



# 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**

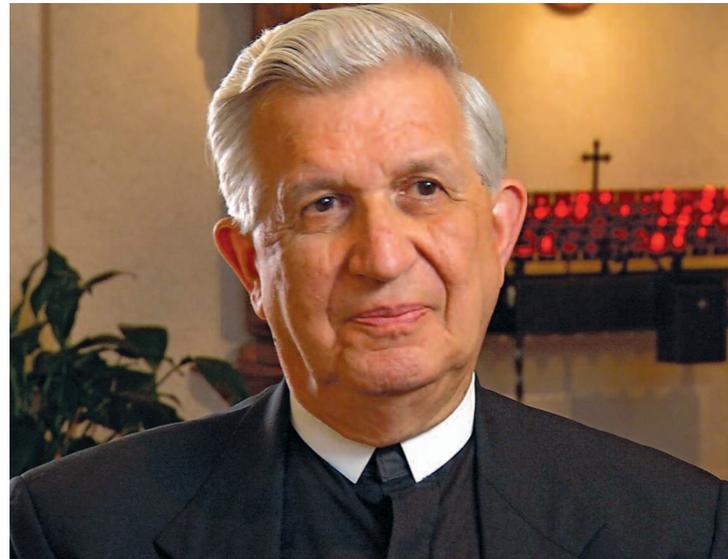
*Compassion  
Dignity of the Person  
Care of the Poor  
Holism  
Partnership*

## Brother Warren Longo, C.F.A., begins new chapter in distinguished career

After more than 61 years as an Alexian Brother, including nearly 40 years in administrative and formation leadership roles, Brother Warren Longo, C.F.A., is taking on a new ministry in a different city.

Brother Warren, a member of the Alexian Brothers Community in St. Louis for many years, joined the Alexian Brothers Community in Milwaukee in early January to help expand the Brothers' "presence ministry" at Alexian Village, an independent-living and long-term-care community operated by Ascension Living.

The presence ministry provides comfort, support and spiritual guidance to residents, patients, clients, family members and staff at the Brothers' namesake facilities, such as Alexian Village. The ministry has become a key focus for the Brothers in recent years as they have shifted away from their longtime administrative and nursing roles at health-care facilities and have sought to identify new opportunities to perpetuate their 800-year-old mission of serving the sick, the poor, the elderly and the mentally ill.



Brother Warren Longo, C.F.A., has joined the Alexian Brothers Community in Milwaukee to help expand the Brothers' "presence ministry" at Alexian Village.

"Part of our new approach toward ministry is the concept of having a presence in as many of our namesake facilities as we can manage," said Brother Dan McCormick, C.F.A., provincial of the Immaculate Conception Province of the Congregation of Alexian Brothers.

The Brothers' efforts to expand the presence  
*(continued on page 6)*

## Ministry serving isolated seniors continues to expand in Chattanooga

**A** fledgling Alexian Brothers outreach ministry serving isolated and vulnerable older adults in Chattanooga, Tennessee, continues to expand, enhancing the lives of a growing number of local residents.

During its first year, St. Alexius Outreach Ministries (SAOM) provided ongoing friendship and supportive case-management services

through its Hospitality at Home program to 30 homebound older adults experiencing isolation and loneliness.

By the end of 2018, the ministry's team of volunteers had grown to include 20 people. Volunteers work alongside Brother Richard Kane, C.F.A., and SAOM staff to visit program participants in their homes, make reassurance phone calls to them, help them with shopping, celebrate birthdays and holidays with them, and provide other services.

Last fall, the ministry hired a social worker, Emma Jane Olsen, M.S.W., to serve as care coordinator. She works closely with

Mariko Tinaya, SAOM program coordinator, to match volunteers with participants and to provide ongoing case management and support for them and referring agencies.

"I'm pleased with the progress we've made," said Susan Chill, executive director of the ministry. "The positive feedback we continue to receive from area agencies serving older adults validates the need for this type of ministry."

With Olsen on board and a team of volunteers to help program participants, Chill now has more time to increase awareness of SAOM through social media and speaking engagements, which should help attract more volunteers and donors. Chill also expects to focus more on forming new community partnerships

and developing future programming for the ministry, which serves people 70 and older.

"We're on track to provide a model of care that can be replicated in terms of its effectiveness at ensuring all our elders know they are cared for and valued," Chill said. She played a hands-on role in building relationships with program participants during the early months of the ministry, joining Brother Richard and Tinaya during initial visits to participants' homes.

More than one-third of SAOM'S program participants have been referred by the Adult Protective Services unit of the Tennessee Department of Human Services. One such individual was Mrs. R. S., a 90-year-old woman who lived with her dog and two cats in a rat- and roach-infested home badly in need of repairs.

"She loves animals and had provided good care for them until she could no longer manage due to her health and the safety risks in her home," Chill said. "She required medical attention and had to be hospitalized, and when she was admitted, she became extremely upset, not wanting to leave her animals."

SAOM staff visited Mrs. R. S. and assured her that the ministry would find foster homes for her pets, allowing her to focus on her recovery. The ministry later placed each of the pets in a foster home, and Mrs. R. S. eventually moved into a long-term-care facility, where she receives weekly visits from her dog, Penny. "Knowing her animals are being loved and cared for has brought her great joy," Chill said.

Another program participant, Mrs. P., has told SAOM she believes that when she found the ministry, "God opened a door I'd been praying for."

Reflecting on the reactions of Mrs. R. S., Mrs. P. and other program participants, Chill said: "What a joy it is for us to know we've made a difference in the lives of those we've been instructed and entrusted to care for. It's truly the best gift we've ever received."



Mrs. R. S., a participant in St. Alexius Outreach Ministries' Hospitality at Home program, visits with her dog, Penny, at the long-term-care facility where she lives. The ministry arranged for foster care for Penny and Mrs. R. S.' two cats after she was hospitalized and no longer could live independently.

## Provincial's Letter

### Dear Alexian Friends:

The Immaculate Conception Province of the Congregation of Alexian Brothers today includes a total of 24 professed Brothers, only 18 of whom remain in active ministry.

Of necessity, most of our Brothers in active ministry juggle multiple responsibilities to keep the province moving forward. Their energy and passion are remarkable, and their efforts, along with the support of our lay associates and other supporters, are helping us perpetuate our 800-year-old healing mission.

This edition of *The Alexians* highlights some of our recent progress, including:

- The expansion of an Alexian Brothers outreach ministry serving isolated and vulnerable older adults in Chattanooga, Tennessee.
- The expansion of our “presence ministry” at Alexian Village, an independent-living and long-term-care community in Milwaukee.
- The start of pre-construction preparations for a drop-in center for the homeless in Davao City in the Philippines.
- The continued development of our new first-year Novitiate program in the Philippines, where three novice Brothers are doing well and preparing for assignments back in the U.S.
- The growth of our mission in Hungary, where our Brothers provide strong support to the compassionate and tightly knit staff at St. Elizabeth of Hungary Home for the Elderly, a top-flight nursing facility that we plan to expand in the near future.

Our three novice Brothers will bolster our U.S. ministries when they return from the Philippines, providing vital assistance to our communities in Milwaukee, Elk Grove Village, Illinois, and Signal Mountain, Tennessee, while completing their second and final year of formation in the Novitiate.

Meanwhile, some of our younger Brothers have gained an opportunity to spread their wings as leaders wearing multiple hats, following

a decision by Brother Warren Longo, C.F.A., to step away from his longtime leadership roles to focus on our presence ministry in Milwaukee.

Brother Warren has set a powerful example as a selfless, multitasking leader, reminding all of his fellow Brothers that we do the work we do for Jesus, in response to His call to help those most in need. Our duty is to be open to – and accepting of – Jesus’ call, to be compassionate toward those who have no one else to care for them, and to complete our work, no matter how insurmountable it might seem.

We are grateful to Brother Warren for his strong leadership through the years, and we are excited to watch our young Brothers grow as leaders. It is important for any organization to groom future leaders and to allow them to use their unique gifts, personalities and work styles to accomplish the organization’s mission, and this is especially important for the Brothers, given our limited numbers and preponderance of older Brothers.

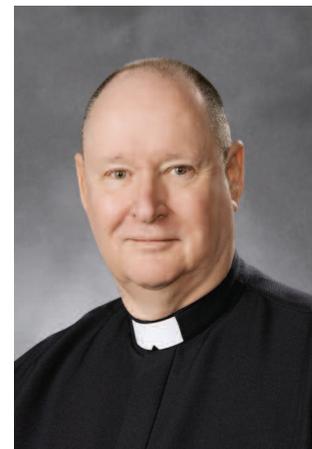
It’s also of vital importance for us to continue to emphasize our vocations efforts. As evidenced by our three novice Brothers, these efforts lately have been more successful than those of many religious orders. With the return of Brother Zeke Mapa, C.F.A., from the Philippines, he and Brother Patrick McCabe, C.F.A., once again will be teaming as associate vocations ministers in the U.S., and we’re confident their efforts will allow us to identify other men with a religious vocation who want to perpetuate our mission of serving the sick, the poor, the elderly and the mentally ill.

As always, we greatly appreciate your prayers and support as we continue our efforts to expand our ministries.

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.*

In the 1400s, John Busch, a church reformer, wrote extensively about his admiration for the early Alexian Brothers.

Busch testified to the Brothers’ “personal nursing in the homes of the sick” and their role “as participants in funeral and burial rites, ministries that have gained the respect of the people.”

## Brothers prepare to build homeless center in Philippines

The Alexian Brothers in the Philippines are moving forward with plans to build a drop-in center for the homeless in Davao City while assessing studies about the possibility of founding a medical clinic in East Timor, a poor nation in Southeast Asia.

The Brothers have purchased a Davao City property for the drop-in center, and demolition of an existing house on the property had begun



Brother Raphael Fallado, C.F.A., director of the Alexian Brothers Bajada Community in the Philippines, is overseeing the development of a drop-in center for the homeless in Davao City. The center will be located near the Brothers' residence in the Bajada section of the city.

by late 2018, said Brother Dan McCormick, C.F.A., provincial of the Immaculate Conception Province of the Congregation of Alexian Brothers.

The Brothers have engaged in extensive engineering studies and construction planning for the drop-in center “to make sure we are getting the most from our investment,” Brother Dan said. “We also want to make sure that construction is completed carefully and safely.”

He commended the Brothers in the Philippines for their interest in serving the homeless and for their attention to detail in developing plans for the drop-in center. “Every one of our Brothers there is committed to the mission of the Brothers,” said Brother Dan, who has corresponded regularly about the project

with Brother Raphael Fallado, C.F.A., director of the Brothers' community in the Bajada section of Davao City. “I am very proud of all of them.”

Located near the Brothers' residence in Bajada, the drop-in center will be a place where the homeless can “come in, shower, clean up, wash their clothes and get a meal,” Brother Dan said. The center also will offer medical and social services and overnight accommodations.

The center will address an acute need for homeless services in Davao City. Conservative estimates place the number of homeless children in the city at 35,000, and “the need grows exponentially when you add parents and adult siblings to that number,” Brother Dan said. “The center will be a much-needed social ministry, providing ongoing outreach to the homeless.”

The Brothers have completed in-depth studies of the possibility of establishing a medical clinic in East Timor, and those studies are now under review, Brother Dan said.

“We are being extremely careful about this possible new venture, because if we are ill-prepared and it fails, we will have closed off that arena to our Congregation for generations, and we do not want to do that,” Brother Dan said. “If we decide to move ahead, we want to do so with an appropriate action plan that will provide for long-term solutions.”

With primitive living conditions and a pressing need for health-care services, East Timor is similar to other places the Brothers have ventured 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.”

If the Brothers decide to establish a ministry in East Timor, it would become the third community associated with the Brothers' mission in the Philippines, joining the Bajada community and their community in the Matina section of Davao City. The mission includes several Brothers who are medical professionals.

## Brother Zeke Mapa, C.F.A., resumes role as associate vocations minister

**B**rother Zeke Mapa, C.F.A., has returned to the United States from the Philippines to resume his role as an associate vocations minister for the Immaculate Conception Province of the Congregation of Alexian Brothers.

Brother Zeke returned to the Brothers' community in Elk Grove Village, Illinois, after spending six months in their Novitiate program in the Philippines. The province generally requires novices to spend the first of their two years in the Novitiate in the Philippines before completing their formation in the United States. But the Brothers determined that the interests of the province would be better served if Brother Zeke resumed his vocations role. He earlier had spent nine years as a Brother and later worked in the vocations role before officially returning to the Congregation and being assigned to the Novitiate.

"Because of Zeke's previous time with the Brothers, and because of his education, including a Master of Divinity degree from the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, it was deemed that six months in the Philippines was sufficient for his formation," said Brother Dan McCormick, C.F.A., provincial of the Immaculate Conception Province.

Brother Zeke will work with Brother Patrick McCabe, C.F.A., also an associate vocations

minister for the province, to develop and implement strategies to promote the Alexian Brothers as an option for men with a religious vocation and to identify candidates who meet the Brothers' standards.

Brother Zeke and Brother Patrick will divide their time each week between the Brothers' community in Elk Grove Village and their Milwaukee community, where they will support the Brothers' "presence ministry" while continuing their vocations work. The presence ministry provides comfort, support and spiritual guidance to clients, patients, residents, family members and staff at the Brothers' namesake facilities, including Alexian Village in Milwaukee.

"They will have the opportunity to introduce candidates to both ends of the spectrum in terms of our care," Brother Dan said. "We have found it very advantageous to operate vocations efforts both in an older-adult setting such as Alexian Village and in acute-care settings such as AMITA Health Alexian Brothers Medical Center Elk Grove Village and AMITA Health St. Alexius Medical Center Hoffman Estates."



Brother Zeke Mapa, C.F.A., (right), and Brother Patrick McCabe, C.F.A., (left), work together as associate vocations ministers to develop and implement strategies to promote the Alexian Brothers as an option for men with a religious vocation.

## Three novices receive second-year assignments

**T**he Provincial Council of the Immaculate Conception Province of the Congregation of Alexian Brothers has assigned three novices to complete the second year of their Novitiate training at Alexian Brothers communities in the United States.

Novice Brothers Joe Pense, Robert Podjarsky and Marc Rizzo began their first year in the two-year Novitiate program in the Philippines last July and are scheduled to return to the United States this coming July.

Novice Brother Joe will join the Brothers' commu-

nity in Elk Grove Village, Illinois, where he will enroll in a clinical pastoral education program and will shadow Brother Torch Acosta, C.F.A., who leads the Brothers' "presence ministry" in Chicago's northwest suburbs.

Novice Brother Robert will be assigned to the Brothers' community at Alexian Village in Signal Mountain, Tennessee, where he will gain pastoral-care experience under the direction of Brother Richard Lowe, C.F.A., director of the Brothers' community there.

Novice Brother Marc will join the Brothers' community at Alexian Village in Milwaukee, where he will support the Brothers' presence ministry and will enroll in a clinical pastoral education program.

## Brother Warren Longo, C.F.A., begins new chapter in distinguished career

*(continued from page 1)*

ministry, as well as their desire to provide leadership opportunities for younger Brothers, coincided with Brother Warren's interest in stepping back from his leadership roles, including director of the Alexian Brothers Community in St. Louis and his longtime positions as director of formation and director of postulants for the province. Brother Dan praised Brother Warren for recognizing this convergence and suggesting a change.

"I don't think there is a more selfless man in the Congregation," said Brother Dan, who joined

the Alexian Brothers in 1994. "Brother Warren was my postulant director, and it's hard to imagine a better example of selfless service to the Congregation and to our patients, residents and clients. He has taught us that if you truly love and honor this life, it has to be about the

Congregation and its mission, and never about you personally."

Brother Warren served for 16 years as spiritual care coordinator for the now-defunct Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) in St. Louis, and his experience in that role made him an ideal choice to help move the presence ministry forward at Alexian Village, Brother Dan said.

Brother Warren's voluntary move to Milwaukee has allowed several younger Brothers to take on leadership duties. (See accompanying article on page 7.) "To Warren's credit, he recognized the time was right for younger men to take on leadership responsibilities, and he has been gracious, nurturing and encouraging every step of the way," Brother Dan said. "He has been a true mentor, setting an example for everyone in the Congregation."

As he seeks to expand the presence ministry

at Alexian Village, Brother Warren is working closely with Brother John Howard, C.F.A., director of the Alexian Brothers Community in Milwaukee, as well as Brother Patrick McCabe, C.F.A., and Brother Zeke Mapa, C.F.A., who divide their time each week between Milwaukee and the Alexian Brothers Community in Elk Grove Village, Illinois.

"Providing an Alexian Brothers presence in an older-adult care setting is significantly different than it is in an acute-care setting," Brother Dan said. "In an acute-care setting, you might see a patient once or maybe twice before they are discharged. In an older-adult care setting, you might see a resident every day for as long as they live at the facility. So Brother Warren, along with Brother John, Brother Patrick and Brother Zeke, have the opportunity to develop long, meaningful and rich relationships with residents at Alexian Village."

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 his distinguished career as a member of the Congregation.

Through the years, Brother Warren has served in a variety of leadership positions with the Brothers. In addition to serving as director of formation, director of postulants and director of the Brothers' community in St. Louis, 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.

In those roles, he helped guide the Congregation through some significant changes, including the decision to allow Alexian Brothers Health System (ABHS) in 2011 to become part of St. Louis-based Ascension, the largest nonprofit health system in the United States and the world's largest Catholic health system.

"Brother Warren ... has taught us that if you truly love and honor this life, it has to be about the Congregation and its mission, and never about you personally."

## Younger Brothers step into leadership positions

With Brother Warren Longo, C.F.A., moving into a new ministry role with the Alexian Brothers Community in Milwaukee, several younger Alexian Brothers have been assigned to leadership positions with the Immaculate Conception Province of the Congregation of Alexian Brothers.

Brother Tom Klein, C.F.A., has succeeded Brother Warren as director of postulants, and the postulancy program has been moved from St. Louis to Signal Mountain, Tennessee, where Brother Tom also ministers to residents of Alexian Village, a senior living community operated by Ascension Living.

Brother Patrick McCabe, C.F.A., an associate vocations minister for the province, has taken on additional responsibilities as director of formation, one of

Brother Warren's former roles. Brother Patrick also has been named assistant director of the Brothers' community in Milwaukee. Brother John Howard, C.F.A., continues as the community's director.

Brother Steve Fogt, C.F.A., comptroller of Alexian Brothers Communities and Ministries, has assumed the additional role of acting director of the Brothers' community in St. Louis. Brother Warren had been director of the community.

"Brother Warren's decision to step back from his leadership positions has created an opportunity for us to develop new talent and new gifts in some of our younger Brothers," said Provincial Brother Dan McCormick, C.F.A. "Brother Tom, Brother Patrick and Brother Steve are quite young in their religious lives, but like Brother Warren, they are men of strong character who share a passionate commitment to the welfare of the Congregation and the Immaculate Conception Province."



Brother Tom Klein, C.F.A.



Brother Patrick McCabe, C.F.A.



Brother Steve Fogt, C.F.A.

Ascension is the parent company of Ascension Living, which provides mission-driven care to seniors in more than 30 locations across 11 states and the District of Columbia, including Alexian Village in Milwaukee and Alexian Village in Signal Mountain, Tennessee.

The decision to allow ABHS to join Ascension helped ensure that despite overall declines in religious vocations, the Brothers' health-care ministries would be protected and their centuries-old healing mission would

continue. The decision also freed the Brothers to pursue ministries that do not involve hospital administrative or nursing duties. The presence ministry is one such ministry.

"It's absolutely in Brother Warren's wheelhouse," Brother Dan said. "It's a big move for him, and I hope all of our Brothers, as well as our associates, friends and supporters, take the opportunity to thank him for his service in St. Louis and to support him with their prayers as he begins this new chapter in his life."

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Winter 2019



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## Return Service Requested

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**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 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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## Brothers lead team-building trips for associates of home for elderly

The Alexian Brothers last fall sponsored a pair of one-day team-building trips for associates from St. Elizabeth of Hungary Home for the Elderly at the Brothers' mission in Győrújbarát, Hungary.

Brother Alexius Siska, C.F.A., director of the Alexian Brothers Community at the mission, and Brother Leó Vendrey, C.F.A., a nursing assistant at the home, took turns accompanying associates on the trips to Székesfehérvár, one of the most historic and culturally rich cities in Hungary.

The trips included sightseeing in the city and a bicycle tour at nearby Lake Velence. Sightseeing stops included the Medieval Ruin Garden at National Memorial Place, where the associates and Brothers saw the remains of a basilica started by Saint Stephen, Hungary's first king. He and 14 other Hungarian kings were crowned at the site, which was the Hungarian government's most important and sanctified place during the Middle Ages.



Brother Alexius Siska, C.F.A., (front row, fourth from right), and associates from St. Elizabeth of Hungary Home for the Elderly pose for a photo during a one-day team-building trip last fall to Székesfehérvár, one of the oldest and most culturally rich cities in Hungary.

"The point of these yearly team-building trips is to strengthen the home's community by allowing everyone to get to know each other better," Brother Alexius said. "In this way, we can work together better toward our common goal of serving the home's residents. We had luck with the weather, so everybody felt well and traveled back with nice memories."