



# The Alexians

*The Love of Christ Compels Us*

*Immaculate Conception  
Province of the Congregation  
of Alexian Brothers*

### **Mission Statement**

*Strengthened by community, prayer, commitment to the poor and the legacy of our founders, and in partnership with others, we Alexian Brothers witness the Healing Christ by a holistic approach to promoting health and caring for the sick, dying, aged and unwanted of all socioeconomic levels.*

### **Values**

*Compassion  
Dignity of the Person  
Care of the Poor  
Holism  
Partnership*

## Visiting Brother survives health crisis, bolstered by ‘brotherly love’

**T**he healing mission of the Alexian Brothers usually leans outward, with the Brothers caring for laypeople who are old, sick, disadvantaged or marginalized. But the Brothers also function as a family, living in community with each other and pulling together to support individual family members in times of need.

Brother Dominic Andes, C.F.A., of the Alexian Brothers mission in the Philippines, recently experienced such support firsthand when he became ill while visiting the U.S. with six fellow Filipino Brothers for the Provincial Assembly of the Immaculate Conception Province of the Congregation of Alexian Brothers.

After the Assembly in St. Louis last November and before their flights back to the Philippines, Brother Dominic and the other Filipino Brothers stopped for a few days at the Alexian Brothers residence on the campus of Alexian Village, an independent-living and long-term-care community in Milwaukee.

One day, Brother John Howard, C.F.A., director of the Alexian Brothers Community



Fellow Alexian Brothers visit Brother Dominic Andes, C.F.A., in the hospital. They include (standing, left to right) Brother Vincent Ferrer Timbang, C.F.A., Brother Patrick McCabe, C.F.A., Brother Mark Bennylu Buenaobra, C.F.A., and Brother Jeffrey Weeden, C.F.A. Sitting (left to right) are Brother Torch Acosta, C.F.A., and Brother Ignatius Gonzales, C.F.A.

in Milwaukee, noticed that Brother Dominic was limping and looked ashen. Brother Dominic, a diabetic, told Brother John that he had an infected toe on his left foot. Brother John, a registered nurse, inspected the toe, discovered a

*(continued on page 7)*

# Outreach ministry expands services for isolated older adults in Chattanooga

It has been less than a year since St. Alexius Outreach Ministries (SAOM) opened its doors in Chattanooga, Tennessee, but the Alexian Brothers' newest ministry already has made significant headway in its mission to provide friendship and supportive case-management services to

vulnerable homebound seniors struggling with isolation and loneliness.

As spring arrived, SAOM's first program, Hospitality at Home (HAH), had reached out to 21 homebound seniors referred by sources such as physicians, Catholic Charities, home healthcare agencies and Tennessee Adult Protective Services, said Susan Chill, SAOM executive director. Eleven seniors had enlisted in HAH and were benefiting from a variety of free services such as home safety assessments and assistance with grocery shopping. SAOM also had helped participants celebrate birthdays, presenting them with balloons, special desserts and birthday cards created by a local home-school organization.

The ministry "has been very well received by participants and the community," Chill said. The community, she added, is grateful the Brothers have launched the ministry because there is a dearth of similar resources for a growing older-adult population.

When the ministry receives a referral, Chill or Mariko Tinaya, SAOM program coordinator, calls the person within 48 hours to describe HAH and to schedule a home visit. Referral sources pre-screen seniors, who must be 70 or older, homebound and suffering from isolation or loneliness to participate. There are no income requirements. "We have a broad spectrum of socioeconomic levels among participants, not just seniors living in poverty," Chill said.

Chill, Tinaya and Brother Richard Kane,

C.F.A., have handled initial home visits, which focus on establishing a relationship, evaluating home safety, and assessing a participant's overall needs. "If there's an immediate need, we will address it right away," Chill said.

The ministry reports back to referral sources to update them about a participant's circumstances, including needs that a referral source might not know a senior has. "The program is driven by each participant's individual needs," Chill said. Participants can request follow-up "reassurance" phone calls and visits, as well as wellness checks if repeated follow-up calls are not answered. Participants also receive a flashlight and a refrigerator magnet featuring SAOM's phone number and a SAOM staff photo, so they easily can request additional assistance.

If a senior declines services, a follow-up letter is mailed explaining the services and letting the senior know "we are here, they are not alone, and they can contact us for further information," Chill said.

While growing HAH, the ministry has added the Senior Shopping Shuttle program, which provides free rides to and from grocery stores for seniors living in low-income housing areas identified as "food deserts" because they lack convenient access to fresh fruit, vegetables and other healthful whole foods. This spring, the ministry plans to launch a pilot program, Gleaning the Market, in which volunteers will collect and distribute to SAOM participants excess, donated produce and perishable items from Chattanooga's weekly farmers market. The ministry is working to identify and to train volunteers who can support its growing array of services

"With our vision of creating a community where our elders know they are cared for and valued, our ministry assures our participants and partners that the Alexian Brothers continue in Our Lord's service to the least of the least," Chill said.



Brother Richard Kane, C.F.A., helps "Mrs. J." celebrate her 93rd birthday. Mrs. J. is a participant in St. Alexius Outreach Ministries' Hospitality at Home program, which offers friendship and support services for vulnerable seniors suffering from isolation and loneliness. "You have no idea how much that means to me," a tearful Mrs. J. said, pointing to a birthday cupcake presented by Brother Richard and Mariko Tinaya, the ministry's program coordinator.

# Provincial's Letter

## Dear Alexian Friends:

It has been more than five years since I was elected Provincial of the Immaculate Conception Province, and helping to administer the Province continues to be the single greatest joy of my life.

When I consider where the Alexian Brothers have been, where we are today, and where we are heading, I feel not only great gratitude to those who support our healing mission, but also tremendous optimism about our future. I also marvel at the changes we have seen and continue to experience.

When we moved our Provincialate office and the Alexian Brothers Health System (ABHS) corporate offices into an Arlington Heights, Illinois, office building in 2004, I expected us to stay there for the rest of my natural life. The Brothers did not anticipate that ABHS would become part of Ascension, that ABHS later would join forces with Adventist Midwest Health to form AMITA Health, or that AMITA Health this year would expand to include Presence Health. With AMITA Health moving into a new headquarters in Lisle, Illinois, this year, the Brothers are seeking a buyer for the Arlington Heights building, and our prospects for completing a sale are very good. Once we do, we will be moving our Provincialate office into the Roncoli building on the campus of AMITA Health Alexian Brothers Medical Center Elk Grove Village.

In recent years, the Brothers have shifted away from our longtime administrative and nursing roles at ABHS facilities and have focused on reinventing ourselves as religious brothers in the 21st century. This effort has led to further changes, including:

- The creation of a ministry to the homebound elderly in Chattanooga, Tennessee. (See article on page 2.)
- Re-establishing and expanding our community in Milwaukee after a five-year hiatus. (See article on page 8.)

- Building a new residence for our community in Elk Grove Village, Illinois, after selling our old residence to AMITA Health for use as a residential treatment center for people with obsessive-compulsive disorder, anxiety and addictions. The Brothers are moving into the new residence this spring.

- Expansion of our missions in Hungary and the Philippines. In Hungary, our Brothers are converting their residence into additional rooms for our St. Elizabeth of Hungary Home for the Elderly and are building a new Brothers residence. In the Philippines, our Brothers are moving forward with plans to open a hostel for the homeless in Davao City and a clinic in East Timor, a poor nation in Southeast Asia. Amid these efforts, the Brothers this year have played a major role in providing relief to victims of a massive New Year's fire in the Bajada section of Davao City. (See article on page 4.)

- The establishment of a Brothers "presence ministry" that provides comfort, support and spiritual guidance to patients, residents and family members at our namesake facilities in Chicago's northwest suburbs.

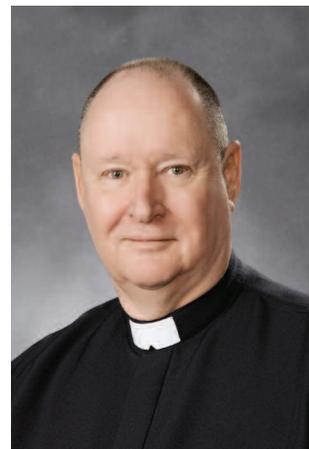
- Exploring ministry opportunities in Bolivia. Brother Steve Fogt, C.F.A., comptroller for our Province, is traveling there this spring with representatives of the Diocese of Joliet to identify needs that the Brothers might address.

All of these changes show that the spirit of Our Lord and His Blessed Mother continues to guide and to protect the Brothers. For every challenge that has come to us, the Brothers have responded in a positive fashion that reflects honor and pride in our 800-year-old healing tradition – and an enduring commitment to identifying new opportunities to spread our values.

May God Bless You and Yours,



Brother Daniel McCormick, C.F.A.  
Provincial  
Immaculate Conception Province of the Alexian Brothers



## Did you know?

*Editor's Note: "Did you know?" provides brief glimpses into the rich, 800-year history of the Congregation of Alexian Brothers.*

On July 22, 1934, Chicago was in the midst of a severe heat wave.

The Biograph Theater, a few miles from the former Alexian Brothers Hospital on Belden Avenue, had just installed a prototype air-conditioning unit.

Taking advantage of a cooled entertainment facility, one of the theater's patrons was the notorious, Depression-era bank robber John Dillinger. When he left the theater about 10:30 p.m., the FBI was waiting for him.

A gun battle ensued, and Dillinger was shot three times. Fatally wounded, he was rushed to Alexian Brothers Hospital, where he died. Word soon got out, and there was a near riot as the curious clamored to see his body.

## Brothers help neighbors recover from devastating fire in Davao City

The Alexian Brothers mission in the Philippines provided shelter for 127 families for nearly two months after a devastating New Year's fire destroyed their homes in the Bajada section of Davao City.

The Brothers' Bajada community opened its

items for the fire victims. The Brothers also purchased galvanized iron roofing sheets to help the victims build new homes so they could live again on their own. The victims also received rebuilding assistance from the Philippine government.



Neighbors of the Alexian Brothers Community in the Bajada section of Davao City take refuge at the Brothers' mission (top photos) after a devastating New Year's fire destroyed their homes (bottom photo).

doors for the fire victims immediately after the 30-minute blaze, which started at 12:12 a.m. Jan. 1 and destroyed 56 houses in a nearby neighborhood. About 250 men, women and children occupied several areas inside the Brothers' residence and main formation house until Feb. 20.

Individuals assisted by the Brothers included a pregnant woman who was rushed to the hospital shortly after arriving at the mission. She gave birth to a baby girl later on New Year's Day and named the baby "Alexa."

The Brothers also assisted a 100-year-old woman who was injured in the fire. A local physician cared for her after a 911 medical team rescued her from the blaze. She stayed with the Brothers for 10 days before traveling to her siblings' hometown, where she later died.

The Brothers collaborated with government officials, the Philippine Red Cross, a local parish, other religious orders and the Rotary Club to provide food, clothing and other

"Through this effort, our Brothers in the Philippines honored our 800-year tradition of caring for those in need," said Brother Dan McCormick, C.F.A., Provincial of the Immaculate Conception Province of the Alexian Brothers. "Recognizing the plight of the fire victims, the Brothers acted immediately and without hesitation to come to their aid and to help them get on their feet again. The Brothers' actions exemplified our values of compassion, dignity of the person, care of the poor, holism and partnership."



## Provincial Council shifts first year of Novitiate training to Philippines

The Immaculate Conception Province of the Alexian Brothers is changing the format of its two-year formation program for U.S. novices, requiring them to spend the first year at the Brothers' mission in the Philippines.

Novices previously spent both years receiving instruction and guidance from Brother Jeffrey Callander, C.F.A., in St. Louis, but health issues recently caused Brother Jeffrey to retire as novice director.

The Provincial Council decided to shift the first year of training for novices to the Philippines because the mission there has a long-standing Novitiate program led by Brother Raphael Fallado, C.F.A. "Brother Raphael is an experienced novice director who has the maturity and wisdom to convey to our novices the messages they need to hear," said Provincial Brother Dan McCormick, C.F.A. Novices will return to the U.S. for their second year of formation.

During their year in the Philippines, novices will have the opportunity to develop their prayer life and to participate in ministries that harken back to the work of the earliest Alexian Brothers, who cared for the poor and

sick in the Middle Ages.

Brothers at the mission pray and meditate several times each day. "This structure will give novices more time to develop the discipline that will grow into a mature prayer life," Brother Dan said. "The Novitiate's approach there focuses on who you are, what you are and how you find God in your own self."

The mission operates or assists several ministries for the disadvantaged and sick, including a mobile clinic program that provides medical care and medications to people in remote locations.

Plans call for current postulants Marc Rizzo, Joe Pense and Robert Podarsky to enter the Novitiate in the Philippines on July 17. They will be joined by Zeke Mapa, who previously completed his postulancy and is returning to the Alexian Brothers.



Plans call for current postulants Marc Rizzo, (left), Joe Pense (second from right) and Robert Podarsky, (right), to spend their first year as novices in the Philippines under a new policy approved by the Provincial Council. They are shown above with Postulant Director Brother Warren Longo, C.F.A., (second from left).

## Four Alexian Brothers celebrate milestones at mission in Philippines

Three Alexian Brothers have renewed their Temporary Vows and an Alexian Brothers postulant has entered the novitiate in the Philippines.

Brother Paul Oserin, C.F.A., Brother Mark Bennyly Buenaobra, C.F.A., Brother Ignatius Gonzales, C.F.A., and Postulant Henry Pabualan celebrated the milestones during a Mass in the chapel of the Alexian Brothers residence in the Bajada section of Davao City.

Reverend Father Allan Rodriguez, D.C.D.,

officiated at the Mass, which occurred on March 19, the Feast of St. Joseph. Attendees at the Mass included other Brothers from the Alexian Brothers mission in the Philippines, as well as friends of the Brothers and two sisters from the Pious Disciples of the Divine Master.



Alexian Brothers and Reverend Father Allan Rodriguez, D.C.D., (fifth from right), gather for a photo after four Brothers celebrated milestones during a Mass at the Alexian Brothers mission in the Philippines.

# Alexian Brothers prison ministry extends love, compassion to inmates

**Editor's Note:** *Although people often associate the Alexian Brothers with their work in hospitals and nursing homes, the Brothers also have a long history of ministering to prisoners. That ministry continues today, and in the article below, Earl Bonds, an inmate at a Missouri prison, writes about the Brothers' impact on him and other prisoners.*

**B**onds, you have a visitor." These are precious words in prison. Sadly, there are many inmates who never have heard their name at the beginning of that sentence.

Consider Tom, one of my fellow inmates.

In his 60s, he has been imprisoned for more than 30 years and will spend the rest of his life behind bars.

One day, I was preparing for a visit from my mom, who was bringing my favorite foods. When I told Tom and other friends what foods I would be eating, he said matter-of-factly, "I've never had a visit." I couldn't believe it. Tom has family, and many years ago, he had friends. But no one ever cared enough to

visit him or even write a letter.

Some might say Tom committed a crime, deserves every bad thing that happens to him, and does not deserve to be remembered. But the Bible says, "Remember the prisoners as if chained with them – those who are mistreated – since you yourselves are in the body also." (Hebrews 13:3).

Back to my mom's visit: She is in her 70s and no longer can drive to the prison. She loves

to go to PACE (Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly), a senior day center in St. Louis. The Alexian Brothers provide spiritual care at the center, and a Brother who befriended my mom offered to drive her to see me. She thought it would be good for me to talk with him, but I initially had no interest in getting to know him. My mom persisted, and I began to receive letters from the Brother. I felt no immediate connection with him, but his letters encouraged me. He did not speak down to me; he was remembering the prisoners.

Eventually, the Brother drove my mom to see me. When I met him, I felt an instant connection. I didn't see pity, duty or obligation in his eyes. I saw love. He wasn't interested in knowing why I was in prison. He wasn't trying to rehabilitate me. He just wanted me to understand that God loves me. This knowledge, and my continuing contact with the Brothers' prison ministry, have made a huge difference in my life, making me a better person.

The ministry also has changed the lives of other prisoners I have known, men who previously were without love or hope. They include a death-row inmate who before his execution came to believe his life was worth something because of letters from a Brother. Another friend, a young inmate in his 20s who felt alone after his mother died, also has benefited. Through letters and visits, the ministry has given him the same love and compassion that I have received, helping him come to terms with his mother's death and filling the empty space in his heart.

I wish every inmate had an Alexian Brother to remember him. I believe if more people took on the challenge of Hebrews 13:3, the prison system would change drastically. Because brotherly love is not something only for church or the Bible: As the Brothers' prison ministry shows, it's something brought to life by people who get out there and connect with people in need.



Earl Bonds, (middle), an inmate at a Missouri prison, says the Alexian Brothers prison ministry has made him a better person. It also has changed the lives of other prisoners, he says. Bonds is shown above with Brother Warren Longo, C.F.A., (left), and Bonds' mother, Eleanor Powers, during a visit at the prison.

## Visiting Brother survives health crisis, bolstered by ‘brotherly love’

*(continued from page 1)*

wound that had become gangrenous, and drove Brother Dominic to the emergency room at Columbia St. Mary’s Hospital Ozaukee in Mequon, Wisconsin, just north of Milwaukee.

During the next several weeks, Brother Dominic underwent multiple surgeries as doctors worked to eliminate the infection. First the infected toe was removed, then the one next to it, and finally, the three remaining toes. After the last surgery, he underwent physical rehabilitation at the hospital, and then was discharged to the health center at Alexian Village for several more weeks of rehabilitation. Fully recovered, he returned to the Philippines on March 11.

From the moment Brother John took Brother Dominic to the emergency room to the day he flew home to the Philippines, another Filipino Alexian Brother – Brother Ignatius Gonzales, C.F.A. – stayed at his side. In college, Brother Ignatius studied to become a medical technologist, and because of his medical background and his fluency in English, he was chosen to remain in the U.S. with Brother Dominic after the other Filipino Brothers flew home.

“He assisted medical and hospital staff, and because of his professional preparation, he could prepare Brother Dominic for his surgeries, assist in daily diabetic meal choices, and translate consent forms for surgery that Brother Dominic had to sign,” Brother John said.

Brother Ignatius, 32, also assisted Brother John, 87, with chores at the Brothers residence. “He was especially efficient in meal planning and preparation, allowing me to be totally spoiled,” Brother John said. Brother Ignatius’ culinary abilities were particularly valuable after Brother Dominic left the health center to live at the residence for a couple of weeks before he and Brother Ignatius returned to the Philippines.

Brother John, in turn, provided important support for Brother Ignatius, driving him to and

from Columbia St. Mary’s each day, accompanying him to the grocery store, talking with him about his life and religious vocation, and helping him to relax by taking him out to eat or to see a movie. When Brother Ignatius got the flu shortly before he and Brother Dominic flew home, Brother John cared for both Brothers, successfully nursing Brother Ignatius back to full health while ensuring that Brother Dominic did not get sick again.

Other Alexian Brothers also pitched in to provide support and encouragement for Brother Dominic and to lessen the load on Brother Ignatius and Brother John. Brothers from Elk Grove Village, Illinois, traveled to Milwaukee on Christmas to visit Brother Dominic in the hospital and to have dinner with Brother John and Brother Ignatius. The Brothers from Elk Grove Village also visited at other times to see Brother Dominic and to give Brother Ignatius a break from caregiving.

“Though I was faced with many challenges, I am grateful to God that he gave me the opportunity to take care of Brother Dominic and Brother John,” Brother Ignatius said. “For me, this was a blessing from God. My stay in the U.S. was productive, meaningful and spirit-filled. Watching Brother Dominic undergo his surgeries and treatments gave me so much pain in my heart, but all the pain disappeared after I saw him recover. I am elated that I can see him walk again and do things on his own.”

Reflecting on the responsibilities that Brother Ignatius shouldered during Brother Dominic’s illness and recovery, and on the support provided by other Brothers, Brother John said: “It was a true experience of community, of brotherly love. It was absolutely natural. It’s part of who we are.”



(Left to right) Brother Ignatius Gonzales, C.F.A., Brother Dominic Andes, C.F.A., and Brother John Howard, C.F.A., finish a meal together at Alexian Village in Milwaukee during Brother Dominic’s recovery from a serious illness.

### Provincial praises Columbia St. Mary’s

In addition to the support that Brother Dominic Andes, C.F.A., received from his fellow Alexian Brothers during his health crisis, he benefited greatly from the care he received at Columbia St. Mary’s Hospital Ozaukee in Mequon, Wisconsin, just north of Milwaukee, according to Provincial Brother Dan McCormick, C.F.A.

“I cannot praise and emphasize enough the help and kindness that the Daughters of Charity and Ascension healthcare gave us at Columbia St. Mary’s,” Brother Dan said. “They were absolutely wonderful.”

The hospital’s staff “bent over backward to help Brother Dominic and to make his stay as comfortable as possible,” Brother Dan said. “They also were very flexible with visiting hours and our Brothers coming and going. We all are very grateful.”



**Cover**  
'Brotherly love'  
helps ailing  
Brother recover



**Page 2**  
Outreach ministry  
expands services  
for isolated seniors



**Page 4**  
Brothers assist  
neighbors after  
devastating fire



**Page 5**  
First-year novices  
to receive training  
in Philippines



## Return Service Requested

We work very hard to maintain an accurate mailing list; if you wish not to receive future mailings, please email us at [Matthew.Wakely@amitahealth.org](mailto:Matthew.Wakely@amitahealth.org).

**Alexian Brothers  
Community & Ministries**  
3040 Salt Creek Lane  
Arlington Heights, IL 60005

**Brother Lawrence Krueger, C.F.A.**  
Superior General, Congregation  
of Alexian Brothers

**Brother Dermot O'Leary, C.F.A.**  
Vicar General, Congregation  
of Alexian Brothers

**Brother Daniel McCormick, C.F.A.**  
Provincial, Immaculate Conception  
Province of the Alexian Brothers,  
Director of the Alexian Brothers  
Community, Elk Grove Village, Illinois

**Brother John Howard, C.F.A.**  
Director of the Alexian Brothers  
Community, Milwaukee

**Brother Richard Lowe, C.F.A.**  
Director of the Alexian Brothers  
Community, Signal Mountain,  
Tennessee

**Brother Warren Longo, C.F.A.**  
Director of the Alexian Brothers  
Community, St. Louis

**Brother Alexis Siska, C.F.A.**  
Director of the Alexian Brothers  
Community, Győrújbarát, Hungary

**Brother Raphael Fallado, C.F.A.**  
Director of the Alexian Brothers  
Bajada Community, Davao City,  
Philippines

**Brother John of God Oblina, C.F.A.**  
Director of the Alexian Brothers  
Matina Community, Davao City,  
Philippines

# The Alexians

*The Love of Christ Compels Us*

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit # 307  
Carol Stream, IL

## Second Alexian Brother assigned to re-established Milwaukee community

**B**rother Patrick McCabe, C.F.A., has been assigned to join Brother John Howard, C.F.A., at the Alexian Brothers' re-established community on the campus of Alexian Village, an independent-living and long-term-care community in Milwaukee.

Brother Patrick, a registered nurse who has worked in multiple healthcare settings, will provide spiritual care to Village residents, including those in its health center. He also will continue his work as associate vocations minister for the Immaculate Conception Province of the Alexian Brothers.

The Brothers re-established their community at the Village in 2017 after a five-year hiatus caused by declining vocations and the deaths of older Brothers. The province recently has registered progress in attracting men to religious life, and this success contributed to the decision to return to Milwaukee.

Brother John moved into the Brothers'

former residence on the Village campus Sept. 1. He provides a Brothers presence at the facility, visiting regularly with residents and serving on the resident council.

The province this spring was in the process of repurchasing the Brothers' residence at the Village from Ascension, the nation's largest nonprofit health system. Ascension bought the residence from the Brothers after their departure from Milwaukee. Ascension Living, a division of Ascension, operates the Village.



Brother Patrick McCabe, C.F.A.