

THE XAVERI MOVEMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA.

Recently, **George Okwii, M.Afr**, replaced Michel Meunier as Chaplain of the Xaveri movement based in Pretoria Archdiocese though Michel remains a member of the Board. This movement was founded in 1952 by late Father [Georges Defour \(+2012\)](#) in Bukavu in the Democratic Republic of Congo. There has always been a close link between the Xaveri and the Missionaries of Africa. In South Africa, Martin Mande, age 34, originally from Bukavu, initiated the movement in 2007 which has developed since then to reach Swaziland at Hlatikulu Christ the King Parish, Manzini Diocese. George Okwii, who knew the movement in Uganda, was also instrumental in setting up a branch in Henley-KwaMzimba, Pietermaritzburg. Ministering now from Johannesburg, his chaplaincy with the Xaveri takes mostly place at the Cathedral of Pretoria. Hopefully, it will also spread over to Johannesburg.



At the moment, the Xaveri movement is concentrating its activities around a choir, charitable works such as visiting the sick, social activities, bible studies and prayers. A special attention is also given in bringing together migrants, refugees and asylum seekers with South-Africans.

HOMAGE TO GEORGE OKWII AND KARABO BALOYI, PARISH PRIEST IN PRETORIA.

By **Mum Dudu**, Matron of the movement in KwaZulu Natal who is a lecturer at Durban University of Technology.

Our Xaveri Chaplain, Father George Okwii, grew the seed of the Xaveri movement from Henley Parish in Pietermaritzburg. He has best interest at heart for the youth. The National committee of the Xaveri SA is now taking its own initiatives through youth camps and leadership training. The importance of social values, both within the Church and communities at large, is well understood. It is now the responsibility of the Xaveri team to take care of the tree, water and feed it to grow bigger and bear fruits. Long live Father Okwii! Long live also to Father Karabo, our Parish Priest of the Sacred Heart Cathedral in Pretoria! You are the eyes, ears and the driver of this adventure at Parish level. You drove the Xaveri at their first camp ensuring their security where more than forty young kids were well taken care of. You are our champion!



SHORT PRESENTATION OF THE XAVERI MOVEMENT:



Definition: *The organisation is governed by its Constitution as an independent, non-political, non-Governmental, non-profit and educational organisation for boys, girls and adults open to all without distinction of origin, race or creed, in accordance with the purpose of bringing together young people in a congenial and happy atmosphere which is inspired by the spirit of healthy African Traditions.*

Aim: *The aim of the organization is to contribute to the development of young people in achieving their full potentials as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of society, to build up true human beings whose interior life is stimulated by the spirituality of non-violence and inspire to lead an active apostolate in their own environment.*

Principles: *Love of God. Love of each other. Love of self.*

Method: *The Xaveri Method is a system of progressive self-education through the membership of small groups involving, under adult guidance, progressive discovery and acceptance of responsibility and training towards self-government directed towards the development of character, and the acquisition of competence, self-reliance, dependability and capacities both to co-operate and to lead.*

Progressive and stimulating programmes of varied activities based on the interests of the participants, including games, useful skills, and services to the community and outdoors activities in contact with nature.

Objectives: *To help young people make positive choices to live their life to the full. To educate young people regarding good citizenship. To encourage and assist youth to develop their talents fully. To help youth to grow in awareness of correct spiritual, moral and cultural values so that they may incorporate these values in their lives.*

Xaveri is Catholic Youth organization inspired by the charisma of Cardinal Charles Lavigerie to make Christ known to people through the work of the Missionaries of Africa.