

XAVERIAN BROTHERS

IN HARMONY SMALL THINGS GROW

STATEMENT FROM XAVERIAN BROTHERS REGARDING ALLEGATION AGAINST BROTHER ROBERT FLAHERTY

The Xaverian Brothers were informed by the Baltimore police of an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor against Brother Robert Flaherty. The abuse allegedly occurred in the mid-1980's. The Xaverian Brothers have been cooperating with the State's Attorney's Office in their investigation. With the permission of the State's Attorney's Office, the Brothers have implemented their protocols regarding the allegation of abuse of a minor and removed Brother Flaherty from ministry pending the outcome of the investigation.

Brother Flaherty joined the Xaverian Brothers in September of 1979. After completing his initial year of training in the Congregation, Brother Flaherty made his profession of vows in 1980. Brother Flaherty taught at Mount St. Joseph, Baltimore from 1980-1993, and 2008-2010, at St. Xavier HS, Kentucky 1994-1999, and at St. John's Preparatory School, Massachusetts 1999-2007 and 2010 until his suspension last week.

The Xaverian Brothers continue to cooperate fully with the civil authorities in their investigation of this allegation.

The Xaverian Brothers, as members of the Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM), abide by the standards established by CMSM for the safety and protection of young people and vulnerable adults. Our current policies and practices are designed to prevent abuse from happening. The Congregation is saddened when it learns of an incident, even one that occurred decades ago, and recognizes that the effects of abuse can be life-long.

The Congregation:

- responds promptly to any allegation of sexual abuse,
- participates in an independent review board with other religious congregations of men that provides public accountability outside of Congregational leadership,
- mandates educational programs for members of the Congregation for the protection of minors and the prevention of abuse,
- provides intervention, care, treatment and follow-up supervision of members of the Congregation in need of this care,
- offers programs of healing, reconciliation and wellness for those affected by sexual abuse when appropriate.

The Xaverian Brothers have a firm and serious commitment to abide by national standards and other recommendations for the protection of youth, as well as to transparency in reporting. The standards established by the Conference of Major Superiors of Men were created in consultation with Praesidium Religious Services, a premier organization for dealing with sexual abuse within religious organizations as well as a wide range of organizations that serve children and young people.

Brother Edward Driscoll, CFX
General Superior
August 21, 2018