

9-xi-2023



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

Dear Confreres, Sisters, Lay Missionaries, Associates, friends and benefactors,

I begin this letter with greetings to you as we celebrate our 291st anniversary / Birthday, when on this day our Holy Founder and Father, Saint and Doctor Alphonsus Maria de'Liguori accompanied by other confreres celebrated Mass and invoked the Holy Spirit upon their (our) new project. Please do read Fr General's letter written for our celebrations today. Among many other things he says,

*"From the foundation until today, we have not lost the common thread,
the charismatic breath of the Spirit.*

Today, each confrere is the custodian of this treasure."

Pray for **Vocations** in all the areas of our Redemptorist Family.

Please remember that this Sunday, whilst being our Remembrance Sunday, is also the day for the Redemptorists all around the world to pray for and focus on CSsR OSsR MSsR Vocations and the many others that are within our Redemptorist family.

Zimbabwe - I had the privilege of spending last week in Zimbabwe. However, it was for meetings and I've already communicated to you that the outcome of the meetings is that we are to close of our Theology "faculty", Holy Trinity College. This year, the college is celebrating its 20th anniversary and so it was with much pain, that we came to the conclusion that this was the only way forward.

Whilst there, we had the joy of three Perpetual Professions of our confreres, Brs Oscar, Eric and Celestino and I have already done this, however, I wish also to do it now in this letter by given our sincere congratulations to these three men who took this courageous step last weekend. *Vivant in aeternum.*

Fr Kenneth, Macharaga CSsR, the Regional Superior, took me around the various properties that are currently undergoing building works. I will attach photos of some of these works.

Hatcliffe - there I saw the large piece of land that we have just purchased and will build a school, a community house and church. On Saturday just gone, the Vice President of the country, the Mayor of Harare and some MPs from the Parliament were in attendance at the celebration of the Mass and the ground breaking ceremony. Added to all these dignitaries the State Media were present as well.

Eastview Parish - this is just below where Tafara is and is a thriving place bustling with many people. It has been obvious for sometime now that this aerea is in need of its own Church. That which is being used at the moment is basically a metal canopy providing some shade for the celebration of masses and the catechising of children.

Now they are in the process of laying a cement floor and erecting brick walls. It is still at a basic stage and while this work is going on the masses continue as normal underneath the metal canopy and the people sit on piles of rock and storm.

It was great being there with some of the parishioners and sharing their wonder and excitement of how things were coming together and a church was being built.

Chiweshe - our Redemptorists who work in Chiweshe are the only Catholic presence in the whole area which is massive with 15 mass centres. So, it is great to have visited the site where we will build a new community house. The idea being that we would have accommodation for four or five professed Redemptorists, and then have four or five rooms for Postulants in their very initial stages of formation. Our land is beside one of the growth points and would seem to be at the beginning of an area that is ready for massive development.

Fr Gideon Sidinga CSsR, the Novice Master, finally, after waiting some months, got his Visa to go and work in South Africa and so he is preparing to leave Zimbabwe and go and undertake the wonderful role of novice master. Your prayers are asked for him and for our novices.

I had lunch with **Bishop Raymond Mupandasekwa CSsR** and can happily report that he is in very good spirits and looking forward to his Installation as the Bishop of Masvingo on the 9th of December. Clearly he is going to have a multitude of work in as far as he is now the Apostolic Administrator of Chinhoyi and now the new Bishop of Masvingo. He has a lot of travelling up and down the country visiting these two dioceses. Please keep him especially in your prayers.

Many of us know **Father Tony Pathe CSsR** either in person or by repute. On Saturday he will turn 100 years young. If any one would like to write a short

message to him, please do so and write to me or Fr Larry the South Africa Provincial. His email address is larrykaufmann1954@gmail.com

We thank God for Fr Tony's 100 years and we remember with gratitude that he was one of the founding fathers of our wonderful Redemptorist life and mission in Zimbabwe.

Fr Denis McBride CSsR and **Fr Ciarán O'Callaghan CSsR** have been working together for our enrichment putting together a programme for the Scriptural resources throughout Advent. We are all extremely grateful to them for this work and I would highly recommend to us, that we make good use of this.

Meeting of the NWE Provincials will take place in Clapham on the 24th of November. This will be an opportunity for us to make a realistic sketch as to the shape and format of our new Federation. It will give us also a chance to try and work out some of the key elements that will be necessary there in. I would also like to assure you that the four Provincials have a good and strong relationship between us and we appreciate the gifts and talents that each of us possess. Your prayers please.

Meetings of Confreres 50 years Old and Younger - this meeting took place for the confreres of the Provinces of Dublin, London, St Clemens and Vienna-Munich in a lovely retreat house in Neustadt in Germany. The retreat house belongs to another Congregation so we can safely conclude that we met on neutral territory!

That being said there was soon a wonderful atmosphere of fraternity and fun as we all got to know one another. In total we were 29 confreres, including 3 Provincials who were over the age range - just! My hope is that one of our young confreres will write a short piece on this meeting and it will go on the website and be distributed amongst ourselves.

This weekend in the **Redemptoristine Monastery** of St Alphonsus there is to be - another - Solemn Profession, this time of a Scottish nun who has found her vocation amongst us. Please pray for Sr Angela as she will now be praying for us and our ministry.

The **Clapham Community** has been operating a tremendous centre of hospitals lately, with the Confreres visiting for EPC meetings, an Indian Redemptorist Fr Xavier Pinto, here celebrating his Golden Jubilee; a group from Poland comprising of one bishop, three priests and a lay man and a lay woman; this weekend the military will move in to Clapham and stay for the weekend and participate in the

various ceremonies that will remember our War Dead. Know that in Clapham there is always generous hospitality being shown.

Our CSsR Dead - are to be remembered this month of the Holy Souls. As we pray for our deceased confreres that is also to include our dead family members, friends and our dearly departed benefactors.

Requiescant in pace.

While there is war and trouble going on in many places let us not forget to pray for our confreres still struggling in Ukraine. Especially I think of our two confreres who were 'kidnapped' and taken prisoner this time last year. Let us pray for these two Redemptorists and for people suffering because of the lack of peace.

Oremus pro invicem.

Peace,

Richard Reid CSsR

Richard Reid CSsR
Provincial Superior

