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# News

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## NEWSLETTER OF THE XAVERIAN MISSIONARIES USA

Photo: Members of the Fatima Shrine Pilgrimage to Fatima, Portugal courtesy of Marta Bachman



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*EXCERPT FROM THE*

# MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR THE 97<sup>TH</sup> WORLD MISSION DAY

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2023



**M**issionary conversion remains the principal goal that we must set for ourselves as individuals and as a community, because “missionary outreach is paradigmatic for all the Church’s activity” (Evangelii Gaudium, 15). As the Apostle Paul confirms, the love of Christ captivates and impels us (cf. 2 Cor 5:14). This love is two-fold: the love of Christ for us, which calls forth, inspires and arouses our love for him. A love that makes the Church, in constantly setting out anew, ever young. For all her members are entrusted with the mission of proclaiming the Gospel of Christ, in the conviction that “he died for all, so that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but for him who died for them and was raised again” (v. 15). All of us can contribute to this missionary movement: with our prayers and activities, with material offerings and the offering of our sufferings, and with our personal witness.

...The urgency of the Church’s missionary activity naturally calls for an ever closer missionary cooperation on the part of all her members and at every level. This is an essential goal of the synodal journey that the Church has undertaken, guided by the key words: communion, participation, mission. This journey is certainly not a turning of the Church in upon herself; nor is it a referendum about what we ought to believe and practice, nor a matter of human preferences. Rather, it is a process of setting out on the way and, like the disciples of Emmaus, listening to the risen Lord. For he always comes among us to explain the meaning of the Scriptures and to break bread for us, so that we can, by the power of the Holy Spirit, carry out his mission in the world.

Just as the two disciples of Emmaus told the others what had taken place along the way (cf. Lk 24:35), so too our proclamation will be a joyful telling of Christ the Lord, his life, his passion, his death and resurrection, and the wonders that his love has accomplished in our lives. So let us set out once more, illumined by our encounter with the risen Lord and prompted by his Spirit. Let us set out again with burning hearts, with our eyes open and our feet in motion. Let us set out to make other hearts burn with the word of God, to open the eyes of others to Jesus in the Eucharist, and to invite everyone to walk together on the path of peace and salvation that God, in Christ, has bestowed upon all humanity.

Our Lady of the Way,  
Mother of Christ’s mis-  
sionary disciples and  
Queen of Missions, pray  
for us!





*“Behold, I will do something new!  
Now it springs forth; will you not be  
aware of it?” (Is 43:19)*



**Xaverian Missionaries  
Leadership**

**N**ow is the time to look ahead. The Chapter documents [which were shared with all of the Xaverian Missionaries] are like a beacon on our journey. We invite every Xaverian to welcome them as a sign of love for our Family. If we think of God’s work and its fulfillment, we find two inseparable factors: the active presence of the divine Spirit and human collaboration. Well, it is thanks to these two elements that the “*audace progetto*” (*audacious project*) will reach 128 years of life on December 3, 2023. The desire that fills our hearts is to continue to collaborate actively, here and now,

in the realization of the Xaverian charism (cf. C 1).

We are particularly grateful to our confreres from the Circumscription of D.R. of Congo who, together with the Xaverian Sisters, lay Xaverians and friends, helped make possible the celebration of the XVIII General Chapter. Thank you for the exquisite and fraternal welcome and attention! We felt at home, as members of the same Xaverian family.

Towards where are we going? The Chapter has tried to answer this question by giving some indications about the path ahead that awaits us, well aware that only the Lord knows where we are going. Our trust is in Him and only in Him. It is this total trust in the Lord and in His Word that enables us to live each day with serenity, joy and hope (cf. 2 Tim 1:11–12). Let us walk the path together, as members of the same body, opening ourselves to one another, feeling the need for our confrere as an inseparable companion on the journey, giving





the best of ourselves so that Jesus Christ may be known and loved by those who do not yet know Him or love Him.

Let us continue walking together, hand in hand, with one heart and one soul (Acts 4:32).

Fraternally,

*Fernando García Rodríguez, sx*

*Mauro Loda, sx*

*Fabien Kalehezo T'Chiribuka, sx*

*Felipe de J. López Orozco, sx*

*Franciscus Xaverius Sudarmanto, sx*

Rome, 1 September 2023





# 2023 Pilgrimage to Fatima, Portugal

On September 3rd, 2023, twenty-two friends and pilgrims left from Boston and New York to meet in Lisbon, Portugal. We wanted to celebrate the seventy-fifth anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima Shrine and all those who helped to sustain the shrine over these many years. As individuals, we were on a spiritual quest to encounter the presence of Mary through this special place and in the encounter the many other pilgrims we met from around the world.

We spent much of our time in two central places; Aljustrel, the site of Mary's appearance. Here, on 13 May 1917 three shepherd children of Aljustrel, a village near Fatima, Portugal, were tending a small flock at the nearby Cova da Iria (in today's Diocese of Leiria-Fatima). They were Lucia de Jesus, aged 10, and her cousins, Francisco and Jacinta Marto, aged 9 and 7.

Around two kilometers from Aljustrel lie the town of Fatima, and the immense sanctuary where thousands of pilgrims come and worship in many different languages. The Sanctuary of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima gathers many pilgrims and the opportunity to venerate the tombs of the Fatima children. Across the promenade is the Basilica of the Most Holy Trinity which seats ten thousand people and was built in modern times for the canonization of the Francisco and Jacinta.

As we traveled together in prayer and fellowship we struck a close bond with one another and continue to keep in touch with each other.

*~Fr. Carl Chudy, sx*



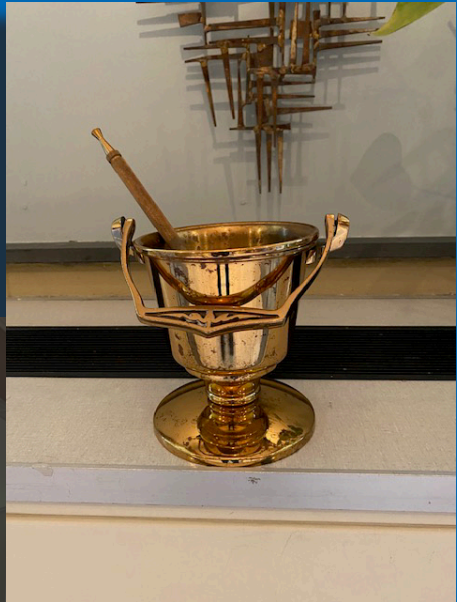
Scroll down on the home page of the link to see more pictures. <http://www.fatima.org/>







# Cornerstone Retreat with Fr. Michael





The Cornerstone Ministry at Our Lady of Consolation parish in Wayne, NJ is a group of Catholic women who continue to gather together to revitalize and deepen their spiritual lives through a combination of group gatherings, meditations, inspirational meetings, prayer, and outreach activities.

The strength of this group comes from the 'Cornerstone Retreat' which provides the opportunity to reflect, renew, and strengthen their faith while meeting other women who are looking to grow in a Christian community.

It is a time to pause, a time to connect, and a time to open your heart to God's loving embrace. Often referred to as a "Spa for the Soul," the Cornerstone Team, headed by Jane Nelson, and Margaret Kirshner with the help of several other members, prepared the beautiful retreat experience on Sept. 23rd, 2023.

The theme was "Thirsting for the Living Water." I was called to animate both the Retreat and the Holy Mass that followed.

We became aware of the fact that, although every cell in our spiritual reality, craves the 'Living water' of the Holy Spirit, often we feel run down because we have allowed ourselves to become dehydrated and thirsty.

Little bottles of 'Holy Water' were distributed after the celebration of the Eucharist, to underline our commitment to make the Conscious choice to let Jesus satiate our hearts with 'Living Water' of the Holy Spirit, leaving behind, as the woman in the Gospel, the many jars that never satisfy for very long.

At the end of the day, we felt renewed in every way: spiritually, emotionally, and physically, ready for the new pastoral year 2023-24.

Thanks to all who helped to make this event a success!

~ Fr. Michael Davitti, sx



Graphic: [https://www.freepik.com/free-vector/abstract-blue-wave-with-flowing-motion-background-line-style\\_39157536.htm](https://www.freepik.com/free-vector/abstract-blue-wave-with-flowing-motion-background-line-style_39157536.htm)

Photos: Courtesy of Jane Nelson, Cornerstone Team





## **In Sumatra “the Spirit blows where it wants, nourishes communion, dialogue with Muslims, charity”**

*Bishop Vitus Rubianto  
Solichin, sx*

Padang (Agenzia Fides) - “There is a need among the faithful in Sumatra to ‘cultivate community and solidarity, to feel community’ and the consultations before the synod were ‘a fruitful opportunity for this.’ Given the cultural, economic, and social differences in the territory, Catholics had the opportunity ‘to reflect and strengthen the sense of community.’” This is emphasized by the Bishop of Padang, Vitus Rubianto Solichin, whose diocese covers the territory of the western part of the island of Sumatra, where the ethnic population of Minangkabau lives. It is a predominantly Muslim population and Sumatra is therefore considered a stronghold of traditionalist Islam in Indonesia. The diocese of Padang, located in the central part of Sumatra, explains the bishop, includes a part of the territory characterized by a strict Islamic culture, traditions, and form of government, and another, flat part, made up of extensively cultivated land for plantations, which are the property of rich landowners. Around 130,000 Catholic believers live in the entire diocese with around 12 million inhabitants, to which are added the migrant workers who work on the plantations. “Church life takes place in our spaces and in a sober but faithful style. There is no conflictual confrontation with

society and the area dominated by Islam, but we live by witnessing to the Gospel with gentleness in this context,” says the bishop. Among the 29 parishes there are some “island parishes” on the Mentawai Islands, which lie in the Indian Ocean 150 km west of Sumatra. In the heart of the bishop, who 25 years ago lived for a year and a half among the natives in the rainforest of the Mentawai Islands as a seminarian with the Xaverian Missionaries, the missionary experience in these communities is still alive. “I wanted to be a missionary and found a kind of Amazon region on my own doorstep. It was a simple life among the natives. We lived on the basic food from the river. I remember being there, among these people who are so close to God, celebrating my first Mass. And when I returned there as bishop, the people remembered me, welcomed and hugged me,” he said, remembering a decisive step in his vocation. Because of these memories, the bishop often likes to visit communities in remote areas. “In the last few months, I have traveled many times to administer the sacraments of baptism and confirmation. Last time there were more than 6,000 confirmants. This is always a big celebration for the local communities.” Bishop Rubianto, who has led his diocese since October 2021, is trying to translate the ideas received from the synodal consultation into pastoral life: “In the first year, 2022, we

tried to put the family back at the center of community life; in the following year we gave special attention to the basic communities that are so important in our ecclesial fabric; now and in the coming year we want to think about how we can put the missionary conversion of the parish community into practice.” “The Word of God is transported by people, and the Holy Spirit blows where it wants,” says the Bishop, illustrating the attitude of Christian witness of the Catholics of Padang, who live together with Muslim believers in everyday life. “This relationship begins in Sumatra with respect for each other, with celebrating the holidays together, and finds their common ground above all in reaching out to the poor and weakest. Charity has nothing to do with religion. For example, we have made it a habit to have a Christmas dinner for the poor. Charity brings us closer to the Muslim believers and continually creates new paths and new experiences of dialogue and mutual solidarity.”



# USA NEWS

## DELEGATION HOUSE, WAYNE NJ

### Ordination of Pietro Rossini, sx

The ordination to the missionary priesthood of our brother Pietro Rossini took place on September 16, 2023. It was streamed live [on YouTube](#) and has received over 1.3K views.

### USA Xaverian Missionaries Assembly

The US Xaverian Missionaries will gather in Holliston from Nov. 5-10, 2023, to affirm the purpose of the congregation in light of its Mission and Vision Statements and consider its direction for the next 3-4 years. Agenda items include the closing of the Delegation House and its impact on the remaining two Houses; the establishment of a "Missionary Parish" associated with one of the Houses; and the development of additional initiatives in interfaith collaboration.

## OUR LADY OF FATIMA SHRINE, HOLLISTON MA

### Our New Member of the Fatima Community

The Xaverian Missionaries 75th Anniversary Celebration Fall Bazaar was held in the Shrine Hall on October 22nd. It had over a dozen vendors, baked goods, pumpkins, a rummage sale, and more. Look for photos on the Xaverian Missionaries website.

### Christmas at the Shrine

The annual "Festival of Lights" will once again light up winter nights from December 7 to December 27. There will be a Christmas Concert featuring St. Cecilia's Choir, December 17 at 3 PM.

## XAVIER KNOLL, FRANKLIN WI

The 60th Annual Fundraising Gala was held on October 28th, celebrating the work of Xaverian Missionaries around the world. Look for pictures on [worldcatholic.us](#)



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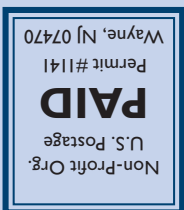
*Graduates of the Chicago Catholic Theological Union (CTU) reunion at the XVIII General Chapter*

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