

Newsletter

REDEEMER'S TIMES



ISSUE NUMBER 3
25 DECEMBER
2025

Walking Together in the Light of Hope

REDEEMER'S TIMES



EDITORIAL TEAM

EDITOR IN CHIEF

REV. ELVIS CHIRARA C.Ss.R

ASSISTANT

REV. NOEL MAKONI C.Ss.R

DESIGNER

REV. NOEL MAKONI C.Ss.R



1

Editor's Note

Rev. Elvis Chirara C.Ss.R

Walking Together in the Light of Hope

Christmas invites us to pause, to remember where we have come from, to recognise where we stand, and to look ahead with hope. This Christmas Newsletter of the **Redemptorist Region of Zimbabwe** is offered in that spirit of gratitude, reflection, and attentive listening to what God is doing among us.

The stories gathered in these pages speak of a living journey. They tell of brothers who have made lifelong commitments through solemn vows and ordination; of students being formed in philosophy and theology; of diocesan seminarians discovering fraternity within Redemptorist life; and of confreres from across Africa finding welcome, renewal, and unity in Zimbabwe. Together, they reveal a formation and mission rooted not in perfection, but in faithful response.

You will also encounter the life of our mission on the ground: the joy of a Golden Jubilee parish, the prayerful ascent of pilgrims at Redeemer's Rock, initiatives that unite faith with social responsibility, and vocational spaces where young men are invited simply to listen. In all these moments, the same truth echoes: *the light continues to shine*.

This newsletter is more than a record of activities. It is a testimony to God's fidelity, to the quiet labour of many hands and hearts, and to a shared mission carried forward by religious and lay collaborators alike. In a world often marked by noise and uncertainty, these reflections remind us that hope is born wherever Christ is welcomed and lived. As you read, we invite you to do so prayerfully, with hearts open to gratitude and renewal. May these stories strengthen your faith and remind you that the Redeemer continues to walk with His people.



2

REGIONAL'S MESSAGE

Fr. Kenneth Macharaga C.Ss.R

Walking Together in the Light of Hope

Dear Confreres, Lay Partners, Benefactors, Friends of the Redemptorists, and all People of God,

Grace and peace to you as we celebrate the mystery of Christmas, the Word made flesh, dwelling among us. In the humble birth of Christ, we encounter once again a God who comes close, who enters our history, and who quietly yet powerfully renews hope. As St John reminds us, "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (John 1:5). This truth has shaped and sustained our journey as Redemptorists in the Region of Zimbabwe throughout the past year.

The year now ending has been a year of grace and movement, marked by significant moments of commitment, growth, and shared mission. At the heart of our thanksgiving stand the events of 8 and 9 November, when six of our brothers professed their solemn vows, and five were ordained to the diaconate. These celebrations were not only milestones in the lives of individual brothers, but profound signs of God's fidelity to the Congregation and to the Church. In their generous response, we recognise the Spirit still calling, still sending, still sustaining the mission of plentiful redemption.

Our formation communities, especially Alphonsus House, have remained places where this call is heard and discerned. We give thanks for our formators and students, whose daily fidelity to prayer, study, community life, and pastoral service continues to shape hearts for mission. The presence of diocesan seminarians from Chinhoyi and Masvingo, sharing life and formation with our brothers, has enriched our communities and reminded us that vocation flourishes where fraternity and openness are lived.

We are also grateful for the international and missionary character of our Region. The experiences shared by our brothers studying theology in Kenya under the COREAM programme, as well as those who joined us from across Africa for the spiritual and solemn vows preparation month, testify to a Congregation that is truly intercultural. These encounters deepen our sense of belonging to a wider Redemptorist family, united by the charism of St Alphonsus and a shared love for the mission.

In our pastoral life, we rejoice in the vitality of our parishes, apostolates, and initiatives. The Golden Jubilee of St Alphonsus Parish, Tafara, celebrated fifty years of faith, perseverance, and community life, reminding us that the Gospel bears fruit where it is patiently lived. The growth of Redeemer's Rock Shrine to Our Mother of Perpetual Help, now a Pilgrim of Hope site for the Jubilee Year 2025, has become a visible sign of God's welcome, drawing pilgrims from all walks of life to prayer, healing, and renewed trust.

We also give thanks for initiatives such as the Men's Symposium and the Come and See vocational programme, which affirm that the Gospel continues to engage real human questions and that young men are still willing to pause and listen. Like the young Samuel, many continue to say, sometimes quietly and tentatively, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening" (1 Samuel 3:10).



3

REGIONAL'S MESSAGE

As we celebrate Christmas, we do so aware of our limitations and challenges, yet filled with confidence. The Child of Bethlehem assures us that God remains with His people. Hope is born not from certainty, but from trust in the Redeemer who walks with us.

On behalf of the Council, I thank all our confreres, lay partners, benefactors, collaborators, and friends for your prayers, generosity, and shared commitment to the mission. May the light of Christ's birth fill your homes with peace, strengthen your faith, and renew your hope.

May Our Mother of Perpetual Help continue to accompany us as we journey forward together.

I wish you a blessed Christmas and a hope-filled New Year.

Your brother in the Redeemer,

Fr Kenneth Macharaga,
Regional Superior, Zimbabwe



4

St Alphonsus Parish

Fr. Francis Kunaka C.Ss.R

St Alphonsus Parish, Tafara: Celebrating Fifty Years of Faith, Community, and Mission

The year 2025 marked a truly remarkable and grace-filled chapter in the life of St Alphonsus Parish, Tafara, as the parish joyfully celebrated its Golden Jubilee: fifty years of faith, love, service, and community. This milestone year was characterised by renewal, thanksgiving, and a deep appreciation of the journey that has shaped the parish into the vibrant faith community it is today.

The Jubilee year began during Lent with scheduled pilgrimage visits to the Redeemer's Rock Shrine, undertaken in the spirit of synodality. Parish groups, including the Missionary Childhood, Youth, and Adult Forum, participated in this spiritually enriching journey. Over one hundred children, approximately one hundred and fifty young people, and a similar number of adults took part. These pilgrimages became moments of prayer, reflection, and spiritual renewal, strengthening the bonds of unity within the parish family. Although the adults' scheduled pilgrimage was later postponed indefinitely, it served as a reminder that the journey of faith continues even when plans change.

From 14 to 20 July, the parish entered into a Mission Week, facilitated by the Redemptorists, as a spiritual preparation for the Jubilee celebrations. Each day carried a distinct theme aimed at deepening prayer life, healing personal and communal wounds, strengthening family relationships, and renewing daily Christian living. This mission week became a sacred time of grace, reflection, and interior renewal, laying a firm spiritual foundation for the Jubilee celebrations.

The highlight of the year was the Golden Jubilee celebration on 8 August, which drew together former parishioners, sister parishes, Catholics from across the Archdiocese, Christians from other denominations, and members of the wider community. The Jubilee Mass was presided over by His Lordship Bishop Raymond Mupandasekwa, Bishop of Masvingo Diocese and the Apostolic Administrator of Chinhoyi Diocese, who also served previously as parish priest at St Alphonsus Tafara. His presence beautifully connected the parish's past and present, making the celebration deeply symbolic and memorable. The day was enriched with drama, poetry, music, and shared fellowship over lunch, expressions of gratitude and joy for fifty years of God's faithful guidance.

Beyond the Jubilee celebrations, the parish also marked other significant moments during the year. St Clement's Feast Day was celebrated with a solemn and joyful Mass, serenaded by a vibrant performance from the Redeemers Band. The parish further embraced its cultural identity during Africa Day, as parishioners gathered in colourful African attire, accompanied by lively music and dance that celebrated unity, heritage, and faith.



In preparation for the Jubilee and to support future parish activities, several development projects were undertaken. These included the successful construction of an outdoor stage and altar, the building of a kitchen to enhance hospitality, and ongoing renovations to the grotto, which remains under construction. At St Clement Centre, efforts continue toward the construction of a new church, an enduring sign of faith, perseverance, and hope.

As the parish reflects on this milestone year, hearts are lifted in thanksgiving to God for His abundant blessings and guidance. With renewed spirit and strengthened community life, St Alphonsus Parish looks forward with hope, committed to continuing its mission of faith, service, and love. We pray that all ongoing projects may be brought to completion with God's help, and that the legacy of St Alphonsus Parish may continue to inspire generations yet to come.



6

St Augustine's Hatcliffe

Fr. George Hama C.Ss.R

A Year of Grace and Growth: Celebrating Community and Progress at Saint Augustine Parish

Fundraising

We give all glory to God for an incredible year of progress. Despite financial challenges, we successfully purchased a brand-new Audio Tech PA system and secured all materials for the church tiling project. Fundraising now continues to cover labor costs. These achievements were made possible through sponsored forms and the "Buy a Square Meter" campaign. Spiritually, the parish thrived through major feast days, competitions, celebrations, and fellowship.

Parish Projects Completed and Ongoing

Water System Upgrade: Installation of two 5000L tanks and borehole repairs (St Augustine)

Sanitation: Toilet flooring and water connections (St Augustine and Holy Redeemer)

Audio-Visual: New PA system purchased and installed (St Augustine)

Shade Structure: Wall construction, brick purchases, backfilling, and flooring (Holy Redeemer)

Renovations: Toilet upgrades and ongoing church tiling (St Augustine)

Furniture & Office: New plastic chairs and a temporary office (Holy Redeemer)

Garden Project (Holy Redeemer)

Saint Augustine Parish experienced a remarkable and grace-filled year, marked by spiritual growth, community celebration, and successful development projects. Our major highlight was hosting the Final Profession of six Redemptorist brothers—a profound honor for our parish. The event was a success, supported by parishioners and our sister Redemptorist Parishes.

Holy Redeemer Feast Day – 20 July 2025

This year marked the first Holy Redeemer celebration since the Centre was officially established. During Mass, Fr. Hama conferred 28 parishioners into various adult guilds, with executive guild members in attendance. The day also doubled as a choir fundraising event, featuring lively choral competitions in preparation for the archdiocese contests.

St Augustine Parish Day – 31 August 2025

Celebrated under the theme "Pray, Feast and Play with St Augustine," the day began with an engaging presentation from ZRP Drug Unit detectives on drug awareness and community protection. Parishioners enjoyed free food and a fun-filled afternoon of sports, including aerobics, five-a-side soccer, and tug of war. The activities brought together all age groups, strengthening parish unity.

Fundraising

SACRAMENTS SUMMARY - NUMBERS 2025		
	ST AUGUSTINE PARISH	HOLY REDEEMER CENTRE
Infant Baptism	16	13
Junior Baptism (MC)	24	24
Adult Baptism	12	7
1st Holy Communion/Conf	2	6
Confirmation	35	19
Holy Matrimony	2	2
Holy Matrimony (December	2	2

Fr. Victor Bushu C.Ss.R

A Year of Hope and Renewal: St Gerard's Parish in 2025

2025 has been a fruitful year for St Gerard's Parish as we continued to build momentum on coming back together in a post Covid era. The focus for the year has been to steer the parish towards deeper spiritual growth, stronger stewardship and community bonds whilst encouraging every member to participate actively in parish life. Fittingly, the Jubilee Year of Hope has provided a platform on which we have journeyed together as one family.

Worship & Spiritual Life.

The year began with a restructuring of Small Christian Communities; making SCC's smaller, thereby bringing families closer together. With the guidance of our priests the restructure has resulted in more individuals actively participating in mass and parish life. In addition, all SCC's have led mass, hosted a Lenten and Advent mass in the home, as well as has had a pastoral visit from the priests. The year has been busy with an ordination, baptisms, confirmation and a record number of weddings. The number of guild formation candidates has increased in the year. The choir and bible quiz team have excelled and continue to work to inspire new younger members to join. Of note has been the inception of Choir yanaBaba (CYB) which has been well received by the men in the parish. Their singing has injected a new flair to our Sunday worship.

Jubilee Year of Hope

We have been blessed to have had our centre St Cecilia, Our Mother of Perpetual Help Shrine, Charlotte Brooke designated as a 2025 Jubilee Pilgrimage Site. Our guilds, associations and various groups have actively participated in a pilgrimage to the site within the year. In addition we were privileged to have hosted the Inner City Deanery pilgrimage which saw 2000 deanery parishioners attending.

Moreover, close to 20 000 pilgrims from all over the country have made the journey to the pilgrimage site. It has been most pleasing to see our youth taking an active role in their spiritual life. Whilst 15 of our youth travelled to Masvingo for the National Jubilee Congress, 26 youth also travelled to Rome for the Jubilee of Youth in September.

Feast Celebrations & Anniversaries

The 51st St Gerard's Day was celebrated at the mother parish in October. Of note was the active participation in the days celebrations this year by all parishioners. The Feast of St Cecilia was celebrated in November; St Cecilia was a hive of activity with prayer, song and dance bringing parishioners together in festivity. The Sisters of Nazareth at Nazareth House having celebrated 88 years of service in Zimbabwe in May 2025 capped off the year celebrating The Feast of the Immaculate Conception in December. New members of the Friends of Nazareth were inaugurated during the mass.

Parish Projects

Adaptation of our green spaces to the change in climate was completed with the grounds being paved and dry gardens installed. Construction of multipurpose room at Nazareth house is underway and various projects to enhance the pilgrimage site Our Mother of Perpetual Help Shrine are ongoing.

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another"

Heb 10:24-25

The year with its challenges has yielded measurable growth in engagement, spirituality, and stewardship. We look forward to the coming year as we build actively seek to bring ourselves closer to the Almighty and each other.

9

Redeemer's Rock Shrine

Mrs Rita Likukuma

A Place of Prayer, Pilgrimage, and Hope

Designated as the official Pilgrim of Hope site for the Jubilee Year 2025, the Redeemer's Rock Shrine, dedicated to Our Lady of Perpetual Help, has continued to draw pilgrims from across Zimbabwe, the wider region, the diaspora, and even from international destinations. Throughout the year, the Shrine has become a vibrant centre of prayer, encounter, and spiritual renewal.

Pilgrims have come in large numbers, representing a wide range of parish guilds and Catholic associations. Among those regularly visiting the Shrine are the Sacred Heart Guild, Maria Munyaradzi weVatamburi, Maria Hosiyedenga, St Joseph's Guild, Mbuya Anna, and many other religious and lay groups. The Inner-City Deanery alone organised a major pilgrimage that drew more than 2,000 faithful. Religious sisters and other consecrated persons from different parts of the country have also made frequent visits, strengthening the Shrine's character as a national place of prayer.

A particularly strong feature of life at the Shrine has been the Sacred Heart First Friday all-night prayers, held monthly. These begin with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist at the Shrine of Our Lady of Perpetual Help and continue with the praying of the Seven Sorrows Rosary as pilgrims ascend to the mountain top. Groups from across Zimbabwe gather for these vigils, spending the night in prayer, reflection, and silence, creating a powerful atmosphere of devotion and trust in God.

The Shrine has also become a place of ecumenical encounter. Christians from other denominations, including Methodists, Anglicans, and members of apostolic churches, regularly come to pray at Redeemer's Rock. Their presence reflects the Shrine's openness and its growing recognition as a sacred space where all are welcome to seek God's grace, healing, and peace.

In response to the increasing number of pilgrims, various infrastructural development projects have been undertaken to enhance the prayer experience. Guided by technical expertise from within the parish and beyond, these developments have been supported by different guilds, men's associations, and non-guild groups. These collective efforts reflect a shared sense of ownership and responsibility for the Shrine.

Many pilgrims testify to experiencing the holiness of Redeemer's Rock through the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, moments of deep prayer, silence, and personal testimonies of healing and consolation. The Shrine continues to be a place that touches hearts and renews faith.

Looking ahead, Redeemer's Rock seeks to respond more intentionally to the needs of the surrounding community through initiatives in healthcare and education, ensuring that prayer and social concern walk hand in hand.

Redeemer's Rock: Shrine to Our Lady of Perpetual Help will continue to stand as a sacred place of prayer and pilgrimage, fostering peace, spiritual growth, healing, and hope for people both within and beyond the local community. In this Jubilee Year and beyond, it remains a living witness to God's mercy and to the maternal intercession of Our Mother of Perpetual Help.

Scripture Reflection

"Come to me, all you who labour and are burdened, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28).

Fr. Bryne Manyenga C.Ss.R *Student's Director* Reflections on Life and Growth at Alphonsus House

As the newly appointed Students Director at Alphonsus House, I reflect with deep gratitude on the significant moments that have recently shaped our community. The past months have been marked by transition, commitment, and renewal, moments that have strengthened our bonds and given fresh energy to our common life and formation.

One of the first notable developments was the transition in leadership, as I succeeded Fr Kunaka in the role of Students Director. I wish to express my sincere appreciation to Fr Kunaka for his dedicated service, pastoral care, and steady guidance during his tenure. His leadership laid a solid foundation for the formation and well-being of the students, and I remain committed to building upon that legacy with fidelity and care.

A defining moment for our community, and indeed for the entire Region, was the final profession and diaconate ordination of Brothers Terrence, Sylvester, Elvis, Bothwell, Noel, and Phillip. These events were not only deeply personal milestones for the brothers concerned, but also moments of grace for Alphonsus House. Their generous commitment to the Redemptorist vocation stands as a powerful witness to perseverance, trust in God, and the importance of community support along the journey of faith.

This year also marked a new chapter with the arrival of diocesan seminarians from the Chinhoyi and Masvingo dioceses. Their presence has enriched the life of our community, bringing new perspectives and experiences into our shared daily rhythm. I am pleased to note that they have integrated well, embracing the structure and spirit of Alphonsus House while contributing positively to communal life. Their presence has strengthened the atmosphere of fraternity and mutual learning that characterises our formation house.

Another encouraging development has been the resumption of triduum celebrations, facilitated by the students themselves. These tridua focus on the lives, virtues, and missionary witness of Redemptorist saints, offering an opportunity to reconnect with the spiritual heritage of the Congregation. Thus far, two tridua have been successfully conducted: one in honour of Blessed Kaspar Stanggassinger and another dedicated to St Gerard Majella. These moments of prayer and reflection have deepened our spiritual life and fostered a renewed appreciation for the examples of holiness that continue to inspire our mission.

Closely linked to this has been the revival of the C.Ss.R. Time, a dedicated space for reflection, discussion, and learning centred on Redemptorist identity, formation, and mission. During these sessions, the brothers engage more intentionally with the values and commitments that define Redemptorist life. This initiative has proved invaluable in grounding formation not only in academic and pastoral demands, but also in a clear sense of charism and purpose.

In our commitment to quality formation, our formators are currently attending the formation school at Wadzanai Training Centre. This ongoing professional development is essential for deepening our understanding of formation processes and equipping us to accompany the brothers more effectively in their spiritual and vocational journeys.

We also rejoiced in the reception of Wilbroard Humbasha and Tafadzwa Collins Chadyiwa from postulancy into student formation. Their transition marks an important step forward in their vocational discernment, and we warmly welcome them into this next phase of formation. Their enthusiasm and openness are evident, and we look forward to supporting them as they grow academically, spiritually, and humanly.

Despite the inevitable challenges that arise from our diverse backgrounds and experiences, the brothers of Alphonsus House continue to thrive. Our community life is marked by joy, mutual support, and a shared commitment to growth. Laughter, dialogue, and encouragement remain strong signs of a fraternity that is learning to live in unity in diversity.

As we move forward together, I remain deeply hopeful for the future of Alphonsus House. The events of this year have strengthened our sense of belonging and renewed our commitment to the mission entrusted to us. May we continue to walk together in faith, supporting one another, celebrating our milestones, and allowing God to shape us into generous servants of the Redeemer.



Br Tendai Tami C.Ss.R**The Vocation of a Redemptorist Brother: Living the Gospel in Simplicity and Joy**

From the very beginnings of the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer, the vocation of the Brother has stood as a vital and integral expression of our Redemptorist identity. Yet, this unique and beautiful calling is sometimes overshadowed, misunderstood, or even forgotten. The Brother can appear to be a mystery man within the Congregation, a figure whose role is often explored in fragments rather than with full understanding. In truth, the Brother is not an afterthought but a co-founder, a co-missionary, and a co-heir of the Redemptorist charism. Through his distinct witness, he reminds us all of the radical simplicity of the Gospel: the call to serve, to love, and to follow Christ with an undivided heart.

The Legacy of St. Gerard Majella: Patron and Model

One of the clearest and most powerful examples of the Brothers' vocation is found in St. Gerard Majella. A Redemptorist Brother canonised for his holiness and love for the poor, St. Gerard remains an icon of humility and joyful service. He teaches us that sanctity is not the exclusive territory of priests or scholars, but the fruit of saying yes to God in the ordinary and extraordinary alike. Gerard's closeness to the sick, the suffering, and the poor was not an occasional charity, it was his life. Today, as Redemptorists, we are called to imitate his missionary spirit. How might we draw near to people with the same tenderness that Gerard showed? How can we be present to the wounds of the world, not as distant observers, but as brothers who belong?

Living the Vocation Today

So, how do we promote the vocation of the Brother in today's Church? The best way is by living it. When Redemptorists, whether Brothers or priests, embrace their missionary identity with joy and fidelity, the vocation speaks for itself. We show that one does not need to be ordained to proclaim the Gospel powerfully. Jesus reminds us, "You are all brothers" (Mt 23:8). This revolutionary truth flips worldly hierarchies. To be a Brother is not to have less; it is to share more—to share life, love, community, and mission.

Scriptural and Spiritual Grounding

The Brother's vocation is deeply Christological. Like Christ, who "emptied himself, taking the form of a servant" (Phil 2:7), the Redemptorist Brother lives a life of kenosis, of self-gift. He may not preach from a pulpit, but his life is a homily. He may not consecrate the Eucharist, but he becomes Eucharist for others – broken, shared, and sent.

As Constitution No. 20 reminds us:

Strong in faith, rejoicing in hope, burning with charity, on fire with zeal, in humility of heart and persevering in prayer, Redemptorists as apostolic men and genuine disciples of Saint Alphonsus follow Christ the Redeemer with hearts full of joy. This is not a poetic ideal but a daily challenge, embraced with the grace of God.

Br Tendai Tami C.Ss.R**The Vocation of a Redemptorist Brother: Living the Gospel in Simplicity and Joy****A Mission Shared: Brothers and Priests Together**

The Redemptorist Congregation exists to “follow the example of Jesus Christ the Redeemer by preaching the word of God to the poor.” Whether Brother or priest, each member is bound by this mission. The Brother may work in technical ministry, education, pastoral service, or even agriculture, yet all of it is preaching the Gospel when done with love.

Redemptorist communities must foster mutual respect and collaboration between Brothers and priests. This includes shared leadership, decision-making, and ministry planning. Brothers should be encouraged to pursue academic and theological studies to enhance their formation and enable them to take on leadership roles within the Congregation.

To the Young: Is God Calling You to be a Redemptorist Brother?

Perhaps you are a young man reading this and wondering if God might be calling you. Maybe you love the Church but aren’t sure you’re meant to be a priest. Could you be called to be a Brother?

Ask yourself:

- Do I desire to live in community?
- Do I feel drawn to serve the poor and forgotten?
- Do I want my life to proclaim God’s love, even without a collar?

If so, you are not alone. Talk to a Redemptorist Brother. Visit a community. Come and see, come and serve.

St Gerard the Brother

**St. Gerard, gentle Brother,
Light in darkness, sign of hope,
Flame of love and humble servant,
In the Church, in all the world.
You, mirror of Christ’s mercy,
Wove charity with dedication,
Wore meekness like a sacred robe,
Clothed in patience, crowned with peace.
You prayed with the silence of saints,
In simplicity, you touched Heaven.
O faithful son, doing God’s will,
With joy, you served the poor,
With joy, you held the broken,
You knelt with the most abandoned
Revealing Christ in hidden places,
As feet that walk, as hands that bless.
You laboured in the vineyard
Spirit and flesh in sacred union,
A heart on fire with holy desire:
To awaken love in the young,
To stir the call to follow Christ,
To live a life consecrated in grace,
To choose the Brother’s path,
To answer the Brother’s vocation.
St. Gerard, inspire us still.
Let your spirit rise anew in us.
May your life be our compass,
Your joy, our strength,
Your prayer, our song.
Amen.**



REV. Sylvester Kanjiwa C.Ss.R

From the Sounds of Consecration Bells, the Ngondo–Ngende–Ngiriri Boy Is Now a Deacon

From my earliest years, the sacred liturgy was never merely a routine; it was a space where God spoke to me. Many saw my echoing of the consecration bells, the familiar “Ngende Ngende–Ngiriri,” as mere childish noise at St Stephen’s Parish in Dzivarasekwa. I used to attend Mass with my sisters, who often worried that Fr Makaka, SJ, might one day get angry because, during the solemn silence of the consecration, I would imitate the sound of the bells. Before Mass, we would agree that I would not do it, but when the moment came, I simply could not help myself. I felt compelled to answer the sound of the bells.

Yet, as I reflect theologically on my journey today, I recognise in those moments the quiet mystery of vocation unfolding. The Second Vatican Council reminds us that “the Lord Jesus, whom the Father consecrated and sent into the world (Jn 10:36), shares this mission with his disciples” (Lumen Gentium 28). In its own simple way, my response to the bells was my first “yes” to God’s invitation.

My experience finds a deep resonance in Sacred Scripture. Like the boy Samuel, who initially mistook the voice of God for that of Eli (1 Sam 3:1–10), I too misunderstood the summons of the bells as a simple attraction to sound. Yet, as with Samuel, it was the Lord calling persistently, even through ordinary means. Moses encountered God in the burning bush (Ex 3:2); for me, it was the humble chime of the consecration bells, a sign of Christ made present in the Eucharist, the “source and summit of the Christian life” (CCC 1324).

The Church teaches us that vocation grows within the life of community. St Stephen’s Parish in Dzivarasekwa was my Nazareth. It was there that I received the sacraments of initiation, served at the altar, and was formed within the Sacred Heart of Jesus guild. The parish, as the heart of the ecclesial community, is “where the faithful are gathered together as one under their pastors” (Sacrosanctum Concilium 42). My vocation was planted, watered, and nurtured not only by my family, but also by the living tradition of faith in Dzivarasekwa, the wisdom of the Jesuits, the pastoral care of diocesan priests in Chinhoyi, and the preaching of the Redemptorists in Hatcliffe. Guided by the Holy Spirit, the Church recognises that every vocation is a unique gift. The Magisterium teaches that “Holy Orders is the sacrament through which the mission entrusted by Christ to his apostles continues to be exercised in the Church” (CCC 1536). My journey, from a boy imitating a consecration bell to a Deacon in the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer, is a testimony to the many ways God’s call is made manifest, and to the Church’s motherly role in discerning and fostering vocations.

Today, as a Deacon, I look back and clearly see the hand of God at work in the playful Ngondo–Ngende of my childhood. Just as Samuel once replied, “Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening” (1 Sam 3:10), so too do I strive to respond daily to God’s invitation. The consecration bells continue to remind me of the mystery of the Eucharist and of the enduring call of God, who speaks through Scripture, Tradition, and the living Magisterium of the Church.

Takudzwa Muzonzini**Men's Symposium Unites Faith, Wellness, and Social Responsibility in Harare**

The Redemptorists Region of Zimbabwe successfully hosted a Men's Symposium at St Alphonsus House, the Redemptorist student house in Harare, bringing together Catholic men, parishioners, and members of the wider community, including non-Catholics, for a day of reflection, formation, and fraternity.

Organised by the Friends of the Redemptorists and coordinated through the Secretary General for Partnership in Mission for Africa and Madagascar, Br Kenneth Temba, CSsR, the symposium formed part of the Redemptorists' broader pastoral commitment to accompany both the local Church and society at large through collaboration and shared mission.

The programme addressed themes central to the contemporary vocation of men, including men as pillars of faith, health and physical well-being, farming, and real estate. These topics reflected the Church's holistic understanding of human development, where spiritual growth is inseparable from physical health, responsible stewardship of resources, and meaningful social engagement.

The day began with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, presided over by the Very Rev. Fr Noel Sottima, CSsR, COREAM Coordinator. In his homily and address, Fr Noel reflected on the theme "The Restructuring Process of the Redemptorists in Africa and Madagascar," offering valuable insight into the Congregation's ongoing efforts toward renewal, collaboration, and greater mission effectiveness in response to emerging pastoral realities across the continent.

Messages of goodwill and solidarity were delivered on behalf of the Very Rev. Fr Richard Reid, CSsR, the Very Rev. Fr Kenneth Macharaga, CSsR, and Lady Judith Agu, LSM, President of the Commission for Partnership in Mission for Africa and Madagascar. Their messages affirmed the importance of such initiatives in strengthening collaboration between religious and lay partners in the Church's mission.

Throughout the symposium, participants were invited to reflect deeply on the role of men as leaders in faith, family, and society. Sessions on health and fitness highlighted the Christian responsibility to care for the body as a temple of the Holy Spirit. Discussions on agriculture and real estate focused on sustainable livelihoods, economic empowerment, and ethical stewardship, presenting these as concrete expressions of lived faith.

Beyond the formal presentations, the symposium created space for shared meals and social interaction. These moments fostered fraternity and provided a meaningful platform for networking, dialogue, and mutual support among men from diverse backgrounds. The spirit of openness and camaraderie underscored the importance of community and relationships in nurturing mature Christian discipleship.

The Men's Symposium stands as a tangible expression of the Redemptorists' mission to form men who are spiritually grounded, socially responsible, and actively engaged in both Church and society. It also highlighted the value of inclusive pastoral initiatives that extend beyond parish boundaries, strengthening collaboration with the wider community and promoting integral human development.

As the Church continues her mission in Zimbabwe and throughout Africa and Madagascar, initiatives such as this symposium play a vital role in forming men of faith who are equipped to respond to the challenges of our time with conviction, compassion, and hope.

Br. Tinotenda Kori C.Ss.R

Formation at Our Mother of Perpetual Help KESAZI Theologate, Nairobi

The restructuring of the Congregation has given rise to a richly diverse theological community at Our Mother of Perpetual Help KESAZI Theologate in Nairobi. Currently, the community comprises confreres from five different nationalities: Kenya, South Africa, Zimbabwe, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Mozambique. This diversity has become a living expression of missionary life, marked by mutual respect, fraternity, encouragement in difficult moments, and hope amid an uncertain future. In many ways, our community stands as a concrete witness to unity in diversity within the Congregation.

Living together in such a multicultural setting has opened up promising opportunities for deeper collaboration and growth. It calls us to move beyond personal cultural assumptions and preferences, and to embrace the shared Redemptorist identity rooted in the spirit of St Alphonsus. Here, fraternity is not defined by nationality, tribe, or race, but by our common call to follow the Redeemer and to live as brothers in mission.

From St Camillus to the Apostles of Jesus

The theologate community officially began on 13 August 2024 at St Camillus in Nairobi, following the separation of theologians and philosophers who had previously lived together in the common formation community in Karen. At St Camillus, we temporarily rented accommodation from the Congregation of St Camillus. During this period, the community consisted of 26 students under the guidance of one formator, Fr Lewis Mtiso, CSsR.

After one month, on 15 September 2024, we relocated to our current residence at the Apostles of Jesus. This move marked a significant step toward stabilising the theologate community. Later, on 13 February 2025, we were blessed with the arrival of a second formator, Fr Peter Mwape Chitabanta, CSsR, from the South African Province. His appointment brought much relief to Fr Lewis, who was carrying multiple responsibilities, including academic commitments.

Community Life and Spiritual Formation

Our daily rhythm is anchored in common prayer. Each morning begins with communal prayers before we proceed to our academic studies. In the afternoons, we engage in manual work and recreation. Through gardening, we have managed to supplement our food supply with fresh vegetables, fostering both self-reliance and communal responsibility. Spiritually, the community is sustained by regular practices that nourish our Redemptorist identity. Every Saturday, we pray the Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help. At the end of each month, we hold a community recollection. On weekends, and occasionally on weekdays after classes, brothers engage in various apostolates, gaining pastoral experience through service to different groups of people.

This year, our community was also enriched by several important visits: members of the General Government during a canonical visitation, confreres from the Province of Bangalore who joined us for a retreat, and the COREAM Coordinator for discussions and meetings related to formation and academic programmes.

Academic Formation

Our theological studies are undertaken at Don Bosco Utume Salesian Seminary, an institution known for its strong academic and spiritual formation. The college is staffed by well-trained full-time and part-time lecturers and offers a balanced formation that integrates intellectual rigour with pastoral sensitivity. A well-resourced library supports our research and academic growth.

Signs of Growth in the Kenyan Mission

Amid these challenges, the Kenyan Mission continues to show encouraging signs of growth. In November 2025, we celebrated a historic milestone with the graduation of the first doctoral graduate of the Kenyan Mission, Dr Fr Augustine Mugambi, CSsR, who also lectures in Moral Theology at Don Bosco Utume College.

The year also witnessed several important vocational milestones: the diaconate ordination of Brothers Waswa, Patrick, and Kavita on 8 September 2025; the final profession of Brothers Waswa, Kavita, Patrick, Humphery, and N'gan'ga on 5 August 2025, many of whom were formed in Zimbabwe; the first profession of four brothers from the Kinungi Novitiate; and, on 15 February 2025, the priestly ordination of Frs Pius Juma and Fredrick Omondi, who had completed their novitiate in Zimbabwe.

These events stand as powerful signs of hope, continuity, and growth for the Kenyan Mission and the wider Congregation.

Br. Willbroad Humbasha**From Postulancy to Student: A Journey of Formation and Grace**

The 9th of November 2024 is a date that will forever remain etched in our hearts, for my brother Tafadzwa Chadyiwa and me (Willbroad Humbasha). On that day, as the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer celebrated its 292nd anniversary, we too were invited into a decisive moment of grace: our formal acceptance into the Postulancy. It marked a profound turning point, the closing of one chapter of life and the beginning of another, wholly oriented toward God and the Redemptorist way of life.

Through the warm presence and fatherly guidance of Father Kuda Kariviro, C.Ss.R., we were officially welcomed into the Congregation. Crossing the threshold of the formation house, we entered a sacred space of discernment, discipline, and inner transformation. It was a moment filled with gratitude and hope, but also reverence, as we realised that religious life demands both generosity of heart and fidelity to a demanding call.

A Life Rooted in Prayer

Our initial formation took place at the Marianella Community, a place deeply rooted in the spiritual heritage of the Congregation. From the very first days, life at Marianella felt like a new birth into a different rhythm of living, one shaped by prayer, silence, and intentional community.

Prayer stood at the centre of our daily life. Each day was structured around the Eucharist, Morning Prayer (Lauds), Evening Prayer (Vespers), and Night Prayer (Compline). This steady rhythm formed the backbone of our communal life and slowly trained our hearts to listen more attentively to God. Through the chanting of the Psalms, the proclamation of Scripture, moments of silence, and personal meditation, prayer became the primary space where our relationship with God deepened.

Over time, this disciplined prayer life nurtured inner peace, self-awareness, and spiritual maturity. It taught us the art of surrender, learning to let go of personal preferences and to remain open to God's transforming grace. In prayer, our vocation was clarified, purified, and strengthened.

Intellectual and Human Formation

Alongside prayer, our days followed a structured timetable that included classes aimed at our intellectual, human, and spiritual development. After Morning Prayer and Mass, we attended formation sessions that addressed a wide range of themes: human growth and maturity, liturgy, Church teachings, and the history and charism of the Redemptorist Congregation.

These classes were not merely academic. They invited deep reflection, dialogue, and honest self-examination. Through discussions, group work, and personal reflection, we were challenged to confront our values, motivations, and life goals. Gradually, we grew in self-knowledge and developed a clearer sense of identity and purpose, an essential foundation for a life of religious commitment and service.

Nourished by Spiritual Reading

Spiritual reading formed another important pillar of our formation. During designated quiet times, we engaged with Sacred Scripture, the writings of the saints, and texts related to the Redemptorist tradition. These moments of reflective reading nourished our faith and helped us to interpret our personal experiences in the light of Christ and the Gospel.

Br. Willbroad Humbasha

Through spiritual reading, we were gently guided to integrate prayer, study, and daily life, allowing God's Word to shape both our interior life and our outward conduct.

Learning Through Manual Work

Manual work was an integral part of our daily routine at Marianella. Whether through gardening, cleaning, or maintaining the community environment, we learned that religious life embraces the dignity of labour. These tasks fostered humility, responsibility, and a spirit of service.

Working with our hands reminded us that vocation is not lived only in prayer and study, but also in simple, faithful service. Through shared labour, we learned teamwork, selflessness, and a deeper appreciation of the common good.

Gratitude and Hope for the Journey Ahead

As we reflect on our time at Marianella, our hearts are filled with deep gratitude. We sincerely thank our formators, whose wisdom, patience, and guidance shaped both our minds and our spirits. We are equally grateful to the cooks and cleaners, whose quiet and faithful service sustained our daily life and created a welcoming environment conducive to growth.

We also extend heartfelt appreciation to our formators, senior confreres in the community, benefactors and all who accompanied us through prayer and support during this sacred period of formation. As we now take the next step in our journey and begin our philosophical studies as students of the Congregation, we do so with renewed commitment, strengthened faith, and a profound hope in God, who continues to call, form, and send us.



Br. Simon Adah C.Ss.R

A Journey of Hope, an Experience of Love: Perpetual Vows Preparation in the Great Redemptorist Region of Zimbabwe

With profound gratitude, I give thanks first and foremost to God, the source of every good gift, who made this beautiful experience possible. I sincerely thank my Vice Provincial Superior and his Council for granting me the privilege of participating in the final vows preparation programme in the Great Redemptorist Region of Zimbabwe. This opportunity has been a truly grace-filled encounter with confreres from different parts of Africa, and I remain deeply grateful.

I express my heartfelt appreciation to the Regional Superior and his Council for the wisdom, generosity, and pastoral care with which they accompanied us throughout the preparation. My sincere thanks also go to all the Redemptorists in the Region of Zimbabwe for their prayers, support, and fraternal welcome. I am equally grateful to my confreres from Madagascar, Kenya, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, and Nigeria who shared this journey with me. Your support, friendship, and prayer made this experience both enriching and memorable.

I am especially thankful to the Superior and formators of Alphonsus House, Tafara, for the excellent organisation of the programme. The quality of the sessions, the warmth of community life, and the thoughtful balance between prayer, study, and recreation made the entire month empowering and deeply formative.

From the moment I arrived in Zimbabwe, I was struck by the calmness, orderliness, and peaceful way of life of the people. Despite the cold weather, I experienced a warm welcome. Zimbabwean culture left a lasting impression on me, particularly its deep sense of community and its unique way of approaching life and even death with dignity, faith, and hope. I appreciated the food, the music, the dance, and the joy with which people celebrate life. Learning a few Shona greetings was both fun and enriching. The people's simple yet profound understanding of life, to love, to share, and to live as family, touched me deeply.

This same spirit is clearly reflected in the Redemptorist way of life in Zimbabwe. The Region embodies the values of unity, joy, hospitality, and missionary zeal. Through parish ministry, retreats, preaching missions, studies, and devotion to Our Mother of Perpetual Help, the Redemptorists in Zimbabwe faithfully proclaim plentiful redemption to the poor and the most abandoned. Their ability to read the signs of the times and respond pastorally to the needs of the people is admirable. The fraternity among the confreres is contagious, offering a living witness to what true brotherhood means.

The spiritual month itself was a truly remarkable experience. Held at Alphonsus House from 1 to 31 July 2025, it brought together fourteen confreres from different countries in preparation for the solemn profession. The programme was rich, well-structured, and deeply rooted in the Redemptorist charism.

Each day followed a rhythm of prayer, study, and community life. Morning Prayer and Holy Mass set the tone, followed by breakfast and well-prepared class sessions. We were privileged to receive inputs from experienced Redemptorists, formators, superiors, and professionals. Among them were Fr. Nicholas Ayouba, CSsR, and Fr. Paul Vinh, CSsR, representatives of the General Government, who offered enlightening sessions on COREAM, restructuring, and the Ratio Formationis Generalis. The Vice Provincial Superior of Nigeria, Fr. Michael Emerue, CSsR, led a valuable session on psychology and integration.

Br. Simon Adah C.Ss.R

Other sessions covered key areas such as Redemptorist spirituality and charism, the Constitutions and Statutes, safeguarding and boundaries, collaboration with the laity, human development and sexuality, self-care and substance abuse, abuse cases from a canonical perspective, and the history of the Congregation. These sessions were intellectually engaging, pastorally relevant, and personally challenging. We also made presentations on Redemptorist saints, blessed, martyrs, and venerables, which deepened our sense of belonging to the Congregation's rich spiritual heritage.

Afternoons and evenings were marked by the Rosary, midday prayer, meditation, recreation, and shared meals. We also enjoyed sports, excursions, and visits to Redemptorist parishes and mission stations, including St Charles Lwanga Chiweshe, St Fidelis and Our Lady of Perpetual Help Mabvuku, and St Gerard Parish, Borrowdale. Cultural and recreational outings to places such as the Great Zimbabwe National Monument and local parks further enriched our experience.

Moments of free time, walking together, sharing music, warming ourselves in the winter sun, participating in parish events, and witnessing local customs, strengthened our fraternity and allowed us to experience the mission of the Redemptorists in a very concrete way.

This spiritual month was truly unforgettable. It filled us with renewed courage, zeal, hope, and an unquenchable love for Christ the Redeemer, the Congregation, our confreres, the mission, and the poor and most abandoned. I am deeply grateful to the organisers and all who contributed to making this programme a success.

May Christ our Redeemer continue to inflame our hearts with love, peace, unity, and passion for the mission. May Our Mother of Perpetual Help accompany us always as we strive for holiness and fidelity in the service of God's people.

Immaculate Mary, Mother of Perpetual Help: pray for us.

Our Holy Father St Alphonsus – pray for us.

St Gerard Majella – pray for us.

All Redemptorist Saints, Blessed, Martyrs, and Venerables – pray for us.

Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year.

Your confrere in Christ the Redeemer,
Joseph Simon Adah, CSsR



Br. Talent Muroyiwa

Walking the Path of Formation: A Diocesan Seminarian's Experience of Growth

My journey of spiritual and human formation began on 16 August 2024 at Sacred Heart Pre-Major Seminary in Mazoe. This period marked my first formal encounter with structured priestly formation, and it proved to be both challenging and deeply enriching.

The transition into seminary life was not easy. It required adjusting to a disciplined routine and embracing responsibilities that were entirely new to me. We were assigned various duties, serving as kitchen masters, sacristans, firewood managers, orchard workers, and assisting in the poultry and piggery projects. These tasks demanded commitment, teamwork, and perseverance. Working with our hands in the fields, chopping firewood, and caring for animals taught us the dignity of labour and the importance of service rooted in responsibility and humility.

Spiritually, formation at Mazoe was profoundly enriching. I was encouraged to pray not only with words, but also through action and daily life. I encountered different forms of prayer, including Lectio Divina, prayer through nature, and daily spiritual exercises. These experiences helped me understand prayer as a way of life rather than an activity confined to specific moments. A particularly significant highlight was the 30-day retreat undertaken in May, which deepened my relationship with God and strengthened my vocational discernment.

Human formation, though demanding, was equally transformative. The physical labour, community living, and disciplined lifestyle fostered growth in patience, resilience, self-discipline, and humility. While the challenges were real, they contributed positively to my personal and human development. Following Mazoe, we proceeded to live with the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer at St Alphonsus House in Tafara. The Redemptorist community was immediately welcoming, supportive, and fraternal, making the transition smoother and more enriching. Formation here took on a distinctly communal character.

Although responsibilities remained many, including roles as librarians, kitchen masters, sacristans, and poultry caretakers, they were more manageable within the shared rhythm of community life.

Pastoral exposure also became a central part of formation. We were assigned to various parishes, including St Alphonsus Tafara, St Clement Eastview, St Fidelis and Our Lady of Perpetual Help Mabvuku, where we worked particularly with the youths and the Missionary Childhood. This marked our first sustained pastoral experience. While challenging, it was deeply rewarding and helped us appreciate pastoral ministry as an essential dimension of ongoing formation.

Spiritually, life at Alphonsus House differed from Mazoe in meaningful ways. Whereas Mazoe offered Eucharistic Adoration every Sunday evening, the Redemptorist community centres its spirituality around the Perpetual Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help, a devotion we found deeply uplifting. The presence of a preaching academy also enriched our formation, helping us grow spiritually while developing confidence and depth in preaching.

Academically, the transition was significant. The demands increased dramatically, from what felt like “first gear” to “sixth gear.” We enrolled at Arrupe Jesuit University, where the academic environment was initially overwhelming, especially as it was our first experience of tertiary education. Assignments, presentations, and academic expectations required discipline and perseverance. The introduction of new languages added to the challenge. However, through consistent effort and determination, we gradually adjusted and found our footing.

Br. Roy Gwapedza

Formed in Mind, Heart, and Mission: A Philosopher's Reflection

As the semester and the year draw to a close, I pause with gratitude to reflect on our formation journey as Redemptorist students. It has been a period marked by rich experiences and profound learning, a time that has shaped us both intellectually and spiritually, and has deepened our sense of vocation. Our studies at Arrupe Jesuit University have been particularly transformative. The academic programme has challenged us to think critically, engage complex philosophical questions, and reflect more deeply on faith and the realities of the world we are called to serve. Philosophy has stretched our minds and refined our ability to seek truth with humility. As St Alphonsus Liguori reminds us, "The one who is truly humble keeps his mind on God's will." In this light, our studies are not merely intellectual exercises, but a means of discerning and embracing God's purpose for our lives.

Alongside our academic formation, our spiritual life has been carefully nurtured. Through spiritual reading, regular recollections, and moments of silence and prayer, we have learned to attend more closely to God's presence. Central to our spirituality is our devotion to Our Mother of Perpetual Help. The novenas and prayers offered in her honour have sustained us, especially during moments of uncertainty and challenge. As St Alphonsus beautifully taught, "It is through Mary that we find Jesus." Her maternal intercession continues to guide us closer to her Son and strengthens our trust in God's providence.

Our formation has also been enriched through pastoral engagement. Serving at St Michael's Mission in Mhondoro and All Souls Mission in Mutoko has offered us a privileged glimpse into the lives of the faithful. Encountering their resilience, generosity, and steadfast faith, often in the midst of hardship, has been both humbling and deeply inspiring. These experiences remind us that the heart of the Redemptorist mission lies in presence: walking with the people, sharing in their joys and struggles, and proclaiming hope where it is most needed.

As we prepare to enter a new semester and a new year, we carry with us the lessons drawn from study, prayer, and pastoral encounter. We are sincerely grateful for the formation we continue to receive, and we look forward with hope to deepening our understanding and commitment to our vocation. Our continued devotion to Our Mother of Perpetual Help reassures us that we do not journey alone; her gentle presence accompanies us and strengthens our resolve to serve faithfully.

As we move forward, we hold firmly to the words of St Alphonsus: "Prayer is nothing else than being on terms of friendship with God." May this spirit of friendship shape both our personal prayer and our communal engagement in mission.

Thank you for your continued support, prayers, and guidance. May the blessings of this festive season and the coming year enrich our lives and strengthen our fidelity to the call we have received.



Copiosa Apud Eum Redemptio

Br. Phillip Mandibaya C.Ss.R

Come and See: A Christmas Journey of Discernment at Alphonsus House

From 18 to 23 December, Alphonsus House was once again transformed into a sacred space of prayerful listening, fraternity, and vocational discernment, as young men gathered for the Redemptorist Come and See workshop. Held during the days leading up to Christmas, the programme unfolded in the spirit of Advent, a time of waiting, watching, and attentively listening for the voice of God.

The Come and See experience is not an invitation to make immediate decisions, but rather a gentle call to encounter. Through shared prayer, reflections on Redemptorist life and mission, moments of silence, and informal interaction with the community, participants were introduced to the charism of St Alphonsus Liguori: proclaiming plentiful redemption to the poor and the most abandoned. Within this atmosphere, discernment was allowed to grow organically, free from pressure, rooted instead in freedom, honesty, and trust in God.

Throughout the week, the diversity of life stories, backgrounds, and stages of readiness among the participants became a powerful reminder that vocation is never a uniform journey. Some arrived with long-held aspirations, others with newly awakened questions; some brought academic and professional experience, others youthful enthusiasm and openness. What united them all was the courage to pause and ask the deeper questions of life, meaning, and purpose.

The workshop also highlighted an essential truth about religious formation: it is a process. Readiness is not measured by perfection, but by openness; openness to growth, to community life, and to being shaped by prayer, discipline, and mission. In this sense, the Come and See programme served not only as an introduction to Redemptorist life, but also as a mirror, helping each participant to recognise both his strengths and the areas that still require time, patience, and grace.

As the Church prepares to celebrate the mystery of the Incarnation, this vocational encounter stands as a quiet yet powerful sign of hope. In a world often marked by uncertainty and noise, young men are still willing to listen, to discern, and to consider lives given generously in service of the Gospel. For this, we give thanks to God.

May the Child born in Bethlehem continue to stir generous hearts, guide honest discernment, and bless the ongoing vocational mission of the Redemptorists in our Region. Christmas reminds us that God still calls, still comes close, and still entrusts His mission to fragile yet willing hearts.



Rev. Elvis Chirara C.Ss.R

Still Listening, Still Journeying

As we come to the end of this Christmas Newsletter, one theme remains gently present throughout: **God is still at work among us.** In vows professed, lives formed, pilgrims welcomed, and communities strengthened, we see signs of a God who continues to call, to accompany, and to send.

What unites these diverse stories is not extraordinary achievement, but faithful response. Again and again, we encounter individuals and communities willing to listen, to walk together, and to trust the slow, patient work of grace. Like the shepherds of Bethlehem and the young Samuel of Scripture, they discover that God often speaks in quiet moments, within prayer, community, and daily fidelity.

As the Christmas season reminds us, the light of Christ does not remove all darkness, but it **transforms how we walk within it.** This light sustains our hope as Redemptorists and as a Church called to proclaim plentiful redemption, especially to the poor and the most abandoned.

We thank all who have shared their voices and experiences in these pages, and all who continue to support the mission through prayer, service, and generosity. May the Child born in Bethlehem accompany you into the New Year, inviting each of us, in our own way, to say once more:

“Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.” (1 Samuel 3:10)

A blessed Christmas and a hope-filled year ahead.



General Government Visit



Final Profession



Diaconate Ordination



Men's Symposium



Diaconate Ordination



Novices in South Africa



Invitation to Support

If you feel inspired to support our mission or contribute to the growth of our ministry, please reach out to us at +263787076453 or email regionalsuperior@redemptorist.org.zw.

