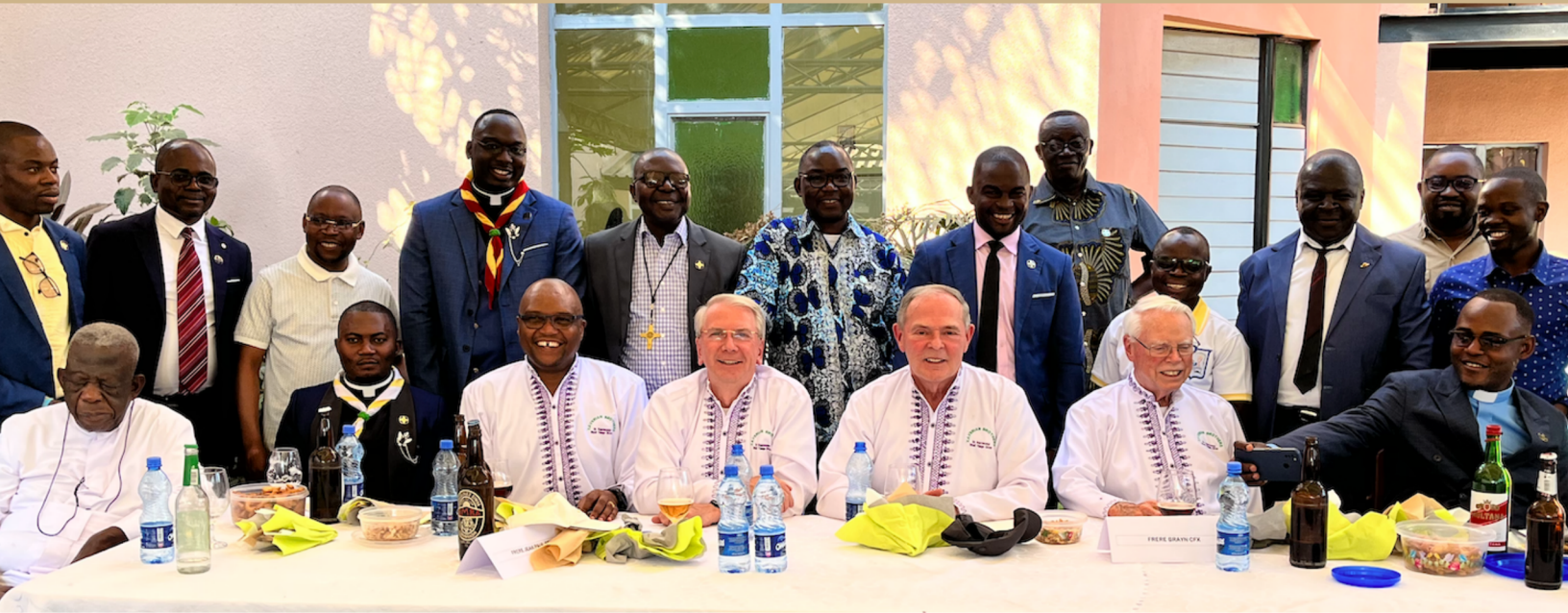


Concordia

FOLLOWING THE XAVERIAN WAY



Pictured above: Brother Dan Skala and the members of the General Council gather with some of the Brothers during the party following the vow ceremony.

In This Issue

- The Xaverian Way Continues in Africa
- Progress in South Sudan
- A Special Jubilee
- Africa Continued...
- Lifelong Ministry
- XBSS: Faith in Action
- Bruges Sends Teachers to XBSS Retreat
- Advent 2023
- Call Fulfilled
- All Souls Day Remembrance

The Xaverian Way Continues in Africa

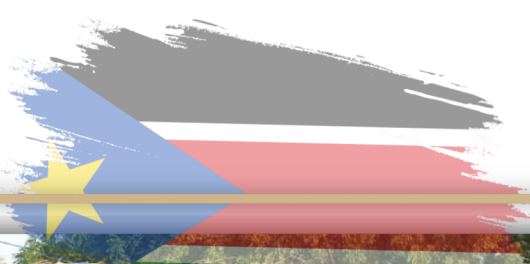
This summer, Brother Daniel Skala, C.F.X., General Superior and the General Council traveled to Africa for nearly one month to visit and meet with Brothers in Kenya and Congo.

In Bungoma, Kenya, they joined the Brothers of the region for the perpetual professions, and participated in a blessing and dedication of the new library and other facilities at St. Xavier Secondary School. They also participated in a Regional Gathering of all the Brothers in Kenya and South Sudan.

Bishop Mark Kadima, the Bishop of the Diocese of Bungoma, was the principal celebrant of profession liturgy and also presided at the dedication ceremony. Bishop Mark was a student of the Xaverian Brothers at St. Peter's Seminary in Mumias, Kenya. He fondly recalled his days as a student with the Brothers and spoke especially about the late Brother Arcadius and about Brother Mike Foley. Brothers Stephen Obara and Francis Wambua made their profession of the evangelical counsels of poverty, celibacy and obedience before their families, members of their home parish, friends, fellow Xaverians, and other Religious and priests as well as the St. X students and youth from the Ryken Center of Hope.

Continued on Page 4

Progress in South Sudan



Amid a myriad of challenges, the Brothers in South Sudan are steadfastly pressing forward. Refugees fleeing war and violence have spilled across the border from Sudan, straining the young country as it seeks to continue establishing itself. The Brothers in the region have adapted gradually, making visible progress in their community thanks to the answered prayers and support of faithful Brothers, Associates, and Partners in Mission.

“The visible manifestation of our work has become evident,” stated Brother Bernard Mujibi who is currently helping in St. Daniel Combonni as a Director of the primary school.

Brother Daniel Skala, General Superior, commented on Brother Bernard’s most recent report.

“I am pleased to see you really making a difference in your ministry,” he wrote. “God be with you, and I look forward to seeing you soon.”

In Nadapal, Brothers attended a confirmation mass celebrated by Rt. Rev. Bishop Emmanuel Bernadino Lowi Napeta, accompanied by Fr. Vincent Kentegen. He extended his simplicity, love, and hope, sharing a simple meal with the Brothers.

Pictured above: Brother Bernard (far left) is taking on the challenge to learn Arabic for easy communication and is starting catechism classes in the secondary and primary school. He extends his thanks for the Congregation’s leadership and support. He expressed that he truly believes it is God’s work that is being done in South Sudan, and it is God who will see it through to completion.

While visiting Narusi, St. Joseph Church, the Bishop expressed excitement in hearing of the Brothers’ new missionary work helping run St. Patrick’s Boys School, often referring to the Brothers throughout his visit and speaking engagements. The celebration included cutting a cake, planting a tree, a visit to the school, and a local dance. The Bishop was astonished by the Brothers’ green vegetable garden in the middle of the arid region. He thanked Fr. Vincent for ensuring that the Brothers have enough water both in the school and the community. New boreholes were erected after a water shortage.

The Brothers and the Bishop held a time of prayer together in the chapel before a final blessing.

“As a community, we are grateful to the bishop, the parish, and above all, the Xaverian community,” said Brother Christopher. “May you all be filled with and strengthened by the Holy Spirit!”

A Special Jubilee

July 8th was a momentous day for several American Xaverian Brothers. Having entered the congregation on that same date 60 years ago, the class of 1963 celebrated their Jubilee during Mass at the Chapel of St. John's Prep in Danvers, MA.

Brothers Bob Arrowsmith, Brian Davis, Joe Glebas, Paul Murray, and Leonard Wojtanowski joined 45 Brothers, Associates, and Partners in Mission for the celebration.

It was 124 years after the foundation in Bruges, Belgium on July 8, 1963, when 41 young American men entered the congregation at two novitiates, one in Maryland, and the other in Massachusetts.

"We were desirous of following Christ in Ryken's footsteps," stated Brother Paul Murray.

Two months after entering, 40 became novices, received their habits and religious names. Exactly two years later they made their first profession and were sent to Xaverian College to prepare for active ministry. Like other religious congregations in the post-Vatican II Church, over the next 50 years the group of 40 dwindled to five as many chose other lifestyles and answered other calls.

With God's help and the support of many, those five remained committed to God's call and began serving in traditional education ministry. Later, that call expanded to service in other works including administration, retreats, counseling, and ongoing formation and Campus Ministry.

"We are grateful and blessed to share the same call with all members of the congregation in Belgium, Kenya, Congo, Haiti, South Sudan, and the U.S. along with our Associate members and Partners in Mission," said Brother Paul. "This same call we share with one another is our connection with Ryken's original band back in Bruges in 1839."



Pictured above from left to right: Brothers Leonard Wojtanowski, Joseph Glebas, Robert Arrowsmith, Brian Davis, and Paul Murray stand together inside the chapel of St. John's Prep in Danvers, MA, on July 8 to celebrate their 60th jubilee.

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are called to follow in his footsteps and minister God's healing touch of love through word and deed to all whom we meet in our journey of Life.

*Let us all continue to respond to the invitation,
"Come follow me."*

Brother Richard Lunny welcomed all those assembled for the special Mass of Thanksgiving and thanked Fr. Jim Morris for celebrating the Mass. As part of the liturgy, General Superior, Brother Dan Skala invited the Jubilarians to renew the vows they took 60 years prior. Each of the Brothers took part in the liturgy by sharing the readings, presenting the Prayer of the Faithful and presenting Offertory gifts. After Mass, Brother Dan presented each Brother with a plaque remembering their years of ministry. The Brothers and friends then assembled at the Prep's Campus Ministry Center for a social and dinner.

The Xaverian Way Continues in Africa



Pictured above: Bishop Mark Kadima blesses and dedicates of the new library and other facilities at St. Xavier Secondary School.

The outdoor ceremony was attended by over 400 people. The Brothers then hosted a celebration on the grounds of St. Xavier where Bishop Mark, Fr. Protus Osyangu, classmates, and alumni of St. Peter's Mumias reminisced with Brother Dan and the General Council about their time as students of the Brothers and the tremendous influence the Brothers had on their lives.

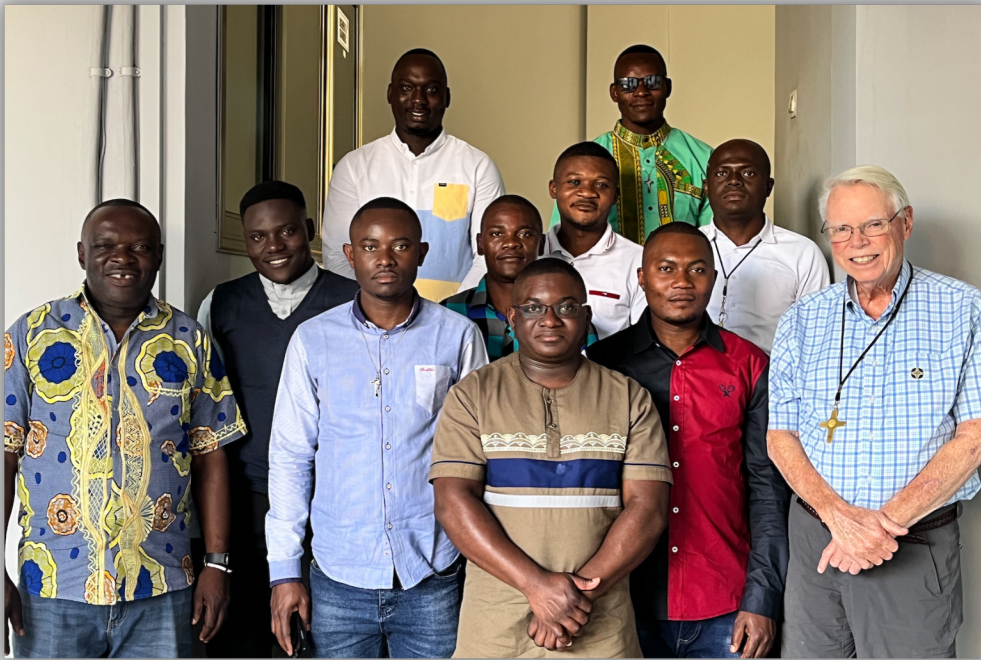
Pictured below: Third year postulants from Congo and Kenya beginning their novitiate.



St. Xavier's newest buildings, a library, and laboratories, were blessed and dedicated by Bishop Mark. Brothers Dan and Raphael Wanjala accompanied the Bishop to the Brothers' community room where he signed the guest book. The library was dedicated to Brother Jan Devadder as a tribute to his research on Founder Theodore James Ryken as well as in recognition of the contribution made for the construction of the building by Flemish Brothers and the nonprofit association in Belgium. After sprinkling the classrooms with holy water, Bishop Mark unveiled a plaque signifying the dedication.

The following day, Brothers of the Kenya region gathered in assembly with Brother Dan and the General Council under the theme of 'Lived Experience of the Xaverian Charism.' Each community had a representative describe how they live the charism each day through joys, struggles, and challenges. After the communities presented, Brothers reflected on what was heard. Later, the Brothers met in their local communities to share reactions and discuss insights into the lived reality of the charism in Kenya and South Sudan.

After almost 2 weeks in Kenya, Brother Dan and the Council flew to Lubumbashi, Congo to visit the Brothers and some of our apostolates there. On July 28, Brother Dan received the perpetual vows of Brother Hubert Mulenga and as well as the first vows of Brothers Joseph Manbungu and Paulin Kazadi Mwema.



Pictured above: Congolese Brothers with General Councilors, Brother Patrick Fumbisha (far left) and Brother Brian Davis (far right).

He also welcomed the third-year postulants into the novitiate, Brothers Crispin Ilunga Kalume, Michael Museka Mbayi, Seraphin Kiyana, Modesto Kisala Calaba from Congo, and Brothers Jackson Omwanda Ondiebo and Stephane Martara Telewa from Kenya. Following the liturgy, the Brothers hosted a wonderful reception at the Scholasticate in Lubumbashi.

Brother Dan and the council also had the opportunity to visit the new Complexe Scolaire Rijken in Kipushi. They had visited the school last year as it was nearing completion of construction, but this year they were able to meet with students and teachers and tour the classrooms. It was a wonderful opportunity to hear from the students about their education at the school which serves both elementary school and secondary school students. Following their visit to the classrooms, they had the opportunity to visit the new Brothers residence there and to pray with the Brothers in their new chapel.

They were very happy to see the near completion of the water and electricity project that brings these vital utilities to the school and was funded by a generous donor. As a sign of their commitment to their neighbors and with the help of the mining company nearby, they also are providing water to the neighborhood – the first time water is so readily available without families having to walk kilometers to get clean water.

In addition to being able to meet individually with each Brother during their visit, Brother Dan and the Council also participated in a regional gathering similar to their meeting in Kenya, where the Brothers reflected on their lived experience of the Xaverian charism in Congo today.

Upon his return, Brother Daniel Skala, General Superior, commented, “Our invitation gave us several opportunities to connect with our Brothers and with the Brotherhood we share. I was impressed by the apostolic zeal the Brothers exemplified as they serve the real needs of their neighbors.”



Pictured above: Members of the Scholasticate community in Kipushi, Congo gather around a table for a time of community meetings during a regional meeting with the General Council.

*I was impressed by
the apostolic zeal
the Brothers
exemplified as they
serve the real needs
of their neighbors*

-- Brother Dan Skala,
C.F.X.

Lifelong Ministry

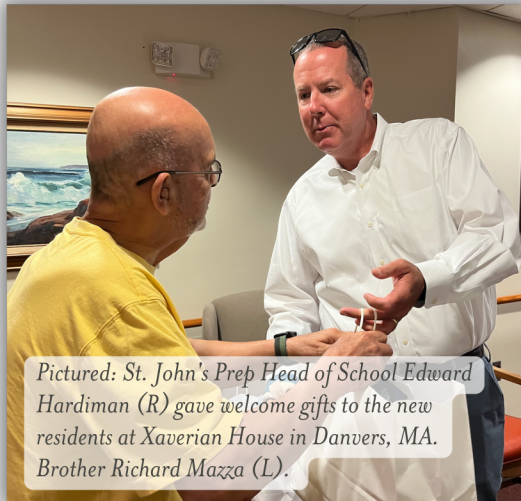
Xaverian Brothers founder Theodore James Ryken encouraged his Brothers to work with those on the margins of society. Today, our retired Brothers continue their call to lifelong ministry through daily prayer, robust community life, and a wide variety of service opportunities, missions, and activities.

From prison ministry to prayer meetings, homeless outreach to community engagement, the Brothers at Treyton Oak Towers in Louisville, KY, and Xaverian House in Danvers, MA, carry on in Ryken's footsteps to fulfill their Gospel mission of manifesting God's compassionate love to all.

Brothers Mike Foley and Kenney Gorman serve each week at the Schuhmann Center, an outreach ministry of St. Martin of Tours Parish in downtown Louisville where they help organize clothing and footwear donations for marginalized men, women, and families. The Brothers are edified by being among volunteers, including St. Xavier High School alums.

At Treyton Oak Towers, the Brothers have humbly fostered an enriched sense of community and sharing through their presence. They're known as 'gatherers' to the residents and have developed an inclusive and caring reputation. Each week they coordinate weekly Mass and Communion services with residents, pray together in the chapel, and spend weekends dispersing to a variety of parish communities to participate in liturgies.

At both Xaverian House and Treyton Oak Towers, Brothers come together online for congregational Zoom calls, prayer services, jubilees, and funeral services.



Pictured: St. John's Prep Head of School Edward Hardiman (R) gave welcome gifts to the new residents at Xaverian House in Danvers, MA. Brother Richard Mazza (L).

In Danvers, Brother James Connolly has faithfully served in prison ministry since 1996.

"Folks that are incarcerated have no voice in our society and few are willing to advocate for them," he said. "I have always found the incarcerated men grateful for my presence and for giving my time as a volunteer chaplain."

In addition to Brother Jim's work, the Brothers at Xaverian House continue to live their mission in new ways. Students from St. John's Prep regularly visit the Brothers where they enjoy fellowship and glean wisdom through stories, prayer, and insight.

Some Brothers also take part in XBSS events and retreats, sharing how they live Xaverian spirituality and a life of ordinariness. Brothers also attend and participate in various class reunions, small group luncheons, and individual contacts, continually making themselves available to alumni.

"We're generally in awe of the life and service offered by our graduates," stated Brother Kenney Gorman.

At Treyton Oak Towers, Brother Cornie Hubbuch leads a resident group in providing interesting and challenging speakers and topics. The 'Stretching the Mind Committee' has had presentations on aging, anger issues, racism, same-sex marriage, and ministries to the marginalized. Brothers also participate in exercise and physical therapy programs stressing balance, flexibility, and movement. At Xaverian House, fellowship lunches and dinners are held at favorite restaurants to encourage and edify one another.

Our faithful donors help provide the retired Brothers the gift of community life and an opportunity to serve their lifelong mission that continues to make an impact on countless lives.



Pictured: Treyton Oak Towers residents Brothers Kenney Gorman (L) and Mike Foley (R) at the Schuhmann Center in Louisville, KY.

XBSS: Faith in Action

A Catholic School is a place where students live a shared experience of faith in God and where they learn the riches of Catholic culture... Catholic schools must help students to deepen their relationship with God and to discover that all things human have their deepest meaning in the person and teaching of Jesus Christ

— Pope Saint John Paul II

In addition to the campus ministry departments, all departments support the unique Xaverian and Catholic mission. Special attention is given to faith formation of faculty and staff and aligns with mission.

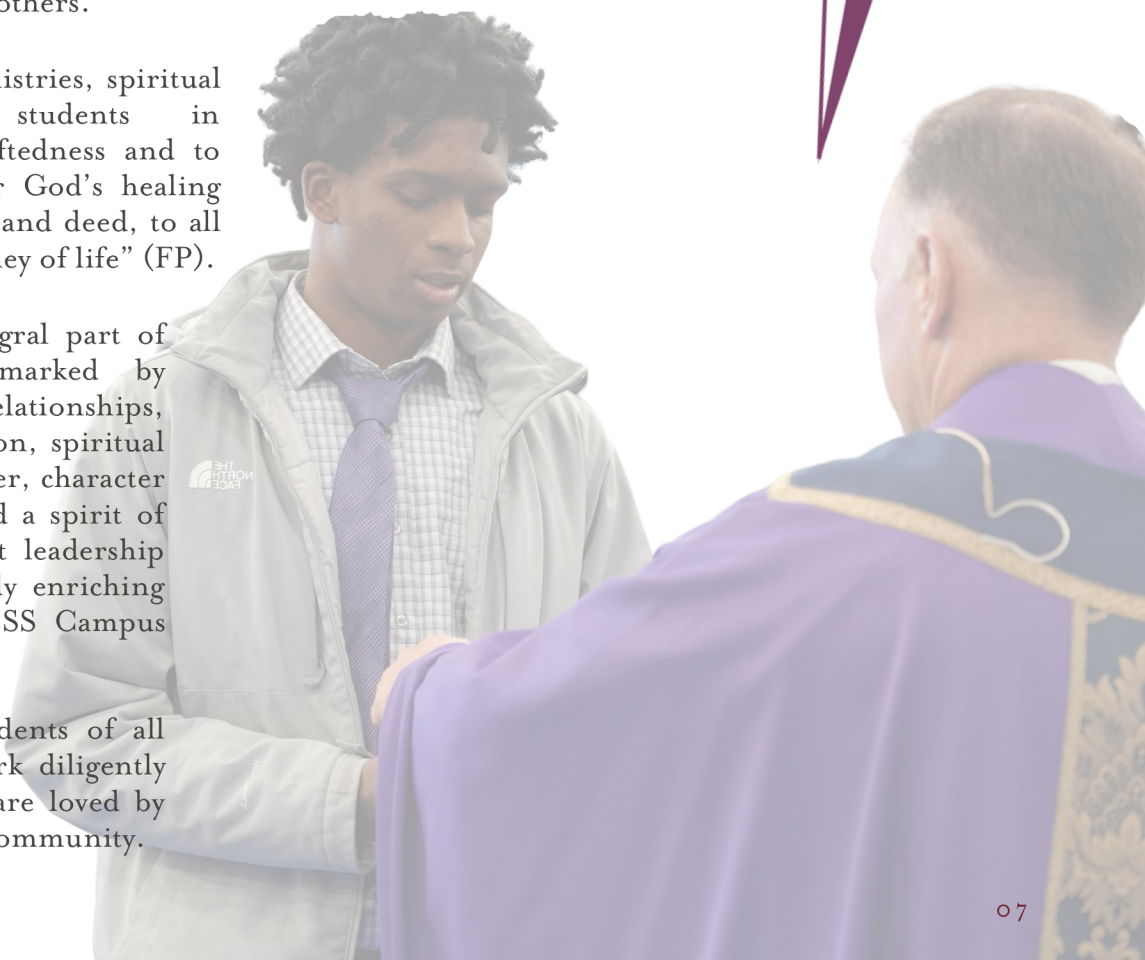


Campus Ministry offers programs, gatherings, prayers, and activities that encourage spiritual growth and maturity. This vital development of students and faculty extends to each community to help all see God in “the common, ordinary, unspectacular flow of everyday life” as stated in the Fundamental Principles of the Xaverian Brothers.

Through XBSS Campus Ministries, spiritual formation strengthens students in discovering their unique giftedness and to embrace a call to “Minister God’s healing touch of love, through word and deed, to all whom you meet in your journey of life” (FP).

Campus ministry is an integral part of the student experience marked by enduring personal relationships, stewardship for God’s creation, spiritual formation, worship and prayer, character and moral development, and a spirit of harmony. Promoting servant leadership and humility through actively enriching others is at the core of XBSS Campus Ministries.

Xaverian schools attract students of all faith traditions. Schools work diligently to make all know that they are loved by God and have a place in the community.





Xaverian Brothers

Sponsored Schools



Pictured above: Xaverian Brothers High School students volunteer at a local senior living community.



Pictured above: Freshmen at St. Xavier High School are encouraged to grow spiritually in relationship with God and others with a goal of instilling integrity, service, camaraderie, and excellent character.



Pictured above: Xaverian High School students volunteer at a local soup kitchen.



Pictured above: Mount Saint Joseph High School students pose for a photo after a hike. Summer service trips to Appalachia provide an opportunity to shed the compassionate love of God.



Pictured left: Campus Ministry at Saint John's High School works to provide opportunities for prayer and liturgy, retreat, community service, and pastoral care for all members of the community.



Pictured above: Students from St. John's Prep take part in a service trip to Jamaica.



*Pictured above:
A student from Nazareth
Regional High School starts
the day off in prayer.*



Pictured above: Mass at Xavier High School



*Pictured above: Students at Saint
Bernard School help pack meals.*



*Pictured above:
A student at St. Mary's Ryken meditates
on God's word during mass.*



*Pictured above: A Malden Catholic student receives Holy
Communion during a Prayer Mass.*



Pictured above: Lowell Catholic students on retreat.



*Pictured above: Students from Our Lady of Good
Counsel spend time working with children in their Art
and PE Classes at St. Vincent's Villa residential
treatment center.*

St. Francis Institute in Bruges (De Freres) Sends Two Teachers to XBSS New Teacher Retreat

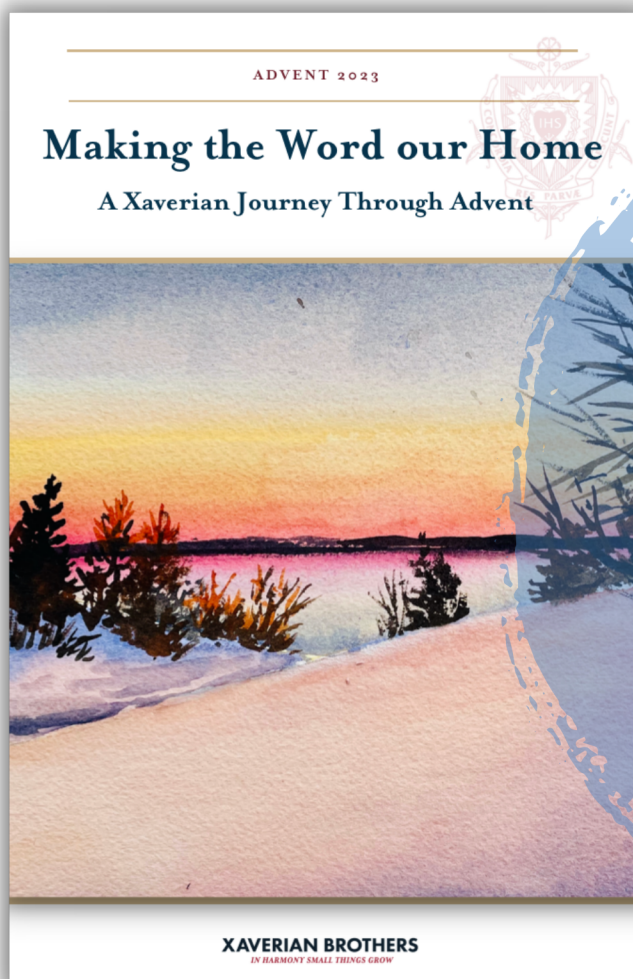
XBSS was excited to welcome Greet Van de Cappelle and Fien Lavins to the XBSS New Teacher Retreat this year in Westwood, MA, where 52 educators from across the XBSS network gathered. Greet is a Latin teacher at the St. Francis Xavier Institute in Bruges (SFX) and Fien teaches religion. To strengthen relationships between our U.S. schools and SFX in Bruges, Greet and Fien excitedly jumped at the invitation to visit America and meet their U.S. colleagues in Xaverian education.

Attendees were afforded the opportunity to meet new colleagues, reflect on the mission and vision of a Xaverian education, and consider ways they can serve as “Partners in Mission” with the Xaverian Brothers. In addition to learning more about the charism and spirituality of the Brothers, participants were able to meet in small groups with Xaverian Brothers, students from Xaverian Brothers High School (XBHS), and colleagues teaching the same academic discipline. Attendees also heard from veteran educators in the network, took a tour of XBHS, and were afforded space and time for prayer and reflection on their vocation ahead.

Beyond attending the retreat, Fien and Greet met with faculty and administration at Xaverian Brothers High School and St. John’s Prep. They will return to SFX with several ideas on how to strengthen and animate our Xaverian mission at their school. While in Boston, Fien and Greet also found time to visit the North End, Fenway Park, Boston Common, and the many other historical sites the city has to offer!



Pictured above: Joseph Sotelo, Jenna Vona, Fien Lavins, Greet Van de Cappelle, Andrew Press, Joseph Webb.



Follow us on social media this Advent as we share from our 2023 Advent devotional booklet!

Call **FULFILLED**



BROTHER JOHN KERR, C.F.X.

(Brother Lambertus)

Brother John F. Kerr, C.F.X. (formerly known as Brother Lambertus) passed away on Thursday, April 20, 2023 at Mary Immaculate Care Center in Lawrence, MA where he had been suffering from dementia. Growing up in the Jamaica Plain section of Boston, John attended St. Thomas Aquinas grade school and high school and then in 1950 went on to study at Boston College. John left BC in his sophomore year to enter the Xaverian Brothers novitiate in Old Point Comfort, VA and received the religious name Brother Lambertus.

Upon making first profession of vows in 1955, the young Brother Lambertus would spend a year at Xaverian College, Silver Spring, MD before being sent out to the missions, first to Cardinal Hayes HS in the Bronx for a year and then a year at CYO Home in Detroit while he completed his undergraduate degree at the University of Detroit.

He would return to Cardinal Hayes for another five years before being assigned to the newly opened Xavier High School in Middletown, CT in 1963 where he would serve first as assistant principal and later from 1967-1976 as principal. Those were very formative years for this new mission and Brother John was instrumental in empowering the Brothers and lay faculty at the school to implement the teachings of Vatican II and create a community of faith that focused on its mission as a Catholic school of excellence. Much of the school's success can be traced back to the influence that Brother John provided in those early years and the trust he placed in his colleagues and the Brothers who were missioned with him.

After a renewal program in 1976, Brother John was elected to serve as a member of the Congregation's General Administration in Rome, Italy. He would subsequently be elected to serve as Superior General from 1983-1989. During his twelve years in congregational leadership, John was involved in the renewal of the Xaverian Brothers' Constitutions and the development of the Fundamental Principles. He also became a strong advocate for the renewal of the Brothers missionary activity in Congo and supported the reopening of the formation program there. He would continue to support the efforts of the Brothers in Congo over the years.

Following his years in congregational leadership, Brother John joined the staff at the St. Stephen Priory Spiritual Life Center in Dover, as well as volunteered at the Massachusetts Correctional Institute in Norfolk, MA. He joined the Xaverian House Community in 2016.

Brother John was a superb administrator, firm but fair. While he could intimidate with his presence, he oversaw the development of a real community of faith and empowered Brothers and lay faculty to live up to their calls as Catholic school educators. The words of our Fundamental Principles capture perfectly what Brother John lived as a teacher, administrator, congregational leader and spiritual director: "It is through your life of gospel witness, lived in common with your brothers (and sisters) that God desires to manifest His care and compassionate love." May he now enter his eternal rest, joining the great communion of saints and interceding for all who strive to live Theodore Ryken's vision and mission.





XAVERIAN BROTHERS

4409 Frederick Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21229

All Souls Remembrance

Nov. 2



During the month of November, the Brothers pray especially for deceased loved ones and benefactors. We invite you to submit the names of your loved ones to be remembered by the Brothers at our Chapels at Xaverian House, Danvers, MA and Treyton Oak Towers, Louisville, KY, as well as at our other community houses around the world.

xavb.ro/allsouls2023



*Follow the link or scan the QR code
above to submit names*

XAVERIAN BROTHERS
IN HARMONY SMALL THINGS GROW

XAVERIANBROTHERS.ORG 
FACEBOOK.COM/XAVERIANBROTHERS 
TWITTER.COM/XAVERIANBROS 
INSTAGRAM.COM/XAVERIANBROTHERS 
YOUTUBE.COM/C/LIVINGTHECHARISM 
LINKEDIN.COM/COMPANY/XAVERIAN-BROTHERS 