

## Xaverian Mission Festival 2025

Our community in Franklin, Wisconsin, held its annual two-day Mission Festival on July 21-22, Saturday and Sunday, July 21-22. The aim of the celebration is Mission Animation and Fundraising Activities. This Festival has been held since the 1960s when our Franklin House was constructed and served as a Seminary.

The Festival conducts a “Rummage Sale,” where Lay Xaverians and friends, volunteers, associates, and others donate their unused household items such as utensils, kitchenware, furniture, children’s toys, gardening tools, paintings, lamps, and other goods. These are displayed publicly and sold at prices ranging from 25¢ to up to \$20.

Family fun was found in mission booths, a raffle ticket draw, dinner “for a cause,” a live band, social games, beverages, pastries, burgers, tacos, and ice cream made affordable for the customer’s budget. All the proceeds will go to help the Fathers’ mission activities.

The Xaverian Friends and Volunteers assisted the Fathers in setting up tents, tables, chairs, and installing all the necessary materials. The women usually arranged and classified all the items for the rummage sale and put a tag price on them. It was a heavy job. The preparation might be a burden, but all was done for the service of the mission. Each one offered their time and effort for the success of the Festival.

On the second day, Sunday of the Feast of Corpus Christi, we began with the concelebration of the Holy Mass in the garden. Fr. Mark Marangone, sx, the Delegate Superior, presided, and confreres Fr. Alex, Fr. Gabriel, Fr. Dominic, and Fr. Joeven concelebrated. Bro. Kornel joined as well. Many people attended the Mass. Every year, the performance of the Bell Choir graces the celebration of the Mass with songs sung in accompaniment of the bells in various sizes played by each member.

The yearly Festival is also a way of sharing our spacious, evergreen compound and garden with visitors, thereby sharing our missionary heart and charism with Catholics and non-Catholics alike. It is also an occasion of informal sharing and interactions among the people, and an opportunity for parents to be with their children and find peace and relaxation.

The Fathers and organizers were very grateful for the success of the event. And the people, as well, were pleased with the opportunities they had experienced during the Festival.

All for Christ!

Fr. Joeven Matugas, sx