



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

Dear Confreres, Sisters, Lay Associates and friends,

As I sat down to write this letter the news came through from Rome that His Holiness, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI has died. So I begin this note with a prayer of thanksgiving for his long life of dedicated service to God and in the service of the Church. He did say, when considering death and final judgement,

"Quite soon, I shall find myself before the final judge of my life.

Even though, as I look back on my long life, I can have great reason for fear and trembling, I am nonetheless of good cheer, for I trust firmly that the Lord is not only the just judge, but also the friend and brother who himself has already suffered for my shortcomings, and is thus also my advocate, my 'Paraclete.' In light of the hour of judgment, the grace of being a Christian becomes all the more clear to me. It grants me knowledge, and indeed friendship, with the judge of my life, and thus allows me to pass confidently through the dark door of death. In this regard, I am constantly reminded of what John tells us at the beginning of the Apocalypse: he sees the Son of Man in all his grandeur and falls at his feet as though dead.

Yet He, placing his right hand on him, says to him: 'Do not be afraid! It is I...' (cf. Rev 1:12-17) Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

Let us pray that the Lord will indeed say, *"Do not be afraid, it is I."* *Requiescat in pace.*

As the year is about to pass from 2022 to 2023 we can all agree that it has been a strange year and a difficult year on many fronts; politically, socially, news wise and otherwise! However as people of the Redeemer where have we see the positive things, the precious things or the wondrous things? In all things we are to be proclaimers of the Lord's Redemption and there are many small 'insignificant' signs of the presence of our God, healing and guiding the world as its life goes forward. As I saw written somewhere recently,

"First rule of 2023 is to not dwell on what went wrong in 2022.

God has a plan. Trust Him."

Let us confidently go forward into this new year holding before ourselves and others that certainty that God dwells with us and has a plan for each one of us.

Fr Tony Hunt CSsR RIP was buried in our monastery garden of Bishop Eton, Liverpool yesterday. Fr Andrew Burns CSsR, the Vicar Provincial, celebrated the Requiem Mass as a large crowd came to say their final farewells to Fr Tony. With regret I was unable to be there, nonetheless Fr Andrew as a former Provincial of South Africa, where Fr Tony served for 35 years, was a very appropriate celebrant to celebrate Fr Tony's long life of service and dedication. Let us not forget that Fr Tony had the care and attention from Nazareth House Birkenhead, and so we have a debt of gratitude to the Sisters of Nazareth and all the staff at Nazareth House. May Fr Tony now enjoy his crown in heaven! *Requiescat in pace.*

Fr Michael Creech CSsR RIP had his Requiem Mass in St Mary's Clapham on the 6th of December. The Mass was celebrated by Fr Timothy Buckley CSsR, a member of the Ordinary Provincial Council. I was in Zimbabwe and therefore could not celebrate the Mass in person myself. Again, God works things out in a special way as Fr Timothy had much to share and remember about Fr Michael's life and energy. May he likewise be now enjoying his crown in heaven. *Requiescat in pace.*

My trip to Zimbabwe was short but went very well. During my time there I managed to speak with all of our students who are a very fine group of men. Pre noviciate we have five students, in the noviciate we have two novices and in Theology we have 11 students. The Noviciate is next door to our property at Tafara, where the Novice Master is Fr Gideon Sidinga CSsR (Zimbabwean) and the Socius is Fr Isaac CSsR from Kenya. There are 6 novices, four from Kenya and two from Zimbabwe. So as you can probably guess life in Harare is full of energy and commitment.

On the 4th of February 2023, Br Kudakwashe Kariviro CSsR will be ordained to the Priesthood by H.E. Paolo Rudelli, Apostolic Nuncio to Zimbabwe. Please keep Br Kuda in your prayers as he prepares for this life changing moment.

Fr Dominic Kofi CSsR who held the Office of "Prefect of Students" for the past four years has now moved to the Parish Ministry in St Gerard's Borrowdale, where Fr Tryvis Moyo worked full time before being appointed General Secretary of the Zimbabwean Catholic Bishops Conference (ZCBC). For all the service given in four years I wish to publicly thank Fr Dominic and wish you very well with the new ministry in Borrowdale.

Fr Emerson Machapa CSsR now takes over as Prefect of Students. I am very grateful to him for his willingness to accept this new rôle. Fr Gift Mubayiwa CSsR is now the Socius for our students and he will accompany Fr Emerson, the two confreres working as a team.

In February 2023 there will be Regional Elections within the Region. This will be the first time this has happened. Given the number of our confreres in Zimbabwe, 24 finally professed members, it was decided that the time was right for this move. Please keep the confreres and the election in your prayers.

Kinnoull Recently two of our dear confreres were moved from St Mary's Monastery Kinnoull to the care of Nazareth House in Cardonald, Glasgow. Fr Joe Docherty CSsR and Fr Gerry Mulligan CSsR now enjoy that extra care that they are in need of at this time of their lives. Please continue to hold these confreres in your hearts and prayers. Their new address is,

Nazareth House, 1647 Paisley Rd W., Cardonald, Glasgow G52 3QT.

Also let us remember the community in Kinnoull, a much reduced number, who are feeling sad that these moves had to take place. As a Province we know how hard decisions like these are made when the time inevitably comes.

Safeguarding is an extremely important part of our lives and our ministry. We all want and indeed have a right to operate in a safe environment. This is equally true for those to whom we minister to and alongside. I am pleased to announce the appointment of **Br David Nyamuronda CSsR** as the **Provincial Safeguarding Lead**. He will undertake all the necessary training to ensure he knows the various elements and protocol in this area. I thank Br David for his willingness to take on this important rôle. I also wish to express on behalf of the Province the gratitude we have towards Fr Andrew Burns for his years of Safeguarding service. Fr Andrew has continued with this role over the years, quietly getting on with his business and travelling around for various meetings or to see the confreres. *Fr Andrew, sincerely thank you for your commitment and taking this ministry so seriously.*

I am also pleased to announce that we, the Province, have managed to engage **Tina Campbell** as our **Safeguarding Consultant**. She worked for the Bishops of Scotland, then with the Jesuits in Dublin and Rome and now her present rôle is with the Union of Superiors General in Rome. She has wonderful experience and I look forward to working with her and Br David in this area. Tina will come to one session of the Chapter to meet the Capitulars and later on will visit each community.

A Vocations Weekend was attended by five young men in Clapham on the 16th - 18th of December. Fr Royston CSsR organised the whole thing and brought together various confreres to help with the weekend. It was a very productive weekend and my thanks go to Fr Royston for all his hard work. Let us all continue to pray for Vocations to the Religious Life, the Priesthood and the Lay Associates.

The end of a Quadrennium is always a time to reflect on the years and ministry which have immediately gone before. I would like to say my words of gratitude to all of you who have faithfully went about ministering and doing your service to the Lord and our brothers and sisters. It is to you all that I have had the pleasure of ministering to these past couple of years. Thank you! Thanks for your prayers, your cooperation, your trust and your fraternity (and sorority)!

Now it is time to close this letter as we close this old year and prepare to enter the new year. We have a book of 365 blank pages before us, all empty(!) so let us write each page well, joyfully and full of the Lord.

May our Mother of Perpetual Succour pour on us, her children, the many graces and blessings that we are in need of in this new year of 2023. My prayer for each of us in this coming new time is that we be people of deep peace and real gratitude.

Oremus pro invicem. Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Reid CSsR". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Richard Reid CSsR
Provincial Superior

31-xii-2022