

# Loving our Xaverian vocation

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



Preparing the XVIII General Chapter

Issue n. 01 (September 2022)

## Where we come from

*Time is precious  
how precious grace is,  
how precious is heaven,  
how precious is God.*

*(Conforti, The Word of the Father, May 1918)*

### Objective

Looking to the past with gratitude

*(cf. Pope Francis, Letter to the Religious, 21.11.2014)*

### Xaverian inspirational text

74. The repositioning based on the first proclamation, which was asked of us by the XVI General Chapter, led us to look back over the path of our Xaverian history to grasp the inspiration that sustained us down through the years, enabling us to face and overcome difficulties with great creativity and courage.

75. Conforti lived and showed us the

profound union between consecration and mission. Centering our life on the poor, contemplated, loved and followed Christ, we share the joy of the mission inspired by the poor, who are the privileged addressees of the Kingdom (cf. C 9).

It is with them that we express our principal solidarity through the sharing of resources, our commitment to a more just world, dependence as a positive attitude of detachment, joint responsibility, industriousness and honesty as good and simple managers (cf. C 30).

**(XVII General Chapter)**



**XAVERIAN  
MISSIONARIES**

Bukavu (DRC), July 2023  
[dg.saveriani.org](http://dg.saveriani.org)



## Presentation

Since the period of conciliar renewal, marked by the identity and missionary journey that fostered the new edition of the *Xaverian Constitutions* (1983), the Congregation has continued to open up new paths of mission (e.g., the re-opening of China - 1990s'; new presences in the Philippines - 1991, Mozambique - 1998, Thailand - 2012, Morocco - 2020; or other openings within the Circumscriptions where we were already working). We are currently present in 22 countries.

Through these openings towards the internationality of the Institute (thanks to *Vocational Missionary Animation*, the structuring of initial formation in the various stages and then in the 4-5 International Theologies, the ongoing formation initiatives), the global membership is more multi-cultural even if decreasing. In fact, in the last three decades, we have had twice as

many deceased Xaverians as we had in the first 100 years of the Institute: "our martyrs and the example of other confreres who have dedicated their lives to the service of the Gospel stimulate us on the path of fidelity to the charism" (XVII GC, 25).

These are the themes of the last General Chapters (GCs). The GC that approved the *Ratio Missionis Xaveriana* (XIV GC-2001) was followed by reflections on *Xaverian Spirituality* (with the 2006 Conference and XV GC-2007) and *on Mission* (with the 2012 Conference and XVI GC-2013). The XVII GC-2017 took up the theme of the first announcement, in the line of the 2013 GC.

The "places" of the mission *ad gentes* have shifted from a geographical conception of mission ('only' some 'mission countries') to an existential dimension of it, that is, "in constantly going forth to the outskirts of its own territory or to-

wards new socio-cultural settings" (EG 30). All local churches are now called to a "missionary conversion" where they live, with creativity, openness and support, including material support for evangelization. Along with *first proclamation* activities, the Xaverians currently run around the world some 84 parish communities (some of them within first proclamation settings) and several modalities of missionary presence, diverse and necessary.

We note the significant events relating to the charism: beatification (1996) and canonization (2011) of the Founding Father, the Jubilee year of the *Letter Testament* (2020 / 2021), the beatification processes of some confreres. These events renew the journey of the *Xaverian Charismatic Family* (i.e., all the different religious and lay realities that constitute it) towards the paths of mission ad gentes today such as, for example, dialogue with sisters and brothers of other religions, with the non-believing or post-Christian

world; *first announcement* and catechumenate for the formation of new Christian communities; commitment to the safeguarding of creation (integral ecology), a believing and evangelizing presence in the digital world ...

From a social point of view, in the last 30 years post-modernism has opened us to artificial intelligence, with its challenges. Some of our Circumscriptions have gone through periods of civil war where along with great suffering, insecurity and finding themselves unarmed, there has been no shortage of evidence of Xaverian communities close to the people, sharing the same suffering and commitment to justice and peace. The Covid-19 pandemic dramatically reminded us of our fragility, empowering new mission paths (from sectoral activities assigned to individual brothers, to brothers taking on different services in synergy, thanks to new communication technologies).

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## Method

This sheet is designed for our local communities. After personal reflection, we respond together to the proposed questions, and report them in writing by sending them, by **October 15**, to one of the coordinators or to the secretary of the *Preparatory Committee*<sup>1</sup>, with copy to the Circumscriptions Superiors. We suggest limiting the length of responses to two pages or less.

If someone, personally, would like to propose more articulated reflections and share them with all, he can send them to the General Direction with the possibility that they are shared through the website.

## Questions

1. Personally, do I feel that I am part of the Xaverian history? What awareness do I have of our history, what do I think about it?
2. What have been the major changes in the last twenty years in our Xaverian Family and in Mission?
3. What are the principles that have led to decide / make some changes in these last decades?
4. What are the values of our history, experiences and attitudes that continue to be important for the journey of our missionary Family?

*(Edited by the Preparatory Committee for the 18th General Chapter)*

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