

In this Issue we focus on our sixteen Jubilarians who recently celebrated 70, 60, and 50 years as Xaverian Brothers, as well as on five retired Brothers and their continued ministries. We feature “Notes” from Brother Lawrence Harvey on his recent trip to Congo, where he also celebrated Brother Victor Kazadi’s 50th jubilee. Brother Richard Mazza, also writing from Congo, reflects on Brother Victor from a personal perspective. We also feature the seven Brothers who are involved with our new Xaverian Brothers Associate Program, and finally, we highlight one of our newest *Concordia Society members*, William (Bill) Huston.

850 Years of Service!

In June over eighty Brothers, Associate members, and former Brothers attended our annual Jubilee Celebration at Xaverian Brothers High School in Westwood, MA. We were honoring fifteen Brothers whose combined years of service total 850 years! Father Richard O’Brien, the former Brother Matthew, presided at the liturgy, and Brother Lawrence Harvey, General Superior, gave the Jubilee reflection. At the end of the liturgy, each Jubilarian was presented with a beautiful replica of the Xaverian Brother’s logo, embedded in a glass paperweight.

In his closing remarks, Brother Lawrence blessed the Jubilarians: “Proficiat* and God’s blessings on you. May God’s Spirit give you consolation and peace, may God’s Spirit renew you, giving you the resolve to turn toward God, fall in love with God, and put yourselves in God’s service anew.”

The reception that followed was a fitting feast and a time for joyful re-connecting.

Honored Brothers:

- 70** Years: Brothers James E. Smith (Omer) and John T. Hart (Capistran)
- 60** Years: Brothers Labre Dillon, Thomas P. Lydon (Cephas), Daniel Lynch, Peter J. Mahoney (Neil), H. Lawrence Nyhan (Martel), and Charles M. Warthen (Dean)
- 50** Years: Brothers Charles M. Cully, William J. Cushing, Michael Foley (not present because of his ministry in South Sudan), Clement Kowalchuk, Richard Mazza, Ronald Santoro, and John C. Sullivan.



Celebrating sixty years as Xaverians: left to right, Brothers Peter Mahoney (Neil); Daniel Lynch; Charles Warthen (Dean); Labre Dillon; Thomas Lydon (Cephas); (seated) H. Lawrence Nyhan (Martel)

*Proficiat is a Dutch word that means congratulations and is used by the Brothers for special occasions.

When Retirement is not Retirement

Although older Xaverian Brothers may be “retired,” many of them don’t like that designation because they say, “you don’t retire from religious life; you just change your ministry. You go from the very active life of teaching or social work to one of helping others, volunteering, or having more time for prayer.” Many of our older Brothers are therefore not so much “retired” as embracing new ways of ministering.

Consider **Brother H. Lawrence Nyhan (Martel)**, for example, who is suffering from Parkinson’s and in a nursing home, but still writes poetry and tries to be present to those around him. Brother Larry just celebrated his 60th anniversary as a Xaverian Brother. (See his photo on page one.)

Also consider **Brother George Willenbrink (Wilfred)** who is now 84. Since he retired a few years ago, he has been tutoring before and after school at St. Xavier High School in Louisville. He works with students one-on-one to help them clarify class issues that bother or baffle them. He tries to be available for tutoring by 7:30 in the morning and after school from 2:50 to 4:00. He also has a “funeral” ministry; he tries to make funeral home visitations when student family members or other acquaintances have died.

Then there’s **Brother James Smith (Omer)** who is 87 years old and “not as vigorous as he once was,” but who continues substituting for absent teachers at Saint Xavier High School in Louisville. He calls in each morning to get his assignments, and he still enjoys the work.

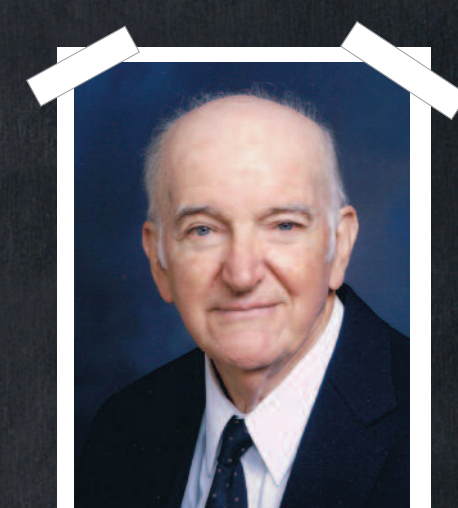
Brother Steve Kietzman, aged 72, is another example. During the first semester last year he taught junior honors pre-calculus at St. John’s Prep. At the beginning of the second semester, he substituted in three senior AP AB calculus classes for a teacher who had prostate surgery. For the remainder of the year he was available for math tutoring.

Brother Arcadius Alkonis at age 80 is still one of the assistant librarians at St. John’s Prep as well as the school and congregational archivist. In community he serves as house sacristan and looks after the flowerbeds adjacent to Xaverian House where he lives. He says there is always something to be done and he never has a dull day!

As you can see, these, and many others among our older Brothers, are not really “retired” at all, but rather are embracing new ways of being Xaverian Brothers. The gifts and talents they share continue to touch and enhance others in significant and life-changing ways.



Brother George Willenbrink



Brother James Smith



Brother Steve Kietzman



Brother Arcadius Alkonis

A New Spring in Congo

Brother Lawrence Harvey, General Superior, recently returned from an extended visit to the Democratic Republic of Congo. We asked him to share “notes” from his journey.

As I prepared for this trip, I recalled the words of Brother Paul Scanlon, our fifth Superior General, written in 1930 to the Brothers of the Belgian Province:

That the Congregation is the work of God we cannot doubt, else it would have perished long ago. The Belgian Province should be proud of sending out missionaries to England and the United States. Now there is another opening—the Congo! Oh, how much good can be done there for God and our holy religion! Pray that we may respond to this Divine Call—that our Brothers going there may be real apostolic men after our holy patron, St. Francis Xavier.

Exactly eighty-one years after Brother Paul wrote this to the Belgian Brothers, I gathered in the chapel at our House of Formation in Likasi, Congo with our Congolese Brothers to bid farewell to Adelbert DeGroote, our last full-time Belgian missionary, who has served faithfully in this African nation for fifty-four years.



From Bruges all the way to Congo: Brothers Adelbert and Roger

Let me digress a bit, however, to go back ten days when I departed Brussels airport en route to the Democratic Republic of Congo. I was going to celebrate Brother Adelbert's years of service as well as the 50th Jubilee of Brother Victor Kazadi and the first professions of Brothers Rutal Bulongo and Trèzor Malenga.

I was accompanied by two Belgian Brothers, veteran Congo missionaries, Roger Demon and Sylveer Strobbe. Walking down the stairs at the airport in Lubumbashi into the dust and heat of Congo, I was exhausted after twenty-four hours of travel, but surprisingly Roger and Sylveer were not; they were excited and invigorated to be back in Congo.

After two days in Lubumbashi with the Brothers there, we headed to Likasi, the former Jadotville of the Belgian Congo, where Brothers Roger and Sylveer had spent most of their mis-

sionary years. Here we met up with Brother Adelbert who was awaiting our arrival with Flemish soup on the stove!



Brother Lawrence Harvey celebrates with Brothers Rutal and Trèzor.

First to the Profession Ceremony...

Two of our Congolese novices, Brothers Rutal and Trèzor, were about to make their first profession. Since Brother Roger had taught them while they were postulants, and since I was able to be present for a first profession there for the first time, they had extended their novitiate until we got there. The morning of their profession, I practiced the ceremony with the two young Brothers, joking with them that no matter what they heard me say in my fractured French, they should respond: *Oui, Frère General* (Yes, Brother General).

When the time came for us to gather at the parish church for the actual ceremony, I found Brothers Rutal and Trèzor waiting pensively in the sacristy in silence, their white habits freshly washed and ironed. After greeting and reassuring them, I was ushered to my seat in the front pew along with Brother François Musongo, our General Councillor for Africa and the Headmaster at College Tutazamie. The children's choir (a choir started over fifty years ago by our Belgian confrere Brother Robert) started singing the entrance song in French, and the long Congo-style procession of altar servers, lectors, Brothers from Congo and Kenya, priest concelebrants, and the main celebrant came down the aisle.

The ceremony (after the homily), was solemn. The soon-to-be professed Brothers each read a statement of personal commitment to the Congregation before the traditional chanting of the litany of the saints. As I prayed for them, I called upon our Founder and those Brothers from Belgium who had labored in Congo and now shared in eternal life, to intercede for these

young men and for all our Congolese Brothers. Following the profession of vows, as is our custom, all the Brothers present come forward to offer the newly professed their personal welcome and embraces. For me this touching moment was the fulfillment of our Congregational motto, "In harmony small things grow."

...On to a Second Celebration



Enjoying the celebration: Archbishop Tafunga and Brothers Lawrence, Serge, and Adelbert

The following morning we made the short journey to the other side of town for the celebration of Brother Victor's 50th jubilee and the departure of Brother Adelbert. The Archbishop, recently returned from Rome, was pleased to be present. He had grown up nearby and had become a friend of Brother Victor's over the years when the two of them had served as headmasters of their respective schools and later as regional superiors. This time the choir began the processional song in beautiful Swahili.

When it came time for Brother Victor to renew his vows, I had asked Brother François Musongo as well as the regional coordinators, Brothers Crispin and François Kilonda, to join me in the ritual. Using the words from our *Fundamental Principles and Constitutions*, we asked Brother Victor (who is now nearly blind) about his willingness to recommit himself to religious life and to the charism and mission of the Congregation. As he responded to our questions, the other Brothers in attendance (over forty in number) surrounded him and sang a beautiful Swahili hymn.

This was truly an emotional moment for the Brothers present, to

The dilapidated school buildings are slowly coming back to life now that our Brothers are once again a presence.



witness Confreres from Congo, Kenya, Belgium, and the United States, join as one in song and then, together, renew their vows. Later, Brother Victor told me how truly humbled he was at that moment, but also how proud he was. For many years Brother Victor and Brother Placide were the only two African Brothers in the Congregation. Now, in large part due to Victor's fidelity, over thirty-five African Brothers were standing together. Our Founder's charism has taken root in Africa!

...Next to Our New Mission in Kasenga

The following day, Brothers Roger, Sylveer and I were off to visit our newest mission in the remote village of Kasenga, along the Luapula River at the border with Zambia. This was a special journey for Brothers Roger and Sylveer because neither had been there since 1975 when the Congregation had to withdraw for lack of personnel. Last year four pioneer Congolese Brothers had reopened this mission.

As we drove into the village, we could see the primary school buildings, and Brother Roger audibly gasped. The buildings were dilapidated: no glass in the windows and sections of the roof and walls were missing. In the 1930s, these buildings had been pristine. Though not that visible, repair work has been done by the four Congolese Brothers teaching here, but they have very limited resources. Obviously, however, there is much more to be done. Dilapidated buildings or not, children are definitely learning here. There are notes on the chalkboards, test results posted on a make-shift bulletin board, and homework assignments displayed. Later, Brother Roger apologized for his initial reaction and acknowledged all the good work taking place here. He's firmly convinced now that "we must find more money to repair these buildings!"

After three wonderful days in Kasenga, we returned to Lubumbashi. Before departing for my return trip to the U.S., I was able to reflect with the Brothers on how Brother Paul Scanlon's hope for the mission in Congo had been fulfilled. The Belgian, American, and British missionaries who have labored in Congo have shown true apostolic zeal for the mission of the Congregation and the spreading of the gospel message. They have left us a tremendous heritage, and, thanks be to God, we now have Congolese Brothers who are eager to continue this good work.

And, thanks be to God, I arrived home safely.

A Tribute to Brother Victor

By Brother Richard Mazza

I was pleased to attend Brother Victor Kazadi's 50th anniversary celebration—since I was teaching novices in Congo at the time. The praise heaped upon him was well deserved. Victor was the "prefect" or principal of College Tutazamie for more than twenty years. He gained a reputation as a grand disciplinarian throughout the city of Likasi and was well respected by parents and alumni for his high standards in running a wonderful school. The students, of course, feared him. If he appeared in the schoolyard or in a classroom, the silence was deafening. Yet, in community and outside of his role, he is and was the most gentle of gentlemen, the warmest of Brothers with a soft-spoken voice and a welcoming handshake.

"I was proud to be a confrere of this Brother who so bravely stood on the side of peace and justice."

And he is also a very brave man. When I arrived in Likasi in 1992, tribal uprisings were at their peak in this very divided city. The majority tribe, Katangans, were expelling the minority tribe, Kasians. Uprisings, house burnings, and brutality were rampant. At one point, more than 70,000 Kasians were pushed into a field close to the train station. Risking personal danger and against the rules, Brother Victor and the Xaverian Brothers at College Tutazamie provided shelter for the staff and teachers and their families. They protected them in spite of the risks. I was proud to be a confrere of this Brother who so bravely stood on the side of peace and justice. *Proficiat* Victor, and God's blessings on you!



Brothers Vincent and Richard Mazza celebrate their 50th anniversaries in Congo.

A Call Goes Out XAVERIAN BROTHERS

We are men who have freely chosen to live a life of love in faith and trust as disciples of Jesus Christ in the Congregation of the Brothers of St. Francis Xavier. We are Brothers and volunteers who call one another to a contemplative stance in the world and to direct ministry with the poor and marginalized in Latin and North America, Europe, Africa, and Haiti.



We share our lives and faith as Missionaries, Educators and Pastoral Ministers.

For Life Commitment or Volunteer Programs, Contact:

Brother Jim Connolly, CFX
4409 Frederick Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21229

phone: 410-644-0034

e-mail: jconnolly@xaverianbrothers.org

www.xaverianbrothers.org

Brothers and Associates Working Together

The Xaverian Brothers welcomed twenty-one Associate members last year on the weekend of December 3rd, the feast of St. Francis Xavier, patron of the Xaverian Brothers. At their commitment ceremony, these new Associates pledged to pray daily, reach out to the poor and marginalized, and stay in communion with the Xaverian Brothers. Since then there have been regional gatherings of Associates in New England, Kentucky, Maryland, Virginia, and New York. These gatherings, held three times annually, are hosted by Associates and led by Xaverian Brothers serving as “regional coordinators.” We thought you might like to know “who’s who” when it comes to these Brothers—and we’ll let them speak for themselves.

Southern Maryland/Virginia Brother

Cosmas Rubencamp

“I retired in 2005 after working 33 for the Diocese of Richmond Virginia. Since then I have been serving in a volunteer capacity on the Board of the Maison Fortuné Orphanage Foundation (and two other boards), as part of the diocesan twinning relationship with the Diocese of Hinche, Haiti. I have traveled to Haiti numerous times in the past twenty-six years. As co-director of the Associates Program, I’m delighted to have helped bring it to birth, and I look forward to its continued growth after a great start.”



Maryland Brother

Cornelius Hubbuch

“As a member of the Brothers’ Leadership Team, I am involved with numerous personnel issues, especially with our aging Brothers. I also continue to do workshops and retreats for priests and men and women



religious, mainly in the U.S. and Canada. In addition, I serve on the Board of Directors of St. Mary’s Ryken High School, one of our Xaverian Brothers Sponsored Schools. My involvement with the Associate program has been most enjoyable and is giving me a great deal of hope as I experience the enthusiasm of our new Associates.”

Brother Paul Murray

“I have been a member of the leadership team at the Xaverian Brothers Generalate in Baltimore since 2007. As a full time staff member, I deal with issues related to health, retirement, and transitions of the Brothers, and I work with committees to implement the directives of the General Chapter and to provide programs for ongoing formation. Over the past year, through my involvement with the newly established Associate program, I have witnessed firsthand how the Associate members are bringing new life to the Congregation. It has been a pleasure getting to know men and women who want to share so deeply in the Xaverian charism and mission.”



Kentucky Brother

Richard Angarola

“I work part-time at Saint Xavier High School in Louisville with the campus ministry and service programs. I also do some “prefecting” in computer labs and academic study halls. I recently met with a group of potential Associates, along with Associate Karen White and Brother Ed Driscoll, and I am struck by their deep faith and love. I am awed by their commitment to the Catholic Church and to their ministries. Being able to



share with them is exciting and extremely rewarding.” I look forward to welcoming some of them as Associates.”

New England
Brother Richard Mazza

“I have been a staff member for our Xaverian Brothers Sponsored Schools for two years, working in particular with three of them: Malden Catholic, Mt. St. Joseph’s, and Our Lady of Good Counsel. This summer I taught a course in Formative Spirituality at the Xaverian Brothers International Novitiate in Kipushi, Congo, DRC, for six novices preparing for first profession of vows. My first year as an Associates regional coordinator has made me more aware of a wider reach of our Xaverian life and spirit, and this has been both inspirational and enjoyable. The prayers and concern of our Associates has also sustained me—especially while I was in Congo.”



Brother Joseph Pawlika

“I am a guidance counselor at Xaverian Brothers High School in Westwood, MA. For years I have also been involved with the Formation Committee of the Congregation, and now I am pleased to be a coordinator for the Associate Program and to have a part in nurturing the ongoing formation of those who are attracted and called to the Xaverian charism. The Associates



are a blessing in the life of the Congregation, and they are articulating and extending the Xaverian charism in new and inspiring ways.”

Brooklyn
Brother Bonaventure Scully

Right now in my retirement, I am a facilitator for a support group of priests in Brooklyn; I moderate a parish book club; and I do considerable reading and some writing. Most of all I am enjoying my participation with our Associates, especially since I’ve been working with potential Associates from the planning stages and have promoted the idea for many years. The enthusiasm of the Associates, our faith sharing, and their dedication to their three commitments inspires me and gives me a feeling of new hope for the Xaverian Brothers.



“Coordinators encourage Associates to pray daily, reach out to the poor and marginalized, and stay in communion with the Brothers.”



Do You Have A Will?

Recent surveys show that over 70% of U.S. citizens do not have a will. Yet a properly executed will is the only way to ensure that all of your assets—ones you have worked a lifetime to accumulate—will be distributed upon your death according to your wishes.

If you would like more information, please email **Ray Alcaraz at ralcaraz@xaverianbrothers.org, or call 410-646-6778 or fax us at 410-644-2762.**



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Baltimore, MD 21229

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In the Midst of a Busy Life... Remembering the Brothers

William (Bill) Huston, a 1965 graduate of St. Joseph's Prep in Bardstown, Kentucky, is president of St. Catharine's College in Springfield, and now also a charter member of the Xaverian Brothers *Concordia Society*. Bill is remembering the Brothers in his estate plans because as a boarding student at St. Joe Prep, "they provided the complete package—sound education, social skills, leadership, discipline, and team building skills. This valuable foundation during my teenage years gave me the tools I needed for two successful careers: one in the Navy and Coast Guard and the other in higher education." Bill fondly recalls teachers like Brothers Giles Crowell and Peter Campbell (Nevin).

After he received his *Concordia Society* coin, he put it on his desk to "remind himself daily of the Xaverian Brothers and their impact on a fourteen-year-old boarding student."

The Brothers take pride in former students like Bill Huston and appreciate the thoughts, prayers, and generosity shown by him and all those who remember them through planned gifts.



Ray Alcaraz from the Xaverian Brothers Development Office presents the "Concordia" coin to Bill Huston.

All Are Welcome

Those of you who have been faithful and generous supporters of the Xaverian Brothers over the years are invited to join the *Xaverian Brothers Concordia Society*. This *Society* and its benefits acknowledge those who have remembered the Brothers in their estate plans. When you remember the Brothers in this way, you automatically become a member of the *Concordia Society*.

Your generous bequest will help us defray some of these escalating costs:

- Care and support for our growing number of aged and infirm Brothers
- Our educational efforts through our Xaverian Brothers Sponsored School program
- Our missionary activities and the growth of the Congregation in some of the poorest areas of our world.

For a list of benefits and other information, contact Ray Alcaraz at the Xaverian Brothers Development Office: ralcaraz@xaverianbrothers.org

