

# 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*

## Two Alexian Brothers profess Perpetual Vows in Milwaukee

**B**rother Steve Fogt, C.F.A., and Brother Patrick McCabe, C.F.A., professed their Perpetual Vows as Alexian Brothers during a Mass in Holy Spirit Chapel at Alexian Village of Milwaukee.

Fellow Alexian Brothers, Village residents and other friends of the Brothers attended the Mass on July 17, the Feast of St. Alexius, patron saint of the Alexian Brothers.

Brother Larry Krueger, C.F.A., Superior General of the Congregation of Alexian Brothers, accepted Brother Steve's and Brother Patrick's professions. Brother Dan McCormick, C.F.A., provincial of the Congregation's Immaculate Conception Province, served as the official witness, and Brother John Howard, C.F.A., director of the Alexian Brothers Community in Milwaukee, was the master of ceremonies.

Brother Richard Lowe, C.F.A., director of the Alexian Brothers Community in Signal Mountain, Tennessee, delivered the first reading, Samuel 3:2-10. Brother Jeffrey Callander, C.F.A.,



Brother Steve Fogt, C.F.A., (right), professes his Perpetual Vows as Brother Larry Krueger, C.F.A., (middle), presides and Brother Patrick McCabe, C.F.A., (left), awaits his profession of vows.

gave the second reading, St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12. Selected by Brother Patrick and Brother Steve, the readings "deal with being called and chosen," said Father Joel Szydowski, O.F.M., a Village chaplain who celebrated the Mass. *(continued on page 7)*

## Brother Thomas Keusenkothen, C.F.A., celebrates 60 years as Alexian Brother

Fellow Alexian Brothers, family members and friends joined Brother Thomas Keusenkothen, C.F.A., as he celebrated his 60th anniversary as an Alexian Brother at Ascension Living Sherbrooke Village in St. Louis.

The Diamond Jubilee celebration June 22 began with a Mass celebrated by Father John Mayer in the chapel at Sherbrooke, an assisted-



Brother Thomas Keusenkothen, C.F.A., who led Alexian Brothers Health System for many years, has set a strong example for younger Alexian Brothers, demonstrating how to uphold the Alexian Brothers' core values through a lifetime of faithful service.

living and skilled-nursing facility that formerly was part of Alexian Brothers Health System (ABHS).

After Father John's homily, Brother Thomas renewed his Perpetual Vows as an Alexian Brother. Brother Dan McCormick, C.F.A., provincial of the Immaculate Conception Province of the Congregation of Alexian Brothers, received Brother Thomas' renewal of Perpetual Vows, and fellow Alexian Brothers congratulated him for his longtime commitment to the Congregation and its ministries.

Brother Thomas served as ABHS president and chief executive officer from 1998 until shortly before the health system became part of St. Louis-based Ascension on Jan. 1, 2012. He also served in many other leadership roles with the Alexian Brothers and as a board member for numerous health-care organizations, such as the

Illinois Catholic Health Association. He retired several years ago and lives in community with the Alexian Brothers of St. Louis.

"During his long career as an Alexian Brother, Tom has built a legacy of vision, courage, integrity and, above all, duty," Brother Dan said. "His duty has been to something bigger than all of us – the Roman Catholic Church, the will of God and the love of Christ. That is his greatest legacy."

Through the years, Brother Thomas has set a strong example for younger Alexian Brothers, demonstrating through his efforts how to put into action the Alexian Brothers values of Compassion, Dignity of the Person, Care of the Poor, Holism and Partnership, Brother Dan said. "Although he is retired, he still volunteers at Sherbrooke and Lansdowne Place," Brother Dan said. "He is famous for pushing residents in wheelchairs to daily Mass." (Ascension Living Lansdowne Place is a St. Louis skilled-nursing, rehabilitation and memory-care facility that formerly was part of ABHS.)

"Brother Tom is a good mentor for me, and I am inspired by his resolute dedication to upholding our core values," said Brother Torch Acosta, C.F.A., of the Alexian Brothers Community in Elk Grove Village, Illinois, who attended Brother Thomas' Diamond Jubilee celebration. "I am thankful for his ongoing support and encouragement."

Brother Warren Longo, C.F.A., served as master of ceremonies during the Diamond Jubilee Mass; Brother Edward Walsh, C.F.A., and Brother Steve Fogt, C.F.A., served as lectors; Brother Richard Lowe, C.F.A., director of the Alexian Brothers Community in St. Louis, led the Prayers of the Faithful; and Brother Jeffrey Callander, C.F.A., read the Jubilee Proclamation. "The Jubilee Proclamation was wonderful, as it captured Brother Tom's life work as an Alexian Brother," said Brother Patrick McCabe, C.F.A., of

*(continued on page 6)*

## Provincial's Letter

### Dear Alexian Friends:

In this edition of *The Alexians*, we celebrate several individual milestones that reflect the changing nature of religious vocations as well as the enduring nature of the Alexian Brothers' way of life.

Our cover story focuses on Brother Steve Fogt, C.F.A., and Brother Patrick McCabe, C.F.A., who professed their Perpetual Vows as Brothers on July 17. Brother Steve and Brother Patrick came to the Brothers after accomplished secular careers, embodying a trend we have seen toward men discovering religious vocations later in life.

Novice Brother Carl Sisolak also embodies this trend. He joined the Brothers last January after working for 18 years in corporate accounting and finance, and he entered the Alexian Brothers Novitiate on July 15. (See article on page 5.)

Brother Steve, Brother Patrick and Novice Brother Carl represent the future for the Brothers – and for religious life in general. Unlike decades ago, we no longer see a steady stream of naïve 19- and 20-year-olds seeking to dedicate their lives to God. Instead, we increasingly find ourselves welcoming older men who, having built careers and accumulated life experience, have asked themselves, “Is that all there is?”

In religious life, and particularly with the Alexian Brothers, they have found an answer – something that attracts them, satisfies a yearning in their hearts, and fills a hunger in their souls. That something is the opportunity to experience the love of God by serving the poor, the vulnerable and the marginalized in concert with – and in prayerful community with – fellow Brothers.

Another key attraction is that the Brothers welcome men from all walks of life. We do not have a checklist to tell us which men fit a strict definition of an Alexian Brother. We are not certain who the first Brothers were; we only know they arose from bands of man who joined

together to care for the sick and poor in Europe during the Middle Ages. As a result, the umbrella under which our Congregation grew was much bigger than those of religious orders tied tightly to specific historical figures. That remains true today. To be sure, men who join us must meet certain requirements, but they are descriptive, not proscriptive. They relate to having a spiritual mindset, a willingness to commit one's life to something much bigger than oneself, and a desire to become part of a healing tradition that dates back 800 years.

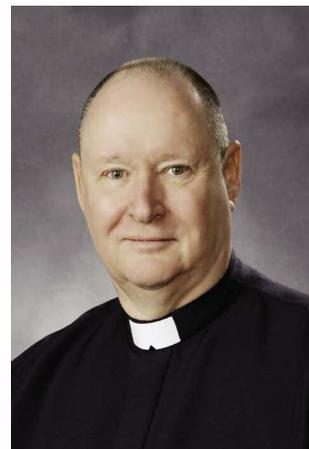
We are fortunate that our Congregation still includes several members who joined the Brothers as young men. They include Brother Thomas Keusenkothen, C.F.A., who recently celebrated his 60th anniversary as a Brother (See article on page 2.), and Brother John Howard, C.F.A., who served as master of ceremonies during Brother Steve's and Brother Patrick's professions of Perpetual Vows. Brother Thomas and Brother John provide strong examples of fidelity, honor and duty, teaching our younger Brothers what it truly means to pursue a religious vocation, to sacrifice one's personal interests for a greater cause, and to experience the love of God during a lifetime as a Brother.

While Brother Steve, Brother Patrick and Novice Brother Carl represent the future of our Congregation, Brother Thomas, Brother John and our other older Brothers represent our roots. By sharing their wisdom and experience, they ensure our long-standing legacy of healing will endure, continuing to provide an answer for men who ask, “Is that all there is?”

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. To mark the 150th anniversary this year of the Alexian Brothers Community in St. Louis, this item focuses on the Brothers' pioneering spirit in the care of the mentally ill.*

A reporter for a German language newspaper in St. Louis wrote an article in the late 1800s that painted a glowing picture of the Alexian Brothers and the care they provided for the mentally ill.

“Not even relatives wish to care for them (the mentally ill), and manage to get them out of the house as soon as possible,” the reporter wrote. “When their friends and relatives have forsaken them, they find the good Brother (to be) a father and mother. The quietness and love with which the patients see themselves treated by the Brothers have a beneficial influence upon them.”

## Brothers mark 10th anniversary of home for elderly in Hungary

The Alexian Brothers mission in Hungary recently celebrated the 10th anniversary of its St. Elizabeth of Hungary Home for the Elderly with a festive gathering for residents and their families.

The June 2 celebration featured a “tradition-keeper” singing group, a folk dancing group, programs for children, free blood-pressure screenings and massages for guests, and a doll exhibition from the works of Paray Júlia Gyöngyi, including a St. Elizabeth of Hungary doll.



Brother Alexius Siska, C.F.A., (front, center), poses for a photo with guests at a celebration of the 10th anniversary of St. Elizabeth of Hungary Home for the Elderly.

Physiotherapist Mészáros Nagy Mónika and nutritionist Börzsei Cecília, who work at the home for the elderly, visited with residents and their relatives, and Brother Alexius Siska, C.F.A., direc-

tor of the Alexian Brothers Community at the mission, led guests on tours of St. Alexius Monastery, the Brothers’ residence. During the tours, Brother Alexius talked about the Alexian



Staff members of St. Elizabeth of Hungary Home for the Elderly provide free blood-pressure screenings for guests during a celebration marking the home's 10th anniversary.

Brothers and their history. Visitors also could view a picture exhibition of the history of the mission in Győrújbarát, Hungary.

The home for the elderly provides assisted-living and skilled nursing care for low-income older adults. Since the facility opened in 2009, it has earned a reputation for delivering high-quality, holistic care. It is licensed for 85 beds, and its residents live in apartments with two or three beds apiece. To address strong demand for the home’s services and growing demand for private rooms, the Brothers are pursuing plans to expand the facility.

## Hungarian Brothers help to lead Feast of Corpus Christi procession

Brother Alexius Siska, C.F.A., and Brother Leó Vendrey, C.F.A., of the Alexian Brothers mission in Hungary, helped to lead a procession through the streets of Nagybarát, Hungary, to celebrate the Feast of Corpus Christi.

After a Mass at a local church, the two Brothers joined Father Andrew Bausz as he and area residents walked along the procession route. During the procession, Father Andrew held aloft a monstrance containing the Blessed Sacrament. People prayed and sang, and little girls sprinkled

flower petals along the route. Participants also stopped to pray with Father Andrew at stations decorated with flowers.

The Feast of Corpus Christi, also known as the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, honors the presence of the body of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. Bishop Robert de Thorete established the feast in 1246 in the Belgian diocese of Liège at the suggestion of St. Juliana, an Augustinian nun who was prioress of a convent near Liège.

## Brothers welcome new novice during ceremony in Signal Mountain

Postulant Carl Sisolak entered the Alexian Brothers Novitiate during a ceremony July 15 in St. Augustine Chapel at Ascension Living Alexian Village in Signal Mountain, Tennessee.

Fellow Alexian Brothers and Village residents witnessed the ceremony, which occurred during a Mass celebrated by Father Alex Agbata, a Village chaplain.

Brother Tom Klein, C.F.A., U.S. postulant director for the Immaculate Conception Province of the Congregation of Alexian Brothers, and Brother Richard Lowe, C.F.A., acting U.S. novice director for the province and director of the Alexian Brothers Community in Signal Mountain, initiated Carl into the novitiate during the ceremony. Brother Tom began with an opening prayer, asking God to “bless Carl with your peace” and adding: “Grant him wisdom to discern your will for him and the courage to follow the path you lead him on.”

Carl, 51, then requested admission into the Novitiate. “I wish to try your way of life, and I am willing to be tested myself, that I may follow the Healing Christ wholeheartedly in this Community of Alexian Brothers,” he said. Brother Tom and Brother Richard accepted the request and welcomed Carl into the Novitiate, with Brother Richard asking God to bless Carl and “help him to know what you ask of him.”

Brother Richard delivered a reading from the “Way of Life,” the rules and constitution of the Congregation of Alexian Brothers, and Brother Tom provided a reflection. Brother Richard then presented Carl with a copy of the “Way of Life.”

The new novice will spend the first year of the two-year novitiate program living in community with the Alexian Brothers of the Philippines before returning to the U.S. to complete his training as a novice. Under the guidance of Brother Raphael Fallado, C.F.A., director of novices in the Philippines and director of the

Alexian Brothers’ Bajada community in Davao City, Novice Brother Carl will take classes focused on liturgy, spirituality and understanding cultural differences. He also will be immersed in ministries that recall the work of the earliest Alexian Brothers, who cared for the poor and sick during the Middle Ages.

Novice Brother Carl joined the Alexian Brothers last January after working in corporate accounting and finance for 18 years. As a postulant, he lived, worked and prayed with the Alexian Brothers Community in Signal Mountain, receiving instruction and guidance from Brother Tom. The new novice ministered to residents in the Village’s Health and Rehabilitation Center and to participants in the Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (P.A.C.E.) in the Chattanooga area. In addition, he volunteered with St. Alexius Outreach Ministries, an Alexian Brothers ministry that provides ongoing friendship and supportive case-management services to isolated and vulnerable older adults in the Chattanooga area.

“He provided a Brother’s presence for people in all three of these ministries, listening, sharing, caring and being present for them,” Brother Tom said. “He did very well.”

Born in New Brunswick, N.J., Novice Brother Carl lived in Basking Ridge, N.J., before joining the Alexian Brothers. He earlier lived in Washington, D.C., and Seattle. He served his parish church as a cantor, choir member, musician and lector, and he served as a Eucharistic minister, bringing Communion to the sick and homebound. He also volunteered in social outreach ministries serving the homeless.



Brother Tom Klein, C.F.A., (left), and Brother Richard Lowe, C.F.A., (right), guide Novice Brother Carl Sisolak during his initiation into the Alexian Brothers Novitiate.

## General Council takes advisory role in developing clinic in East Timor

The General Council of the Congregation of Alexian Brothers has accepted a recommendation from the Immaculate Conception Province to take an advisory role in the development of a medical clinic in East Timor, a poor nation in Southeast Asia.

The Alexian Brothers in the Philippines, who are part of the Immaculate Conception Province, have completed preliminary planning for the clinic, “and the province has the men and resources to move forward with the project,” said Provincial Brother Dan McCormick, C.F.A.

With the General Council, the Congregation’s governing body, now assisting the effort, the Brothers intend “to start from the ground

up,” focusing first on determining whether establishing the clinic is doable, and if it is, providing special training to prepare Brothers to work “in a missionary-like operation,” Brother Dan said. “This training is needed because we never have been a missionary congregation.”

The preliminary plans developed by the Brothers in the Philippines call for three Brothers to staff the clinic and to minister to the sick and poor. With primitive living conditions and a pressing need for health-care services, East Timor is similar to other places where the Brothers have provided care during their 800-year history – places “where nobody else wants to go,” Brother Dan said. “It’s a situation that cries out for the delivery of care.”

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## Brother Thomas Keusenkothen, C.F.A., celebrates 60 years as Alexian Brother

*(continued from page 2)*

the Alexian Brothers communities in Elk Grove Village and Milwaukee, who also attended the celebration.

Brother Warren said it was “providential” that Brother Thomas’ Diamond Jubilee coincided



Fellow Alexian Brothers join Brother Thomas Keusenkothen, C.F.A., (back row, third from left), for a photo during his Diamond Jubilee celebration in St. Louis.

with the 150th anniversary this year of the Alexian Brothers’ arrival in

St. Louis, especially because a distant relative of Brother Thomas, Vicar General Father Henry Muehlsiepen, was instrumental in the founding of the Alexian Brothers’ ministry in the city. After the Mass, Brother Thomas’ celebration continued with a lunch reception at Sherbrooke.

A native of Kelso, Missouri, a small town just south of Cape Girardeau in the southeast

part of the state, Brother Thomas grew up with 10 siblings, three of whom also entered religious life, including a brother who became a priest and two sisters who became nuns. Six of his brothers and one of his sisters attended his Diamond Jubilee celebration.

After serving in the U.S. Navy, Brother Thomas joined the Alexian Brothers in January 1959. His first assignment after professing his temporary vows was at the former Alexian Brothers Hospital in Chicago, where he worked as a medical technologist. He later served as laboratory supervisor at the former Alexian Brothers hospitals in St. Louis and Elizabeth, N.J. His many leadership positions included assistant administrator of the St. Louis hospital and administrator of Boys Town Memorial Hospital in Boys Town, Nebraska. “I feel very honored and privileged to have spent my life serving and working as an Alexian Brother,” Brother Thomas said.

## Two Alexian Brothers profess Perpetual Vows in Milwaukee

*(continued from page 1)*

After Father Joel proclaimed the gospel (Luke 5:1-11) and homily, the formal Profession of Perpetual Vows ceremony began. Brother Larry asked Brother Steve and Brother Patrick a series of questions, and they responded. Brother Steve and Brother Patrick then prostrated themselves as cantor Paul Misner, a Village resident, led worshipers in praying the Litany of the Saints. Immediately following that ancient prayer of the Catholic Church, the Brothers stood and professed their Perpetual Vows of Poverty, Chastity and Obedience.

Brother Larry accepted the profession promises, and the Alexian Brothers in attendance together delivered a pledge to Brother Steve and Brother Patrick. “In return, we pledge our faith, our trust and our love,” the Brothers said. “We offer you our sharing in the daily joys and sorrows of life, a sharing in prayer and Eucharist. We receive you Brothers with the hope that, together with you, we will become the healing power that shows forth Jesus Christ to all people.” Brother Steve and Brother Patrick then proceeded to the altar, where they signed documents finalizing their professions.

Other individuals playing key roles during the Mass included Brother Thomas Keusenkothen, C.F.A., who led the Brothers’ procession into the chapel, carrying the Alexian Brothers shield; Brother Tom Klein, C.F.A., who led the Prayers of the Faithful; Brother Torch Acosta, C.F.A., and Brother Zeke Mapa, C.F.A., who presented the gifts during the Liturgy of the Eucharist; Novice Brothers Robert Podjarsky and Joe Pense, who carried the thurible and incense boat during the Liturgy; Kristen Dininno, who sang “Ave Maria” at the conclusion of the Liturgy; and Brother Warren Longo, C.F.A., who provided some reflections about the Alexian Brothers before the Mass ended.

Brother Steve serves as comptroller of the Immaculate Conception Province and as acting



director of the Alexian Brothers Community in St. Louis. He joined the Alexian Brothers as a postulant in January 2013 after working in data collection, accounting and inventory control. He professed First Vows after completing his novitiate training in July 2017.

Brother Patrick serves as assistant director of the Alexian Brothers Community in Milwaukee and as associate vocations minister and director of formation for the Immaculate Conception Province. A registered nurse, he joined the Alexian Brothers as a postulant in January 2014 after working in hospice and palliative-care roles. He professed First Vows after completing his novitiate training in July 2016.

Because the deaths of older Brothers and a national decline in religious vocations have thinned the ranks of the Alexian Brothers, Brother Steve and Brother Patrick were asked to assume leadership roles before professing their Perpetual Vows. Both men “have responded very positively,” Brother Dan said. “They exemplify the sense of duty to the poor and to our fellow Brothers that has driven the Brothers for more than 800 years and that we impress upon our Brothers in formation. They have truly inspired me, and I’m very proud of both of them.”

With Brother Larry Krueger, C.F.A., at his side, Brother Patrick McCabe, C.F.A., (right), signs documents finalizing his profession of Perpetual Vows.

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**Brother Daniel McCormick, C.F.A.**  
Provincial, Immaculate Conception  
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Director of the Alexian Brothers  
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**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 Steve Fogt, C.F.A.,**  
Acting 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

*The Love of Christ Compels Us*

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## Alexian Brothers plan major meetings in Signal Mountain, Elk Grove Village

**T**he Alexian Brothers Community in Signal Mountain, Tennessee, will host the annual Provincial Assembly of the Immaculate Conception Province of the Congregation of Alexian Brothers from Sept. 8 to Sept. 12.

The agenda for the gathering includes, among other things, a presentation about construction of an Alexian Brothers center for the homeless in the Philippines and preliminary plans for establishing a medical clinic in East Timor, a poor nation in Southeast Asia. Brother Raphael Fallado, C.F.A., Brother Romie Duriman, C.F.A., and Brother John of God Oblina, C.F.A., of the Alexian Brothers mission in the Philippines, are expected to deliver the presentation.

Construction of the homeless center in Davao City began after a groundbreaking cere-

mony last November. The center, which will be named the Refuge of Saint Alexius, will provide a place for the homeless to shower, wash their clothes, eat meals, receive medical care and access social services. It also will offer overnight accommodations.

The Alexian Brothers in the Philippines have completed preliminary planning for the clinic in East Timor, and the General Council, the Congregation's governing body, has taken an advisory role in the development of the clinic. (See article on page 6.)

Soon after the Provincial Assembly concludes, the Alexian Brothers Community in Elk Grove Village, Illinois, will host a meeting of the General Council. The meeting is scheduled to take place from Sept. 23 to Sept. 27 at the Brothers' residence in Elk Grove Village.