



FOLLOWING THE XAVERIAN WAY

Concordia

WALKING TOGETHER IN FAITH:

A Vibrant Journey Through Kenya

Imagine the spirit of “synodality”—the simple, profound act of walking together—coming to life against the backdrop of Kenya’s lush landscapes and vibrant communities. This July, Brother John Hamilton and the General Council embarked on a two-week pastoral visitation to Kenya that was far more than a leadership trip. It was a celebration of deep roots, new beginnings, and the enduring heartbeat of the Xaverian mission.

THE ART OF SPIRITUAL CONVERSATION

The journey began in the peaceful setting of Karen from July 12–15. Here, Brother John and the Council participated in a workshop to prepare leaders for seven new synodal groups across Kenya and Congo.

Guided by the wisdom of Brother Romeo Bonsaint, SC, the Brothers delved into the practice of spiritual conversation and discernment.

The goal was simple yet transformative: to foster a culture of prayerful listening and dialogue within our communities. Facilitators like

Brothers François Kilonda, Marc Kabwita Mufuka, Pierre Kabobo, and Fabien Kabwe from Congo, alongside Kenya’s own Brothers Bernard Mujibi, Stephen Obara Okech, and Felix Oresia, are now equipped to lead these vital conversations, strengthening our global commitment to walking together in faith.



Brothers gathered for a workshop in Karen

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A LEGACY RECONNECTED: MEETING BISHOP MARK KADIMA

One of the most poignant moments of the visitation occurred when the Brothers met with the Most Reverend Mark Kadima, Bishop of Bungoma. The meeting took place while the Bishop was attending a gathering of the Bishops of East Africa at the Catholic University of Eastern Africa (CUEA).

The connection was deeply personal: Bishop Kadima was once a student at St. Peter's Minor Seminary, where he was taught by Xaverian Brothers. This reunion served as a beautiful, living testament to the long-term impact of Xaverian education—seeing a former student now leading a diocese and contributing to the spiritual growth of East Africa. To further honor these lifelong bonds, the visitation also included a special gathering of former Brothers in Bungoma, rekindling friendships and sharing stories of their shared Xaverian heritage.



Left to right: Brother Dominique Olondo, Brother John Hamilton, Bishop Mark Kadima, Brother Lawrence Harvey



Brothers from the Kenyan region gathered for the perpetual profession of Brother Kevin Masese

A LIFELONG "YES" AND A JOYFUL CELEBRATION

The spirit of celebration reached a crescendo on July 17 in western Kenya for the perpetual profession of Brother Kevin Masese. In a Mass filled with song and gratitude, Brother John Hamilton received Brother Kevin's perpetual vows. Father Julius Oyoo, Vicar General of the Catholic Diocese of Bungoma, presided over the liturgy, joined by priests from across the region, all the Brothers from Kenya, and a community of family, friends, and members of his home parish. It was a powerful reminder that the Xaverian call continues to inspire young men to dedicate their lives to service and brotherhood.

STRENGTHENING THE REGION

Following the profession, the Council facilitated a Regional Assembly at St. Patrick's Pastoral Center in Kabula. On July 18–19, Brothers from across the region gathered to pray, reflect on their common mission, and dream about the future of Xaverian life in East Africa.

The Council also spent time visiting the ministries that are the hands and feet of our mission:

- **Ryken Centre of Hope:** Our rescue center for street children, which recently launched a transformative vocational training program.
- **St. Xavier:** A cornerstone of Xaverian education in the region.
- **Godrick Community:** A new community in Bungoma embodying our commitment to fraternal life.
- **St. Joseph Centre:** Visiting with the postulants who represent the next generation of Xaverian Brothers.



Top: Brother John Hamilton planting a tree at Ryken Centre of Hope; Bottom: Brother Raphael in the chapel at the Godrick Community with a refurbished chalice donated to the new community from Brother William Ciganek

The visitation concluded with a few days of reflection at the Xaverian Centre in Nairobi before the Council departed on July 26. As they returned, they carried with them the warmth of the Kenyan people and a renewed sense of purpose. This journey wasn't just about administration; it was about affirming that, whether in a classroom at St. Xavier's or a vocational workshop in Bungoma, we are all walking together—one Xaverian family, decades strong and still growing.



BUILDING A BRIGHTER FUTURE:

The Transformation of Cisaniko Secondary School

In the heart of Kasenga, Congo, something truly transformative is happening thanks to the generous support of friends like you. At the Cisaniko Secondary and Primary School, we are not just renovating classrooms; we are building a foundation of hope, safety, and opportunity for the next generation of students.

While education is the heartbeat of our mission, the environment where that learning takes place matters deeply. We are thrilled to share the progress made during the first phase of this critical project and invite you to look ahead at the vital work that remains.

CELEBRATING PROGRESS: PHASE ONE

The initial phase of our renovation has brought a welcome change to the campus. We focused our energy and resources on revitalizing the administrative building, ensuring our staff has a stable, comfortable space to lead and serve.

In addition to these structural improvements, we have been able to supply essential equipment to keep the Institute running smoothly. Perhaps most excitingly, students in the first school building—which houses six classrooms and a canteen—are now enjoying a refreshed learning environment. Seeing these spaces transformed serves as a powerful reminder of what is possible when our community comes together to support our schools.

THE ROAD AHEAD: SAFETY AND SUSTAINABILITY

While we celebrate these wins, our work in Kasenga is not yet done. The Cisaniko Secondary Institute is a sprawling campus, comprising an administrative center and three distinct school buildings. Beyond the initial updates, there is still much to be done to ensure every classroom meets the high standards of safety, comfort, and modernity our students deserve.

Currently, our most urgent challenge is a fundamental one: access to clean, reliable water. The submersible pump that once served our campus is no longer functional, creating a significant hurdle for the hygiene and well-being of both our staff and students. Restoring this water system is not just an infrastructure project; it is an act of care for the health and dignity of our school community.

WALKING TOGETHER IN MISSION

We believe that every student, regardless of their location, deserves a healthy school environment that inspires learning and personal growth. As we prepare for the second phase of renovations, we look forward to continuing this journey alongside you.

Together, we can ensure that Cisaniko remains a beacon of education, providing the modern, functional infrastructure needed to help our students thrive. Thank you for being a part of this mission—one school, one community, and one investment in the future at a time.



Top to bottom: Blessing the faculty room; One of the updated buildings at Cisaniko School; Blessing of the new computer lab



Ryken Centre of Hope Staff

A FLOURISHING LEGACY: New Beginnings at the Ryken Centre of Hope

The Ryken Centre of Hope in Bungoma, Kenya, remains a sanctuary of resilience and growth. Recent months have been a season of both transition and vibrant new beginnings for our community.

We recently celebrated a heart-warming leadership transition, honoring Brother Dan Ongeso for his dedicated service. We were delighted to welcome Brother Christopher Mwima into this vital leadership role, with Brother Ghislain Lembe, Councilor for Mission, joining us from Congo to mark the occasion. This gathering served as a beautiful reminder of the deep, interconnected bonds of our Xaverian family across borders.

Building on this strong foundation, the Centre has seen a fresh wave of energy this June as Brother Joseph Kalibbala began his new mission, nurturing both the soul and the soil.

Brother Joseph has stepped into a multifaceted role, leading catechism and facilitating kitchen garden training. He held his first prayer service for students from both the Ryken Centre and the Vocational Training Centre, setting a tone of unity and reflection.

xavb.ro/rchprayervideo



Brother Christopher Mwima shared, “It is inspiring to witness how freely he has offered his talents and skills, and the impact this has already had on our community. His zeal and dedication are a true reflection of our charism as Brothers of St. Francis Xavier.”

As the community looks ahead, they plan to deepen their spiritual life further by hosting a weekly Mass, weaving faith into every aspect of daily life. We are grateful for these dedicated leaders and the vibrant growth occurring in Bungoma, ensuring the Ryken Centre remains a place where hope, potential, and faith thrive.

A New Beginning in Kipushi: Our Novices Embark on Their International Year

In the quiet, prayerful hills of Kipushi, Congo, a new chapter has begun for five of our Brothers. This past July, they officially entered their International Novitiate Year, a profound milestone in their journey of faith and discernment.

The occasion was marked by a spirit of deep reverence and joy. Prior to the celebration of Mass, our novices took the time for the Sacrament of Penance, preparing their hearts for the commitment ahead. The Mass itself, celebrated by the Franciscan priest Brother Junior, was beautifully brought to life by our scholasticate community, with Brother Claude Suse guiding the liturgy as Master of Ceremonies.

In a powerful homily, Brother Junior offered a reflection that resonated deeply with all in attendance. He reminded our novices that our vocation is not one of self-service, but of humble, dedicated service to our neighbors. He called them to be true shepherds for their brothers and sisters—protecting and guiding with compassion, rather than acting as wolves.

Following this moving reflection, the novices formally received their religious habits, crucifixes, rosaries, and our Constitutions and Fundamental Principles, symbols of the path they are embracing. The day was rounded out with a shared meal among the Brothers present, a celebration of the fraternal bond that anchors our life together. The following day, the novices began a five-day retreat led by Brother Dan Ongeso, a time of quiet reflection and prayer as they stepped fully into this sacred year of formation.

We invite you to keep these five Brothers in your prayers as they walk this formative path, growing deeper in their commitment to the Xaverian spirit of humility, simplicity, trust, zeal, and compassion.





Participants taking time to meet one another at the opening of the retreat



One of the small group discussions with students from Our Lady of Good Counsel

CALLED TO MISSION: Welcoming New Educators into the Xaverian Family

On August 7–9, 2026, the Maritime Conference Center in Maryland was filled with fresh energy as 41 new teachers and staff from across the Xaverian Brothers Sponsored Schools (XBSS) network gathered for their annual orientation and retreat. This three-day experience was far more than an introduction to the organization; it was a deeply immersive invitation for these educators to embrace their role as “partners in mission,” preparing to carry the Xaverian charism into the vibrant communities they serve.

FORMING PARTNERS IN MISSION

The retreat opened with prayer and an invitation to center on our shared mission, led by Executive Director Patrick Slattery and Formation Director Kevin Abdo. Together, they bridged the gap between past and present, exploring the spirituality and charism of the Xaverian Brothers. Participants dove into the mission statements of the 13 sponsored schools, uncovering the shared values and common language that unite the network into one cohesive Xaverian family.

VOICES OF THE MISSION

Saturday offered a powerful shift toward the “lived experience” of the mission. Students from Mount St. Joseph and Our Lady of Good Counsel took center stage, sharing their own experiences of Xaverian values and challenging the new educators to consider the profound needs of the students they will accompany.

A highlight of the weekend was an inspiring panel featuring Brothers Michael McCarthy, John Hamilton, and Bill Griffin, alongside colleagues Megan Dean, a teacher and Assistant Principal at Our Lady of Good Counsel, and Mary Abdo, theology teacher and campus minister from Mount St. Joseph.

Through stories of teaching, service, and vocation, they brought the mission to life. Brother Michael encouraged educators to seek out those on the margins; Brother John reminded the group that teaching is both a gift and a responsibility; and Brother Bill reflected on the individual care that has long distinguished the Xaverian tradition. Megan Dean and Mary Abdo spoke movingly about the power of relationships and the importance of entering into the “uncomfortable” moments of students’ lives to help them reach their full potential.

A SHARED FUTURE

The weekend balanced intellectual formation with moments of spiritual deepening, including department conversations, an introduction to Xaverian contemplation, an Emmaus Walk, and Mass. The group also found time for fraternity, including a trip to Baltimore’s inner-harbor for unstructured social time.

As the retreat concluded on Sunday, participants left with a renewed sense of purpose. Reflecting on the challenge of the late Brother Thomas More Page, educators were urged to take up their mission with zeal:

“Enrich it, shape, form, adapt it,” and, above all, “don’t let the flame go out.”

A Celebration of Faithfulness: Honoring Our Jubilarians



Left to right: Brothers Phillip DiMarchi, John Sullivan, Michael Foley, Ronald Santoro, David Mahoney, Thomas Klar, Timothy Paul, Daniel Lynch, Richard Cook, and Peter Campbell

On July 11th, the spirit of gratitude filled the chapel at St. John's Prep in Danvers, Massachusetts, as we gathered to honor a truly remarkable milestone. We came together to celebrate the special Jubilees of fourteen of our Brothers—a moment that served as a beautiful, living testament to the consecrated lives of Xaverian Brothers throughout the world.

The day began with a beautiful Mass, providing a sacred space to give thanks for the decades of commitment, sacrifice, and love these men have poured into our mission. Following the liturgy, the celebration continued with a warm reception and dinner, where Brothers, Associates, Partners in Mission, and family and friends shared stories and laughter in a spirit of true fraternity.

It was an inspiring opportunity to look back on a combined lifetime of service. We are honored to recognize the following Jubilarians:

Brother Daniel Lynch: 75TH JUBILEE
 Brother Peter Campbell: 70TH JUBILEE
 Brother Richard Cook: 70TH JUBILEE
 Brother Michael Foley: 65TH JUBILEE
 Brother Victor Kazadi: 65TH JUBILEE
 Brother Clement Kowalchuk: 65TH JUBILEE
 Brother Ronald Santoro: 65TH JUBILEE

Brother John Sullivan: 65TH JUBILEE
 Brother Phillip DiMarchi: 60TH JUBILEE
 Brother Thomas Klar: 60TH JUBILEE
 Brother David Mahoney: 60TH JUBILEE
 Brother Timothy Paul: 60TH JUBILEE
 Brother Patrick Fumbisha: 25TH JUBILEE
 Brother Ghislain Lembe: 25TH JUBILEE

As we reflect on their journeys, we are reminded of the profound impact that a life dedicated to faith and community can have. Their witness continues to serve as a beacon of inspiration for all of us as we walk together in the Xaverian spirit.

MISSION IN ACTION: Communication as a Ministry of Peace in Lodwar

In the vast and beautiful desert landscape of the Diocese of Lodwar, Kenya, Brother Robert Kaunda is finding new and creative ways to weave our mission into the daily life of the community. Serving in the Diocesan Communications Department, Brother Robert has embraced a role that is as dynamic as it is essential, proving that in our modern world, the Gospel can be proclaimed in many ways—through the airwaves, through a screen, and through the power of presence.

Brother Robert's days begin bright and early, hosting a daily radio program from 5:00 to 10:00 a.m. But his ministry extends far beyond the microphone. Whether he is managing social media, crafting newsletters, or coordinating diocesan events, he is constantly looking for ways to build connections. Perhaps most importantly, he often accompanies the bishop on pastoral visits, ensuring that the stories of faith and challenge across the diocese are heard and shared.

Working in a region currently facing political tensions and the challenges of cattle rustling, Brother Robert views his role not just as a job, but as a true ministry of peace. He is intentional about using his platforms to promote dialogue, political tolerance, and a sense of shared hope. He credits his tireless energy to a deep love for his vocation and a life rooted in prayer, which sustains him through the complexities of the work.

Brother Robert also brings a wonderful spirit of collaboration to his mission. He is a firm believer in the power of teamwork, ensuring that after every major event, he meets with his communications team to reflect, learn, and grow. It's a practice of continuous improvement that ensures every project is carried out with professionalism and deep care, reflecting the very best of our Xaverian values.

His dedication also extends to his life among the Brothers. Brother Robert speaks passionately about the importance of building fraternity through regular prayer, open communication, and supportive leadership. As he continues to discern how the congregation can best support his spiritual and professional growth, his witness serves as a vibrant reminder to us all: effective communication, when rooted in faith and service, is a powerful tool for proclaiming the Gospel and building unity in our world.





XAVERIAN BROTHERS

4409 Frederick Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21229



A SACRED COMMITMENT: Celebrating Perpetual Profession in Congo

In a spirit of deep gratitude and communal joy, the Congo region celebrated a significant milestone on Saturday, August 16, as Brothers Fabien and Claude made their perpetual profession. This sacred commitment marks a beautiful new chapter in their journey of faith, serving as a powerful reminder of the enduring dedication of our Brothers to a life of service within the Xaverian mission.



XAVERIAN BROTHERS

IN HARMONY SMALL THINGS GROW

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