



# PARTNERS IN MISSION

Understanding the Xaverian Way



Xaverian Brothers

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*Sponsored Schools*



St. John's High School  
Shrewsbury, MA



Lowell Catholic  
Lowell, MA



Malden Catholic  
Malden, MA



Our Lady of Good Counsel High School,  
Olney, MD



Mount St. Joseph High School  
Baltimore, MD



Xavier High School  
Middletown, CT



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>I.</b>	Introduction	2
<b>II.</b>	A Description of the Xaverian Charism	4
<b>III.</b>	XBSS Mission Statement	6
<b>IV.</b>	The Spiritual Values of the Xaverian Charism	7
<b>V.</b>	Calls of the Xaverian Brothers Sponsored Schools	10
	Explanation of Calls	12
<b>VI.</b>	Do You Speak Xaverian? Glossary of Terminology Central to the Xaverian Spirituality and Charism	24
<b>VII.</b>	Xaverian Brothers Sponsored Schools	28
<b>VIII.</b>	Summary	30

# INTRODUCTION

Over the past 175 years, Xaverian education has been transformative in the lives of young people. In Xaverian schools, students have been invited to encounter Jesus through an education that helps them to uncover their own gifts, to nurture their passions, and to challenge them to become the people God created them to be by placing their talents at the service of God.

At the heart of the Xaverian Brothers Sponsored Schools has been a particular vision - a certain way of seeing the world - that began with the founder of the Xaverian Brothers and continues in their schools in Europe, North America, and Africa. Theodore James Ryken believed that young people, especially those who were the most vulnerable in a society that did not know or value the gospel of Jesus Christ, could be nurtured and formed by a core community who believed in them, in their uniqueness and potential as given by God.



Since 1839, when Theodore Ryken was first inspired to form a religious congregation of laymen in Belgium, the Xaverian Brothers have worked to

fulfill his vision for young women and men. As consecrated religious brothers, the Congregation of the Brothers of St. Francis Xavier would themselves follow a pathway deeply rooted in prayer and contemplation leading them to encounter Jesus Christ and to dedicate themselves and their ministries to serving his mission of establishing the Kingdom of God. It was Brother Ryken's belief that through their simple lifestyle and their reflective, prayerful living that they would learn to discover God in the "common, ordinary, unspectacular flow of everyday life." Echoing Brother Ryken's persistent plodding, the Fundamental Principles of the Xaverian Brothers reminds those who follow in Ryken's footsteps that:



Theodore Ryken

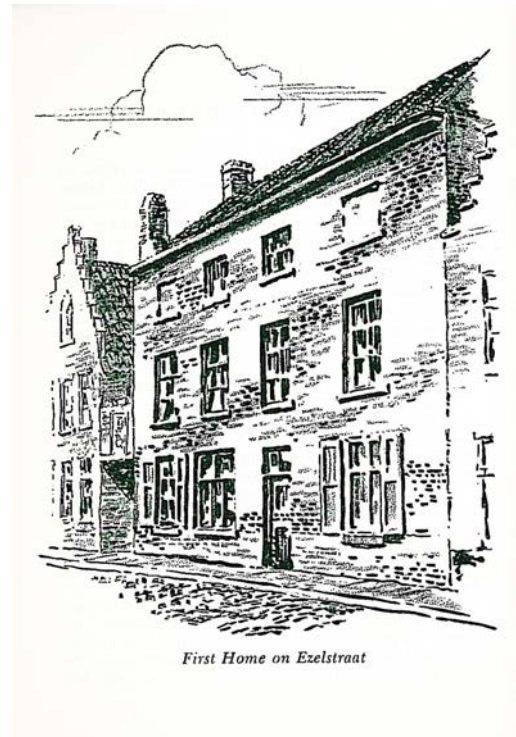
***You are called to a life of constant searching. Let the developments and changes of your times be a source both of confidence and challenge to you.***

FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

With an openness to the Spirit, the Xaverian Brothers have carried out their mission to serve the church in its work of evangelization,

particularly through the Catholic Church's ministry of education.

Since beginning schools in Louisville in 1854, the Xaverian Brothers have dedicated themselves to the communities where they would establish their schools up the Atlantic Coast from Baltimore to north of Boston. From its inception in the United States, a Xaverian education emphasized two principal coordinates of Catholic identity: the formation of students in faith and the love of God, and a strong academic program to prepare them to make their contribution to our world. Students in Xaverian schools come to discover God in the ordinary events of their lives as Xaverian education continues to inspire lives of learning, faith, and service.



Today, the thirteen Xaverian Brothers Sponsored Schools engage in this mission in service of Brother Ryken's vision, the charism of the community, and the mission that has grown from it. At the same time, the Xaverian Brothers, in their own lives of "constant searching," have acknowledged that there is something new happening in the Xaverian Brothers Sponsored Schools and they want to respond to the "developments and changes of our times." In engaging the leadership of Xaverian schools in a period of reflection, that something new has become very clear: a new invitation to Xaverian communities to claim our Catholic identity, and the charism and mission of the Xaverian Brothers as a source of inspiration and strength, as we together embrace the future with hope. This document is the result of that reflection.



# A DESCRIPTION OF THE XAVERIAN CHARISM

**W**e, Xaverian Brothers and partners in mission, are a Christian community, striving to fulfill the spiritual aspirations that Theodore James Ryken had for his Congregation. Following the path of our founder, we are called to live ordinary lives that give witness to God's unconditional love. We believe that the Xaverian calling is a way of being put in our place, a place of humility and simplicity, from which we receive the grace to turn toward God, fall in love with God, and put ourselves in God's service as followers of Jesus Christ. Within each distinctive life choice, we are further invited to attentiveness, simplicity, flexibility, and openness to the common, unspectacular flow of everyday life. We unite ourselves to God through an integrated life of both contemplation and service. Through the Xaverian Way, we are awakened by the Spirit of God to our own graced potential and freely offer that giftedness in service to the gospel. Through our ministry, in particular among the poor and the marginalized, we work to help others discover their uniqueness so they, too, may "share the love of God with the world through their giftedness." In a spirit of hospitality, we try to be approachable and available, as true brothers and sisters who welcome others and accompany them in the joys and sorrows of their lives.



Mount St. Joseph High School, Baltimore, Maryland

## **A DESCRIPTION OF THE CHARISM AS LIVED BY PARTNERS IN MISSION**

The Xaverian Brothers see all members of the Xaverian schools (board directors, administration, faculty, staff, students, parents, alumni, and benefactors) as partners in their shared mission of Catholic education. As partners in mission, we freely respond to the call to minister in a Xaverian Brothers Sponsored School. We commit ourselves to an ongoing personal and communal formation that fosters the orientation of ourselves and our students toward God. We live that orientation without privilege or entitlement, seeking to find God and to be formed by the "common, ordinary, unspectacular flow of everyday life." Motivated by the lofty purpose proposed for the Congregation by the founder, we give witness to the values passed on to us from the brothers and that currently animate our

school communities: the values of simplicity, humility, compassion, zeal, and trust.

In collaboration with the founder's vision, we endeavor to "mutually help, encourage, and edify one another, and to work together." We seek to develop school communities in which we foster the belief and attitude that we "were created by the God of love, in God's image and according to God's likeness, to be a unique expression of [God's] love." We believe that the ministry of teaching "has an extraordinary moral depth" and it is one of humanity's "most excellent and creative activities." We believe that in our ministry we are called to educate the whole person – spiritually, intellectually, and physically. In building upon the legacy of the Xaverian Brothers, we believe that our ministry calls us to form enduring personal relationships within and among our community.

As partners in mission, our ministry is one of reflective practice, striving to emulate the lives of both Martha and Mary. Like Mary in the presence of Jesus, we choose the "better part" by turning toward and falling in love with God. Like Martha, we are transformed by God's love and are impelled to place ourselves in humble service to Jesus, through our service to others. We seek to create school cultures that foster contemplation in action. As ministers of education, we are called to turn toward God and place ourselves in the service of God. We integrate prayer and contemplation with ongoing professional formation as we seek to form communities of learning, faith, and service.

As partners in mission, we seek to establish inclusive communities of faith in our schools and we embrace the challenges and opportunities of dialogue between cultures. We are called to live the teachings of Jesus Christ and we recognize our place is in solidarity and availability among the people.

As partners in mission, we are participants and stewards in building up the Kingdom of God. Like Theodore Ryken, we believe that the best way to bring out the giftedness in an individual is through education, but we realize that education takes many forms. We believe that it is through our life of gospel witness lived in community and through our call to seek justice that we respond to the Spirit's summons "to manifest God's care and compassionate love to the people of the world in these times."

As partners in mission who are heirs to the legacy of Xaverian education, we are committed to the brothers' tradition of fostering excellence. As individuals and communities, we seek to empower students to achieve beyond their expectations and "give the gift they have received as a gift" to a world in need.

With the Congregation of the Xaverian Brothers, we seek to continue to "enter into an ever deeper sharing of faith and prayer" as we search "the needs of the times and the desires of God in their regard." We affirm our commitment to "prayerfully reflect on the past, assess the present, and ponder the future with one another" as we respond to our call to minister in a Xaverian Brothers Sponsored School.



Leadership Team for XBSS New Teacher Retreat



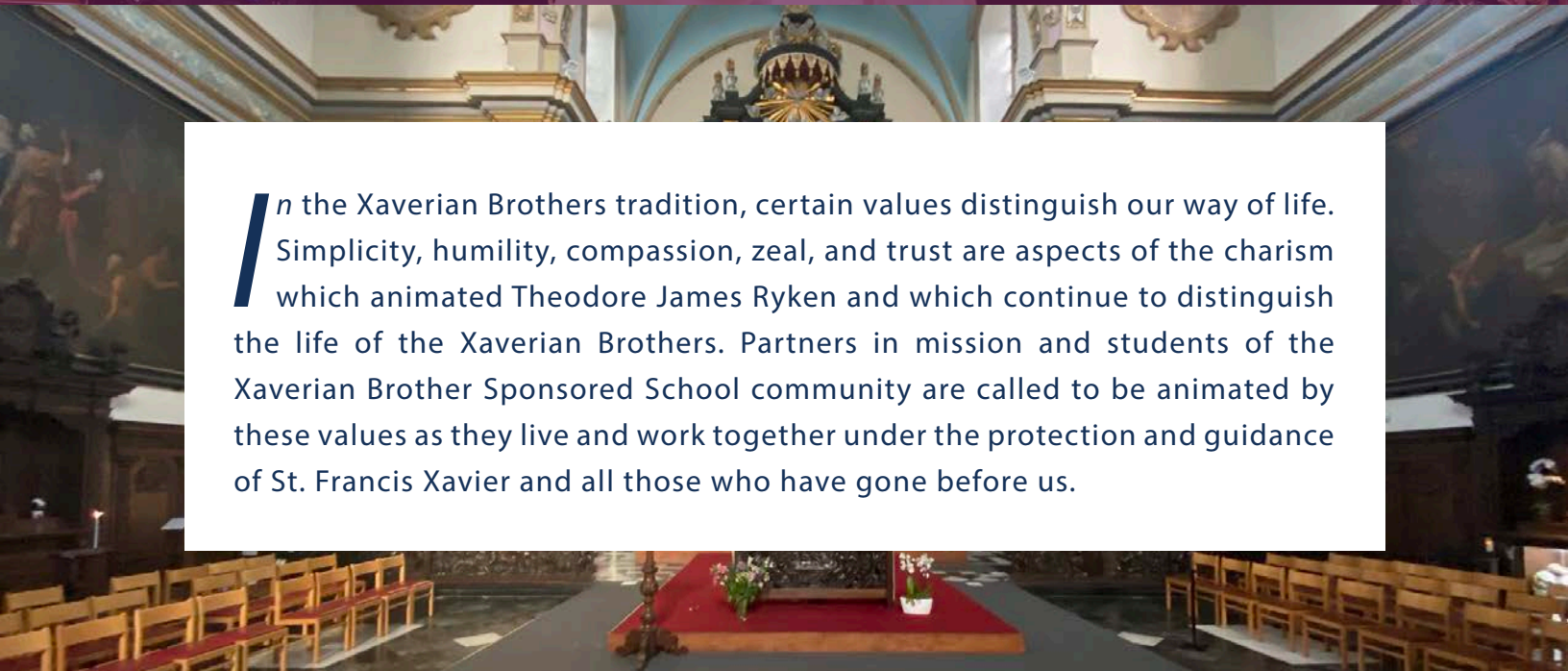
## XBSS NETWORK MISSION STATEMENT

**Xaverian Brothers Sponsored Schools** serve the Catholic Church's educational mission by forming young people to be faith-filled contemplative leaders who address the evolving needs of our world. Informed by our Xaverian and gospel values, our schools seek to educate the whole student by nurturing each person's unique giftedness. Xaverian students model Christ by utilizing their talents to respect the diversity of God's creation, seek justice, and love their neighbor.





# THE SPIRITUAL VALUES OF THE XAVERIAN CHARISM



In the Xaverian Brothers tradition, certain values distinguish our way of life. Simplicity, humility, compassion, zeal, and trust are aspects of the charism which animated Theodore James Ryken and which continue to distinguish the life of the Xaverian Brothers. Partners in mission and students of the Xaverian Brother Sponsored School community are called to be animated by these values as they live and work together under the protection and guidance of St. Francis Xavier and all those who have gone before us.

## SIMPLICITY

Simplicity is a way of thinking, feeling, and acting to offset the temptation to excessive materialism and consumerism, which can minimize the spiritual values of God's Kingdom. Making choices that favor the common good of humanity and our common home, simplicity calls us to work for justice for all people and nations.

Simplicity frees the heart, the mind, and the soul for the work of evangelization and education. The Xaverian Brothers Sponsored School community encourages us to live and work in ways that respect our vocation to be stewards of God's creation.

***“Through simplicity, and in imitation of Theodore James Ryken, we adopt a way of living with less rather than more, in a spirit of appreciation and gratitude, acknowledging that ‘through the common, ordinary, unspectacular flow of everyday life, [we] will experience a liberation and a freedom never before imagined.’***

FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

# HUMILITY

Humility is the recognition of our total dependence on God. Adopting the selfless attitude of Christ, we accept that each person is a unique expression of God's love, is gifted, and is loved in their sinful and graced humanity. We recognize our brothers and sisters as images of God with whom we journey in faith.

Humility compels all members of the Xaverian Brothers Sponsored School community to accept and affirm their giftedness and limitations as well as to acknowledge these realities in others. Humility is an attitude that demands action in loving service to all. Humility inspires a sense of connectedness, allowing members of the school community to affirm each other, to learn from each other, and to work with each other.

***“Through humility, and in imitation of Theodore James Ryken, we surrender ourselves to God in faith saying ‘The gift you have received give as a gift.’”***

FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

# COMPASSION

Compassion is the tenderness of heart which is capable of seeing and hearing the needs of all, near and far. We are called to stand with one another in difficulties, supporting and encouraging all of our brothers and sisters, especially the poor, weak, and oppressed, for they too are called to experience and share the love of God with and through us.

Compassion compels us in a Xaverian Brothers Sponsored School community to look at life through the eyes of Christ, to encounter those who suffer, to accompany them, and to seek appropriate action to alleviate hardship. This allows us to be the eyes, the ears, and the hands of the loving God.

***“Through compassion, and in imitation of Theodore James Ryken, we serve others to manifest God's ‘care and compassionate love to those who are separated and estranged, not only from their neighbors, but also from their own uniqueness; to those who suffer from want, neglect, and injustice.’”***

FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

St. John's Preparatory School  
DANVERS, MASSACHUSETTS

Our Lady of Good Counsel High School  
OLNEY, MARYLAND

St. Xavier High School  
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY



## ZEAL

Zeal is the joyful and enthusiastic commitment to the mission of the Catholic Church which God has entrusted to us. We imitate St. Francis Xavier as we give ourselves wholeheartedly to the work of evangelization, in word and deed.

Zeal enables us to share God's love as nourishment for others, as bread that is broken through a life of gospel service. Zeal unifies the Xaverian Brothers Sponsored School community in single-minded devotion and intense passion for the formation of the whole person, bringing about the more abundant life proclaimed by Jesus Christ.

***“Through zeal, and in imitation of Theodore James Ryken, we are emboldened and empowered to face trials and obstacles in our path, knowing ‘that nothing special is achieved without much labor, effort, and zeal.’”***

FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

## TRUST

Trust is total confidence in our God and our brothers and sisters in Christ. It is the meeting place of mind, heart, faith, and courage. This trust allows people to look toward the transcendent to grow in faith in spite of life's difficulties. It flourishes in contemplation and encourages, enlightens, and inspires all believers.

As members of a Xaverian Brothers Sponsored School community we entrust ourselves to the providence of God, who knows, understands, and loves us. Trusting in God, and our brothers and sisters, we can live out God's plan for us. Trust requires that we provide time and space for contemplation of God's will for us.

***“Through trust, and in imitation of Theodore James Ryken, we are joined together in our faith and efforts to build our community, comforted and inspired by the understanding that ‘in harmony, small things grow.’”***

FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

St. John's High School  
SHREWSBURY, MASSACHUSETTS



Lowell Catholic  
LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS



Xavier High School  
MIDDLETOWN, CONNECTICUT






# CALLS OF THE XAVERIAN BROTHERS SPONSORED SCHOOLS

The call to embrace our Catholic identity and Xaverian charism as partners in the church's mission of evangelization within its ministry of education.

The call to a spirituality, flowing from a contemplative stance, which is formed by God's presence in the common, ordinary, unspectacular flow of everyday life.

The call to be formed in the spiritual values of simplicity, humility, compassion, zeal, and trust.



The call for a challenging academic and cocurricular program that promotes the development of the whole person and their unique giftedness.

The call to recognize our Christian responsibility to work for justice and peace by responding to the needs of others.

The call to build diverse and inclusive communities that encourage enduring personal relationships through an understanding of culture and perspectives.



# EXPLANATION OF CALLS

The call to embrace our Catholic identity and Xaverian charism as partners in the church's mission of evangelization within its ministry of education.

## EXPLANATION OF CALL

The Spirit is calling us, as Xaverian Brothers Sponsored Schools, to embrace our Catholic identity, as well as the charism and the mission of the Xaverian Brothers as the vibrant dimension that distinguishes our schools' programs and community life as a means for evangelization within the church's ministry of education. We are blessed with a history and tradition that has been responsive to the signs of the times and willing to make needed changes. The challenges we are encountering provide a great opportunity for growth and a deeper understanding of Catholic identity and being a people of faith today.

***“Like Ryken, foster an attitude of openness to the needs of the church and our world and a willingness to follow Christ wherever He leads.”***

*Fundamental Principles*

The Xaverian charism calls us to continually reflect upon our Xaverian-Catholic identity to assess and evaluate our programs, procedures, and policies in light of the teachings of the Catholic Church and the ideals and practices articulated in the description of the Xaverian charism.

The Congregation is grateful for the laywomen and men who give to others the gift of the Xaverian charism that they received. Their strong commitment to the mission, charism, and Catholic identity promotes a passion which is the trademark of the Xaverian Brothers Sponsored Schools.



## QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

How would we describe the way our Catholic identity is lived out in our school community?

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What inspires me about the Xaverian Brothers' charism and how it is lived out in my school?

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In reflecting upon how our community is embracing the future of our school as part of the Xaverian mission, in what specific ways can Catholic identity and the charism of the Xaverian Brothers be further made manifest?

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# EXPLANATION OF CALLS

The call to a spirituality, flowing from a contemplative stance, which is formed by God's presence in the common, ordinary, unspectacular flow of everyday life.

## EXPLANATION OF CALL

The Spirit is calling us, as a Xaverian Brothers Sponsored School, to live the spirituality of the common and the ordinary, so that in encountering the living God we may be freed by seeking God's love. The incarnational spirituality as manifested in the everyday life of the school community is what makes the Xaverian school unique. Within the common, ordinary, everyday flow of existence, there is an authenticity to being who it is God calls us to be.

***“If you allow yourself to be formed by God through the common, ordinary, unspectacular flow of everyday life, you will gradually experience a liberation and freedom never before imagined. Stand ready to answer when asked if you are available for God to become more present in your life and through you to the world.”***

*Fundamental Principles*

The Xaverian charism calls us to contemplate how we encounter the love of the living God each day leading to a deeper understanding of the meaning of life and a greater appreciation of what each person has to offer. The transformative relationship with Christ is at the heart of Xaverian spirituality.

The Congregation invites its school communities to be open to letting Jesus encounter them and see contemplation and prayer as sources of strength and inspiration for students, teachers, administrators, and staff. To provide both a strong spirit and structure for living and promoting Catholic identity, we must invest time and energy in initial and regular experiences of formation for our school administrators, faculties, staffs, and those who serve as board directors of each school.





St. John's Prep, Danvers, Massachusetts

## QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

How are we responding to God's call to be ordinary in a world which seeks extra-ordinary/worldly expressions of prestige and power?

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What challenges do we face as a Xaverian Brothers Sponsored School in experiencing and nurturing a relationship with God in the ordinary flow of everyday life?

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How do we, as a school community, foster an awareness of the love of God in common, yet unspectacular ways?

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How do we respond to this call so that we can balance our lives through work and prayer, by being authentic and embracing our spiritual well-being?

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# EXPLANATION OF CALLS

The call to be formed in the spiritual values of simplicity, humility, compassion, zeal, and trust.

## EXPLANATION OF CALL

The Spirit is calling us, as Xaverian Brothers Sponsored Schools, to form school communities in the spiritual values of compassion, humility, simplicity, zeal, and trust: a compassion that requires openness to reach out in loving service; a simplicity that frees the heart, the mind and the soul; a humility that enables one to accept the giftedness of others, and the limitations of oneself; a trust rooted in faith and courage; a zeal that is a devotion and drive to fulfilling the church's mission.

***“Listen to your brothers and sisters, be compassionate with them in their difficulties, bear with them in their weaknesses, encourage and support them. Affirm your brothers and sisters in their gifts, for by doing so you enable them to realize the gifts that God has given them for service.”***

*Fundamental Principles*

The Xaverian charism calls us to express these values as we form our community to live as sons and daughters of Ryken. These spiritual values unite us as members of one Xaverian community, manifested in our Catholic identity, living the gospel with joy.

The Congregation challenges our school communities to respond to this call in furthering the Xaverian Brothers' mission. By integrating these spiritual values into the life of the school through encouragement and support, these spiritual values enable the gifts of the community to shine through and manifest themselves in unique ways. As schools create specific strategies for promoting an understanding and practice of authentic Catholic beliefs grounded in Jesus' gospel, the charism of the Xaverian Brothers will be integrated through the lived experience of these spiritual values.



Nazareth Regional High School, Brooklyn, NY

### QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

How does this call speak to the mission and vision of our school?

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What challenges do we face in furthering these calls within our school’s mission and vision?

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How can we make each of these spiritual values visible to the wider community in which our school resides?

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How do we foster the spiritual values of the Xaverian Brothers among all of our school’s stakeholders?

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# EXPLANATION OF CALLS

The call for a challenging academic and cocurricular program that promotes the development of the whole person and their unique giftedness.

## EXPLANATION OF CALL

The Spirit is calling us, as Xaverian Brothers Sponsored Schools, to implement challenging academic and cocurricular programs that promote the development of the whole person. Faculty, staff, and parents work together to create a trusting environment where the gospel vibrantly lives, and students are appropriately challenged to be their fullest, most authentic selves. As adults in Xaverian Brothers Sponsored Schools help students grow in a deeper sense of themselves, they can then call forth the unique God-given gifts within each student and challenge him or her to bring forth these gifts to build God's kingdom.

***“All are created by the God of love in His image  
and according to His likeness  
to be a unique expression of that love.”***

*Fundamental Principles*

The Xaverian charism calls our administrators to clearly communicate the educational philosophy of Xaverian Brothers Sponsored Schools to teachers, students, and parents; to provide programs that allow for and encourage the development of everyone's gifts; to regularly evaluate all educational and cocurricular programs; and to work in coordination with the governing board to ensure that a Xaverian Brothers education is accessible to all who demonstrate financial need.

The Congregation invites all administrators, faculty, staff, and board members in Xaverian Brothers Sponsored Schools to prayerfully discern how to most appropriately both nurture and challenge our students in these times so that they can fully manifest God's great love for them. Our work as educators is more essential now than ever before, as our world desperately needs thoughtful and inquisitive leaders infused with the wisdom of the Gospels.



Malden Catholic, Malden, Massachusetts

### QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

How do we foster collaboration among our community: administrators, faculty, staff, board members, parents, and alumni?

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In my role in this school community, how do I develop my gifts and the gifts of others?

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How do our institutions balance the demands of a strong academic program and our charism to educate the whole person?

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# EXPLANATION OF CALLS

The call to recognize our Christian responsibility to work for justice and peace by responding to the needs of others.

## EXPLANATION OF CALL

The Spirit is calling us, as Xaverian Brothers Sponsored Schools, to be communities living the gospel as a life-giving commitment to others. Inspired by the example of Christ's care and compassion for those in need and on the periphery, we are called to work toward building a just and peaceful society and world.

***“To manifest God’s care and compassion to those who are separated and estranged not only from their neighbors, but also from their uniqueness, to those who suffer from want, neglect, and injustice: the poor, the weak, and the oppressed of this world.”***

*Fundamental Principles*

The Xaverian charism manifests itself in “the love for the service of God” that transforms each member of our community, calling us to be faithful witnesses to the message of Jesus. By being a community that, through its outreach, service, and faith formation program makes an option for the poor a true exercise of Christian charity, we live out the Xaverian charism by working for justice and peace.

The Congregation invites its schools to actively seek ways of extending the mission to those on the periphery: being Christ's eyes, ears, and hands in our world today.



St. Bernard School, Uncasville, Connecticut

## QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

How can we help our school community better understand and respond to issues of justice and peace that confront the world today locally and globally?

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In what ways does our school community need to embrace the call of the Xaverian charism to fall in love with God and place ourselves in God's service?

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What sacrifices is our school community called to make to respond to the call to work for justice and peace while being of service to the poor and marginalized?

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# EXPLANATION OF CALLS

The call to build diverse and inclusive communities that encourage enduring personal relationships through an understanding of culture and perspectives.

## EXPLANATION OF CALL

The Spirit is calling us, as Xaverian Brother Sponsored Schools, to follow the example of Jesus and to encounter and dialogue with those the world may consider “other than us” or outcasts and to reach out and meet the needs of the multicultural reality of the Catholic Church. Our schools are challenged to embrace the diversity of God’s creation and welcome them into our communities.

***“You were created by the God of love in God’s image and according to God’s likeness, to be a unique expression of that love. It is through you that God desires to manifest love to the peoples of the world in these times, and to offer them the freedom of the children of God in your journey of life.”***

*Fundamental Principles*

The Xaverian charism calls Xaverian Brothers Sponsored Schools to enable understanding across various perspectives. For example, through dialogue we are promoting mutual respect and understanding of religious traditions that the students may encounter.

The Congregation invites its schools to teach and promote respectful dialogue to bridge divides between cultures, nations, religious beliefs and traditions, or even the divisions that may exist between generations. Additionally, the Congregation invites its schools to provide time and space so that personal encounters and dialogue can take place and help build a deeper sense of community.





St. Mary's Ryken, Leonardtown, Maryland

## QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

How do we develop and promote a global perspective of life in our educational programs?

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How can we be fair and just to all who attend or work in our school?

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How does each school develop a relationship of presence and service to the marginalized in our local community and beyond?

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# DO YOU SPEAK XAVERIAN?

## A GLOSSARY OF TERMINOLOGY CENTRAL TO THE XAVERIAN SPIRITUALITY AND CHARISM

### **Academic Excellence**

The Xaverian Brothers, from their inception, have sought to serve the Catholic Church through its ministry of education. The first Xaverian schools sought to serve those most in need by providing a rigorous curricular program that would allow students to realize their own academic potential to respond more fully to the needs of the world. The tradition of academic excellence in Xaverian education has kept its schools relevant and thriving for over 180 years.

### **Calls of Xaverian Education**

Since the 1990s, the Xaverian Brothers Sponsored Schools have used the language of “call” to describe how the Holy Spirit is calling institutions to live out its charism. These calls affirm the work currently happening within Xaverian education and also inspire future growth. The calls of Xaverian education may evolve over time, just as the mission of the Xaverian Brothers evolves to better serve the church in the world.

### **Charism(s)**

Greek for “gift” or “favor.” Charisms are living spiritual gifts of the Holy Spirit that are used to deepen the faith of others. Within a Catholic school setting, charisms can be understood as the focused identity inspired by the Holy Spirit to distinguish and advance the school’s evangelizing and educational mission. Charisms are not static; they evolve with the changing gifts of a given community.

### **Christian Stewardship**

Xaverian Brothers and their partners in mission are stewards responsible for the life and mission of the school. Therefore, all members of the sponsored school community (administrators, staff, teachers, students, board directors, parents, and alumni) should feel that their giftedness and contributions are welcome and valued as important to the mission and work of the school.

### **Congregation of Brothers of St. Francis Xavier (C.F.X.)**

The formal name of the religious order of Xaverian Brothers as recognized by the Vatican.

### **“Common, Ordinary, Unspectacular Flow of Everyday Life”**

The Fundamental Principles speak of allowing ourselves to be formed by God “through the common, ordinary, unspectacular flow of everyday life.” It is primarily through the persons, events, and situations of our daily lives that God calls us all to participate in personal formation and the world’s formation.

### **Contemplation**

A prayer practice of the mystical tradition of the Catholic Church, contemplation is the ability to see life and the world with the “eyes of God.” Contemplation develops our capacity to recognize God’s presence beyond our own limited perspective and to act in accordance with God’s will.

### **“Education of the Whole Person”**

Since its inception, Xaverian education has been about formation of youth. The rigorous academic program of each Xaverian school is only one aspect of this formational experience. The cocurricular, athletic, and ministry programs of Xaverian schools seek to form the mind, body, and spirit of its students.

### **“Enduring Personal Relationships”**

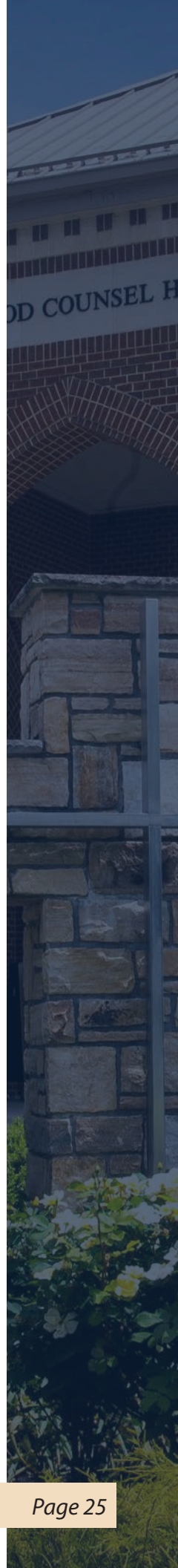
The Xaverian charism is, at its core, relational. Therefore, a Xaverian Brothers Sponsored School strives to create an atmosphere in which relationships can grow and thrive. In such an atmosphere, all can experience respect and care for their dignity as children of God. Those who work in a Xaverian Brothers Sponsored School are called to understand and live their role as ministers of the gospel of Jesus Christ which they proclaim by their attitudes, actions, and manner of relating to others, especially their students.

### **“Falling in Love with the Service of God”**

A common motto used in many Xaverian schools to describe the conversion of Theodore James Ryken. In his spiritual autobiography, Theodore James Ryken tells of his conversion at the age of 19 in which he “turned toward God, fell in love, and put himself in God’s service.” The source and the motivation of Ryken’s passion for service was his realization of God’s love for him and so for all the world.

### **Fundamental Principles**

Developed by a committee of Xaverian Brothers in the 1980s, this text expresses Theodore James Ryken’s and the Xaverian Brothers’ call to Christian discipleship. The Fundamental Principles outline a Xaverian way of living for all who are inspired by the witness of the brothers.





**“This gift you have received, give as a gift”**

This call from the Fundamental Principles and Theodore James Ryken challenges Xaverian Brothers and their partners in mission to recognize the gifts that God has given them through their talents and abilities. Responding out of gratitude, Xaverian Brothers and partners in mission are called to share their own unique giftedness with the world.

**“In Harmony Small Things Grow” (Concordia Res Parvae Crescunt)**

Concordia Res Parvae Crescunt is the motto which Theodore Ryken chose for the congregation. This phrase inspires a community in Christ in which each member is invited to answer the unique call that he or she has been given by God.

**Martha and Mary**

In the Gospel of Luke (10:38-42), Mary sits contemplatively at the feet of Jesus while Martha works anxiously in service to their guest. Like this story, Theodore James Ryken hoped that his followers would live the call to a life of continual presence to God like Mary and wholehearted service to the world like Martha. The mystery of Xaverian spirituality lives in this tension between contemplation and action. Xaverian Brothers and their partners in mission are called to integrate both these dispositions.

**“Ordinary”**

The Fundamental Principles promise that if we allow ourselves “to be formed by God through the common, ordinary, unspectacular flow of everyday life,” we shall experience “a freedom and a liberation never before imagined.” Ryken believed that God is to be found in all aspects of everyday life, not just in moments that individuals might see as significant.

**“Signs of the Times”**

The contemplative stance of the Xaverian Brothers challenges its partners in mission to understand, operate, and adapt to our current context in order to minister more effectively. As stated in the Fundamental Principles, “Above all, enter into an ever deeper sharing of faith and prayer with your sisters and brothers; reflect with them on how you find God in your lived experience. In this way the community searches out the needs of the times and the desires of God in their regard.”

**St. Francis Xavier**

St. Francis Xavier was one of the first members of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) and served as a missionary to India, Japan, and current-day Indonesia. During his missions to the East, St. Francis Xavier is believed to have baptized tens of thousands of people. Known as a great missionary, St. Francis Xavier is second only to St. Paul in the impact he had

bringing individuals into the faith. It was this missionary impulse that inspired Theodore James Ryken to name his religious order of brothers so that all who encounter them would know their purpose.

### **Theodore James Ryken**

Theodore James Ryken, a Dutch shoemaker who had a profound conversion experience, was the founder of the Xaverian Brothers. His vision was to form a community of religious brothers who, as laypersons, would be missionary evangelizers to the world. This vision of laypersons as missionaries and evangelizers was so radical for its time that Ryken continually faced ridicule and rejection in his efforts to establish the Congregation. Yet he never doubted his sense of call, and through great perseverance and trust in Divine Providence, the Congregation was finally established in 1839. The dynamism of his vision, however, is always in the process of being realized.

### **Xaverian Associates**

Xaverian Associates are lay partners in mission who have been moved by their experience with the Xaverian Brothers and their spirituality to commit to daily prayer, outreach to the poor and marginalized, and communion with the brothers.

### **Xaverian Brothers Sponsored Schools (XBSS)**

The network of Xaverian Schools within the United States. There are 13 schools within this network, spanning from Kentucky to Massachusetts.

### **Xaverian Spiritual Values**

The Xaverian spiritual values were identified as the key attributes of a Xaverian education by alumni, faculty, and staff of Xaverian schools within the United States. These values were identified to help the Xaverian network understand and model the living charism of the brothers. These values are not charisms themselves. Rather, they are attributes of how the Xaverian charism is manifested in XBSS network institutions.

### **Xaverian Way**

A way of proceeding that is informed by the mission, spirituality, and charism of the Xaverian Brothers.

### **Vocation**

In the church, the term vocation refers to a form of life (single life, marriage, religious life or priesthood) to which one is called to commit him or herself. From the perspective of faith, it is understood as the very nature of human life. Within the context of Xaverian education, brothers and their partners in mission are called to serve others in order to help them realize their God-given potential.





## **LOWELL CATHOLIC**

530 Stevens Street  
Lowell, MA 01851  
[www.crusaderclub.org](http://www.crusaderclub.org)



## **MALDEN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL**

99 Crystal Street  
Malden, MA 02148  
[www.maldencatholic.org](http://www.maldencatholic.org)



## **MOUNT ST. JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL**

4403 Frederick Ave,  
Baltimore, MD 21229  
[www.msjnet.edu](http://www.msjnet.edu)



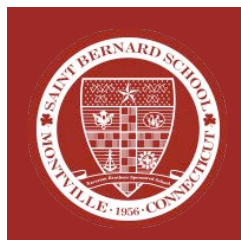
## **NAZARETH REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL**

475 East 57th Street,  
Brooklyn, NY 11203  
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## **OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL**

17301 Old Vic Boulevard  
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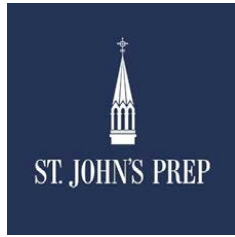
## **ST. BERNARD SCHOOL**

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Uncasville, CT 06382  
[www.saintbernardschool.org](http://www.saintbernardschool.org)



## **ST. JOHN'S HIGH SCHOOL**

378 Main Street  
Shrewsbury, MA 01545  
[www.stjohnshigh.org](http://www.stjohnshigh.org)



## **ST. JOHN'S PREPARATORY SCHOOL**

72 Spring Street  
Danvers, MA 01923  
[www.stjohnsprep.org](http://www.stjohnsprep.org)



## **ST. MARY'S RYKEN HIGH SCHOOL**

22600 Camp Calvert Road  
Leonardtwn, MD 20650  
[www.smrhs.org](http://www.smrhs.org)



## **ST. XAVIER HIGH SCHOOL**

1609 Poplar Level Road  
Louisville, KY 40217  
[www.saintx.com](http://www.saintx.com)



## **XAVIERIAN BROTHERS HIGH SCHOOL**

800 Clapboardtree Street  
Westwood, MA 02090  
[www.xbhs.com](http://www.xbhs.com)



## **XAVIERIAN HIGH SCHOOL**

7100 Shore Road  
Brooklyn, NY 11209  
[www.xaverian.org](http://www.xaverian.org)



## **XAVIER HIGH SCHOOL**

181 Randolph Road  
Middletown, CT 06457  
[www.xavierhighschool.org](http://www.xavierhighschool.org)



# SUMMARY

## THE CALL TO THE MINISTRY OF WORKING IN XAVERIAN EDUCATION

Within our Xaverian communities, we strive to achieve the vision of our founder, Theodore James Ryken, to “mutually, help, encourage, and edify one another, and to work together.” The unified collaboration of all stakeholders of Xaverian education perpetuates the mission of the Congregation the Xaverian Brothers first started. We are all partners in mission with the Xaverian Brothers within our school communities, and together as a network, with the universal church.

## MISSION STATEMENT

The network of Xaverian Brothers Sponsored Schools serves the Catholic Church’s educational mission by forming youth to be faith-filled contemplative leaders ready to address the evolving needs of our world. Informed by our Xaverian and gospel values, our schools seek to educate the whole student by celebrating each person’s unique giftedness. Xaverian students model Christ by utilizing their talents to respect the diversity of God’s creation, seek justice, and love their neighbor.

## SPIRITUAL VALUES

The spirituality of the Xaverian Brothers is rooted in five values:

- Simplicity is a way of thinking, feeling, and acting to offset the temptation to excessive materialism and consumerism, which can minimize the spiritual values of God’s Kingdom.
- Humility is the recognition of our total dependence on God. Adopting the selfless attitude of Christ, we accept that each person is unique, gifted, and loved in their sinful and graced humanity.
- Compassion is the tenderness of heart which is capable of seeing and hearing the needs of all, near and far.
- Zeal is the joyful and enthusiastic commitment to the mission of the church which God has entrusted to us. We imitate St. Francis Xavier as we give ourselves wholeheartedly to the work of evangelization, in word and deed.
- Trust is total confidence in our God and our brothers and sisters in Christ. It is the meeting place of mind, heart, faith, and courage.

## CALLS OF A XAVERIAN BROTHER SPONSORED SCHOOL

- The call to embrace our Catholic identity and Xaverian charism as partners in the church’s mission of evangelization within its ministry of education.
- The call to a spirituality, flowing from a contemplative stance, which is formed by God’s presence in the common, ordinary, unspectacular flow of everyday life.
- The call to be formed in the spiritual values of simplicity, humility, compassion, zeal, and trust.
- The call for a challenging academic and cocurricular program that promotes the development of the whole person and their unique giftedness.
- The call to recognize our Christian responsibility to work for justice and peace by responding to the needs of others.
- The call to build diverse and inclusive communities that encourage enduring personal relationships through an understanding of culture and perspectives.









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Xaverian Brothers  
*Sponsored Schools*