

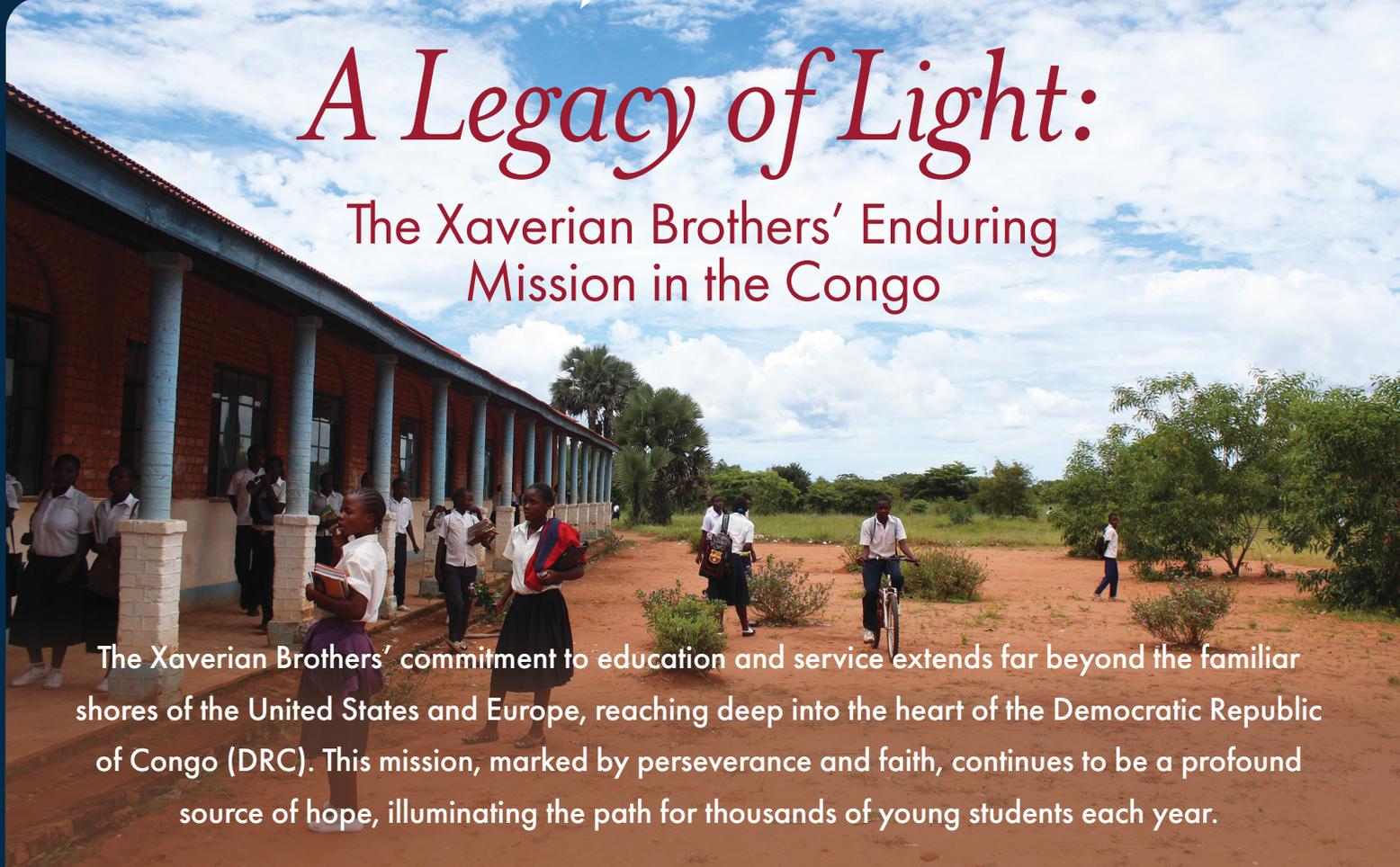


FOLLOWING THE XAVERIAN WAY

Concordia

A Legacy of Light:

The Xaverian Brothers' Enduring Mission in the Congo



The Xaverian Brothers' commitment to education and service extends far beyond the familiar shores of the United States and Europe, reaching deep into the heart of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). This mission, marked by perseverance and faith, continues to be a profound source of hope, illuminating the path for thousands of young students each year.

The history of the Xaverian presence in the Congo is a testament to the Brothers' unwavering dedication. The Kasenga mission began in **1933** at the invitation of Benedictine monks, leading the Brothers to establish a community in Kasenga under the patronage of Saint Therese of the Child Jesus. Here, they built what was initially a vital trade school, offering children essential skills in **masonry, carpentry, and fishing**—trades that formed the bedrock of self-sufficiency.

From 1933 to 1971, the Belgian Brothers operated the school and later created the first formation house in Kasenga, where the first generation of Congolese Brothers were trained. This period laid the foundation for a locally rooted Xaverian charism. However, in 1971, the political landscape shifted, and President Mobutu's decree mandated that missionaries transfer the running of schools to local administration.

For decades, the mission endured in local hands. Then, in 2007, a profound call came from Monsignor Fulgence Muteba, the Bishop of Kilwa-Kasenga, asking the Xaverian Brothers to return and resume their mission. Despite the necessary renovations needed to aging buildings, the Brothers answered the call with zeal. In July 2008, the first group of African Xaverian Brothers arrived back in the Kasenga community, where they have steadfastly served ever since.

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Clockwise: Current latrines; Primary school students; Secondary school students; One of the current classrooms; The Secondary school building at Cisaniko School

The Cisaniko Institute: A Beacon of Hope

Today, the mission flourishes, centered around the **Cisaniko Institute School**—a name that literally means “light.” Located in Kasenga, near the Zambian border, Cisaniko is the oldest school in the Kilwa-Kasenga diocese. While it began as a vocational school, the Cisaniko Institute has evolved into a modern secondary institution, offering two critical scientific departments: math, physics, biology, and chemistry, alongside a business and management department.

The need for this “light” is immense. Kasenga is characterized by a hot, dry, and sandy environment where the literacy rate hovers at less than 12 percent. For the 560 secondary and 1,029 primary students at Cisaniko—and for thousands of others across the region—school is often the only viable way to lift themselves and their families out of extreme poverty.

Current Challenges and Your Impact

The Xaverian Brothers’ good works in the Congo continue to shape futures. Thanks to the extraordinary generosity shown on **Giving Tuesday**, repairs are soon scheduled to begin at the Cisaniko School in Kasenga, addressing crucial infrastructural needs. This support translates directly into safer, more effective learning environments for students who have so little.

However, the need doesn’t end there. New challenges arise daily across all the Brothers’ schools. The Xaverian Brothers proudly serve over **13,000 students (both male and female) at 9 different schools** each year in the Congo, continuing Theodore Ryken’s vision of education for all.

*We invite you to support these and all continued efforts by the Xaverian Brothers to make a lasting change in the lives of these students. Your generosity is not simply a donation; it is a partnership in transforming lives, providing the tools of education, faith, and hope that empower the next generation of Congolese leaders. By supporting the Xaverian Brothers in Congo, you are ensuring that the **light** of education continues to shine brightly.*



A Sign of Hope in Haiti: One Student's Expression of Gratitude

This letter is sent with the deepest appreciation and gratitude from Guensly, a young man whose education and well-being are supported through the commitment of the Xaverian Brothers and our generous benefactors.

As the Apostle Paul reminds us,
 "Let us not become weary
 in doing good, for at the proper
 time we will reap a harvest
 if we do not give up."

(GALATIANS 6:9)



Dear Brothers,

I wish to express my deepest gratitude to Brothers Adolph and Vincent, who have always looked out for me. Their constant attention, guidance, and spiritual presence are an invaluable source of strength and comfort. Even from a distance, the relationship remains the same, marked by trust, support, and genuine love. Their guidance inspires me to remain persevering and true to my goals despite the difficulties our country is facing.

Furthermore, I wish to thank the Xaverian Brothers and your benefactors. Without your generous assistance and commitment to education, it would have been virtually impossible for me to continue my studies. While the situation in Haiti remains critical, your support is a sign of hope and true solidarity.

Thanks to your support, I continue to move forward with courage, determination, and faith. Today, I remain motivated and determined to complete my studies, I'm looking forward to finishing my education so I can begin to help others.

Best regards,

Guensly



Kerson and Guensly

Make a Will, Make an Impact on the Xaverian Brothers: Plan today. Empower tomorrow.

To support you and those you love, we are excited to offer you a free, easy-to-use online will-writing tool through our partnership with FreeWill. This can also be used with more complicated estates by contacting a local attorney.

In addition to writing your will, you can make a lasting impact on the Xaverian Brothers for generations to come.

To get started, visit FreeWill.com/xaverianbrothers today!

If you have already included a gift to the Xaverian Brothers in your plans, fill out our form at FreeWill.com/Record/xaverianbrothers so we can thank you.

FREEWILL



XAVERIAN BROTHERS
BY GENUINE DEEDS TRUSTED GROUP

A gift for you and your future

As a thank you for being a friend of Xaverian Brothers, FreeWill is delighted to help you create your legal will. It's 100% free to you, and most people finish in 20 minutes or less. [We also offer you the ability to create a free revocable living trust.](#)

Start my free will



INFORM US



WRITE A WILL

Look What You Made Possible: Exciting Renovations at Xaverian House

Your steadfast support has sparked a wave of transformation at Xaverian House since the spring! Our Brothers' retirement home is blossoming with exciting improvements. Many rooms are being refreshed with delightful updates like brand-new bedding, comfortable furniture, fresh carpets, and a vibrant splash of fresh paint. The bathrooms are also getting a long overdue makeover. But the good news doesn't stop there! Our common areas and facilities are also experiencing wonderful enhancements, including a new phone system, much-needed parking lot repairs, fresh carpeting for our staircases and corridors, and lovely new patio furniture to enjoy the outdoors. Every single one of these changes is a testament to your kindness, creating an even more peaceful and vibrant home for our cherished Brothers!



ABOVE:
New patio furniture for the Brothers to enjoy the outdoors.

LEFT:
One of the refreshed bedrooms.

A WONDERFUL DAY OF SIMPLICITY AND SHARED STORIES!

Our retired Brothers recently had the pleasure of hosting a truly memorable visit! On Wednesday, October 15th, Xaverian House welcomed more than 100 enthusiastic 7th graders from St. John's Prep, accompanied by three of their religion teachers.

The focus of the day was the Xaverian value of **Simplicity**. Brother Robert Green addressed the students in the chapel, while other Brothers engaged with smaller groups of about 20 in the community room. It was a wonderful opportunity for multi-generational connections! The Brothers shared insights into their varied ministries, what drew them to religious life, and even found common ground with the students on topics like fishing, cycling, and golf. The students were engaged, respectful, and genuinely interested in learning about the Brothers' commitment to a simple life of service. It was an inspiring day that brought the Xaverian family closer together!



Left to right:
 • One of the small group discussions.
 • Brother Robert Green, CFX speaking to students in the chapel.
 • Brother Joseph Pawlika, CFX with students.



A DREAM TAKES FLIGHT: Vocational Training in Bungoma is Here!

LAST WINTER, YOUR INCREDIBLE GENEROSITY ANSWERED OUR CALL TO BRING A VITAL NEW PROGRAM TO LIFE AT THE RYKEN CENTRE FOR HOPE IN BUNGOMA, KENYA. THANKS TO YOUR SUPPORT AND A MAGNIFICENT MATCHING GIFT, WE RAISED THE ESSENTIAL FUNDS TO KICKSTART THIS TRANSFORMATIVE INITIATIVE!

While initial plans faced brief delays due to necessary infrastructure upgrades in water and electricity—now successfully resolved—the spirit of our mission never wavered. Over the past few months, Francis Masicha, Co-Director, alongside our dedicated Brothers at the Centre, worked tirelessly with local county officials and parishes. Their unwavering commitment has blossomed into a reality: the **Xaverian Brothers Vocational Training Centre** officially opened its doors in September!

Imagine the hope and opportunity now blossoming! Young people at the Ryken Centre and from the surrounding areas are now gaining critical skills in our inaugural programs: carpentry and joinery, masonry and plumbing, hairdressing and beauty, and computer studies. Each course is a steppingstone to a brighter future, empowering these individuals to build sustainable lives and contribute vibrantly to their communities. *This is your impact in action—shaping lives and igniting dreams!*



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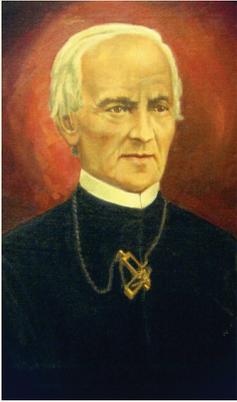


Clockwise:

- Francis Masicha, Co-Director of the Ryken Centre for Hope.
- Young women in the hairdressing program.
- Students in the carpentry program.
- Young men in the sewing program.

FOUNDER'S WEEK:

A Network-wide Celebration of the XBSS Foundation!



What a truly inspiring Founder's Week it was! We are absolutely thrilled by the unique and heartfelt ways our Xaverian Brothers Sponsored Schools (XBSS) network honored the enduring legacy of our founder, **Theodore James Ryken**, and our patron saint, St. Francis Xavier.

This week is a powerful annual reminder that our work—nurturing young people of faith, service, and excellence—is built upon the foundational vision of a man who courageously followed God's call to establish the Xaverian Brothers in 1853 in Bruges, Belgium. Ryken's spirit of bold initiative, deep trust in Providence, and unwavering commitment to education for all is alive and well in every corner of our network today!

HONORING THE RYKEN LEGACY

Across the network, we recognized those who embody Ryken's commitment to our shared mission. Special liturgies celebrating St. Francis Xavier were held, bringing our communities together in prayer.

A core highlight was the presentation of the **Ryken Awards**. This significant honor is bestowed upon a faculty or staff member in each school community who, through their daily actions, truly lives out the foundational spirit of Theodore James Ryken. Furthermore, the future leaders of our schools—our students—participated by voting for their peers who best exemplified each of the five Xaverian values. St. Bernard went a step further, recognizing not only their high school students but also involving their middle schoolers in this important tradition!

PASSING THE TORCH, XAVERIAN STYLE!

Our Lady of Good Counsel gave us a fantastic way to feel connected across the entire network with their "Passing the Phone—XBSS Edition" video. This energetic, collaborative effort featured XBSS student leaders from across the country, each sharing how their specific school community was celebrating and honoring Ryken and the Xaverian values throughout the week. It was a wonderful testament to the unity and shared mission of the XBSS family!



**From All 13 Schools
Happy Founder's Week!**

WATCH THE COLLABORATION HERE:

xavb.ro/passthephone2025



A WEEK OF DEEP DIVE AT MALDEN CATHOLIC

Malden Catholic truly embraced the week with a dynamic schedule, dedicating each day to one of the Xaverian values: Humility, Simplicity, Zeal, Compassion and Trust.



Throughout the week, homerooms participated in a vibrant poster competition, creatively celebrating the five spiritual values, adding a splash of color and artistry to their celebrations.

DAY	XAVERIAN VALUE	KEY ACTIVITIES & EVENTS
Monday, December 1st	Humility	Day of service and humble acts of kindness.
Tuesday, December 2nd	Simplicity	Morning prayer, homeroom poster project, joint classes, and an evening Pizza and Prayer event.
Wednesday, December 3rd	Zeal	Feast of St. Francis Xavier. Rosary, prayer, waffles (a tribute to Belgium/Ryken!), special Mass, Ryken Award recognition, and anniversary celebrations.
Thursday, December 4th	Compassion	Prayer, free pancakes served by XBSS students, and 7th–8th grade retreats involving Lowell Catholic and St. John’s Prep.
Friday, December 5th	Trust	Morning Mass, prayer, Pajama Dress Down fundraiser for Housing Families, and hot chocolate with holiday card writing for nursing homes.

A NOD TO OUR ROOTS IN BRUGES, BELGIUM

We were particularly excited to see the enthusiastic participation of our original school, **De Frères** in Bruges, Belgium—the very place Theodore Ryken founded the Brothers! De Frères fully embraced their history and their place in the wider XBSS network. They shared a school-wide greeting wishing everyone a “happy Founder’s Day” and featured an address from General Superior Brother John Hamilton to students and teachers, reflecting on what it means to be a Xaverian school today. Their activities reflected their core values of respect, connectedness, and compassion, strengthening the bond between our original home and the global network.



WATCH THE VIDEO HERE:
xavb.ro/defreresfd25



From all of us in the Sponsorship Office, and our mission partners both here and abroad, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for your support and hope you enjoyed a meaningful Founder’s Week!

IGNITING THE CHARISM: XBSS Leaders Meet in Louisville



The network's Presidents and Principals—the XBSS Chief Administrators—recently convened for their annual fall meeting in Louisville, Kentucky, hosted by St. Xavier High School from November 2–4. This gathering was a powerful opportunity to renew the personal connections central to the Xaverian charism, offering valuable time for prayer, reflection, and community building.

DEEPENING THE MISSION

Brother John Hamilton, CFX, General Superior, delivered a keynote address focusing on key themes from the General Chapter in Rome: **Formation at Every Level** and **Deepening the Charism**. His message provided a clear, inspiring challenge for administrators to embody these priorities in their leadership. Patrick Slattery, Executive Director of XBSS, further emphasized the network's vital role in the global mission of the Xaverian Brothers.

STRENGTHENING GLOBAL TIES

A core focus was **Strengthening Interregional Collaboration and Unity**. Patrick Slattery shared compelling accounts from his visits with the Brothers in Kenya and Congo. Administrators explored concrete models for collaboration, including insights from St. Xavier's ongoing partnership with St. Xavier in Bungoma, Kenya, shared by Cathy Reynolds and Rosanna Vessels.

The weekend solidified the strong bonds of the XBSS family, with Mass celebrated at the Cathedral of the Assumption, vital network discussions, and the welcome presence of Brothers Kenney Gorman and Peter Campbell, among others.



Brother John Hamilton delivering the keynote address.



The group enjoyed a social event at Churchill Downs.



Rosanna Vessels and Cathy Reynolds spoke about St. Xavier's ongoing partnership with St. Xavier in Bungoma, Kenya.

Call Fulfilled

As 2025 ended, we said farewell to three of our Brothers. As you read the rich history of their lives and the impact they had on our community, please remember them in your daily prayers as you and your loved ones remain in ours.

BROTHER ADELBERT DEGROOTE, CFX

(Brother Remi)

1931-2025

It was at the age of 26 that **Brother Adelbert (Rémy) DeGroot** set foot in the Democratic Republic of Congo for the very first time, as a Xaverian missionary. Naturally, the joy must have been immense for this young Brother who was joining a mission community made up of his Belgian confreres engaged in the education of young people. This educational apostolate was carried out through the Scout movement and the schools run by the Congregation, notably the Collège du Sacré-Cœur and the Saint François Xavier primary school in Kikula, in the city of Likasi, as well as the technical school of the Société Nationale des Chemins de Fers.

It was at the Collège du Sacré-Cœur, now known as the Collège Tutazamie, a school that has trained and continues to train the Congolese elite, that Brother Adelbert himself worked tirelessly throughout his years of mission in Congo.

A man with a big heart and a tireless worker, Brother Adelbert left an indelible mark on the memories of the many young people who knew him, first as a

mathematics teacher and then as manager of the school store at the same college, where he sold school supplies to the students. He was also responsible for the conservation of school textbooks, which he meticulously maintained during the vacation period.

With his calm temperament, Brother Adelbert welcomed the various changes that took place in his mission country with serenity and faith. These included the independence of Congo in 1960, and the Zairianization policy implemented by President Mobutu in 1971. He never complained about the difficulties associated with the country's socio-economic situation, which was often degrading and unstable.

Always ready to help, Brother Adelbert gave everything he had to the most disadvantaged, doing so discreetly out of respect for people's dignity. Many students and teachers could testify to his small acts of charity and kindness towards those in need.

Adelbert truly embodied the following excerpt from our



Fundamental Principles: "The gift you have received, give as a gift."

Another very striking fact is that in the evening, when you entered his modest room, you would find him doing his daily reading, after he had finished putting his accounts in order, of course.

For several years, he served as Legal Representative and Treasurer of the Congolese Region with loyalty and self-sacrifice, seeking neither privilege nor glory. That is why he will long remain an undeniable source of inspiration for the Congolese Brothers.

Humble servant of God, receive now the crown reserved for you by the Master whom you have faithfully served with complete loyalty, as a true Brother among your Brothers.

BROTHER PETER J. MAHONEY, CFX

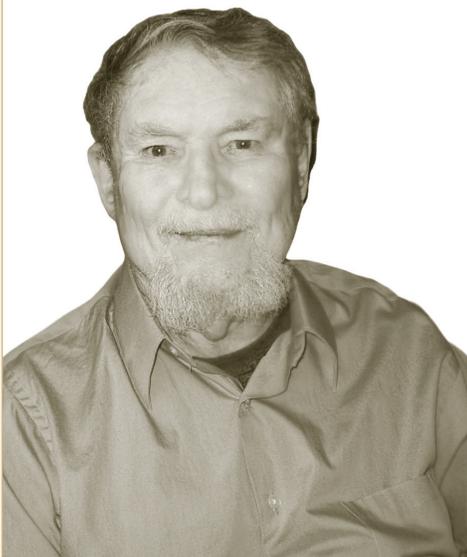
(Brother Neil)

1932-2025

Brother Peter Mahoney, CFX, died peacefully at Treyton Oak Towers in Louisville on Friday, October 24, 2025, following a brief period in hospice care. He was born in New Jersey on May 30, 1932, to Thomas and Irene (Lennon) Mahoney, who, along with his sister Nancy (Souhrada), preceded him in death. He is survived by his sister, Irene (deGrondpre), and his brother, Thomas.

Born in New Jersey and raised in Yonkers, Brother Pete first met the Xaverian Brothers as a student at Cardinal Hayes High School. It was there that he entered the Brothers' Juniorate in Peabody, Massachusetts. In 1951, he began the novitiate, receiving the habit and the religious name Brother Neil. For 74 years, he lived faithfully as a Xaverian Brother, later returning to his given name, Brother Pete, reflecting the warmth and openness he brought to every encounter.

He earned a B.A. from The Catholic University of America



and an M.A. from the University of Notre Dame. After college, Brother Pete began his ministry in education, in Xaverian schools at St. John's, Shrewsbury, MA; Saint Joseph Prep, Bardstown, KY; and most memorably, at Flaget High School in Louisville, KY, where he served for twelve beloved years. When Flaget closed, his ministry broadened. Encouraged by Brother Kirby, Pete joined the West End Catholic Council—an experience that deepened his concern for the wider community and awakened in him a call to social engagement and justice.

His ministry evolved to include service at Jefferson Community College Campus Ministry in Louisville, and later as a dormitory rector at the University of Notre Dame (1978-1982). Inspired by the spirit of Vatican II and the writings of Thomas Merton, Brother Pete embraced an ongoing journey of growth—personal, professional, and spiritual—throughout his midlife and beyond.

Pete's later years were marked by a deepening commitment to social and ecological ministries in Kentucky and Virginia. He facilitated college-age volunteers, championed environmental sustainability, and promoted peace and justice through groups such as the Climate Action Alliance and Common Ground. He also served briefly with the Xaverian Brothers in Haiti, broadening his sense of solidarity with the global community.

For many years, Brother Pete made his home among the people of Virginia's Shenandoah Valley, particularly within the Harrisonburg and Mennonite communities. He came to delight in his encounters with his fellow residents and staff at Treyton Oak Towers. He cherished the ways that diverse traditions illuminate one another, celebrating the harmony of faiths that together deepen humanity's sense of God.

Wherever he lived and served, Brother Pete left a legacy of wisdom, humor, and faithful friendship. Former students—his beloved Flaget Braves—and countless friends from the Valley remember him as a teacher, mentor, and companion on the journey. He was famous for his handwritten letters and cards, his generosity to countless causes, and his delight in simple, personal connections—perhaps one of the U.S. Postal Service's most devoted correspondents!

In his later years, Brother Pete often reflected that being a Brother meant more to him than having the title of Brother. Just to be is a blessing; just to live is holy. This is how his Xaverian Brothers, family, and friends experienced him in his final years—a man of joy, humility, and deep spiritual presence, who truly embodied the Xaverian call: Brother Pete participated in the Church's mission of evangelization through a life of gospel service lived in solidarity and availability among the people.

BROTHER PHILIP REVELL, CFX

1957-2025



Forty-six years ago, **Philip Revell** responded to the call to be a Xaverian Brother. It was a lifelong call committing Philip to a life of love, faith and trust. Through his faith and trust in Christ, Philip came to understand that he was called to manifest Christ's self-giving to others, both in his life and in his death.

Philip was born in Glossop, Derbyshire, UK on April 1, 1957. Predeceased by his father, Richard, he is survived by his loving mother, Mary, and his three younger brothers, Michael, Paul and Stephen. He first met the Xaverian Brothers as a student at Xaverian College, Manchester UK. Upon graduating from Xaverian College, Philip enrolled at the University of Kent in Canterbury, earning his BA in History and French. He continued his professional studies in education at Manchester Polytechnic. On September 1, 1979, Philip entered the Congregation at Xaverian College in Manchester, welcomed by Brother Cyril Birtles and the Brothers community. He received the religious habit there and made his canonical novitiate with the Brothers of the Christian Schools, under the direction of Brother Celestine, FSC. Philip continued his Xaverian formation at Xavier Center in Danvers, while attending theology courses at Boston College. He then professed perpetual vows in 1985 on the Feast of Saint Francis Xavier. In the 1990s, he studied at the Jesuit

School of Theology in Berkeley, CA, and earned a Certificate of Theological Studies in 1998.

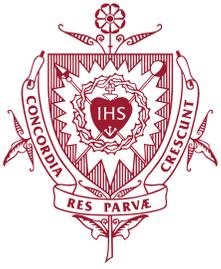
Philip was a very talented individual: intellectually, artistically, creatively, spiritually and socially. From 1980 through 1992, Philip held diverse positions under Brother Cyril's leadership at Xaverian College, Manchester. He was a teacher of Religious Education and French; he served as Vice Principal for Pastoral Care, Staff Formation, and Student Development. From 1992 through 2001, Philip was engaged in prison ministry, serving as the Roman Catholic Chaplain at HM Prison Brixton London and later at HM Prison Manchester. He also served in various leadership positions for Chaplaincy in the London South Region and served in the International Association as the Roman Catholic Representative for European Chaplains. Perhaps surprisingly, Philip acknowledged that his ministry with prisoners was especially fulfilling.

In 2002, Philip responded to the call to serve our Congolese Brothers in our formation program as Director of Scholastics in Lubumbashi and as Regional Superior. During that time Philip also taught Biblical Theology at Maria Malkia Institute and English at the Academy for English Education, also in Lubumbashi. The Congolese Brothers recall that above all in community Philip built mutually fraternal relationships that were always

very respectful of the other. The Brothers knew Philip cared about them and was there to listen and help. Perhaps the greatest fruit of Philip's contemplative prayer, as observed by the Congolese Brothers, was his being a friend of the poor. Philip showed them that falling in love with God and his service means supporting and accompanying the poor and marginalized. The Brothers also saw his great compassion as he helped many young people with their studies.

In 2016, he arrived at Xavier High School in Middletown, Connecticut for an eight year stay which he loved, serving as religion teacher and campus minister, and, when needed, teacher of French. The Xavier High School Community gave Philip new life. Their welcome and acceptance of Philip was life-giving for him.

Philip had many gifts. Clear thinker, articulate, compassionate, humorous, and empathic. Philip's greatest gift was his ability to be present to whomever he encountered. With so many around the world - in England, Congo, and Connecticut, we thank God for the gift of Brother Philip Revell to all of us. May he rest in God's loving peace.



XAVERIAN BROTHERS

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MORE GOOD NEWS FROM HAITI!

Former Sant Zaveryen Haiti student, Livenson Louima, has joined the Missionhurst (Scheutist) Fathers. He is continuing his studies and currently in his third year of philosophy.



XAVERIAN BROTHERS

IN HARMONY SMALL THINGS GROW

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