



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*

Brother Warren Longo, C.F.A., marks 60th anniversary as Alexian Brother

More than 200 people joined Brother Warren Longo, C.F.A., as he celebrated his 60th anniversary as an Alexian Brother during a Mass of Thanksgiving at St. Pius V Catholic Church in St. Louis.

Father Michael Garcia, a Dominican priest and close friend of Brother Warren, served as the principal celebrant, and Brother Lawrence Krueger, C.F.A., superior general of the Congregation of Alexian Brothers, received Brother Warren's renewal of Life Vows. Father Binu Edathumparam-bil, a Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales priest and associate pastor of St. Joseph's Church in Manchester, Missouri, delivered the sermon.

Attendees at the Diamond Jubilee celebration included Brother Warren's relatives from Wisconsin, friends, and representatives of the three Alexian Brothers communities (Elk Grove Village, Illinois, St. Louis, and Signal Mountain, Tennessee) in the United States.

The theme for the celebration was "Jubilee – A Time to Give Thanks to God." In remarks after



Superior General Brother Lawrence Krueger (left) receives Brother Warren Longo's renewal of Life Vows during a Mass of Thanksgiving celebrating Brother Warren's 60th anniversary as an Alexian Brother.

Holy Communion, Brother Warren said he selected the theme because he believed his 60th anniversary was not so much about him, but about God's love and generosity.

Brother Warren recalled his life as a teenager in Racine, Wisconsin, and how God's goodness led him to the Alexian Brothers. In those years, he worked in the kitchen of a Catholic hospital

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Alexian Brothers announce plans to expand home for elderly in Hungary

Seeking to address a growing need for assisted-living and skilled nursing care for low-income older adults, the Alexian Brothers have unveiled plans to expand St. Elizabeth of Hungary Home for the Elderly at their mission in Győrújbarát, Hungary.

The plans call for connecting the home to the next-door St. Alexius Monastery, the Brothers' residence at the mission, and converting the monastery's 12 bedrooms into private apartments for senior residents.

To make way for the expansion, Brother Alexis Siska, C.F.A., and Brother Leó Vendrey, C.F.A., the mission's two Brothers, plan to move into a nearby house owned by the Brothers. It will be renovated as part of the expansion project.

"Because we don't have to build a new foundation, walls and exterior or add utilities, we can have 12 new rooms in about a year," said Brother Dan McCormick, C.F.A., provincial of the Immaculate Conception Province of the Congregation of Alexian Brothers.

Brother Alexis, director of the Alexian Brothers Community in Győrújbarát, and Brother Leó developed the plan with Henriett Ziegler, administrator of the home for the elderly. Brother Alexis and Brother Leó presented the plan to Brother Dan during his annual visitation at the mission this past spring. He recommended that the Provincial Council approve the plan, and it quickly gave its blessing.

Since the home for the elderly opened in 2009, it has earned a reputation for delivering

high-quality, holistic care. "It is as contemporary, clean and professional as any upscale nursing home you would find in the United States," Brother Dan said. "It always has had a waiting list."

The home is licensed for 85 beds, and its residents live in apartments with two or three beds apiece. The expansion project will enable the home to address growing demand for private rooms by offering current residents and other applicants the opportunity to move into a private room. Plans call for converting 12 existing rooms at the home into private rooms during the next five years, giving the facility a total of 24 private rooms – more than half of its projected 47 total rooms.

Because Hungarian law allows nursing homes to charge a fee for a certain number of beds, including those in private rooms, the additional private rooms at the home will generate additional revenue that will enable the facility to become financially self-sustaining, Brother Dan said. The Immaculate Conception Province now underwrites more than 25 percent of the home's operating expenses.

The fees will be "very reasonable by Hungarian standards, and we will not at any point compromise the number of residents we accept without a fee," Brother Dan said. "Those who truly cannot afford care will be cared for just as they are now."

The decision to turn over the monastery reflects the Brothers' commitment to proactively perpetuating their 800-year-old healing ministry, despite a long-term decline in religious vocations. The decision is similar to the one that the Brothers made to sell their residence in Elk Grove Village, Illinois, to AMITA Health for use as a residential treatment center for people with obsessive-compulsive disorder, anxiety and addictions. The Foglia Family Foundation Residential Treatment Center opened its doors at the site this past April.



(Top photo) Brother Leó Vendrey, C.F.A., (left), and Brother Alexis Siska, C.F.A., (right), will move out of the monastery at the Alexian Brothers mission in Győrújbarát, Hungary, so the monastery can be used for an expansion of St. Elizabeth of Hungary Home for the Elderly (bottom photo).

Provincial's Letter

Dear Alexian Friends:

As the Alexian Brothers have transitioned away from hospital-based ministries in recent years, we have been called to think entrepreneurially about how we can perpetuate our 800-year-old healing mission. This edition of *The Alexians* spotlights two examples of how our Brothers are responding to this challenge.

In Hungary, Brother Alexius Siska, C.F.A., and Brother Leó Vendrey, C.F.A., have volunteered to move out of their monastery so it can be used for a much-needed expansion of St. Elizabeth of Hungary Home for the Elderly at our mission in Győrújbarát. (See article on page 2.)

Working with the home's administrator, Henriett Ziegler, Brother Alexius and Brother Leó developed the expansion plan and presented it to me during my annual visitation at the mission this past spring. Their plan was so well thought out, so thorough and so true to our mission that I quickly emailed it to Superior General Brother Lawrence Krueger, C.F.A., and the Provincial Council, and they promptly green-lighted it.

Brother Alexius' and Brother Leó's decision to turn over their monastery to a mission-related cause is similar to the one that the Brothers in Elk Grove Village, Illinois, made to turn over their residence to AMITA Health so it could be used as a residential treatment center for people with obsessive-compulsive disorder, anxiety and addictions. The Foglia Family Foundation Residential Treatment Center opened its doors at the site this past April.

Meanwhile, the Brothers at our mission in the Philippines also are thinking entrepreneurially. They have presented a proposal to acquire a house in Davao City and to convert it into a drop-in center for the homeless. (See article on page 5.)

The drop-in center would offer medical and social services while serving as a place where the homeless could take a shower, get a meal and do

laundry. The center also would perpetuate the Brothers' tradition of serving the poor and homeless in and around Davao City – a tradition I have witnessed firsthand many times during my visits to our mission there.

To say I'm proud of our Brothers in Hungary and the Philippines would be a massive understatement. Instead of sitting back and waiting for ideas and direction from leadership, they are taking the initiative to move their ministries forward. They are identifying and responding to community needs as only they can – because they see those needs every day.

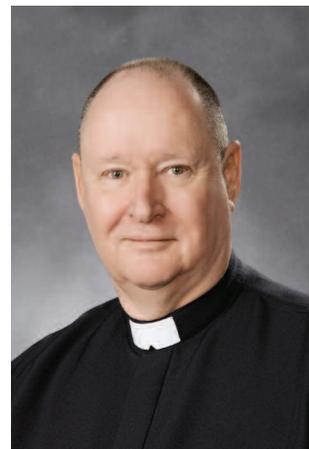
In doing so, they inspire all of us and exemplify the compassionate, selfless spirit that has driven the Brothers for centuries. They also are following in the footsteps of Brothers such as Brother Warren Longo, C.F.A., our longtime director of postulants who recently celebrated his 60th anniversary as a Brother. (See article on page 1.) Through his years of forming young Brothers and ministering to the elderly, hospital patients and prisoners, Brother Warren has shown the far-reaching impact an individual Brother can have when he accepts God's invitation to serve and faithfully follows God's path, no matter where it leads.

Brother Warren and our Brothers in Hungary and the Philippines understand that the secret to Christian religious life is accepting that we are neither captains nor masters of our lives. Rather, we are servants of the Lord, who calls us to see the presence of Jesus in the face of every person for whom we care.

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.

A unique fact about the Alexian Brothers is that they did not name themselves. Rather, they were named by the people through the centuries.

In a document dated 1259, there is a reference to the "Beghards," who are considered the forebears of the Alexian Brothers. The Beghards were laymen who chose a life of apostolic poverty and service to the impoverished in Europe's Low Countries and Rhineland. After the Alexian Brothers received Church recognition as a religious order in 1472, they named their chapel after St. Alexius because he was a popular saint at the time. (St. Alexius lived during the fourth century, giving up wealth, power and prestige to follow Christ and to help the poor and the most unwanted.)

People came to St. Alexius Chapel to worship and pray. They soon referred to the Brothers as the Brothers of St. Alexius, which later evolved into the Alexian Brothers.

Brothers bolster IT capabilities to support online vocations efforts

With a growing number of vocation inquiries online, the Immaculate Conception Province of the Congregation of Alexian Brothers is taking steps to enhance its information technology (IT) capabilities and its Internet presence.

The Brothers have been working with Ascension, the nation's largest Catholic health-

care system and the parent company of Alexian Brothers Health System (ABHS), to build an efficient and responsive IT system to support the Brothers' online vocations efforts and other computer-related needs, said Brother Patrick McCabe, C.F.A., and Zeke Mapa, associate vocations ministers for the province.

because they, too, are an Ascension member congregation. While helping the Brothers establish their own IT system, Ascension this summer also was helping them identify a Web-server company that could host the Brothers' website, www.alexianbrothers.org, and provide assistance with making the site more expansive, dynamic and interactive. "We want to enhance the functionality of our site to strengthen our presence in the virtual world," Mapa said. "We want to reach more vocation discerners and have a more active presence in the online community."

He and Brother Patrick are increasing the use of "widget" features on the Brothers' site, allowing visitors, for example, to take a spirituality quiz and a celibacy quiz. The Brothers offer the quizzes in collaboration with the VISION Vocation Network, an online resource of the National Religious Vocation Conference. With their enhanced website capabilities, the Brothers expect to add more interactive functions while taking a more hands-on approach to their site.

Mapa and Brother Patrick plan to increase traffic to the site by integrating its new features with the Brothers' established presence on social media sites, including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest, LinkedIn, Google Plus and YouTube. They have been encouraged by positive responses to their advertising on Facebook, and they hope that interfacing with other social media platforms will heighten the Brothers' visibility and increase visits to their site.

By focusing their vocations efforts online, the Brothers today are receiving anywhere from 15 to 30 inquiries a month from prospective candidates – a big increase compared with the results of print-focused campaigns of the past. "We have quite a number of engaged individuals who are in correspondence with us," Mapa said. Five men are active candidates and are moving deeper into the discernment and screening process, Brother Patrick said.



With the Alexian Brothers' new IT capabilities and growing visibility online, Brother Patrick McCabe, C.F.A., (left), and Zeke Mapa (right) are hopeful they will see even more interest in the Alexian Brothers in the months and years ahead. "We want to expand our reach, so we can tell the Brothers' story to more people who are curious about religious life," Mapa says.

The Brothers began to transition to their new IT system in June after previously piggy-backing on the IT system of AMITA Health, a joint operating company formed by ABHS and Adventist Midwest Health in 2015. "As the Brothers' IT needs have changed, we felt the need to look for a different kind of technical support that is more attuned to religious congregations' needs," Mapa said. Ascension Information Services, which provides IT support for its sponsoring religious organizations, offered the same support to the Alexian Brothers

Brothers eye creation of drop-in center for homeless in Philippines

The Alexian Brothers in the Philippines have unveiled a plan to open a drop-in center for the homeless in Davao City.

“It would be a place where the homeless could get a square meal, take a shower and do their laundry,” said Brother Dan McCormick, C.F.A., provincial of the Immaculate Conception Province of the Congregation of Alexian Brothers.

The center also would offer medical and social services, said Brother Dan, noting several Brothers at the Philippine mission are medical professionals and two are social workers. The center would not offer overnight accommodations.

The plan calls for purchasing an existing

“It would be a place where the homeless could get a square meal, take a shower and do their laundry.”

home, renovating it and converting it into the drop-in center.

The drop-in center would enable the Brothers to extend their tradition of serving the homeless in the Philippines, Brother Dan said. During his visits to the Philippines, he has seen the Brothers share their dinner leftovers with homeless visitors who came to the Brothers’ door each night.

The Provincial Council is expected to review the plan this summer.

Philippine mission welcomes new postulant

The Alexian Brothers recently welcomed a new postulant at their mission in the Philippines.

Henry G. Pabualan, 37, was received into the postulancy program during a Mass on June 15 in St. Alexius Chapel at the Alexian Brothers Health & Wellness Center in Davao City.

Father Andres Malawis of the Blessed Sacrament Fathers presided at the Mass, and Henry read and signed his Prayer of Commitment after Father Andres delivered his homily.

During the Mass, Brother Dominic Andes, C.F.A., director of postulants in the Philippines, presented the Alexian Cross to Henry as a sign of his initial commitment to the Brothers.

Members of the Brothers’ communities in the Bajada and Matina sections of Davao City attended the Mass, prayed over Henry and welcomed him to the postulancy program with

a congratulatory embrace.

The youngest of seven children, Henry formerly worked as a teacher in a Catholic school. He first learned about the Brothers during a retreat when he was in high school. He later joined the Barnabites (Clerics Regular of St. Paul) but left after his mother died. He continued to feel a strong call and invitation from God, leading him to the Brothers. He said he joined the Brothers because he was attracted to a life of prayer, fraternal communion and service.



Brother Dominic Andes, C.F.A., (left), accepts Henry Pabualan (kneeling) as an Alexian Brothers postulant while other Brothers look on during a Mass in St. Alexius Chapel at the Alexian Brothers Health & Wellness Center in Davao City.

Brother Warren Longo, C.F.A., marks 60th anniversary as Alexian Brother

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so he could pay the tuition at his Catholic high school. When he was 17, he had a dream in which he saw a Christ figure carrying a heavy cross down a hospital corridor. The figure beckoned him “to come follow me,” Brother Warren said.

Because he worked in the hospital’s kitchen and arrived at work after school, he would change into his white work pants and shirt in a room at the hospital. Several Catholic magazines and pamphlets were displayed there, and in

later saw a doctor at Alexian Brothers Hospital in Chicago, who could not detect a murmur of any kind. “My heart was fine,” Brother Warren said. “The rest is history.”

Brother Warren joined the Alexian Brothers as a postulant in September 1956, a month after he turned 18. Six months later, he received the habit of the Alexian Brothers and began the first of his 60 years as a Brother.

Through the years, Brother Warren has served in a variety of leadership positions with the Brothers. He served for 36 years as assistant superior general and as a member of the General Council, which oversees the Brothers’ ministries in the United States, Germany, Belgium, Ireland, England, Hungary and the Philippines. He also served for 16 years as spiritual care coordinator for the Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) in St. Louis, which closed in 2016. He now serves as director of postulants for the Immaculate Conception Province and director of the Alexian Brothers Associates in St. Louis, positions he has held for many years. A member of the Provincial Council, he also serves on the advisory board at the former Alexian Brothers Hospital in St. Louis, now known as St. Alexius Hospital. In addition, Brother Warren enjoys ministering to prison inmates and delivering presentations on the Alexian Brothers’ history, mission and values.

Provincial Brother Dan McCormick, C.F.A., praised Brother Warren for his 60 years of service as an Alexian Brother. “Being a good religious brother is predicated on Matthew 25, which talks about feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, clothing the naked and comforting the sick and imprisoned,” Brother Dan said. “Warren’s life has been that reality lived out.”

In Brother Warren’s closing remarks at the Mass of Thanksgiving, he paid tribute to everyone in attendance. “In many ways, this Jubilee is about you,” he said. “Every single one of you in

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Fellow Alexian Brothers join Brother Warren Longo, C.F.A., (back row, fifth from left), for a photo during the celebration of his 60th anniversary as an Alexian Brother. Also shown are Father Binu Edathumparambil, (back row, fourth from left), and Father Michael Garcia, (back row, sixth from left).

browsing through them, Brother Warren came across ads for the Alexian Brothers. “Although my interest was in getting a degree in teaching, I decided to take the clue from the dream and contact the vocations director of the Alexian Brothers,” Brother Warren said.

When he did, the vocations director, Brother Mark Neaf, C.F.A., told Brother Warren that a medical checkup was required. Brother Warren visited his family physician and was surprised to learn he had a severe heart murmur that could prevent him from joining the Brothers. The next day, Brother Warren went to a church, knelt before a statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and cried as he asked her to intercede for him. He

Alexian Brothers Associates welcome new member during annual retreat

The Alexian Brothers Associates in St. Louis welcomed a new member at their annual retreat this past spring.

Linda Amoroso made her promises as an Alexian Brothers Associate at a May 30 ceremony at the IL RITIRO Franciscan Retreat Center in Dittmer, Missouri.

Brother Warren Longo, C.F.A., director of the Alexian Brothers Associates in St. Louis, accepted Amoroso's promises.

"I have worked with the Brothers for over 20 years, and I believe in their mission and values," said Amoroso, life enrichment coordinator at Alexian Brothers Sherbrooke Village, a skilled nursing and assisted-living facility in St. Louis. "I also want to increase my spiritual life."

Alexian Brothers Associates are laypeople who assist the Alexian Brothers with their ministries and join them for retreats and other activities.

In other news about the Alexian Brothers



Associates in St. Louis:

- Alexian Brothers Associate Ralph Kirkhart received a Volunteer Recognition Award from St. Alexius Hospital (formerly Alexian Brothers Hospital) in St. Louis. The award recognized Kirkhart's 10,000 hours of volunteer service at the hospital.



(Left photo) Linda Amoroso makes her promises as an Alexian Brothers Associate. (Right photo) Alexian Brothers Associate Ralph Kirkhart (right) displays the Volunteer Recognition Award he received from St. Alexius Hospital (formerly Alexian Brothers Hospital) in St. Louis. Also shown is Brother Warren Longo, C.F.A., director of the Alexian Brothers Associates in St. Louis.

Brother Warren Longo, C.F.A., marks 60th anniversary as Alexian Brother

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one way or another has lifted me up. ... Each and every one of you has helped me to be a better person."

Although Brother Warren's 60th anniversary actually occurred in March, he chose to celebrate it May 13 because he wanted his Mass of Thanksgiving to occur at St. Pius V, the church where he had celebrated his 50th anniversary, and May 13 was the only available date. When he realized May 13 was the 100th anniversary of the apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary to three shepherd children in Fatima, Portugal, and that Pope Francis would be canonizing two of the children on that day, Brother Warren thought it was providential and

not coincidental. He recalled that as a teenager, he had a great devotion to Our Lady of Fatima, and that a statue of her resides in one of the corridors leading to the chapel at St. Alexius Hospital. The statue played a significant role in a well-known exorcism that occurred at the hospital in 1949. Brother Warren related this story to the St. Louis Review, the newspaper of the Archdiocese of St. Louis, which subsequently published an article about the statue and the Brothers' prayers and rosaries to Our Lady of Fatima during the exorcism case. (See article on page 8.)



Brother Warren Longo, C.F.A., addresses the more than 200 people who joined him as he celebrated his 60th anniversary as an Alexian Brother during a Mass of Thanksgiving at St. Pius V Catholic Church in St. Louis.

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Summer 2017



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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, Signal Mountain, Tennessee.

Brother Richard Lowe, C.F.A.
Director of the Alexian Brothers Community, St. Louis

Brother Alexius 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

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Newspaper recalls Brothers' role in case that inspired 'The Exorcist'

The *St. Louis Review*, the newspaper of the Archdiocese of St. Louis, recently spotlighted the Alexian Brothers' role in an exorcism that inspired the best-selling book, "The Exorcist," later adapted into an eponymous 1973 movie.

In 1949, a 13-year-old boy was brought by the Jesuits to the former Alexian Brothers Hospital in St. Louis for physical, spiritual and psychological care after experiencing a series of unexplained supernatural phenomena.

Brother Emmet Roche, C.F.A., who worked in the hospital's psychiatric unit, took special care of the boy, helping him have a normal existence when he was not having his supernatural episodes, which occurred mostly at night.

"Brother Emmet kept him occupied (on walks to the garden ... and on the hospital floor) and ... won his friendship and confidence so that the psychiatric surroundings were more under-

standing and agreeable to him," the newspaper reported, quoting a case study of the exorcism given to the Alexian Brothers by the Jesuits.

Brother Cornelius Knosalla, C.F.A., the hospital's administrator, bought a 5-foot statue of Our Lady of Fatima and placed it in the hospital's lobby with a petition to Our Lady of Fatima to intercede on the boy's behalf. He later moved the statue near the boy's room on the hospital's fifth floor. The Brothers prayed the Rosary around the clock in honor of Our Lady of Fatima, and Jesuit Father William S. Bowdern eventually performed a successful Rite of Exorcism.

The article appeared in connection with the 100th anniversary May 13 of the apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary to three shepherd children in Fatima, Portugal. The statue of Our Lady of Fatima still resides at the hospital, now known as St. Alexis Hospital.