

# Campus Ministry Report

## **XBSS Retreat**

Seven Malden Catholic students from the junior class will join students from Massachusetts, New York, Connecticut and Kentucky representing the 13 Xaverian Brothers Sponsored Schools at the XBSS Student Leadership Retreat, an annual five-day program gathering approximately 120 students from all the sponsored schools. This year the retreat has been scheduled from March 6th to March 10<sup>th</sup>. The theme of the retreat is "Falling in love with the service of God." Students have the opportunity to learn more about the history of the Xaverian Brothers and their founder, Theodore James Ryken, the Spiritual Values and Global Awareness and Stewardship. The retreat includes a day of Christian Service. The students selected are: senior, Anthony Dsouza and juniors, Kellen Field, Andrew Murphy, Max Doherty, Alex Phan, Anthony Sorrentino and Stephen Caldarelli. They will make up the Br. Francis Xavier Dondorf group. A second group of juniors who have been selected to lead the sophomore retreat in March are juniors: Michael Ssentongo, Rocco Prestia, Kevin Driscoll, Alex Eaton, James Hutchinson, and Jack Albanese. They are the Br. Stephen Sommers group. Faculty, Staff and Administrators assisted Campus Ministry in the selection process. Selected students chosen are actively engaged in Campus Ministry projects, Lancers In Action, display the Spiritual Values of the Xaverian Brothers and are also engaged in other school wide-activities.

Both groups of students are asked to develop a plan to bring the spirit of the Xaverian values back to school, work in Lancers in Action and be speakers at MCLI, and lead retreats, rosary, and prayer opportunities throughout their junior and senior years. The Dondorf and Sommer groups honor the memory of these two Xaverian Brothers whom we know as our American pioneers, the first band of Brothers sent to Louisville, Kentucky in 1854, where Saint Xavier High School, the first American Xaverian school was founded.

## **January- Lancers in Action Remember the Homeless**

Mission of Deeds, located in Reading, MA, serves men, women, and children of all ages, including: veterans, disadvantaged families, the previously homeless, survivors of domestic abuse, refugees, the elderly, survivors of fire and other disasters, and those with disabilities. For the last 12 years the Malden Catholic community has donated time, talent and treasure to assist Mission of Deeds in their mission to serve.

Malden Catholic volunteers have helped clients to select and pick up furniture in the Mission of Deeds truck, organize donated goods, and performed work which is essential to their mission. Every time we volunteer we help families and individuals in need. Every January, Lancers In Action lead the Buy-A-Bed drive for Mission of Deeds. We help buy a bed a dollar at a time so that every boy or girl is able to have a good night's sleep. Each bed costs \$90.00. This year through the generosity of families, students, faculty and staff we are able to buy 19 beds, breaking the previous record of 11 beds. In addition to "buying beds", Lancers in Action has led a Blanket Drive to provide new blankets for those beds. So far this year 80 blankets have been donated. Our January Tag Day for Mission of Deeds will go directly to those who need it most. Mission of Deeds' largest expense by far is purchasing new mattresses, box springs, and sheets

for those in need, and Malden Catholic's donation will help them to purchase these important items. The MC Campus Ministry is extremely grateful for the work and dedication of the Lancers in Action and the generosity and support of the MC community to serve those in most need.

### **Lancer Spirit Life**

Lancer Spirit Life is a monthly faith sharing gathering. A student-facilitated program, sponsored by Lancers in Action and overseen by the Campus Ministry Director, Lancer Spirit Life provides students on all grade levels an opportunity for prayer and discussion on the meaning of faith in their lives. Each month participants come together for Christian fellowship and hospitality which is an important element of this community and spirit building program.

Lancer Spirit Life is open to all students and approximately 20-25 Lancers are present each month. Some members come each month and others come when their extra-curricular and sport schedules allow. At about 3:30 P.M. we gather and meet for fellowship followed by dinner in the Campus Ministry Center to form a sense of community which facilitates faith-sharing and provides support for living out the Gospel in daily life.

Lancer Spirit Life members then gather in the school chapel for prayer service. A student leader then gives a brief oral presentation or power point presentation on a faith-related topic and proposes questions for reflection by the group. Student leaders use Scripture, spiritual writings and music as part of the prayer experience. Every few months, a more formal presentation is given by the Director of the Campus Ministry on subjects such as homelessness, service and mission of Malden Catholic. In January our prayer for focused on the plight of the homeless in the Greater Boston community. Lancer Spirit Life concludes with prayers of intercession and thanksgiving by the students who would like prayer for needs in their lives have the opportunity to pray with the group before leaving for the night.

### **Connecting with the Retired Xaverian Brothers**

Once a month on a Wednesday after school, different groups of students from Malden Catholic along with campus ministers take a van to travel to Xaverian House in Danvers, MA. Students along with their campus ministers spend quality time conversing, enjoying hot chocolate and sharing stories with the 29 retired Xaverian Brothers who live there. Br. Robert Green, Director of Xaverian House, welcomes the students and provides the group with a tour of the facility. He accompanies students to the chapel to see the beautiful stained glass windows which depict the history of the Brothers in the United States. Students love hearing the history of the Brothers and especially enjoy their time with the Brothers as they share how they have served others throughout their lives.