

# XAVERIAN BROTHERS

IN HARMONY SMALL THINGS GROW

## A Prayer During Times of Uncertainty

Loving and gracious God,  
All love and mercy compels us to the side of our global brothers and sisters.  
In our compassion, help us accompany them.  
In our simplicity, help us provide for them.  
In our humility, help us learn from them.  
In our zeal, help us advocate for them.  
In our trust, help us grow together with them.  
Just as you called our Founder, Theodore James Ryken, to a life of Gospel service to those forgotten by society, give us the strength to minister to the evolving needs of our world today.

### First Reading

*A Reading from the Fundamental Principles of the Xaverian Brothers.*

Day by day you will need to renew your response.  
Do not become discouraged over the difficulties you encounter  
in your life of gospel service.  
Knowing that difficulties would be your share,  
your Founder judged:  
*that nothing special is achieved  
without much labor, effort and zeal.*

Remember,  
Jesus, your brother,  
has walked this path before you.  
In you, as Risen Lord,  
He wants to walk this path again,  
and His Spirit, the Spirit of God,  
now guides you.

At times you will discover  
that God's ways are not your ways,  
and God's thoughts are not your thoughts.  
When this happens,  
try to surrender yourself trustingly  
into the arms of your Parent God,  
who knows you, understands you, and loves you.

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## Second Reading

*A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians.*

We are afflicted in every way, but not constrained; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed;

always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our body.

For we who live are constantly being given up to death for the sake of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh.

*The Word of the Lord.*

## Questions for Reflection

- How do I see God's love made manifest in our world today? In the midst of pain and suffering, where is God's mercy shown?
- As the routines of my daily life have been interrupted, what invitations am I being called to answer?
- How am I being challenged to use my unique giftedness to respond to the needs of the world through our Xaverian spiritual values of compassion, humility, simplicity, zeal, and trust?

## Petitions:

And as we turn to our God in these uncertain times, we ask for your Grace:

To feed the hungry,  
*Give us your Grace.*

To give drink to the thirsty,  
*Give us your Grace.*

To clothe the naked,  
*Give us your Grace.*

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To shelter the homeless,  
*Give us your Grace.*

To accompany the isolated,  
*Give us your Grace.*

To care for the sick,  
*Give us your Grace.*

To mourn those who have passed,  
*Give us your Grace.*

## **Closing**

God of Mercy, during these days of the pandemic, we come to you with hope. Ease of anxieties, calm or fears, and help us to trust in your loving care for all your creation. Challenge us to remember to read the signs of the times so that we might discover anew our ministry in the world and our call to serve You. We ask this in union with our Founder, Theodore James Ryken, and in Jesus's name.

Amen.