

# WORLD CATHOLIC.US *News*

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**CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF  
THE CONSTITUTION AND FIRST  
TESTAMENT LETTER OF THE  
XAVERIAN MISSIONARIES**

Photo: Fr. Joseph Matteucig SX in Taiwan



**NEWSLETTER OF THE XAVERIAN MISSIONARIES USA**





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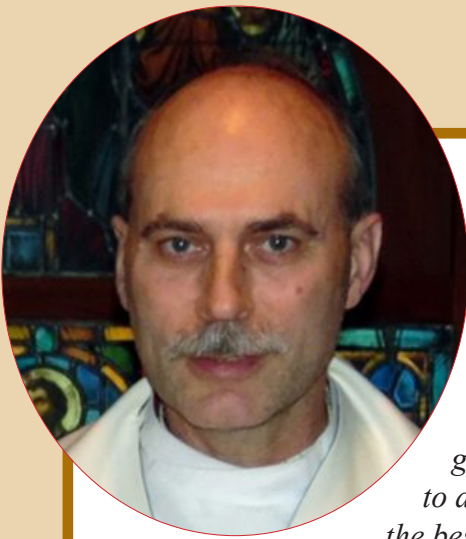
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Together we can help St. Guido Conforti's vision to "Make of the World One Family" become a reality.



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### MAKING GOD'S WILL OUR OWN

*Dear Friends of the Missions:*

*As it has always been, today it is extremely important to seek and do the will of God, at every moment. In this age of computers, high technology, work, and so much more to do, God is not asking us for great penances, long prayer vigils, much fasting... God is asking us to do his will in a perfect way. And once we find out that God's will is the best thing for us, we do it with joy.*

*Some years ago, in a gathering of priests in a mission land, a bishop shared something on the will of God.*

*He had a priest in his diocese who was ill and needed medical attention. Despite insisting with him to go and see a doctor, the priest would not do it.*

*One day the bishop went to see him personally and again he insisted that he go and check things out with a doctor, and that he would accompany him.*

*The priest, a bit angry, replied: "Only if you oblige me under the vow of obedience, or else I won't go." And the bishop, with wisdom, said to him: "My brother, if you do what I want, you are a 'slave' and, no doubt, that is not what God wants. However, it doesn't seem right to me that I, too, should do what you want. So, why don't we pray together to discern what God wants?"*

*In conclusion, they went to see the doctor together: the priest got his health back and also discovered what a profound joy doing the will of God gives.*

*A few years later the bishop had the opportunity to know that priest personally who confided to him: "You know that on that day I was like re-born and that joy is still with me?"*

*What an immense joy to discover that living the will of God is not an imposition, rather our greatest freedom, the source of true joy. Only by doing the will of God, which is placing ourselves at the service of others, we can discover true joy, that joy that does not pass, for it comes from the heart.*

*Are we living our life together as a family, as a community with a "family spirit," mutual understanding, acceptance and service in such a way that others may recognize Jesus' living presence in our midst?*

*With gratitude, blessings and much peace,*

*~Fr. Mark Marangone SX and the Xaverian Missionaries*

## Bringing Hope, Love and the True Light...



**SISTER LAURA  
CANALI, MMX**

***Sister Laura Canali celebrated the 50th Anniversary of her profession as a Xaverian Missionary of Mary on July 2 with the Xaverian community at Fatima Shrine in Holliston Massachusetts. Sister Vero Paredes, MMX interviewed Sister Laura on her life as a missionary.***

### ***Sister Laura comments on her vocation:***

I was born at the end of the War World II. At that time, Italy was crossed by strong currents of anti-clericalism, laicism, anti-Catholicism. As an answer to these strong ideas of social atheism, many associations of women were organized by the Catholic Church to train women to preserve the faith in the families and to form the young generation. I was part of one of these associations, called "Catholic Action" where I received my Christian formation. The most important pillars of this teaching were: the Church as the Mystical Body of Jesus Christ — a fundamental seed for my universal view of the humanity— and the challenge of being witness of our faith where we lived, fulfilling God's will in our life according to the vocation to which we were called.

In my young age I didn't have in mind any specific vocation, but I questioned myself about it. I remember being always happy to give up my Sunday allowance (10 lire at that time) to prepare a 10-pound package with my friends to ship to some mission, especially Africa.

### ***Sister Vero: What caused or inspired you to become a Xaverian Missionary of Mary?***

Sister Laura: When I was 18 years old, I read the book by Raoul Follereau, *30 Volte il Giro del Mondo (30 Times Around the World)*. Follereau, known as "the apostle to the lepers," was a French lawyer, who after visiting Africa and interacting with victims of leprosy found a way to heal them. He traveled the globe to make countries aware of this reality and to ask for help to put an end of this terrible disease.

Reading that book hit me like a boomerang, shaking my mind and spirit. I realized how many gifts I had received in my life to share with others. The most important among these gifts was God's presence in my life. It was the spring of my missionary vocation. Even though I didn't know much about congregations and spiritualities, I was clear about two things: it would be an exclusively missionary congregation, and without specific habit. After getting in touch with the Xaverian Missionary

Sisters of Mary, I found my place.

### ***Sister Vero: When and where did you mission and minister?***

Sister Laura: The 50th Anniversary of my missionary consecration is a good occasion to look back to realize what I have accomplished in all these years. Truly, I don't see any big accomplishments or missionary successes, but only simple things. In Italy, I taught kindergarten in a neighborhood where working parents needed extra care for their children. I also spent many years travelling through Italian parishes to meet people of all ages for missionary awareness.

On July 1983, with three other sisters, I went to Sierra Leone, West Africa, to open a new missionary community in collaboration with the Xaverian Fathers. We did pastoral ministry, promotion of women, and care of handicapped children. I saw with my eyes and heart the reality where in a family everyone must work for the good of all. Women with babies on their backs go to the farm at the dawn to hoe and clean the weeds. They come back in the afternoon carrying heavy loads of wood and vegetables to prepare dinner for the family. Men prepare the hard and stingy soil by burning bushes, digging to sow the seeds trying to wrest enough crops to feed their family. Children 2 or 3 years old clean in front of their huts to keep snakes away. Before going to school, older children walk 1 or 2 miles to bring water for the needs of the day. Finally, young people take part of the family work and go to school dreaming for a better future. But, in this serious daily rhythm, celebration cannot be missed: hard life and celebration combine in harmony.

### ***Sister Vero: How has being a missionary impacted or changed your life?***

Sister Laura: Wherever a missionary presence makes the difference! I remember going with a Xaverian Father to a small village in the forest on Sunday evening for the Eucharist Celebration. After having worked all day in the farm, the women had shells in their hair as sign of life; men and children transformed in dress clothes,



came to church for the celebration. They listen to the Word of God, sing, dance, and share their goods with the poor because they now know that God is a loving Parent who cares for them and sent among them Jesus Christ to share his life and to be part of their struggles. Even though life is still a hard, they go back home with a new heart and hope. They are not alone: Jesus Christ had become their travelling companion, always present in their lives by breaking bread and bringing peace.

**Sister Vero: Why is being a missionary important in our world?**

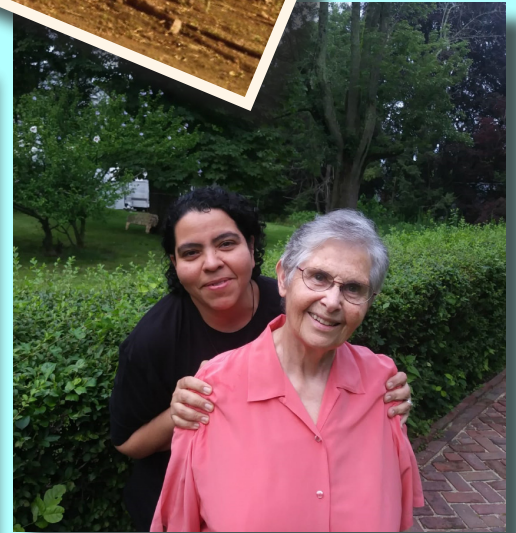
Sister Laura: Unexpectedly, in 2010, I was assigned to the USA mission in Worcester (MA). Being not so young, I thought: "what could I do?." As I have always done: just simple things! Then, I started sharing community chores, helping with catechism classes, serving the poor at the food bank and at the soup kitchen, and with Mission Appeals.

Once again, I realized that being missionary doesn't mean accomplishing special things, but to have God's love in our hearts and to reach out to people with God's touch. I have experienced that even by sharing a recipe while shopping it is possible to share the good news of God's love for each one of us.

Fr. James Spagnolo, our Founder, gave us the Mystery of Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth as a model: "... [Mary] goes to Elizabeth bringing Jesus and by Him, she is moved and led. She looks like any other woman, but she has a big secret in her heart, a great mission for humanity..." (Letter n. 19).

This phrase reminds me that, if we really desire to offer a significant gift to humanity, as missionary, I have a great opportunity. Today people need to listen to the voice of the Jesus saying, "Peace be with you" and "God loves you." Then, I can bring *hope, love, and the true light for the real meaning of their lives.*

*Sister Laura in Sierra Leone circa the 1980s*



*Sister Laura today (with Sister Vero) celebrating 50 years as a Xaverian Missionary Sister of Mary*





# Letter from Fr. Joe Matteucig SX...

What can I tell you about us here in Taiwan? Overall, we are doing fine. Life continues in a regular way even though due to new infections (about 20) we got the news from the Archbishop that from May 14 till June 8--all Sunday Liturgies and group activities must be cancelled. As I consequence, I was notified that Pentecost Sunday Liturgy + Baptism is cancelled and 2 programs I was following at the local Catholic Hospital (one the RCIA program with 10 participants and the formation monthly meeting with the Pastoral staff have been cancelled for the time being ... I really enjoyed the RCIA program). These new directives are also limiting our activities I hope this situation is a temporary one.

In Taipei, we are involved in several areas: parish ministry, teaching, social involvement, work with migrants, ecumenical and inter-faith dialogue, retreat work, etc. Never a dull moment around here! We continue our service of teaching, with optimism, yet in the midst of new regulations and restrictions. Because of the pandemic, new rules and restrictions have been placed on religious and other activities, and it seems that these are going to stay till...forever? Our confrere, Enrico, on the other hand is still in Italy waiting to come back. In the meantime, he teaches online. Wawan, as you know, will be back here after he completes his program in Milwaukee. And then after a break, he will, hopefully, go back to his previous work.

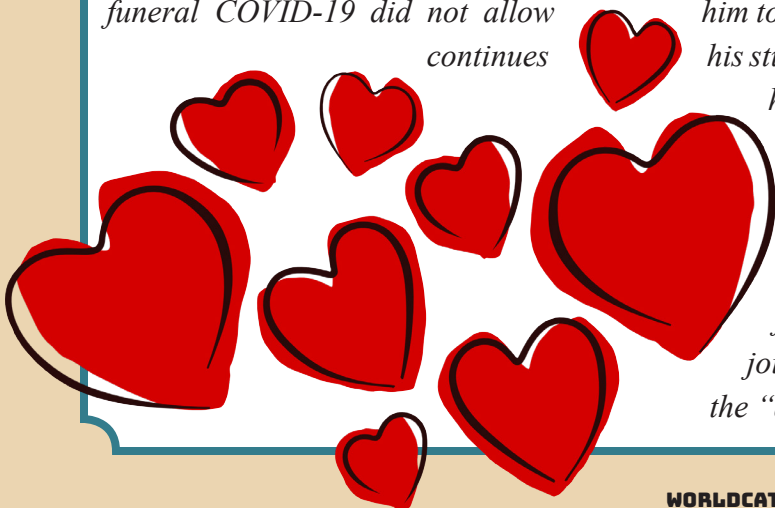
At the level of delegation, COVID-19 and other restrictions have put a stop on our face-to-face gatherings. This year for example, we were not able to organize our yearly gathering. Most work was done, and is done, online, which puts an added stress on our communications in terms of what and how to say things. I am sure you understand. I am sure many other regions, including the US are experiencing these limitations in terms of meetings, gatherings, assemblies, chapters, and retreats. All this, I believe, is pushing our creativity to a new level... AH!!!!

Personally, I am doing fine. Time is flying! I have been here now over a year and a half. Happy to be here and happy to see that community, past friends and my former Chinese teacher are making my re-entry serene and not too bumpy.

To make a long story short, the students are not here yet and we don't know when they will be arriving. Fr. Innocent and Friwandi are in Manila. Friwandi, after his English studies, is beginning to take some introductory courses in theology (courses that can easily be transferred to the school of theology in Taiwan). Innocent, having completed his English studies, is now looking into some courses in anthropology aimed at deepening his knowledge of the Chinese world. Erasto is still in Mexico because after the funeral COVID-19 did not allow

continues

him to go back to Manila and finish his classes there, so he his studies online. He should finish by the summer. Then we hope the end of COVID-19 will allow all of them to come to Taiwan. Last but not least, Osvaldo, is in Franklin as you know, doing summer English studies. Despite these many ups and downs I believe they are, together with the local community, finding ways to sustain and strengthen their desire to join us and together with us spending our energies for the "audacious project" of St. Guido Maria Conforti!









# Living in the US: Preparing to Go to Taiwan

BY PIETRO ROSSINI SX WITH DIEGO ACOSTA CHÁVEZ SX



Diego Acosta had to spend 15 days in quarantine when his flight from Mexico landed in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in October 2020, right in the middle of the pandemic.

Diego came to the U.S. to study English. However, “My plan is not to stay here for long,” he said.

Diego is a Xaverian Missionary. He has been sent to the States to learn English and then fly to Taiwan where he will study theology in Mandarin.

“I’m not afraid of studying a new language, I always have had the dream to live my mission in Asia,” Diego said. “I feel like my dreams are becoming real.”

Before joining the Xaverians, Diego was a lawyer in Mexico, and he decided to leave everything behind to follow this new path.

## Diego Acosta before traveling to the U.S.:

“My vocation was born during my studies to become a lawyer,” said Diego. “I joined some meetings with the Xaverians, and I felt that was my place.”

Yet, Diego didn’t leave everything behind overnight. “In the beginning, I was living in the

missionary community while still working as a lawyer,” he said. But at a certain point, “I had to choose whether to continue with my career as a lawyer or to join this new path,”

Diego made his choice when he realized that being a lawyer was not enough for him. “I was looking for something different, a family and a community,” he shared.

## Diego in Wisconsin:

Diego met the family he was looking for in the Xaverian Missionaries, and now he is going to join a community in Taiwan in which he will live with other missionaries from many different countries.

“This will be my first experience living in a community with such a cultural diversity,” Diego said. “And also, all of us will have to study a new language, Mandarin Chinese.”

Diego’s missionary community is sending new missionaries to China because when people turn 65, the Chinese government doesn’t release work visas for them anymore.

Most of the missionaries living there are in their 60s. Therefore, in a few years many of them will have to leave the country. That’s why Diego’s community wants to train young missionaries to take their place.

Nevertheless, access to Taiwan is still closed due to the pandemic. For this reason, Diego’s future is uncertain. “Maybe I’ll start my theology here in the States, or I have to go back to my country,” Diego commented.

“But this pandemic has taught me many things,” Diego said. “I learned to trust in God and in God’s plans for us.”



*Pietro Rossini is a Xaverian Missionary and ESL student at Framingham State University. He came to the U.S. in January 2020 with the purpose of studying for a master of arts in journalism at Boston University. His dream is to collect and share stories of humanity around the globe, making the world a single family*



# The Xaverians celebrate 125 years since their foundation: “One family for the world”



*On July 2, 1921, St. Guido Maria Conforti, bishop and founder of the Xaverians, began to write the fifth letter from Parma - known as the Testament Letter - to the “present and future” missionaries. The Jubilee Year draws to a close to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the foundation of the Pious Society of St. Francis Xavier for Foreign Missions.*

The Xaverian Missionaries during this year of joy have rediscovered the value of what they call the “testament letter” of the holy Founder. The letter was written on the occasion of the institute’s approval and addressed with an open heart “to the present and future members of the pious society.”

In this text, Saint Guido summarizes the spirit and mission of his missionary family: spirit of living faith, human face, Christocentrism, spirit of prompt and generous obedience and family spirit, these are the five constants that characterize the mission of the Xaverians, that of “making the world one family” through the proclamation of Christ and the Good News to those who do not yet know him.

To celebrate this jubilee year, several Xaverian confreres shared reflections on the missionary charism starting from their own mission experience. You can find these shares on the congregation’s official website: <https://dg.saveriani.org/en/>

Although the Xaverians are a very young

congregation, during their first 125 years of life, they knew how to adapt the mission to the changing times, becoming an expression of a Church in continuous dialogue with the world.

The Xaverians live their mission of “first proclamation” where the Gospel is not yet known. In the early 1900s, at the beginning of the congregation, living the “first proclamation” meant above all to leave for those lands where the majority of the population was not Christian. Today, with the recent migrations from the countries of the South to those of the North, and the continuing globalization, it is not easy to distinguish between so-called “Christian” countries and those that are not.

For this reason, the mission “ad extra” (outside one’s own context of origin), “ad gentes” (towards those who do not know Jesus) and “ad vitam” (for the whole of life) of the Xaverians today can take place anywhere and is concretized in different ways depending on the culture that meets where the Xaverians are sent.

The missionary style of the Xaverians has

always been that of the “family”. And in recent years, a family increasingly made up of members from the four continents and about 25 countries where the Xaverians work.

For this reason, after 125 years, the Xaverians discover that “making the world one family” is no longer just a utopia, but already a small but concrete reality present in their international communities, in which people from different countries and cultures share life daily, with the dream of making Jesus known to those who do not yet know him.

The mission of the Xaverians is increasingly focused on interreligious and intercultural dialogue. The style is that of the incarnation and the encounter, where the missionaries, living as brothers among brothers, become traveling companions with the peoples to whom they are sent.

~Pietro Rossini SX



# World Mission News

*“Making of the World One Family...”*



## APPOINTMENT XAVERIAN MISSIONARY AS BISHOP OF PADANG

Vatican City (Agenzia Fides) - The Holy Father has appointed as bishop of the diocese of Padang, Indonesia, the Reverend Fr. Vitus Rubianto Solichin, SX, member of the Pious Society of Saint Francis Xavier for the Foreign Missions (Xaverians), until now lecturer in the major seminary and rector of the School of Philosophy, Jakarta.

Msgr. Vitus Rubianto Solichin, SX, was born on 15 November 1968 in Semarang, Java Island. He entered Saint Petrus Canisius Minor Seminary in Mertoyudan, Semarang, and later the Pious Society of Saint Francis Xavier for the Foreign Missions (Xaverians). He continued his philosophical studies at Driyarkara High School of Philosophy, Jakarta, and theological studies at Wedabhakti Pontifical Theological Faculty, Yogyakarta. He gave his religious vows in the Xaverian Congregation on 18 March 1996 and was ordained a priest on 7 July 1997.

After priestly ordination he obtained a licentiate in sacred Scripture at the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome (1997-2001), after which he served

as professor of sacred Scripture at Driyarkara High School of Philosophy and Major Seminary in Bandung (2001-2007). He was then awarded a degree in Biblical theology at the Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome (2007-2012). Since 2013 he has served as professor and vice-chairman for Academic Affairs at Driyarkara in Jakarta, and member of the Xaverian Formation Team and the Xaverian Provincial Council of Indonesia; from 2015 to date he has been rector of the Jakarta School of Philosophy, and since 2018, president of the Indonesian Biblical Scholars Association.

From the Xaverian Missionaries:

*Let us thank the Holy Father for placing his trust in the person of Fr. Vitus and the family of the Xaverian Missionaries. We join the whole Xaverian family in rejoicing and thanking the Lord; we assure elected Bishop Vitus Rubianto Solichin SX of our affection and prayers. We draw upon the words of Pope Francis to*

*wish our confrere: “Let us not fear to undertake, with trust in God and great courage, a missionary option capable of transforming everything...” (October 22nd, 2017). Let us accompany with our prayer and friendship H. Exc. Mons. Vitus Rubianto Solichin SX. In his new mission, following the Good Shepherd, may he not be afraid to lead the sheep of Padang Diocese to outward pastures and mission, “For missionary activity renews the Church, revitalizes faith and Christian identity, and offers fresh enthusiasm and new incentive. Faith is strengthened when it is given to others!” (Redemptoris Missio 2). Through the intercession of St. Guido M. Conforti and our prayer, we entrust Bishop Vitus and his new family, the diocese of Padang, to Mary, Queen of the Apostles.*

~Fr. Fernando Garcia SX, General Superior Xaverian Missionaries



# USA NEWS

## PROVINCIAL HOUSE, WAYNE NJ

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Diocese of Paterson postponed its annual liturgical acknowledgement of priests' jubilee anniversaries until this year. Fr. Michael Davitti SX, Rector of the Provincial House, celebrated the 50th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood last year. On June 1, 2021 the Paterson Diocese held a special Mass and dinner for jubilarians from last year and this year with Bishop Kevin J. Sweeney at Corpus Christi Parish, Chatham, NJ

The General Direction has assigned Fr. Mardadus Hery SX, a new Xaverian from Indonesia to the USA.

Deacon Irvin Guitierrez SX from Mexico will be studying English in the US on his way to Japan.

Fr. Yohannes Dharmawan Adharius SX, or "Wawan," has completed his studies and will return to Taiwan and China in August.

Brother Diego Acosta SX will continue his studies in Franklin in view of theology studies for Taiwan.

The XVI Provincial Chapter will take place September 5-10 at the Miramar Retreat Center in Duxbury, MA. The Xaverian Missionaries are marking their 75th anniversary of mission and ministry in the United States in 2022. Stay tuned for news and information about this significant celebration.

## FATIMA SHRINE, HOLLISTON MA

Fatima Shrine hosted the Graduates and families of Holliston High School for a Baccalaureate Prayer Service.

Masks and social distancing are no longer required in the Shrine for VACCINATED PEOPLE according to the State of Massachusetts. The State does advise that NON-VACCINATED PEOPLE CONTINUE TO WEAR MASKS.

Registration is NO LONGER REQUIRED for Mass.

We THANK Leticia Morales, Joe and Linda Javorski and others who faithfully cleaned the pews of our church weekly.

The monthly Marian Devotions continue until October on the 13th of each month at 7:00 PM followed by the candlelight Rosary.

~Fr. Rocco Puopolo SX

## XAVIER KNOLL, FRANKLIN WI

Fr. Alfredo Turco SX who served as Rector of Xavier Knoll, Franklin WI has been elected Provincial Superior of the Italian Region of the Xaverian Missionaries.

Congratulations and Blessings on his ministry!

Outdoor Sunday Masses returned this summer. The Pro-Mission raffle drawing took place after Mass and the blessing of the outdoor altar on July 25th, 2021. We had a great turnout! THANK YOU ALL!

~ Fr. Alex Rodriguez SX



Fr. Michael is standing in the center of the first row.



Holliston High School graduates at Fatima Shrine



July 25th Mass at Xavier Knoll

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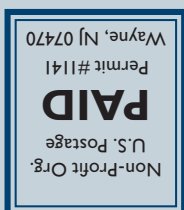
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