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Photo of Buddhist Shrine in Thailand courtesy of Freddie Martinez

4



6



8



SUMMARY

3 "The End of an Era"

4-5 A Mother's Love

6-7 Life-Changing Mission Trip to Thailand

8-9 What Catholics Need to Know...

10 Xaverian Youth World News

11 USA News

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Please also consider naming the St. Francis Xavier Foreign Mission Society in your Will.

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



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Fr. Mark's Message:

THE END OF AN ERA...

We pray you are in good health and everything is going well for your families. You may be aware from reading our publications and correspondence that we are closing our mission house in Wayne, NJ. Since we do not have enough personnel to keep a community of at least three members in New Jersey, the decision was made to move our headquarters to Franklin, WI, where we have been since 1957. We leave our cherished New Jersey, yet we hope to continue our connection with you. A "Closing and Thanksgiving Mass" was celebrated at our Lady of the Valley Church in Wayne, on Sunday, April 6, 2025.

Beginning May 1, 2025, our new address will be:

Xaverian Missionaries

4500 W. Xavier Dr.

Franklin WI 53132-9066

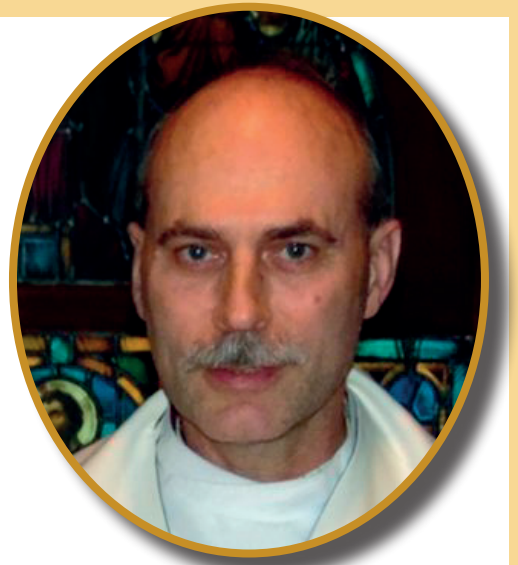
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We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your very generous love for us and the missions over the years. Thank you for caring and sharing, for thinking of others through your prayers, activities, and projects for the missions, and for your many sacrifices. Your gifts have indeed made a difference in the lives of countless sisters and brothers in need overseas.

We wish you and your loved ones a blessed and grace-filled Easter Season with beautiful surprises. We pray that our love for each other and for all may grow each day with the Risen Jesus. Rest assured that you'll always be remembered at our daily masses in a very special way. May God and Our Lady reward your generosity with much peace, good health, unity in your family and community, and shower their choicest blessings on you all.

Counting on your prayers, we are sincerely yours,

***Fr. Mark Marangone, sx, Fr. Frank Grappoli, sx, and the
Xaverian Missionaries***



*Pictures of the Closing and Thanksgiving Mass at
Our Lady of the Valley parish.*



A Mother's Love

By Pietro Rossini, sx

The names of the protagonists in this story have been changed to respect their privacy.

Mariam, a Moroccan woman, watches her son, Abdou, leave home when he is only 12 years old. The boy swims along the eastern coast of Morocco to reach Ceuta, the Spanish enclave on Moroccan territory, thus avoiding border controls. Like many other young migrants, he dreams of a better life and risks everything on that perilous journey.

Abdou is finally in Spain! But it is not as easy as he imagined. He spends six years in a detention center for migrant minors in Ceuta. The center accommodates all minors who arrive by sea and shelters them until they reach adulthood, in accordance with European laws.

After six years of confinement, now eighteen, Abdou moves to northern Spain, where he works as a barber for three years while living with some relatives originally from Morocco. Abdou enjoys his work, and his new life seems promising. However, one day, a friend of a friend meets him and offers him an “easier job” in Italy, promising much higher earnings than what Abdou was making as a barber in Bilbao.

Without knowing a single word of Italian, Abdou chooses this new path, leaving everything behind once again,

and moves to Italy to start this “new job.” Unfortunately, he ends up on the streets, and after just one month, he is imprisoned in Parma with a four-year sentence, accused of drug trafficking.

Last year, I traveled to Morocco to film a documentary about the small Christian presence in the country as a member of MissioNET, the Xaverian media team. During that trip, I met Mariam. I had met Abdou while doing prison ministry in Parma. When I told him I would be meeting his mother, he could not contain his joy.

I met Mariam in Tetouan, a city about an hour away from the Xaverian mission in Morocco. Knowing I would be near her city, Mariam invited me to dinner during Ramadan – the sacred month for Muslims when they fast from dawn to sunset, even abstaining from water.

Abdou resembles his mother so much. The moment I saw her; it was easy to recognize her. Mariam was overjoyed to meet someone bringing her news of her son after so many years without seeing him.

“How is my son? When will he be released from prison? Does he want to return to Morocco or stay in Italy?” Mariam had so many questions when we met.

A year after that meeting in Morocco, I never imagined I would have the chance

to host Mariam in Parma. She arrived last March 3rd, once again during Ramadan. She traveled a long way, alone – this time, to finally see her son face to face after seven years.

When I accompanied her to the prison gates, I waited for her turn to come. It is not easy to visit a prisoner. We had to book the visit twenty days in advance. After many requests, Mariam finally received permission to see her son.

When she arrived for the ten o'clock appointment, she had to wait for three hours before she could see her son. There were multiple security checks to go through – three different gates and just as many waiting rooms. And all of this just for half an hour with him.

I thought to myself: this is the reality that families of prisoners live. A world so distant from mine. How many “worlds” exist that we do not know about, yet they are part of everyday life for so many people?

When I went to pick her up three hours later, Mariam was in tears. After such a long separation, she finally got to hold her son again. They were tears of joy, mixed with deep emotion and longing. She had seen with her own eyes that her son was doing well, “even though he has lost a little weight,” she told me. But she was happy to hear Abdou say



that he could not wait to be released and return to barbering in Spain. That “easier job” he had been offered had only brought him trouble.

hands: Love overcomes all distances, conquers all fears, and fulfills its desires. Making the world one single family is not a utopia but a reality.

As a Xaverian missionary who dreams of making the world one single family, this story fills my heart with hope. Mariam felt at home as a guest in our community in Parma. A woman, a Muslim, from another country, hosted by Christian men in a foreign land – she felt at home and was able to see her son again after such a long time.

This story might seem unreal, almost like a fairy tale. Yet, what I have learned from it is that everything is possible with God. I have seen it with my own eyes and touched it with my



Photos: Above - Fr. Pietro with “Miriam.” Below - M’diq-Fnideq, a prefecture in Tanger-Tetouan-Al Hoceima, Morocco. Tangiers, Morocco

A Life-Changing Mis

Two years ago, a group of supporters told Father Alex Rodriguez, sx, that we would like to experience the mission of the Xaverians in the world because despite experiencing their ministry in the USA, we did not really comprehend their commitment to “making the world one family.”

It all started as a question, to which Father Alex responded with another question: “Would you dare to go on a mission trip? We all naively answered, “Of course, we would do it,” some out of curiosity, others to be able to help, and for others (including me) pure adventure. We were far from knowing that this trip would change our lives completely.

It was quite an odyssey to plan the trip because organizing a large group is a bit complicated since taking two weeks of vacation is difficult due to our jobs and the obligations that we all have.

When we arrived in Thailand we were welcomed by Father Edgar Nava Pérez, sx, and we stayed at the Xaverian center. At all times Father Edgar and the entire Xaverian family made us feel at home. To begin with, the tasks they do are incredibly humanitarian. Seeing the passion with which the volunteers do this work is truly satisfying.



mission Trip to Thailand

I realized that we have a lot of work to do in the world and that some of the things that I thought were necessities are actually insignificant compared to the true needs of others. We live in a world full of propaganda for useless things, with our eyes completely closed to the many facilities to help people who are in need. I am 48 years old and I still cannot grasp that until today I realized how lucky we are. I never imagined that this trip would teach me so much. The places we visited brought back many memories of my childhood-- when a bag of chips was the greatest joy of an entire day.

I understood that thanks to God we have grown in our understanding and extended ourselves to others. I am a strong believer that we all deserve the same opportunities and that if there is someone with greater needs than yours, your task is to help the less fortunate.

Thank you, Father Alex, for "providing us" such a great experience. It is even better to have lived it with my son AJ who is also very grateful.

~Freddie Martinez



*Photos by Freddie Martinez.
Freddie is with his son in the
above "selfie."*

Recent Upheaval for Immigrants & Refugees and What Catholics Need to Know in Order to Act

By Fr. Carl Chudy, sx

There's a myth that it's easy to immigrate the "right way" to the United States and that if people would "just get in line," they would be welcome to start new lives here with legal status. The U.S. immigration system is so outdated and complicated that few people can access legal pathways. When they can, the process often takes years or decades and costs tens of thousands of dollars. Under our current laws, there are only four main pathways for people to immigrate to the United States: family sponsorship, employer sponsorship, diversity lottery, and humanitarian protections. However, since taking office in January, Donald Trump has effectively shut down all humanitarian pathways for people to enter the United States. Humanitarian protections have historically included refugee resettlement, asylum, humanitarian parole, and Temporary Protected Status (TPS). His actions are in direct violation of current U.S. immigration laws. They contradict long-held humanitarian principles and our belief that Jesus calls us to care for vulnerable people. In a world in which more people have been forcibly displaced from their homes than at any other time in recorded history, closing these pathways isn't just immoral – it's out of touch with reality. It will only multiply humanitarian crises here and abroad. (Inspired by We Choose Welcome <https://www.wechoosewelcome.com/>)

Catholics and Immigration

"What is true, and what the Church and many others have called for, is the urgent need for a comprehensive reform of our country's immigration system. The U.S. immigration system is overly complex and unjust, often keeping family members apart; it must be fixed."

—Statement of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) Administrative Committee (March 17, 2022)

For decades, the Catholic bishops of the United States have been consistent and steadfast in their calls for a just reform of the nation's immigration system. The reform elements articulated below are grounded in Catholic social teaching generally and the Church's teaching on migration specifically, including the joint pastoral letter released by the American and Mexican bishops, *Strangers No Longer: Together on the Journey of Hope* (2003).

Enforcement efforts should be targeted, proportional, and humane

Safeguarding American communities and upholding the rule of law are laudable goals. At the same time, a country's rights to regulate its borders and enforce its immigration laws must be balanced with its responsibilities to uphold the sanctity of human life, respect the

God-given dignity of all persons, and enact policies that further the common good. Whether along an international border or in the interior of the country, enforcement measures should focus on those who present genuine risks and dangers to society, particularly efforts to reduce gang activity, stem the flow of drugs, and end human trafficking. Just enforcement also requires limiting the use of detention, especially for families, children, pregnant women, the sick, elderly, and disabled, given its proven harms and the pervasive lack of appropriate care in detention settings. Military personnel, resources, and tactics should not be used in immigration enforcement. Deportations and other enforcement actions should always be carried out with due regard for families, community ties, and religious liberty interests.

Humanitarian protections and due process should be ensured

From refugee resettlement, asylum, and temporary protected status to visas for victims of trafficking and abused youth, humanitarian protections are essential components of an immigration system that furthers the common good. Reforms to the U.S. asylum system should not raise what is already a high bar for relief, given the potential threats to human life if refoulement were to occur. Immigration processes, whether affirmative or defensive, must also be subject to due process. The dehumanization or vilification of noncitizens as a means to deprive them of protection under the law is not only contrary to the rule of law but an affront to God, in whose image they were created.

Long-time residents should have an earned pathway to citizenship

History does not support the belief that opportunities for long-time undocumented residents to regularize their status significantly increase illegal immigration. Today, nearly 12 million people are estimated to be living in the United States without legal status. This number has remained between 10 and 12 million since 2005. Almost one-third of the undocumented population consists of those brought to the United States as children, commonly known as "Dreamers." It also includes approximately 300,000 farmworkers, about half of the U.S. agricultural workforce. A significant majority of the undocumented population has lived in the United States for over a decade (some estimates place this percentage at upwards of 80%). Meanwhile, the population already contributes an estimated \$100 billion annually in federal, state, and local taxes. Legal processes for long-time residents and other undocumented immigrants to regularize their status would strengthen the American economy, stabilize communities, and keep families together.



Family unity should remain a cornerstone of the U.S. system

Catholic teaching maintains that families are the foundation of society, and any civilization's success hinges on its families' well-being. Families living in the United States have included combinations of citizens and noncitizens for generations. Immigration reform measures should be evaluated according to whether they strengthen families and promote family unity. U.S. citizen members of mixed-status families should not be penalized with restrictive policies that require eligibility for programs or services to hinge on an entire family being comprised of citizens.

Legal pathways should be expanded, reliable, and efficient

An enforcement-only approach to immigration disregards the benefits and contributions of immigrants and the many legitimate motivations for migrating, including family reunification, educational opportunities, employment, and humanitarian needs. Meanwhile, limits on legal immigration pathways established several decades ago are no longer responsive to today's social, economic, and geopolitical realities. Unreliable processes and inadequate legal pathways have merely contributed to an increase in irregular migration, even as enforcement efforts have been steadily intensified. Improving and increasing opportunities for people to lawfully enter the United States, on both a temporary and permanent basis, are necessary to address several pressing issues, from family separation to regional labor shortages. New legal pathways should be created, and backlogs resulting in decades-long wait times should be eliminated.

The root causes of forced migration should be addressed

Migration has been a consistent phenomenon throughout human

history. The Bible depicts a series of migrations, including the Holy Family fleeing persecution. A practical and sustainable response to increased migration must include efforts to address its root causes, especially in the case of forced migration. The preeminent right to life provides that people should be able to flourish in their homeland, with migration being a free choice. However, when the conditions for a dignified life are absent, people have the natural right to migrate, and countries must accommodate that right to the extent possible. Many factors are causing people worldwide to migrate in large numbers today, often as the only way to sustain or protect human life. This cannot be addressed unilaterally (i.e., a domestic overemphasis on deterrence) or by shifting responsibility (i.e., externalizing borders) but requires meaningful cooperation between the United States and other countries.

- **Bring Our Faith to Bear Contacting Our Public Officials**
- **Urge Congress to Protest Dreamers**
- **Families and Children are at risk – Call for foreign assistance to continue.**
- **Urge Congress to Protect the Persecuted**

Adapted from: <https://www.votervoice.net/USCCB/home>
<https://www.usccb.org/resources/immigrationreform.pdf>
<https://www.wechoosewelcome.com/>

*Photo: Pope Francis walks with refugees as he arrives to lead his general audience in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican on June 22nd
 2916 CNS photo/Paul Haring*

WORLD MISSION NEWS

"Making of the World One Family..."

FROM THE XAVERIAN MISSIONARIES INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Entering the Heart Empty-Handed

By Francesca Ugolotti



Parma, Italy: In our international students' second online meeting for our upcoming trip to Thailand, we prayed together remembering one of the symbols of Thailand: the lotus flower - emblem of purity and spiritual rebirth, a flower that has its roots in the mud but shows itself in all its beauty.

We were then guided to discover the distinctiveness of this extraordinary country in a "journey starting from the heart," because, as Pope Francis reminds us: "When we journey we do not only change a place, we transform ourselves."

We will be guests and traveling companions of the Xaverian family whose founders, Guido Maria Conforti and Celestina Bottego, proclaimed the foundation of their mission as "to make the world one family".

In "Thailand: land of the free and smiles" verbal communication will not be easy. For this reason gestures and a smile can facilitate human relationships. Often it will not be necessary to bring anything other than our presence. We Westerners struggle to be "empty-handed" but this will help us to understand or rather to **Enter the Heart**.

Buddhism, a religious philosophy that is based on the teachings of Buddha, is very widespread in Thailand. It teaches that every human being has the possibility to change their existence for the better while maintaining responsibility for their actions. Christians are a minimal percentage of the population, with even fewer Catholics, but the community is united and has understood how it is possible to 'Whisper the Gospel,' speaking directly to the hearts of people: in God in a smile, in attentive listening, in a simple dialogue, in discretion and respect.

This journey will set our soul on a quest above all, making us meet and collide with the limit made up of difficulties in communication, habits and customs very different from those we experience every day, and barriers that we can only observe without being able to overcome.

But true Joy lies in meeting and welcoming others. It will be a journey that we will share but we will have to do it fully, with "all of ourselves."



USA NEWS

OUR LADY OF FATIMA SHRINE, HOLLISTON MA

Fr. Joeven Matugas, Coming from West Africa, Joins the Staff at The Missionary Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima

Fr. Joeven Matugas has joined the staff at The Missionary Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima. From the Philippines, Fr. Joeven worked extensively in Sierra Leone, Africa, for about ten years. Welcome Fr. Joeven.

Ongoing Activities:

- Sacrament of Penance every Wednesday evening from 6 to 7 PM for the Jubilee Year.
- Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will also occur from 6 to 7 PM on Wednesdays.
- Holy Hour and Benediction every Thursday at 5 PM in Conforti Chapel
- Lectio Divina every Tuesday at 10:30 AM in the conference room in the office area lobby.
- Pax Christi on the second Friday of each month from 4:00 - 5:30 PM in the 'Upper Room' in the Office/Residence building
- Sacrament of Penance Saturday afternoons from 3 to 4 PM.

Listening to Those Who Left the Catholic Church

In America the landscape of the Catholic Church is changing dramatically, as is all religious communities and institutions. The new mission of the Xaverian Missionaries seeks to engage with our Catholic tradition to all outside of the church, Christianity, and even religion itself. The departure of those formed in the Catholic faith is felt in every parish. Disaffiliated families make up the majority of Catholic communities throughout the country. Contact Fr. Chudy for more information: cchudy@xaverianmissionaries.org

XAVIER KNOLL, FRANKLIN WI

Mission Festival

Come one and all to share in the fun and festivities at this year's Mission Festival which will take place on the weekend of June 21-22, 2025.

Lay Xaverians

"Missionary Disciples: The Xaverian Way," shares the basics of who is a Lay Xaverian, what they do, and how the Xaverian charism has guided people through their lives. Email Fr. Alex for more information. fralex@xaverianmissionaries.org



Jubilee of Hope 2025 At Our Lady of Fatima Shrine

The Archdiocese of Boston designated Fatima Shrine as one of the ten pilgrim sites for the Jubilee of Hope 2025.

- ✓ Beautiful outdoor spaces for individuals and groups
- ✓ Opportunities for Mass, Confessions and Holy Hour
- ✓ Fatima Days on the 13th of month from May to October
- ✓ Other spiritual and interfaith opportunities throughout the year

Visit Us For More

<https://bit.ly/fatimashrinejubilee>
holliston@xaverianmissionaries.org
508-429-2144

Xaverian Missionaries USA
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OUR LADY OF FATIMA SHRINE
10 AM Sunday Mass
Shrine Church
10 AM Saturday Mass
Confessions 3 - 4 PM
Shrine Church
7:30 AM Mass Mon - Fri
Conforti Chapel
5 PM Thursday Benediction
Conforti Chapel
6 PM Mass - Marian Devotion
Shrine Church followed by Procession
13th of the Month: May through October
Our Lady of Fatima Gift Shop
Thursday through Monday 11 am - 6 pm
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THE MISSIONARY SHRINE OF
OUR LADY OF FATIMA, HOLLISTON
INVITES YOU TO

FATIMA DAYS 2025

MARY, STAR OF HOPE

MAY 13
MARY, STAR OF HOPE, GUIDE YOUR CHURCH TO BUILD BRIDGES IN A DIVIDED WORLD - FR. CARL CHUDY

JUNE 13
MARY, STAR OF HOPE, GUIDE FAMILIES WHOSE CHILDREN ARE ESTRANGED FROM THE CHURCH - FR. JOEVEN MATUGAS

JULY 13
MARY, STAR OF HOPE, HELP US BE PEACEMAKERS AS WAR RAGES AROUND THE WORLD - FR. ROCCO PUPOLO

AUGUST 13
MARY, STAR OF HOPE, GUIDE US TO EMBRACE THOSE SEEKING HEALING IN MIND, BODY, AND SPIRIT

SEPTEMBER 13
MARY, STAR OF HOPE, GUIDE US TO PUT THE POOR AND THE PLANET AT THE CENTER OF OUR HEARTS

OCTOBER 13
MARY, STAR OF HOPE, HELP US TO WELCOME REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS SEEKING SHELTER IN THE STORM

6 pm Celebration of the Mass
7 pm Outdoor Rosary Procession
holliston@xaverianmissionaries.org
508-429-2144

JUNE 21-22
414-421-0831

HUGE RUMMAGE
Starts 8:00 am on Saturday

Saturday 3:00 - 11:00 pm
Spaghetti & Meatballs Dinner
4:00 - 7:00 pm (until sold)
Live Entertainment
3:30 pm - Dean Richard
6:45 pm - Eddie Butts

Sunday Noon - 7:00 pm
Outdoor Mass
10:30 am - St Alphonsus Bell Choir
Live Entertainment
12:00 pm - Vern Tretow
3:30 pm - The WhiskeyBollies
Chicken on the Spit
12:00 - 3:30 pm (until sold)

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Franklin, WI

Help the Xaverian Missionaries continue to "make of the world one family." Either clip this paper and send it to the address below or help the environment by donating online at: <https://www.xaverianmissionaries.org/support/>

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- ☐ Fatima Shrine, Holliston, MA;

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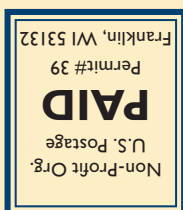
22

Share Christ's love with the next generation!

Contact: frrocco@xaverianmissionaries.org, fralex@xaverianmissionaries.org

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