

In this issue we focus on two of our missionary efforts around the world: one in Haiti with Brother Michael McCarthy and one in Kasenga, in the Democratic Republic of Congo, with Brother Ghislain Mukonkole. We also share the good news that the Xaverian Brothers now have 21 Associates who unite with us in prayer and good works for the poor and marginalized. We focus as well on an impressive gathering of school board members from our Xaverian Brothers Sponsored Schools and then pay tribute to three of our recently deceased Brothers. Finally, Brother Lawrence Harvey, General Superior, announces the creation of the Xaverian Brothers Concordia Society.

An Unforgettable Journey

By Brother Michael McCarthy, CFX

Since 1990 the Xaverian Brothers have been supporting young men in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, who could not otherwise afford an education. The men lived in community, prayed together, shared household tasks, and pursued their studies in a house called *Sant Zaveryen* or the *Sant*, a house run by the Brothers, which was badly damaged in last year's earthquake. Since then the Brothers continue to support these men and many others called "externs" (because they did not live at the *Sant*), by paying for their education and supporting them in other material ways. Here Brother Michael McCarthy describes an extraordinary visit he made to rural Haiti with one of the *Sant* men.

"I had promised three of the other *Sant* men that I would visit their rural communities and meet their families. So, I ventured out with Edmond Chouloute, into the Department (area) of Artibonite, north of the capital, to visit four homes. Early Sunday morning we boarded the bus in Port-au-Prince for the three-hour drive to Tirivyè ("Little River"), our first destination. We entered into the most beautiful scenery I have seen in Haiti: acre after acre of rice paddies, beautifully canalled to provide the necessary water. Plentiful rivers flowed among the mountains that encircled this town.

It was here that I visited **Renan's** family and rejoiced in meeting his mother and many sisters; we mourned his recently deceased 18-year-old brother (whom the Xaverian Brothers had helped bury). We were gifted with a beautiful bowl of fresh fruit and took many pictures. We then worked our way through a maze of back "streets" to the main road to meet Esperandieu, **Cenat's** mother who was waiting for us at **Jonas'** house. All of us shared a feast of salad, chicken, rice and beans, and even soda. Many people gathered to see the visitors. We prayed, ate, sang, and talked about life in PAP and in Tirivyè. Cenat—who is presently studying in Siena College in the States—had especially asked if I could visit his mom in his absence and we had a grand time, talking about his dream of opening an orphanage in this river town that lacked any paved streets and yet sported a beautiful church overlooking the village plaza. It was a great gathering and we all enjoyed it immensely. Three families visited; one to go.

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Edmond Chouloute, who resided at Sant Zaveryen (before the earthquake damaged it), with his father in the village of Pewoden in Haiti.



One woman walking with us took pity on this “old white man” and took my bag and carried it on her head for over an hour!

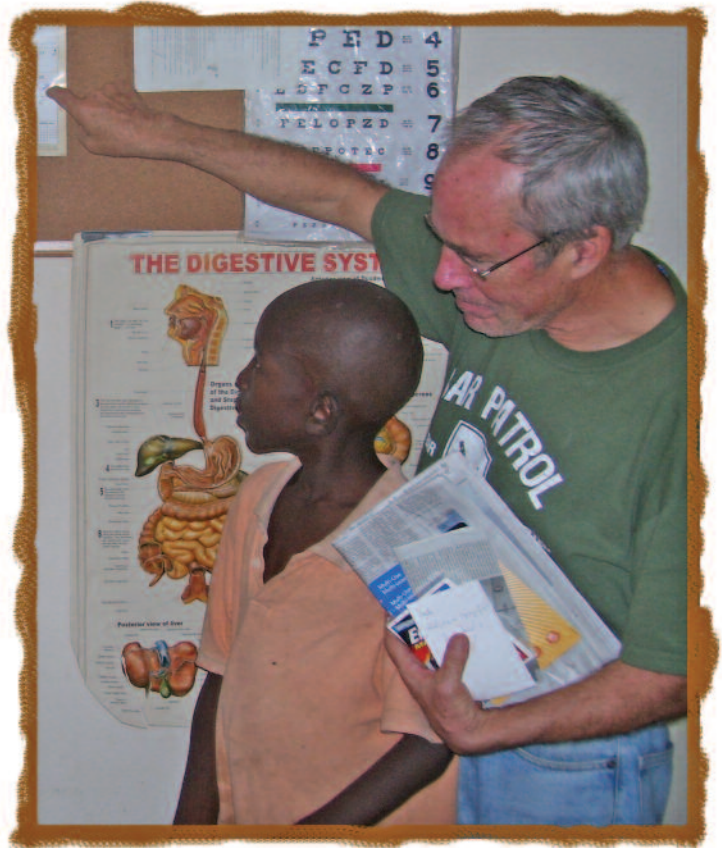
The next day the journey continued: Edmond, his brother, and I started out at dawn on motorcycles for an hour and a half climbing those distant mountains; crossing rivers (at the first river, a man carried me on his back—he did this for a living!) The “road” thereafter was very difficult to manage, but the driver we hired did superbly well. I focused on the acres of rice, sugar cane, and corn, trying not to look at the rocks he was traversing. When he could go no further—literally—and the horses that had been promised never showed, we began the four-hour walk to visit Edmond’s father’s home and community. More rivers—this time I managed by myself! The “path” was rocks and walking on them required all of us to constantly watch where we put each foot. It was very tiring; climbing “mountain after mountain” under the hot sun was a lot for all of us.

One woman walking with us took pity on this “old white man” and took my bag and carried it on her head for over an hour! I was greatly humbled at both her generosity and unbelievable stamina, not to mention being inspired by her superb posture. We went for a most-refreshing swim in the third river before beginning the climb up the toughest and last mountain. Finally, we arrived at Pewoden—Edmond’s area.

His father was waiting for us with open arms! We hugged, shared something to eat, and washed up a bit before resting. Later that afternoon the community association arrived for official introductions and a brainstorming session on how they can improve health care, education, agriculture, and small businesses. The discussion was animated, and I seemed to be the catalyst that brought the folks together, hoping that they could organize for their future.

Afternoon and evening downpours were common, but the roof of Edmond’s father’s house was tin, and very little water entered.

We ended with a meal, sharing the chicken we had been carrying all day, along with rice, beans, and sauce. Everyone is very excited by Edmond’s dream of opening a trade school in the area that would serve to not only educate some young men and women in a profession, but would also keep them in the zone. Edmond and his brother are the only folks to leave the area and study in PAP, and to these rural people they embody hope for the future. Afternoon and evening downpours were common, but the



Brother Michael McCarthy greeting a child in the clinic at Maison Fortuné Orphanage in Hinche, Haiti.

roof of Edmond’s father’s house was tin, and very little water entered. The dirt floor stayed dry; we covered the outside kitchen with a huge, blue plastic tarp.

This was a very worthwhile and memorable trip for me, but I hope my description of it also gives you a glimpse into the lives of the men (and women) we are trying to support here in Haiti. They come from extraordinarily poor backgrounds, but they are determined to study and work to build a better Haiti.

Note: After this visit, Edmond’s father’s house was destroyed by Hurricane Tomas, yet another blow to one of the poorest of the poor.

Brother Michael McCarthy lives in Hinche, Haiti, with Brother Harry Eccles. They minister at Maison Fortuné Orphanage, and Brother Mike travels to Port-au-Prince monthly to meet with the Sant men and externs.

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:

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The Kasanga Mission ONE YEAR LATER

By Brother Ghislain Mukonkole, CFX
Translated from the French by Brother Jerry O'Leary, CFX

The Xaverian Brothers, as you might recall, re-established our mission in Kasenga in 2009. The first group of Brothers (Crispin Kibao, myself, Simon Pierre Mukenge, and Joseph Kibambe) arrived here on October 1, 2009, the feast of St. Therese of Lisieux, patron saint of missions and missionaries. Once installed, we began to gather and enroll students at our primary and secondary schools, and we also became engaged in pastoral work in the local parish—and even in the diocese.

Looking back, we ask ourselves now: How can we evaluate all the hard work we've done, and what have we actually accomplished in our first fourteen months?

First of all, it's important to say that Kasenga is a milieu where there are not only values, but also certain anti-values, which affect the entire social environment. We four Brothers experienced great difficulties during our first days here because the students were used to a general *laissez-faire* way of doing things. The creation of an orderly way of doing things was a threat to them. Many other serious anti-values (lateness, absenteeism, corruption, teen marriages) presented us with serious obstacles to doing the good work we hoped to do.

Starting with the Teachers

Faced with this, we began first of all to work seriously at sensitizing the teachers and aides and making them aware of the nobility of their profession. We tried to do this by example rather than by preaching. Then we put in effect an emergency rule of order so that everything could run more effectively. We scheduled a great many meetings, formation sessions, and days of recollection for the teachers and students. The honest collaboration, the mutual trust and support among the four of us Brothers was what helped the gradual unfolding of some good work.

What can we do for children who are eager to go to school and study but can't afford the tuition?

Usually such a change of mentality among teachers and students takes several years, but our hard work and persistence paid off. Little by little, they absorbed our philosophy of work and adhered to it. Anyone who walked by our school three years ago wouldn't recognize it as the same school today. Some of our students, however, only understood all this when the final marks came out at the end of the school year. Those who worked hard did well, but many students did not get it until they saw their poor grades.

At the beginning of this school year, we saw a marked difference. The children came back expecting to be disciplined, and they were orderly and studious. People can easily see the difference between our students and other area students, not only by the uniforms they wear, but also by their responsible conduct. What's interesting is that the other schools around here consider us the pilot school, the model in every way and for everything.



Brothers François Musongo and John Hamilton visit with neighborhood children and potential students in the Brothers' school in Kasenga.

A few Glitches

There were some glitches, of course. For example, school started a month later than planned because parents didn't register their children on time. That's the custom around here. Next year we will address this and begin classes on time. The pervasive poverty also hinders our efforts. Poor people have a very difficult time finding money for food much less tuition. Because of this, our tuition is five times less than in the other schools in Likasi or Lumbumbashi. But even with this low tuition, many parents are unable to cover the expense.

What can we do faced with such a situation? What can we do for children who are eager to go to school and study? We are reflecting on this, and we are always open to the advice and suggestions of others.

The local population of Kasenga expects a lot from us as Xaverian Brothers when it comes to education. Everyone here talks about this. They look to us to lead the way.

Thus we continue to count on the support of the whole Congregation, whether here in the Congo or from far away. We especially need spiritual and moral support as we continue to educate in the tradition of the Xaverian Brothers.

Note : To read again about the return of the Brothers to Kasenga, see our website at www.xaverianbrothers.org under News and Events/Concordias, Winter 2011, vol. 11, No. 2.

We Welcome Our New ASSOCIATES

The Xaverian Brothers' first ever Associates retreat and commissioning was held on December 5th, 2010 at the Marriottsville (Maryland) Retreat Center. It was a joyous occasion as the twenty-one Associates committed themselves to a deepening of their prayer lives, an ongoing outreach to the poor and marginalized, and a closer communion with the Xaverian Brothers. Over 20 Brothers from the area, including members of the General Council, as well as family members and friends, attended the commitment ceremony. The Brothers present pledged their commitment to journey with the Associates in a closer relationship of prayer, outreach, and communion.

The weekend went beautifully thanks in great part to the Brothers who helped the Associates focus on these three commitments.

Brother Jim Kelly gave an excellent and informative talk about some of the charismatic (and holy) Xaverian Brothers who represent the Xaverian Way of life.

Brother Peter Fitzpatrick joined the Associates by "video" to talk about prayer as it was first practiced by Xaverians and how that has evolved over the years into various other prayer forms.

Brother Cosmas Rubencamp, Co-Director of Associates, talked about service as a way of life and how he has "fallen into" situations that he later "fell in love with," thus encouraging Associates to be open to their own opportunities for "falling in love with the service of God."

Brother Cornie Hubbuch gave an inspiring and informative talk about spirituality and the importance of focusing on the "ordinary, unspectacular flow of life" in the Xaverian quest for the holy.

Also in attendance were our regional coordinators for Associates: **Brothers Richard Mazza** and **Joe Pawlika** for New England;

Bonaventure Scully and **Cornie Hubbuch** for Maryland (**Brother Bo** is also regional coordinator for New York). **Brother Ed Driscoll**, our Louisville coordinator, was unable to attend. **Brothers Dan Doherty** and **Richard Angarola** were also there for the entire weekend.

The first group of Xaverian Brothers Associates:

Chuck Belzner, Kingsville, MD, Counselor, Mt. St. Joseph
Hugh Boyle, Derwood, MD, former Brother
Michael Buckley, Ellicott City, MD, former Brother
Patrick Driscoll, North Reading, MA, teacher, St. John's Prep
Chuck Ehrman, Catonsville, MD, assistant principal at Our Lady of Good Counsel
Bill Gorman, Brooklyn, NY, teacher, Xaverian High School
Alice Hession, Halethorpe, MD, Director of Xaverian Brothers Sponsored Schools
Barbara Ives, California, MD, administrator, Ryken High School
Ana Lopez, Adelphi, MD, administrator, Our Lady of Good Counsel
Michael McGeehin, Phoenixville, PA, former Haiti volunteer
Shelby McGeehin, Phoenixville, PA, High School Teacher
Ann Nichols, Columbia, MD, administrator, Our Lady of Good Counsel
Donald Reilly, Staten Island, NY, former Brother
Kevin Shearer, Ellicott City, MD, teacher, Mt. St. Joseph
Christopher Spahr, Harrisonburg, PA, former Africa volunteer
Jeannette Sufita, Ellicott City, MD, retired organization development specialist
Peg Weidner, Monrovia, MD, administrator, Our Lady of Good Counsel
Peter Weston, Lowell, MA, former Brother
Karen White, Louisville, KY, teacher, St. Xavier High School
Richard Costello, Providence Forge, VA, Co-Director of Associates
Gwen Costello, Providence Forge, VA, Co-Director of Associates



Associates and Brothers gathered for the first-ever commissioning ceremony in Marriottsville, Maryland, on December 5, 2010.

An Impressive XBSS Gathering

By Alice Hession

Over one hundred Board members from all thirteen of our sponsored schools recently attended an XBSS Board Forum (held on a bi-annual basis). The gathering brings Board Members together for formation, prayer, sharing of best practices, and re-commitment to their common mission. Held in Boston this year, the Forum opened with prayer led by students from St. John's Preparatory school. A highlight of the prayer was a reflection from a student who talked about his friendship with the retired Brothers who live at Xaverian House, which is on the campus of his school. He shared the insight that we can only serve well in the present if we look to the wisdom of the past and "transcend our own boundaries" as we head into the future.

Brother Lawrence Harvey, CFX, General Superior, welcomed participants and thanked them for accepting their role in governance by collaborating with the Xaverian Brothers. He also challenged them to continue leading our schools in their mission of "Inspiring Lives of Learning, Faith and Service."

"We can only serve well in the present if we look to the wisdom of the past."

—student from St. John's Prep



Deep in discussion, from left to right: Michael Newhall, Lowell Catholic; Brother Dan Skala, XBSS member; Earl Reed, St. X, Louisville; Bro. Art Caliman, XBSS Member; Jim DeBoy, XBSS Member, and Margy Thomas, XBSS Member.

The Forum featured two keynote speakers: Dr. Carolyn Woo, Dean of the Mendoza School of Business at the University of Notre Dame, and Dr. James Honan, Graduate School of Education, Harvard University. Dr. Woo challenged the group to be leaders in the church as well as leaders in Catholic education. She noted that creativity and ingenuity are needed to lead Catholic schools in the future, but most importantly, leaders must be persons of faith. Through his talk, "Aligning Mission, Values and Governance," Dr. Honan led Board members through a process of data-driven decision making as the basis for planning for the future. He encouraged participants to be pragmatic as well as visionary leaders.

Board members were enthusiastic about this experience, and one member summed up the overall response: "I really appreciated the experience of meeting and learning from engaged XBSS Board Members, all of whom share belief in and commitment to our Xaverian Brothers Sponsored Schools."

Alice Hession is the Director of Sponsorship for the Xaverian Brothers Sponsored Schools (XBSS) and works in Baltimore.



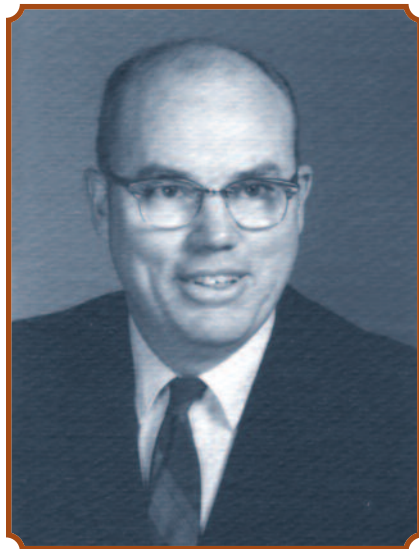
Gathered for the forum, from left to right, Michael Bafaro and Patricia Haylon, both from St. John's, Shrewsbury; Dr. Carolyn Woo, guest speaker, Dean of the Mendoza School of Business, University of Notre Dame; Mark Trier, St. Xavier, Louisville, KY; and Leonard Raley, St. Mary's Ryken, Leonardtown, MD.

A Call Fulfilled

Complete text of eulogies for some of the Brothers are accessible on our website: www.xaverianbrothers.org



Brother Kirby (James A.) Boone, CFX died at the age of 84 on September 11 at Golden Living Center in Louisville, KY. His Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at Holy Family Church. In



accord with his wishes, there was no eulogy. Burial was in the Xaverian Brothers' cemetery at St. Xavier High School.

Born in New Haven, KY, in 1926, he commenced 62 years as a Xaverian Brother on February 14, 1948, four years after his graduation from St. Xavier High School. In addition to his undergraduate degree in 1953 and Masters in 1968, both from Catholic University, he did graduate study at eleven other schools

prior to getting his Masters. He started teaching in 1953 at St. Joseph's Preparatory School in Bardstown, KY. Seven years later he moved to Flaget High School in Louisville for fourteen years, the last five in the role of Principal. From 1974 to 1976 he served at St. Francis mission in South Dakota. He spent the next ten years in Baltimore at Mt. St. Joseph High School, the last six as Principal. In 1986 he moved to Holy Family High School in Birmingham, AL. Before he began sixteen years of ministry in Alaska in 1990, he returned to St. Francis Mission in South Dakota for two years. In 2006 he retired in Louisville after having served in Ruby, Tanana, and McGrath in the state of Alaska.

Both Kirby and his younger brother, Martin, also a Xaverian Brother currently serving in Bolivia, responded to the call to missionary activity. Bishop Donald Kettler of Fairbanks, AL, expressed his gratitude for Kirby's presence, service, and friendship when he heard of his death.

"I formed a grateful friendship with Brother Kirby during the last four years of his ministry in the Diocese of Fairbanks. He served the challenging territory of northern Alaska in a most loving and selfless manner. His witness to the consecrated life of poverty, celibacy and obedience was exceptional."

Brother Lawrence Harvey, General Superior, described Brother Kirby as "...a true friend to the underdog and a companion to many a person in need of a word of encouragement. He asked for little in return. His life was reflective of our Fundamental Principles:

It is through your life of gospel witness that God desires to manifest His care and compassionate love... to those who suffer from want, neglect and injustice: the poor, the weak, and the oppressed of this world.

May Brother Kirby now rest in peace, and from his place of peace, may he intercede for us that we, too, may live Ryken's dream and vision."

In Kentucky, South Dakota, Maryland, Alabama, and Alaska, Brother Kirby was a living model of the mission of the Xaverian Brothers, "Go then, to all peoples everywhere, and make them my disciples." Bro. Kirby's life is evidence that we never know where our "yes" to God will take us or what challenges will follow, but God will be with us every step of the way.



Brother Richard (André) Hessens, CFX passed away on September 22, 2010. He would have been 89 years old in November and had been a Xaverian Brother for more than 72 years!

He was a real Brugean who served the Congregation as a cook in Brugge and at Sint-Michiels, where he worked as a gardener as well. He lived at Sint-Michiels (Landhouse and Rijkenheem) from 1952 until the Brothers left there in 2007. He returned to Brugge, where he remained active; his mind always at work. He especially took joy in reading.

The Funeral Mass was celebrated by Rev. Jan Tilleman on September 28 at Our Lady's Church in Brugge. The homily was offered by Rev. E. De Zeine, who focused his remarks on the first reading from Paul's letter to the Christians of Kolosse. The reader invited people to listen as if Bro. Richard were speaking to them through Paul's words. About 100 people attended the celebration. He was buried at the Brothers' plot at the cemetery in Steenbrugge.

Although 88 years of age, his death was unexpected. He often said, "Wait patiently and pray for strength." May he rest in peace.

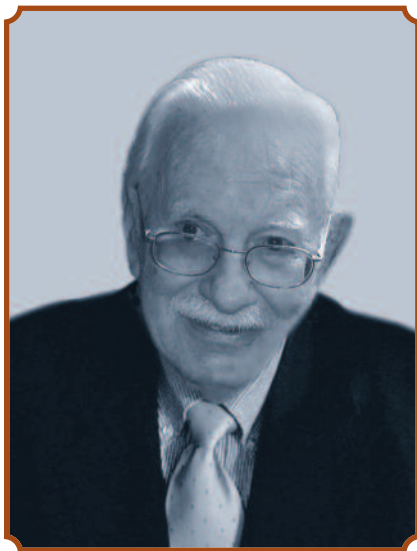




Brother Victor J. (Marcus) Pizzolato, CFX, died at the age of 92 in his 69th year as a Xaverian Brother on October 2 at Xaverian House in Danvers, MA. Father Gerald Dorgan, pastor of St. Mary of the Annunciation Parish in Danvers, celebrated the Mass of Christian Burial at the St. John's Prep chapel. Brother Cornelius Hubbuch delivered the eulogy. Burial was in the Brothers' cemetery at St. John's.

Born in Tampa, FL, on April 30, 1918, Victor entered the novitiate on September 19, 1941, six years after graduation from Hillsborough High School in Tampa. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Catholic University in 1947 and a Masters from Fordham University in 1959.

Brother Victor's first ten years in the classroom (1947-1954) took place at Cardinal Hayes School in the Bronx, NY. Before becoming Superior at Our Lady of Good Counsel High School in Wheaton, MD in 1964, he taught for a year at St. John's in Danvers, MA, and at Stepinac High School in New York, and for five years at Mt. St. Joseph High in Baltimore. After Good Counsel, he moved to St. Xavier High School for eight years. In 1974 he moved to Tampa where he taught at Tampa Catholic High School until 1978, then for a year provided home care for his mother and lived in retirement there until he moved to Xaverian House in 2001.



In the eulogy Brother Cornelius described "...a splendid teacher. The Spanish language was

his field, and his classes always appreciated him as a person and as a teacher. He taught them more than the language – he taught them the culture of the country and the people. He was always organized, precise, exacting, and demanding, a perfectionist; and his students did very well. He had a solid prayer life and a very common sense view of his life as a religious. Keenly sensitive himself, he was equally sensitive toward others, and went out of his way not to wound or hurt another's feelings." In closing the eulogy, Brother Cornelius remembered a special moment with Victor. "My last question to Vic while I was visiting him was, 'What final remarks do you have?' His response, 'I loved teaching, I love my family, I love the Brothers, and I certainly loved my students.'"

Vic, you have fought the good fight. May you find the peace and joy you so richly deserve in God's loving embrace.



Did You Know?

The motto of the Xaverian Brothers is "In harmony small things grow" (*Concordia Res Parvae Crescunt*). It is both inspirational and pragmatic. On the inspirational side, it reminds us of the strength of Brothers united in service to the church. Pragmatically, however, the motto comes from a gold coin (called gilders) that helped save the Congregation in its earliest days at a key moment of financial stress. Just when all seemed lost, money arrived in the form of these coins, which were inscribed with the words *Concordia Res Parvae Crescunt*. This anonymous gift saved the young Congregation at a critical moment, and gave our founder, Theodore James Ryken, the necessary funds to open our American mission. He saved one of the coins to mark the significance of that moment, and thus it also became the motto of the Congregation. And thus this newsletter *Concordia* got its name.

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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The Xaverian Brothers *CONCORDIA SOCIETY*

Dear Friends,

Many of you have been faithful and generous supporters of the Xaverian Brothers over a number of years, and so I am delighted to let you know about the launch of the **Xaverian Brothers Concordia Society**.

This Society and its benefits acknowledge those who have remembered the Brothers in their estate plans. It is my hope that generous friends like you will not only continue to support us with your regular gifts, but will also extend that generosity by including us in your estate plans if you have not already done so. When you do so, you become a member of the **Concordia Society**.

Your generous bequest will help us defray some of the escalating costs of providing for the growing number of our aged and infirm Brothers, help our future efforts to sustain our missionary activities and the growth of the Congregation in some of the poorest areas of our world, and provide much needed support for our educational efforts in the U.S. through our Xaverian Brothers Sponsored School program.

Thanks so much for continuing your very generous support of the Xaverian Brothers. I'm hoping that I will soon be able to welcome many of you as charter members of our **Concordia Society**.

Bro. Lawrence Harvey, CFX.

Brother Lawrence Harvey, CFX
General Superior

Benefits of Membership

- Members will be listed in a special issue of *Concordia* and also posted online on a *Concordia Society* page of the Brothers' website (unless members choose to remain anonymous).
- Names will also be inscribed in a *Concordia Remembrance Book* to be on permanent display at the Brothers' retirement communities, Ryken House in Louisville, KY, and Xaverian House in Danvers, MA.
- There will be daily prayerful remembrance of all living and deceased members of the *Concordia Society*, particularly in the Mass and prayers of the Xaverian Brothers on the Feast of Saint Francis Xavier, December 3.
- Members will receive a replica of the actual gold coin (pictured below) that Theodore James Ryken kept and cherished.

