Congo would never forget. On the morning of January 28, they joined pilgrims from the Archdiocese of Lubumbashi, and traveled to Kinshasa for the arrival of Pope Francis. Brothers François Musongo, Ghislain Mukonkole, and Vital-André Mwenge set out with the support of General Superior, Brother Daniel Skala, and the blessing of the Congregation.

Pope Francis' apostolic journey to Congo and South Sudan began in Kinshasa, Congo, with an itinerary consisting of meetings with government officials and diplomats, an outdoor Mass, gatherings with catechists and young people as well as consecrated religious and bishops. Three ecclesial meetings were organized during the visit of the Holy Father, in particular the mass celebrated at NDOLO Airport, a meeting with young people at Martyrs Stadium, and a prayer assembly with priests, consecrated persons, and seminarians in Notre-Dame du Congo Cathedral. Brothers were present at each event.



*Brother Vital stands next to the Papal chair.*





“  
My impression  
was  
thanksgiving  
and gratitude  
-- Brother Vital  
”

*Pictured left: Inside the cathedral, Brother François is seated in the third row in the blue blazer.*

A meditation on the five luminous mysteries preceded the Pope's entry into the Cathedral. This prayer of the rosary was led by representatives of the Conference of Major Superiors of the different ecclesiastical provinces of Congo. The Brothers' province of Lubumbashi, represented by Reverend Sister Astrid Mand, SDS, Vice President and Brother Vital-André Mwenge, received the charge of leading the fifth mystery. The Brothers sang the prayer and song while Pope Francis made his procession into the cathedral.

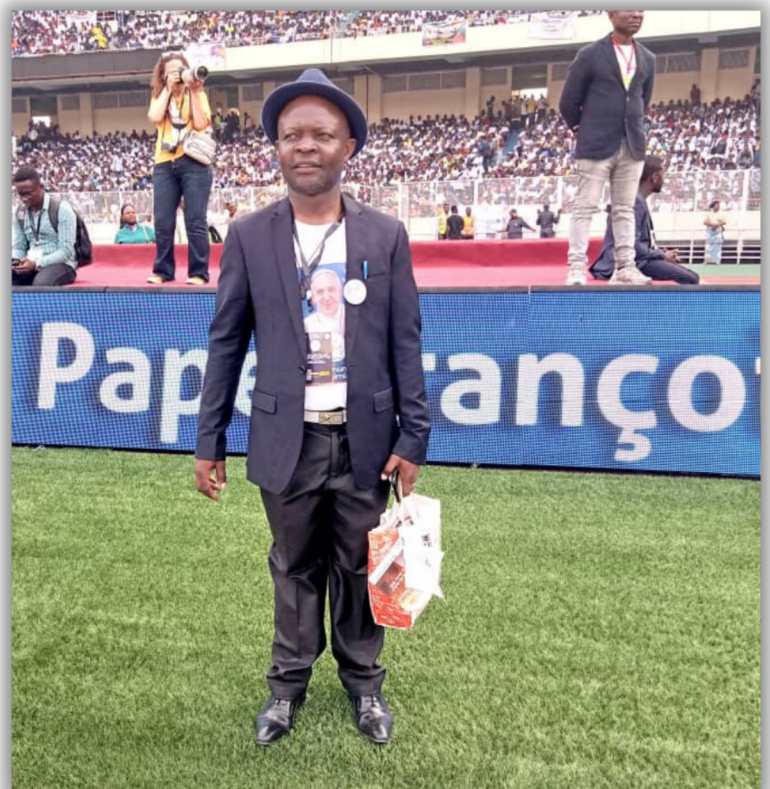
"My impression was thanksgiving and gratitude," stated Brother Vital. "Experiencing such an event so closely was historic and gratifying. Indeed, to be in front of the Pope, less than five meters away, for an hour, was something to give thanks to God. The various messages from the Holy Father revealed to us our condition as sinners, our limits in the experience of our consecration, and therefore, a call to conversion."

"We also want to thank our Brothers, near and far, who have supported us during this pilgrimage, whose graces go to the whole Xaverian family," said Brother Vital.

Pope Francis continued his journey to Juba, South Sudan, where he was joined by the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Church of Scotland Moderator for a 'pilgrimage of peace' that highlighted reconciliation and forgiveness after the civil wars in the country. Our Brothers in South Sudan are hopeful companions as they work for reconciliation.

In the wake of the Pope's visit to the two countries, people seemed hopeful that the Pontiff's words and deeds inspired genuine change.

*Pictured right: Brother Ghislain stands in the stadium for the youth meeting with the Pope.*





# XBSS: Called to Something More



Dr. Ben Horgan, XBSS Formation Director and Saint John's High School alum addressed the students.

"Nothing special is achieved without much labor, effort, and zeal," he stated, quoting the Fundamental Principles of the Xaverian Brothers. "Xaverian spirituality, finding God in the common, ordinary, unspectacular flow of everyday life... these words directly relate to our founder, Theodore James Ryken. He was common, he was ordinary, and despite that, look, we're all here today in this room."

Ben went on to share the meek and mighty ways God uses people, and how He responds to humble hearts.

"You're all here for a reason," he assured the students. "God wanted you to be in this place with your peers from Xaverian schools across the country."

Inclusion, belonging, diversity, and service were all themes explored during the retreat while a variety of cultures, backgrounds, and life experiences were represented by attendees. Edification, encouragement, and building each other up was central to each day.

"The groups really started to come together," stated one student. "It's so incredible to meet students from so many different states, and I'm just really grateful for that experience."

All 13 XBSS schools were challenged to think about how they could creatively serve the marginalized and forgotten in their respective communities by using their specific God-given gifts, talents, passions, and interests.

"Many of you might underestimate the influence that you have in your communities," said Dr. Patrick Slattery, XBSS Executive Director, to a crowd of students.



“You have a lot of folks that think quite highly of you. When you have that many people seeing something in you, that want to awaken that greatness and potential in you, that’s God speaking to you. There will be moments when God gives you great opportunity to step up and use that leadership. You’re called to something more; to do more, to give more, to give that gift that you have as a gift to others.”

Patrick emphasized how retreats often lead to decisions and asked the students how they could help lead by going back to their schools and communities to pour out what’s been poured into them.



The retreat forged and sharpened servant leaders from across the school network and lit a fire in the hearts of students to return to their communities, empower others, promote justice, serve the marginalized, live as agents of God’s love, and lead the way for lasting change.

Jack McCormick, a student at Loyola University in Baltimore, MD, and graduate of Xavierian Brothers High School in Westwood, MA, was the videographer for this year’s retreat which can be viewed on YouTube at the link or QR code below.

[xavb.ro/XBSS2023](https://xavb.ro/XBSS2023)



Xaverian Brothers  
Sponsored Schools





# In Haiti, Hope Prevails Amid Dire Conditions

Despite an endless myriad of challenges and upheaval in Haiti, the Sant Zavereyen community had the honor and joy of attending a graduation ceremony for one of their students. Livenson, who joined the Sant community in 2018, graduated from the University of Saint Francis of Assisi with a degree in Administrative Sciences. Perseverance and hard work paid off in the end, even amid a society plagued with instability, high living costs, and armed gangs patrolling the streets. Universities struggled to maintain normalcy, but Livenson kept his focus and didn't let anything move him as he pursued his goal and finished strong.

"As Nelson Mandela said, 'Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world,'" said Brother Adolph. Continued support helps students in their university studies so they can help change their communities.

Brothers Adolph and Vincent have acted as mentors and parents to their students. Even though the socio-political reality of Haiti is in turmoil, they have not stopped accompanying their students with love, care, and compassion.

"We are excited for Livenson and we wish him well as he moves onto the next phase of his life," stated Brother Vincent.

"Haiti needs modern day heroes, and the Sant is helping to develop a team of them," said Brother Bill Griffin.

Yvronel Joseph, from the class of 2018, brought his mobile dental team to St. Gabriel's school campus in his hometown of Fontaine, for a four-day clinic. The six-member team offered free or highly discounted dental services to 150 patients, free check-ups, cleanings, fillings, and extractions.



*Pictured above:*

*Dr. Yvronel assists a patient during a dental clinic on the campus of St. Gabriel's School in Fontaine, Haiti.*

*Pictured right:*

*Livenson, a member of the Sant community, stands in his graduation outfit after earning a degree from the University of St. Francis of Assisi.*



Yvronel hopes to return to Fontaine three or four times a year to follow up with his patients and provide dental health education to students and community members.

Sant students ask for continued prayers as they navigate uncertain times amid political and societal disruption.

"Our students thank you for your support and this thanks comes from the bottom of their hearts because you made this community available to them," said Brother Adolph.

The Brothers continue to help these students achieve their personal and academic goals and have created a new family for desperate young people in challenging circumstances.



# Brothers in Belgium Settle Into New Living Quarters

In Brugge, Belgium, Brothers Adalbert, Gabriël, Eric and Johan are now all settled and doing well in their new rooms on a newly constructed wing of Herdershove. Pictured from left to right: Brothers Adalbert, Gabriël, Eric, and Johan.

"The rooms are simply great," stated Brother Johan. "The new living room is smaller, but very agreeable for four Brothers." Your prayers and support are appreciated by our Brothers in Belgium.



## Generalate Spotlight: Intern Jack McCormick



In January, Jack McCormick, a graduate of Xaverian Brothers High School in Westwood, MA, and current student at Loyola University in Baltimore, MD, began an internship at the Generalate office.

"There is a course through my school called 'Theology Internship' and when I heard about it my mind instantly jumped to the Generalate Office," stated Jack.

"I always wanted to interact with the office, being in Baltimore for college, and this provided me with the perfect opportunity to do so."

Originally from North Easton, MA, Jack waits tables at a Cape Cod restaurant in the summer, and studies Theology as an undergrad at Loyola University Maryland. Currently, he is a student in the Accelerated Master's of Theological Studies program and serves as the Vice President of Social Affairs in Loyola's Student Government Association. He previously served as a coordinator for Loyola's 15th Kairos Retreat.

"My Xaverian education at Xaverian Brothers High School in Westwood, MA, taught me a lot about what it meant to be zealous for the things you take pride in as well as being an authentic and genuine leader," he said. "It also inspired me to hold myself to a higher standard of excellence and constantly push myself to my full potential."

Jack said that his Xaverian education taught him the value of community, gathering in fellowship, and being present with others by forming authentic relationships. His favorite part about being an intern has been the people he's worked with and the opportunity to explore the field of education.

"Dr. Ben Horgan, XBSS Formation Director, and Dr. Patrick Slattery, XBSS Executive Director, were able to provide me with such a unique opportunity that is not ordinarily available in the field, and it has helped me to further discover things about my passion for serving and ministering to others through a professional role in education."

Jack loves biking, being active in his community, watching high-quality films, reading, and playing basketball. He dreams of changing the world for the better in some way, shape, or form, by working in educational institutions and having a tangible impact on the lives of others through ministry and education.





# 2022 Ryken Award winners

Each year, the Theodore James Ryken Award is presented to a member of the faculty, staff or administration of each of the 13 Xavierian 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.



**Laura Dupre Wilson**  
*Lowell Catholic*



**Matt Yarborough**  
*St. Xavier High School*



**Sara Fogarty**  
*Saint Bernard School*



**Mike Kohs**  
*Xavier High School*



**Warren Hayden**  
*Saint John's High School*



**Julie Home**  
*Xaverian Brothers High School*



**Diane Hastings**  
*St. John's Prep*



**Bill Britton**  
*St. John's Prep*



**Brandy Campbell**  
*Mount Saint Joseph*



**Beth Allen**  
*St. Mary's Ryken*



**Eamonn Casey**  
*Malden Catholic*



**Deacon Bryan Amore**  
*Xaverian High School*



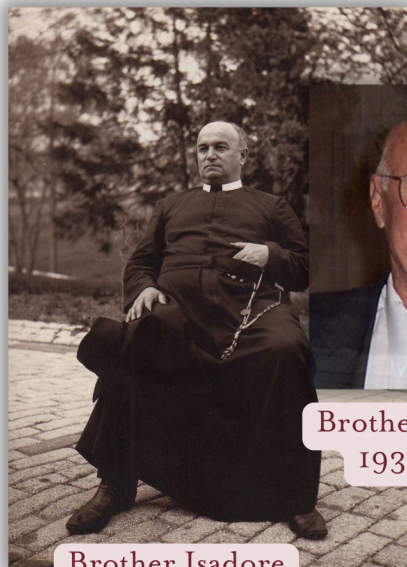
**Richard Seel**  
*Our Lady of Good Counsel*



Scan the QR code on the right and click the tab "latest" to read an archive of our Brothers in History Series



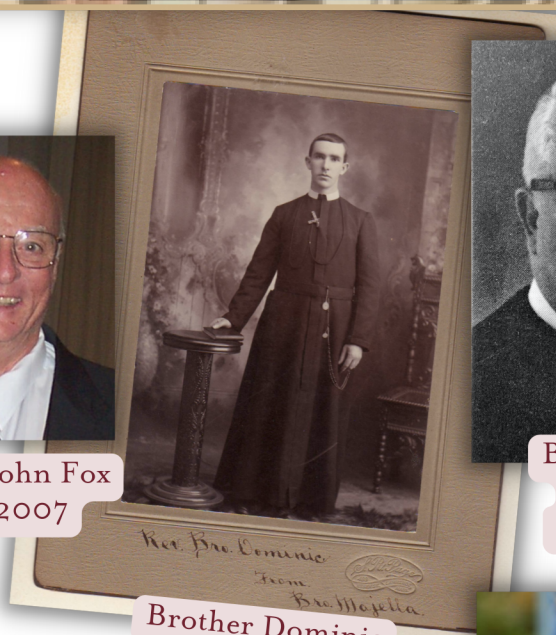
# BROTHERS IN HISTORY



Brother Isadore Kuppel  
1853-1935



Brother John Fox  
1936-2007



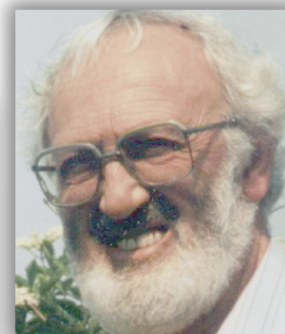
Brother Dominic O'Connell  
1839-1907



Brother Ivan Corkery  
1910-1978



Brother Kristiaan Neyt  
1936-2001



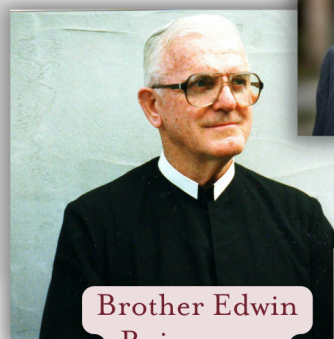
Brother Albert Verplancke  
1926-2010



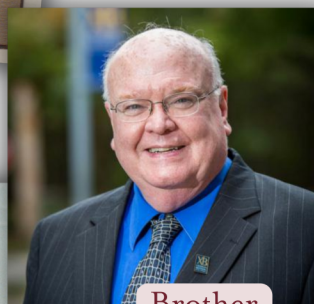
Brother Nilus Cullen  
1912-1995



Brother Paul Scanlan  
1864-1950



Brother Edwin Boissoneau  
1922-2018



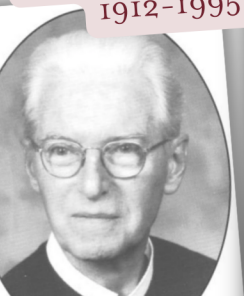
Brother Raymond Hoyt  
1953-2017



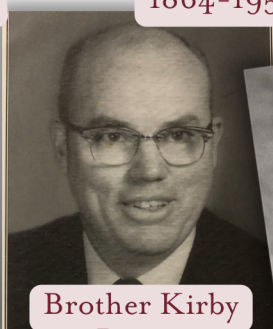
Brother Peter Gaskin  
1907-1993



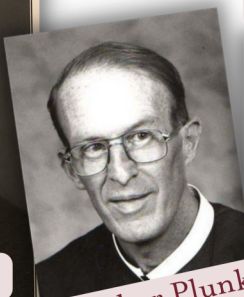
Brother Randal Riede  
1917-2003



Brother Neri Crossen  
1914-1997



Brother Kirby Boone  
1926-2010



Brother Plunket Doherty  
1928-2009



Brother Walter Custers  
1928-2012





## XAVERIAN BROTHERS

4409 Frederick Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21229

*Give to the Mission by*

## SHARING OUR PAGES

Simply sharing our social media pages on your  
profile and inviting your friends to follow supports  
our Mission in a meaningful way

**XAVERIAN BROTHERS**  
IN HARMONY SMALL THINGS GROW



An easy and effective way to support our mission is by simply sharing our social media pages and posts. Be sure to follow, like, and engage with us online to help us build our audience and share the great work of the Xaverian mission across the U.S. and the world. Invite and encourage your online audience to follow our pages and become a part of the mission that is changing lives and transforming communities.

*In harmony, small things grow!*

**XAVERIAN BROTHERS**  
*IN HARMONY SMALL THINGS GROW*

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