

# FOLLOWING THE XAVERIAN WAY

# Concordia



## THIRTY YEARS STRONG:

### How the XBSS Retreat Continues to Spark Faith and Forge Future Leaders

Imagine a place where deep reflection meets real-world action, where friendship blossoms, and where the core values of an enduring tradition are passed on to a new generation. That's the magic of the Xaverian Brothers Sponsored Schools (XBSS) Student Retreat!

**THIS MARCH** marked a truly special milestone as the XBSS network celebrated the **30th annual Student Retreat** at the beautiful Holy Family Retreat Center in West Hartford, Connecticut. This wasn't just another gathering; it was a thirtieth-anniversary celebration of a commitment to spiritual growth and leadership development that has become one of the most treasured and meaningful traditions in our Xaverian family.

We were thrilled to welcome a dedicated group: 78 enthusiastic juniors, 13 inspiring senior leaders, and 17 supportive adult leaders from across the entire XBSS network. For five transformative days, this diverse group plunged into a journey of prayer, reflection, fellowship, leadership training, and service. What started three decades ago as a bold dream to deepen the spiritual lives of our students has flourished into an experience that truly lasts a lifetime.

#### IN THIS ISSUE

- Thirty Years Strong: How the XBSS Retreat Continues to Spark Faith and Forge Future Leaders
- Celebrating Our Ryken Award Winners: The Heart of the XBSS Mission
- Clapham Old Xaverians Association: Celebrating 100 Years of Xaverian Brotherhood
- Papal Honor for Brother Joseph Britt!
- The Call to Serve: Brother Joe Glebas' Global Legacy
- St. John's Prep Students Resume Meaningful Visits to Xaverian House
- Student Retreat and Community Service - Rijken School, Kipushi, Congo: Change Starts Here
- Connecting the Global Mission: Councilor Visits Brothers in Kenya and South Sudan
- From the Archives: The Band That Helped Rebuild St. Mary's
- Call Fulfilled

## A LEGACY OF LASTING IMPACT

Thirty years of continuous operation speaks volumes about the profound impact of this retreat. Think about this: over the last three decades, more than 2,300 students have participated! Many of these alumni have gone on to be vibrant, faith-filled leaders in their schools, parishes, professional fields, and communities, carrying the Xaverian spirit with them.

The retreat week follows a wonderfully structured rhythm—a blend of quiet reflection and hands-on service. Days are filled with morning and evening prayer services, celebration of Mass, compelling leadership presentations, and deeply personal witness talks. Crucially, students dive into small-group discussions to process their experiences, celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and travel to service sites around the greater Hartford area. This journey allows them to live out the Gospel call to serve others, making faith tangible. Every day builds upon a theme rooted in the Xaverian Fundamental Principles, inviting students to reflect on their identity as beloved individuals created in God's image and called to manifest His love in the world.

For many, the small group structure proved to be the heart of the experience. Senior leader Daniel Parent '26 shared, *"The first thing that stands out to me when I think about my XBSS Retreat experience is my small group. My small group was truly the driving force of my experience and some of the closest relationships I made over the course of the week. They taught me so much about faith, service, and myself... I began to see clearly that I was called to give back to the world through education."*



*Above:*  
The retreat opened with a welcome from Brother Tom Puccio.

*Above right:*  
Michael Foley, Kevin Abdo, and Michael Driscoll

## HEARING THE CALL IN THE ORDINARY

The retreat began with a warm welcome from Brother Tom Puccio, C.F.X., who set a perfect tone. He reminded the students that they are now part of a much larger Xaverian family and encouraged them to be attentive to God's presence, especially in the "common, ordinary, unspectacular flow of everyday life." What a fitting reminder that this retreat is part of a magnificent, continuous legacy that spans generations of Brothers, dedicated educators, and committed students all sharing the mission of Catholic education.

This sense of boundless faith resonated with the participants. Junior Robbie Serratore '27 reflected on his journey: *"Leading up to this retreat I had struggled with my faith. I had a lot of questions that were not answered... I began to see God in everybody. Whether it was through a small group, a speech, or even just a quick interaction. I recognized that God was present everywhere I went. This was especially true on our day of service. We were filled with God's love."*

## THE RETREAT'S GENERATIONAL HEARTBEAT

This year offered a powerful, living reminder of the retreat's generational influence. Consider the stories of Kevin Abdo (Director of Formation for XBSS), Michael Foley (Vice Principal of Academics at St. John's High School, Shrewsbury, MA), and Michael Driscoll (Middle School Campus Minister at St. John's Prep, Danvers, MA). All three first attended this very retreat as juniors, returned later as senior student leaders, and now serve as vital educators and leaders within the Xaverian network, guiding the current participants! Their involvement is a beautiful, tangible testament to the enduring influence of this formation experience.

Thirty years in, the XBSS retreat remains a powerful, life-changing expression of the Xaverian commitment to formation. Its incredible success reflects the shared, deep dedication of the Brothers, educators, and school communities who believe passionately in preparing young people not just for academic success, but for rich, meaningful lives defined by faith, compassion, and tireless service.

*"We were filled with God's love."*

**CELEBRATING  
OUR RYKEN  
AWARD  
WINNERS:**

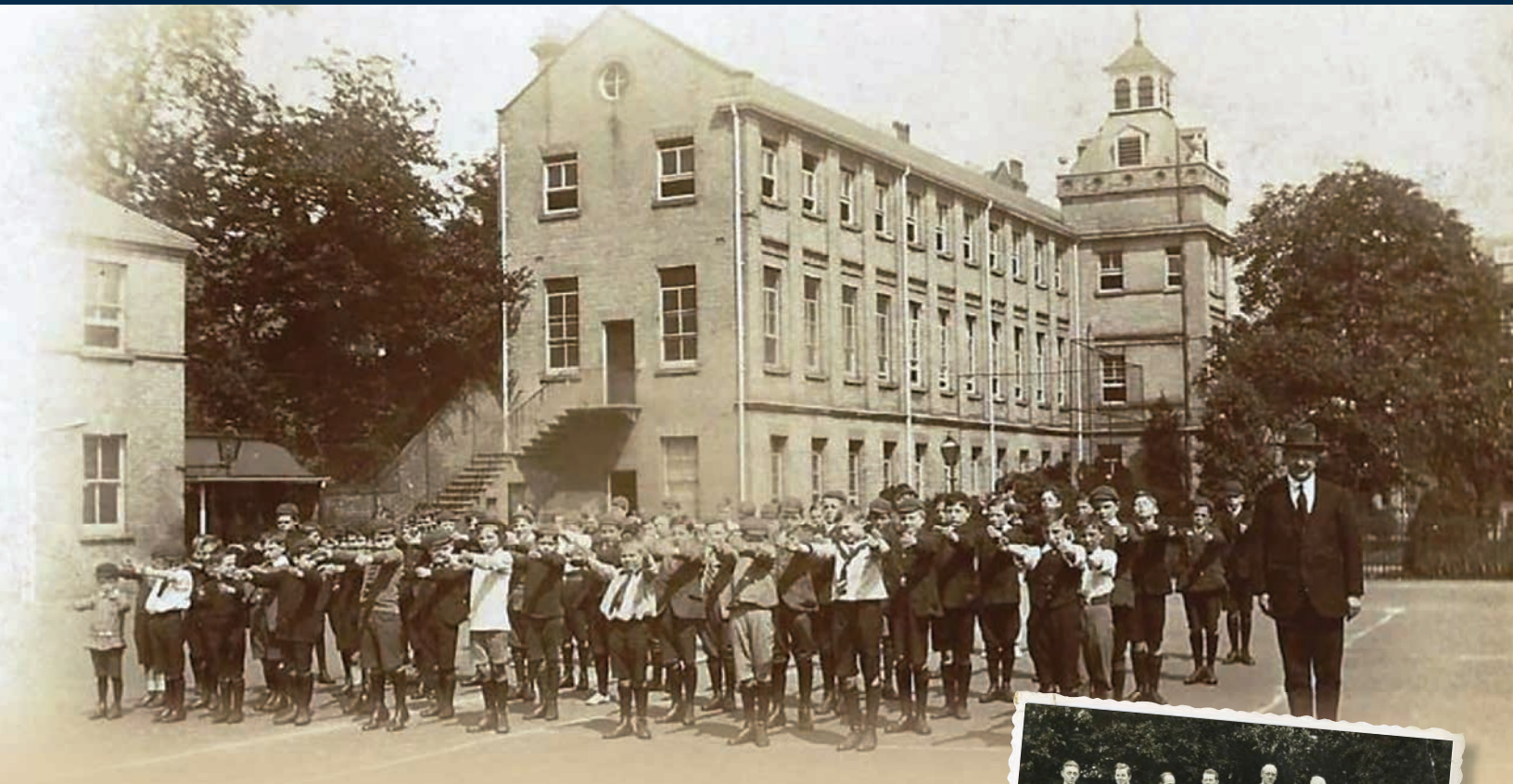


*The Heart  
of the XBSS  
Mission*

Every year, a special honor is bestowed upon the dedicated faculty, staff, and administration who are the very lifeblood of our 13 Xaverian Brothers Sponsored Schools (XBSS). This is the **Theodore James Ryken Award**, and it recognizes those exceptional individuals who don't just work in our schools; they live the Founder's vision every single day.

*These award recipients are truly committed and dedicated souls who tirelessly proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ through their actions and their spirit:*

	◀ <b>Andrea Cooke</b> Lowell Catholic		◀ <b>Matthew O'Neil</b> Malden Catholic High School		◀ <b>Edward Schultheis</b> Mount St. Joseph High School
<b>Damaris Batista</b> ▶ Nazareth Regional High School		<b>Amy Prezelski</b> ▶ Our Lady of Good Counsel High School		<b>Charles Abdella</b> ▶ St. John's High School	
	◀ <b>Paul Reilly</b> St. John's Preparatory School		◀ <b>Luke Young</b> St. Mary's Ryken High School		◀ <b>Taylor Riso</b> St. Bernard School
<b>Kyle Yochum</b> ▶ St. Xavier High School		<b>Vincent Raimondo</b> ▶ Xaverian High School		<b>Peter Lyons</b> ▶ Xavier High School	
	◀ <b>Joe MacKinnon</b> Xaverian Brothers High School	<p><b>TO OUR LATEST RYKEN AWARD WINNERS:</b> Thank you for your unwavering dedication! Your work sustains the powerful, beautiful Xaverian mission and inspires us all. Congratulations!</p>			



CLAPHAM OLD XAVERIANS ASSOCIATION:

# *Celebrating 100 Years of Xaverian Brotherhood*



*Above: The COXA members added this stone inside the cemetery entrance. They went to Wales to select the stone and transported it to the cemetery as well as having the plaque made and installed. It ties together the Brothers, Clapham and Mayfield Colleges.*

**Ninety years after the Xaverian Brothers first established Clapham College in Southwest London in 1897, the school closed its doors. However, the spirit of the Xaverian family lives on through the Clapham Old Xaverians Association (COXA), which celebrates its 100th Anniversary this year!**

Founded in 1926, COXA was created to keep the thousands of boys molded by the Brothers and lay teachers—from 1897 to 1985—in contact. Through newsletters and gatherings, they sustain a legacy of brotherhood and faith.

Their dedication extends beyond their own alumni. COXA has generously “adopted” the historical Mayfield College and Cemetery, which was run by the Xaverian Brothers from 1868 to 1995. The cemetery, the final resting place for 82 Xaverians, had fallen into disrepair. Thanks to the tireless efforts of the COXA, this sacred site is now being lovingly restored and maintained, proving that the Xaverian call to service endures.



*Right: Mayfield Cemetery after being cleaned up by the COXA members.*

## Papal Honor for Brother Joseph Britt!

Brother Joseph Britt, C.F.X., recently received one of the highest honors the Pope can bestow: the **Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice (For Church and Pope) Medal**.

The medal was conferred by Cardinal Christophe Pierre, Apostolic Nuncio to the United States, at a celebration honoring his 80th birthday and decade of service. Brother Joe was recognized for his dedicated work as the Nunciature's archivist since 2016.

This prestigious award celebrates Brother Joe's profound commitment to the Church and the Holy Father, proudly witnessed by General Superior Brother John Hamilton and other Xaverian Brothers in attendance. His service in Washington, D.C., is a shining testament to the Xaverian spirit in action.



## The Call to Serve: Brother Joe Glebas' Global Legacy

*Brother Joe Glebas, C.F.X., embodies the boundless spirit of Xaverian service, carrying the mission of faith and formation from the halls of Mount St. Joseph High School (MSJ) to the classrooms of Lithuania. His journey is a powerful reminder that the Xaverian call to discern one's vocation knows no geographical limits.*



Since 2009, Brother Joe has faithfully returned to MSJ originally at the invitation of Brother James Kelly. What began as an annual visit to freshman religion classes—coinciding with the 50th anniversary of his own MSJ graduating class—has evolved into a tradition for the senior religion students. In his presentations, Brother Joe blends history, sharing glimpses of a pre-renovation MSJ, with a profound challenge: an invitation for students to deeply reflect on their own purpose and vocation in life.

Yet Brother Joe's impact stretches far beyond the Baltimore campus. His mission in Lithuania began in 1996 with an invitation to teach in Panevezys. This initial step quickly expanded, eventually leading him to the capital city of Vilnius in 2005 to participate in university campus ministry.

His ministry became a whirlwind of inspiration. Teachers, captivated by his message, invited him to speak to religion and ethics classes—a once-a-week requirement for all Lithuanian high school students. Traveling

across the city and up to seventy miles into surrounding areas, Brother Joe met with approximately five thousand public school students, sharing his faith and challenging them to think bigger.

Retreats are another vital component of his service. He actively participates in the retreat programs for juniors, seniors, and staff at the Jesuit school in Vilnius and leads an annual retreat for university students sponsored by the Archdiocesan Academic Campus Ministry Center. When not on the road, Brother Joe serves as a Eucharistic minister on Sundays, making tangible the love of Christ wherever he goes.

Brother Joe Glebas' dual mission—a constant presence at his alma mater and a tireless evangelist abroad—is an inspirational testament to the Xaverian commitment. His life is a living answer to the question he poses to every student: What is your call? His legacy proves that when we open our hearts to service, we can truly change the world, one classroom, one country, one vocation at a time.



Top to Bottom:

- Brother Joe speaking to one of the classes at Mount St. Joseph
- Brother Joe speaking to a class in Lithuania
- Brother Joe with Mount St. Joseph Principal, Robert Peace





### St. John's Prep Students Resume Meaningful Visits to Xaverian House

Following weather delays, St. John's Prep students, including a dozen high schoolers, a sixth grader, and Campus Minister Michael Driscoll, resumed their bi-weekly visit to Xaverian House on March 10th. For over half the boys, this was their first time meeting the Brothers.

The students enjoyed lively, intergenerational conversations with Brothers Dan Lynch, Bob Arrowsmith, Regis Moynihan, Brian Davis, and David Mahoney, discussing topics from Lent and spiritual discipline to food, sports, art, and films. Brother David Mahoney then led a tour of the Xaverian House chapel, using the stained-glass windows to detail the history of the Congregation, its founders, and milestones. The tour also included the "Brothers' Barn" and artwork, including pieces by Brother Ed Rice, strengthening the students' connection to the Xaverian family.



## STUDENT RETREAT AND COMMUNITY SERVICE - RIJKEN SCHOOL, KIPUSHI, CONGO:

# Change Starts Here

Earlier this year, the graduating students and rising seniors at the Rijken School in Kipushi, Congo, transformed their annual retreat into a powerful catalyst for community change.

Led by Brother Vital-André Mwenge and Brother Idesbald Mwanza, and accompanied by other faculty, the students traveled to the village of Mimbulu for a day of reflection, prayer, and sharing. Guided by the theme, Patriotism, Solidarity, and Sharing, developed by school chaplain Father Adolphe, the students focused on their responsibility to their community.

*The spirit of service was already tangible before the retreat began. In the preceding week, students organized a successful collection of clothing and shoes, which they donated to the poor in the local Kipushi community.*

Following the retreat, the graduating class put their renewed commitment to action. They organized a volunteer cleanup effort along the main road leading to the school. This hands-on project was a visible demonstration of civic pride and a commitment to improving their local environment, showing that the spiritual lessons learned in Mimbulu are being actively lived out in Kipushi.

The Rijken School's program successfully integrates faith formation with tangible community service, proving that its students are not only preparing for academic success but are also forging a legacy of positive impact and change in Kipushi.



# CONNECTING THE GLOBAL MISSION: Councilor Visits Brothers in Kenya and South Sudan

In a powerful demonstration of the Xaverian Brothers' commitment to their worldwide mission, Brother Ghislain Mukonkole Lembe, Councilor for Mission, recently concluded an important visitation to the Brothers and ministries in Kenya and South Sudan on behalf of the General Council.

Brother Ghislain's journey was focused on strengthening the bonds of the Congregation and charting the future of the mission in East Africa. He spent valuable time connecting with the Brothers at the Bungoma community, the Nairobi Scholasticate, the crucial ministry at St. Patrick's in South Sudan, St. James Seminary, and the community in Lodwar.



*Top to Bottom:*

- Brother Ghislain with the seminarians at St. James, Lodwar
- Brothers Ghislain Lembe, Kevin Masese and Stephen Obara with the St. James Lodwar Community
- Brother Ghislain with the Brothers at St. Patrick's, Nadapal: Brothers Festus, Felix, Clinton and Joseph



## THE VISIT WAS GUIDED BY THREE KEY OBJECTIVES:

1. **Reinforce the Shared Mission:** To deepen each Brother's and ministry's sense of participation in the common, global mission of the Congregation.
2. **Gather Local Perspectives:** To hear firsthand from each Brother about their understanding and experience of the Xaverian mission in Kenya and South Sudan.
3. **Explore Future Growth:** To assess the viability of potentially extending the Xaverian mission beyond its current locations in the DRC, Kenya, and South Sudan.

This trip was a vital step in ensuring that the Xaverian mission—to share the Gospel and foster spiritual growth—remains vibrant, interconnected, and poised for future growth across the continent.

## FROM THE ARCHIVES: THE BAND THAT HELPED REBUILD ST. MARY'S



Congregational Archivist Brother Joseph Britt recently unearthed a fascinating piece of history: a photo of the 1920s band from St. Mary's Industrial School.

Following a devastating fire in 1919, the school urgently needed funds to rebuild. Their solution was ingenious: the St. Mary's Band teamed up with their most famous former resident, **Babe Ruth**.



Ruth, who was famously mentored and coached in baseball fundamentals by Brother Matthias while at the school, used his superstar status to help. The student band traveled to his baseball stadiums and performed, helping to raise the necessary funds for reconstruction. This collaborative effort—bridging music, sport, and Xaverian dedication—proved essential in saving the school that had shaped the baseball legend. Ruth consistently credited Brother Matthias with his success, proving the lasting impact of the Xaverian spirit.

# Call Fulfilled

*This past season, we bid farewell to four remarkable Xaverian Brothers, each leaving a profound legacy of faith, dedication and service. We celebrate their lives, their commitment to the Xaverian charism, and the countless lives they touched.*

## BROTHER RICHARD MAZZA, CFX

(Brother Saverio)

1943-2026

**BROTHER RICHARD** was born on April 29, 1943, in Utica, New York, to Saverio and Marie Mazza. He was one of three children and was predeceased by his loving parents and his cherished sisters, Elaine and Marie. He is survived by his nieces and nephews and by his childhood friend Al Gazilli, who was like a brother to him.

Richard first met the Xaverian Brothers while he was a student at Notre Dame High School in Utica. He felt called to follow Christ and to share God's love through his life and ministry. He entered St. Joseph's Novitiate in Newton Highlands, Massachusetts, on July 8, 1961. On September 8 of that same year, he received the religious habit and the name Saverio, Italian for Xavier. When he professed his vows, he committed his life to self-giving love and to serving others wherever the mission would lead him.

Richard continued his religious and professional formation at Xaverian College in Silver Spring, Maryland, and at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., where he



earned a BA in French in 1967. In 1968 he earned an MA in French at Assumption College in Worcester, Massachusetts. In 1982 he completed a Master's degree in Spirituality at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh.

Richard served the Church through Catholic education in several Xaverian schools: St. John's High School in Shrewsbury, Massachusetts; Xaverian Brothers High School in Westwood, Massachusetts; St. John's Preparatory School in Danvers, Massachusetts; and Nuestra Señora del Rosario in Chinguri, Bolivia. He was a very effective and joyful teacher. Whether he was speaking English, French, or Spanish, his students felt accepted and encouraged. He made people feel that they belonged, and that gift stayed with them.

Richard also served the Congregation in the ministry of formation and in leadership. He worked as a formator for the St. Joseph Province and as Director of Initial Formation in Likasi, DR Congo in the 1990's and later returning in 2008 to serve as Novice Master in Lubumbashi. He served on the General Administration as a Councilor and as a member of the Pastoral Care Team. He also served as an Associate Member of the Leadership Team for Xaverian Sponsored Schools. He gave himself quietly and faithfully wherever he was needed.

Richard also gave us one final gift — his death. In a very quiet way, especially for the Brothers at Xaverian House, he showed them how to trust God completely. Giving others our death means living and dying in such a peaceful and grateful way that what we leave behind becomes a final gift to those who loved us. Today we thank Richard for his final gift. We believe he is with us in a new way, and that his spirit continues to encourage us.

## BROTHER JOHN J. McDONALD, CFX

(Brother Peter)

1942–2026

**BROTHER JOHN** was born on October 29, 1942, to John Joseph and Marie Clarkson McDonald. He grew up in Larchmont, in Westchester County, New York, where he attended St. Augustine School for his elementary education and later Archbishop Stepinac High School in White Plains. It was there that he first met the Xaverian Brothers who staffed and administered the school for the Archdiocese of New York. Brother John is survived by two sisters, Mary Jo Patucco and Patricia Wargochi. He was predeceased by his parents, his brother Thomas, and his sister Kathleen Weber.

Upon graduating from Archbishop Stepinac, John responded to the call “to live a life of love and trust as a follower of Christ in the Congregation of Xaverian Brothers” (Fundamental Principles). He entered Sacred Heart Novitiate in Leonardtown, Maryland, where on September 8, 1960, he received the religious habit of the Xaverian Brothers and the religious name Brother Peter. In 1961 the novices from the Northeast transferred to newly established Saint Joseph’s

Novitiate in Newton Highlands, Massachusetts. When John professed his vows as a Xaverian Brother, he committed himself to follow Christ’s example of self-giving love by sharing his many gifts with all whom he would encounter throughout his life.

Brother John continued his religious and professional formation at Xaverian College in Silver Spring, Maryland, and at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., where he earned his Bachelor’s degree in Spanish in 1966. He later earned a Master’s degree in Spanish from Fairleigh Dickinson University in New Jersey in 1968 and a Master’s degree in Religious Studies from Assumption College in Worcester, Massachusetts, in 1975.

Brother John served the Church as a teacher at St. Joseph’s Regional High School in Montvale, New Jersey; St. John’s High School in Shrewsbury, Massachusetts; Xavier High School in Middletown, Connecticut; and Malden Catholic High School in Malden, Massachusetts. He also spent seven years as a missionary in Kenya and later served Saint Joseph Province on its administrative team. For the past fifteen years, John served as Director and Hospitality Host at the Brothers’ residence in Venice, Florida.

As we celebrate John’s life among us, Jesus’ words about the faithful and wise steward come to mind: “Who then is the faithful and wise steward?” (Luke 12:42). A steward is trustworthy, wise, and service-oriented—someone who cares for

and protects the people and gifts entrusted to him for the good of the community. John embodied this spirit of stewardship throughout his life. His life of service was marked especially by hospitality—the desire to welcome others warmly and to help them feel that they matter and that they are loved by God. That spirit of hospitality lies at the heart of the vocation of the Xaverian Brother.

Whether teaching Spanish in the classroom, or organizing large gatherings to celebrate jubilees, professions of vows, or graduations, or serving as a missionary in Kenya for seven years helping congregations of Kenyan Sisters to develop programs in spirituality and Scripture for their young sisters, John used the gifts God gave him for the good of the Church. As a member of the administrative team at the Provincialate of the Saint Joseph’s Province in Milton, Massachusetts, John’s gifts as a steward – his reliability, organizational skill, and quiet attentiveness– proved invaluable to the life of the community.

As John is now born into eternal life, our prayer is that he may know fully the gratitude and love of his family, his fellow Xaverian Brothers, and all those whose lives he touched along his journey. May the heavenly banquet he now enjoys be the first one at which he is not responsible for preparing the meal. And Jesus will greet John saying, “Well done, John! You have been a good steward of my Father’s Kingdom. Welcome to the banquet.”



## BROTHER CHARLES WARTHEN, CFX

(Brother Dean)  
1933-2026

**BROTHER CHARLES** was born on November 17, 1933, in Baltimore, Maryland, to John and Dorothy Warthen. He was one of three children. He is survived by his sister, Sue Samilton, and his niece, Susan Fitzgerald (née Warthen) of Catonsville, Maryland. He was predeceased by his beloved parents and his brother, J. Lawrence.

Charles first encountered the Xaverian Brothers as a freshman in 1947 at Mount Saint Joseph High School in Baltimore. After graduating, he responded to the call “to live a life of love and trust as a follower of Christ in the Congregation of Xaverian Brothers” (Fundamental Principles). He entered Sacred Heart Novitiate in Fort Monroe, Virginia, where on March 19, 1952 he received the religious habit of the Xaverian Brothers and the religious name Brother Dean. When Charles professed his vows, he committed himself to follow Christ’s example of self-giving love by sharing his gifts with all whom he would meet, wherever the Xaverian mission would lead him.



Charles continued his formation at Xaverian College in Silver Spring, Maryland, and at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., where he earned a bachelor’s degree in Spanish in 1957. He later earned a master’s degree in Spanish from Middlebury College in 1962 and pursued further studies at Saint John’s University in New York and at Howard University in Washington, D.C.

Charles served the Church’s mission of Catholic education as a teacher in several Xaverian schools: Saint John’s Preparatory School in Danvers, Massachusetts; Xaverian High School in Brooklyn, New York; Mount Saint Joseph High School in Baltimore; and Ryken High School in Leonardtown, Maryland, where he also served as an administrator. There is no doubt that Charles loved the Congregation’s educational ministry. He was a masterful Spanish teacher. Though demanding of his students, he made learning engaging and joyful. His message that students mattered was constant. His care extended well beyond the classroom, and he maintained personal relationships with many young people for decades.

Charles was also a lifelong learner. Around the time of his twenty-fifth Jubilee in 1976, the Congregation invited Brothers to consider ministries beyond education. Through prayerful discernment, Charles felt called toward pastoral and social ministries. In 1979 he completed a Master of Social Work degree in Gerontology at The

Catholic University of America. With his characteristic openness and sense of mission, Charles allowed his vocation to lead him in new directions.

He founded a program for senior citizens in collaboration with the Richmond Area Agency on Aging. He later served as Pastoral Associate at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Staunton, Virginia, coordinating parish educational and social programs. During these years he also taught visually impaired students at the Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind. His ministry expanded further as Executive Director of Valley Mission for the homeless and as a teacher and therapist working with homebound youth.

From 2001 until his retirement in 2010, Charles ministered primarily to senior adults of limited income. Even in retirement, Charles remained committed to the work of justice. He volunteered with Tidewater Sowers of Justice, advocating for social justice issues in southeastern Virginia. He also became involved with the Norfolk Catholic Worker community and supported efforts toward prison reform, maintaining personal contact with incarcerated individuals.

Charles was childlike in the deepest Gospel sense. Like a child who trusts completely, Charles placed his life in God’s hands and followed wherever Christ seemed to lead him. May Brother Charles rest in the peace of our Lord.

## BROTHER PATRICK PENNELL, CFX

(Brother Gavril)  
1930-2026

**BROTHER PATRICK PENNELL** was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts, to Joseph and Catherine Zita (Sutton) Pennell, immigrants from Newfoundland. Patrick was predeceased by his sister, Sarah Casey, and two brothers, Leo and William. His sister, Rena McNeil, and brother, Joseph, survive him, along with nieces, nephews, and his Xaverian family. Faithfulness to family was a major aspect of Patrick's life.

Patrick attended Saint Joseph Grade School in Somerville, Massachusetts, where he first met the Xaverian Brothers. After graduating from Saint John's High School in North Cambridge in 1950, Patrick entered Sacred Heart Novitiate in Fort Monroe, Virginia, where he received the Xaverian Habit and the religious name, Brother Gavril. He would continue his religious and professional formation at Catholic University of America, where he earned his B.A. in French. Patrick did graduate studies at Laval University in Quebec. He earned his M.A. in French at Rivier College in Nashua, New Hampshire. In 1973, he earned his M.A. and Certification in Counseling Psychology from Fordham University in New York City.

Faithfulness to his call was the lesson Pat learned from his first mission assignment. Originally assigned to John Bapst High School in Bangor, Maine, Pat was asked to change assignments with Cosmas Rubencamp and was sent to Ryken High School in Leonardtown,

Maryland. There was a need for someone to teach the aspirants to sing, and Pat had the musical talents needed.

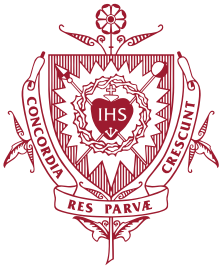
Pat had a very clear understanding of our educational mission as Xaverian Brothers. He knew it is to help students learn and grow, to understand that they are uniquely loved by God, to experience belonging to a caring community, and to realize they have something very unique to give our world. Pat's humble and natural, down-to-earth manner made him approachable. Whether in the classroom, the Guidance Office, or the athletic field, Pat connected well with students. Kids simply liked Brother Patrick. While teaching French, Brother opened their minds to a wider world. He did more than teach vocabulary and grammar; he taught confidence, discipline, the joy of mastering something new, and the appreciation of another way of viewing life, especially on the trips he chaperoned to France.

In the Guidance Office at Xaverian High School, Brother Patrick offered something even more precious: his presence. Students who were uncertain, discouraged, or searching for direction found in him a calm voice and a steady heart. He listened without judgment, guided without pressure, and believed in young people sometimes before they believed in themselves. As a track coach, he taught these young people enduring lessons about the value of hard work, perseverance,



and teamwork. Brother Patrick developed more than runners; he formed character. He truly cared about his students, not as numbers on a roster, but as young men entrusted to him by God.

Within the community, Pat was loyal to his Brothers, hardworking, and dutiful. He embraced the ordinary tasks of religious life with quiet faithfulness. The lives of his confreres were enriched by his presence. As the Preface of the Funeral Mass reminds us, "Life is not ended, it is simply changed." And so we entrust him to the Lord with confidence. Having been faithful in small and great matters alike, may he now hear those long-awaited words: "Well done, Pat. My good and faithful servant... Come, share your master's joy." (Matthew 25:21)



## XAVERIAN BROTHERS

4409 Frederick Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21229

## A GOOD SHEPHERD'S MORNING

*Brother Benedict is pictured sharing breakfast with the children at the Bon Berger (Good Shepherd) home in Lubumbashi, Congo. This facility, run by the Xaverian Brothers, is a crucial social service organization. It offers education and training, serving as a vital resource to empower formerly homeless youth.*



## 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 