



The Redemptorist Provincialate,
St. Mary's Monastery, Clapham,
SW4 7AP

Dear Confreres, Sisters, Lay Associates and our many friends,

It hardly seems credible that the month of the Holy Souls is nearly over. I feel quite certain that we have been using this month to pray for all our own loved ones who have died and whom we hope will spend eternity with our loving God. I am also confident that as communities we have all prayed for our confreres and sisters who have walked in the footsteps of the Redeemer before us and now have gone to their rest. There is still a week left in November so please ensure that masses are celebrated for our departed confreres, family members and benefactors.

Requiescant in pace.

Find a link to an interesting article

<https://www.catholicworldreport.com/2021/10/21/remembering-the-souls-in-purgatory/>

CoR AGM

At the end of last month I was in Hayes for two days of meetings with the Conference of Religious. This was the AGM and like every other body in the country it had not met in person since before COVID, so it was a great opportunity for us to share and discuss. The programme was good and included such things as

Presentation of Accounts,
Talks on "Care for our Common Home",
Elections of the Executive,

Archbishop McMahon gave a presentation on the experience of the Synod in Liverpool. He was later joined by two religious who shared their insights and what they are carrying forward.

The Papal Nuncio, Archbishop Claudio Gugerotti, came in person to speak with us and celebrate the Eucharist with us.

Sr Joan Chittister OSB was also on Zoom and she spoke inspiringly on "The Spiritual Mountains of the New Millennium: A Journey to Adulthood."

All in all it was a rich experience as well as a good opportunity for us to network. I will include the Nuncio's notes prepared for the COR meeting. He asks us Religious good questions - worth meditating on. I put one of his paragraphs here in this letter. He says,

Synodality without the voice of religious is crippled! We do not need religious who want more power in the Church. True authority is granted by witness, not by an obsessive ideology of equality at all costs. I want to be different, to make them feel that I am unique, as I felt it on the day I signed my letter and put it on the altar, saying: I am yours for ever O Lord, in this community, with these people, with this prophecy in my heart!

26th General Chapter

The material is now out and about and everyone should have a copy of Phase I Working Document. Fr General and the General Council are extremely keen that each one of us feels that our voices will be heard from wherever in the Congregation we find ourselves. A letter has already been sent around the communities giving dates when the OPC and the Elected Representative shall be coming around the Province, this will also be a Day of Recollection and a Discussion Day.

Two books will shortly be coming to the communities,

“A Redemptorist Approach to Social Ministry
- Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation.”

“Ratio Formationis for Partnership in Mission.”

Both of these Documents have been produced by the General Secretariat for Evangelisation.

We owe a debt of thanks to the Dublin Province as they were the ones who had these books produced so well.

Zimbabwe

I attach two photos of our men in Zimbabwe, one is of the novices and our Novice Master, Fr Gideon Sidinga; the other is some of our men in formation standing outside our community chapel in Tafara. Those with keen eyes will spot Br Benjamin the Superior of the Region and Br Tendai. Let us make sure that we are holding one another in prayer.

Ace of Clubs Opening

Much work has been going on with our Ace of Clubs project which has served 61,012 meals during the pandemic! During this time the clients availing of the facilities were able to get their food and whatever we could provide for them however they were unable to physically come into the Ace of Clubs due to COVID. However now on the 29th of November 2021 the Ace of Clubs will be open again to welcome the many men and women back home. Fr Mike has written a short piece explaining the changes that have been made over the past 18 months. Congratulations to him and all the staff and volunteers.

CSsR North Western Europe

The dialogue continues among the four provinces of North Western Europe. One thing the steering committee, of which I am a member, in a letter to the EPCs of NWE stated was that,

*“There is **no turning back** and we must continue on our chosen path. In fact, all four Provinces want to go further and we are committed to this process towards a federation structure.”*

This letter was written after we met during the Provincials of Europe meeting in Rome in October. We realised that we were going around in circles and not actually getting anywhere. As such we have agreed to a ‘face-to-face’ meeting at some point in January to discuss with an outside facilitator the way we can move forward in a healthy way.

Next week the four EPCs will meet. Pray also for this meeting as the bigger the meetings become the more difficult it is to maintain ones focus. The letter is attached.

I don’t know if it is just myself however I feel this year of 2021 is slipping away very quickly. At the end of this week we shall all begin our liturgical new year! Let us embrace this new liturgical year with confidence and hope, knowing that wherever we find ourselves, we shall know that we can be true and effective proclaimers of the Lord and his abundant mercy. ***Copiosa apud eum redemptio!***

My prayer goes up everyday for you.
Please pray for me.

Peace,



23 - 4 - 2021

Richard Reid CSsR
Provincial Superior

Attached

Transcript A’bishop Gugerotti; Photos Redemptorist Approach to Social Ministry; Ratio Formationis for Partnership; Two photos of confreres in Zimbabwe; Ace of Clubs Reopening; Photo Ace of Clubs; Steering Group letter to OPCs & EPCs.