

## SUMMARY

Greetings to the Xaverian Family!

The Philippine Xaverian Laity shares the joy as the Congregation celebrates the Centenary of the Testament Letter written by our Founder, St. Guido Maria Conforti.

Along with this joy, we share an important event this Year 2021 as the Philippines marks fifth centenary of the coming of Christianity in the country. An event to remember the Christian faith Filipinos had embraced 500 years ago up to this present moment. Two events that are timely to awaken the Missio Ad Gentes spirit and to recognize the gift of faith bestowed in us.

The Philippine Xaverian Laity whose journey began last November 2020 has responded to the invitation to share some suggestions that can help elaborate the document of Xaverian Laity which is currently called “Vademecum”. Though still in the early stage of Formation, the group actively reflect and suggest contents that could be common and fundamental to the Xaverian Laity throughout the world.

In accordance with the Testament letter and remarkable experiences through the grace of God and work of the Holy Spirit, this document has been created.

### I. CHARISM AND XAVERIAN SPRITUALITY

#### ***A. Elements of the Xaverian Charismatic Family that fascinate the group the most and Foundational to being Lay Xaverian***

The group is fascinated in the immense **sense of inclusivity** the Xaverian Charismatic Family is exemplifying regardless of religion, position, social status and race.

The Lay Xaverian puts **Christ as the Center** of our life, keeping Christ in mind in all circumstances, striving to seek God’s will by living a **life of faith** to enable us to see, seek and love God in all things.

#### ***B. Phrases from the Testament Letter best express our life and vocation as Lay Xaverian***

*“Every one of us should be intimately persuaded that the vocation to which we have been called could not be greater or more noble; it draws us close to Christ, the author and consummator of our faith and to the apostles who, leaving everything behind, pledge themselves entirely and without reserve to following Christ” – This phrase is the best to describe our vocation as Lay Xaverian. (TL#1)*

By virtue of baptism, we are called to share the love of God to others and so this vocation draws us to Christ the center of all.

*“We must strive to fulfill the sublime goals of the Institute, working with ever increasing zeal for the spreading of the Gospel among non-Christians, thus giving our own modest contribution to the fulfilment of Christ’s wish: the formation of a single Christian family embracing all humanity” (TL#1)*

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*“The Holy Spirit admonishes those entering the Lord’s service prepare for such trials. In times of discouragement, let us turn to God in prayer, stand firm in our resolve and increase our fidelity to our commitments. Let everyone stay as he was at the time of his call” (TL#3)*

*“Let us love poverty, which is the first sacrifice Christ demands of those who aspire to perfection and would follow him more closely.” (TL#4)*

*“We must love God above all else and foster a heartfelt love for ourselves and our brothers” (TL#9).*

To love God above all else and to love and share Christ to others. Our vocation is to be witnesses. Let us find refuge in the Lord and stand firm to bring to fulfilment Christ’s wish of a single family.

### ***C. Aspects of Xaverian Charism that is most evident in the Xaverian Laity***

The group recognized the family spirit as being the most evident. Making everyone know and feel that they are part of a family through gatherings and dialogues.

## **II. ORGANIZATION OF THE XAVERIAN LAITY**

### ***A. Current group set up of PH Lay Xaverian***

The members of the group consist of single and married men and women from the three (3) communities where the Xaverians are present – Marikina, Project 8 and Maligaya. Most of the members are employees, students and parish volunteers who were in numerous ways experienced and appreciated the family Spirit of the Xaverian Charismatic Family.

### ***B. Possible Areas that PH Lay Xaverian can operate in the future***

Being a new formed group, we envision to organize programs and activities that we see needed in our own respective areas. Several proposals were raised such as projects to introduce and promote Sacraments such as importance of baptism and marriage as well as desire to organize Ecumenical activities and Interreligious Dialogues.

Currently, several members are focused in helping displaced children and sick people in their respective areas with occasions of feeding program and weekly visits to the sick.

### ***C. Possible Organizational Structure of the Xaverian Laity at the global level***

We envision the organizational structure of the Xaverian globally to have a Council or Core Group with a Spiritual Director to establish general formation and programs, determine commonalities, facilitating the collection and distribution of experiences from local groups and suggest any possible collaborations among the groups throughout the world.

## **III. JURIDICAL AND ECONOMIC AUTONOMY OF THE XAVERIAN LAITY**

Xaverian Charismatic Family have the same spirit, charism and apostolic mission. The group suggested to maintain juridical autonomy in the aspect of Pastoral Works and Governance but continuously seeking advise to the designated Local Priest Coordinator of the Lay Xaverian. Formation and guidance belong to the juridical aspect of the Religious (Xaverian Fathers, Brothers

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and Sisters). In the economic aspect, we envision to be self-sufficient by raising our own funds through different projects but consistently relying in the providence of God.

### **IV. FORMATION**

#### ***A. Current Formation Journey of PH Lay Xaverian***

The group continue to journey with our formation which is currently based on three (3) aspects: 1) Missionary 2) Spiritual and Pastoral and lastly 3) Human.

#### ***B. Xaverian Essential Values from Lay Xaverian Standpoint***

As lay missionaries, prayer is our instrument and weapon. Develop intimate relationship with Christ, ask help to the Queen of Missions Our Lady, seek help and guidance to our father founder St. Conforti and ask protection to our Patron St. Francis Xavier.

The Lay Xaverians are called to the Mission Ad Gentes to bring the living faith beyond boundaries to bear witness of God's love to others.

We should strive to keep Christ in mind at all circumstances, cultivating a deeper understanding and intimate personal relationship with Him.

The groups should look for opportunities to interact with each other thus creating a bond and intense love for all the members of the Xaverian Laity and the entire Xaverian Charismatic Family.

#### ***C. Directions/ stages conceivable for cohesive journey of International Xaverian Laity***

The most important formation stage of the Xaverian Laity consists of the fundamentals such as identifying who we are as Xaverian Laity and understanding by heart the Xaverian Charism. We give emphasis in the formation as human being, as Christian and as Missionary.

### **5. POSSIBLE INTERACTION OF THE LAITY AND OTHER COMPONENTS OF THE XAVERIAN FAMILY**

We envisioned a missionary experience combined with the other members of the Xaverian Charismatic Family. Another interaction can be solid source of "network of support system" where members and other local groups across the world can count on.

#### ***B. Possible collaborations of the Xaverian Laity***

Currently, Project 8 Community has ongoing project to help the abandoned children in the area and some members of Maligaya Community is currently involve with the Journey with God program of the parish to help the sick people.

The group proposed future collaboration with the local authorities to strengthen community presence and relationship to work on future projects together.

#### ***C. Charismatic family translated into an experience of life and mixed communities***

The Charismatic family can best translate to an experience of life by understanding each other's differences and cultures and eventually fully experience it through immersions

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### **6. SUGGESTIONS FROM THE XAVERIAN LAITY**

#### ***A. Appropriate name of the document***

*“Go Within Me: Guidelines for Xaverian Laity”*

*“Xaverian Laity- Missionary Journey”*

#### ***B. OTHER TOPICS TO INCLUDE***

Prayer of Lay Xaverian

Lay Xaverian Hymn