



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

Dear Confreres, Sisters, Lay Associates and our friends,

having had the pleasure of spending time with Br Michael Duxbury and Br Benjamin Posvo CSsR at the General Chapter in Rome it is now time for me to share something of the experience with you all in this letter. That I have not written thus far is purely because the experience was so great and there was much to process and digest. Even now I still feel slightly overwhelmed by the whole experience, and I do mean this in a most positive way! Thank you for all the prayer that was offered for the Chapter and the Capitulars. We felt the power of the prayer as we moved slowly, cautiously yet courageously forward.

Attached to this letter are five short documents, very well written, that were the basis of our discussions. I share them with you, personally and on a community level, as they merit some contemplation and study. The topics are as follows,

- Topic 1: **Our Redemptorist Identity**
- Topic 2: **Our Redemptorist Mission**
- Topic 3: **Redemptorist Religious Life**
- Topic 4: **Redemptorist Formation for Mission**
- Topic 5: **Leadership for Mission**

These documents were written as result of what had been said around the world at all the Sessions of Phase 1 of our General Chapter. I leave them with you and I encourage you to privately read and reflect on them and as a community to meet and discuss. The General Government will issue a short statement from the General Chapter in due course.

Our new **Fr General CSsR is Fr Rogerio Gomes CSsR**, a one time Provincial of his own Province, São Paulo, Brasil, before being elected as General Consultor. He is full of energy and 48 years old. He has visited our Province in the past, coming to Clapham a few years ago to learn English.

The **Fr Vicar General CSsR is Fr Zdzislaw Francois Stanula CSsR**, until his election was the Provincial of France. He is Polish by birth and worked for many years in Burkina Faso. He is 58 years old.

The other members of the General Council are;

Br Laurence (Larry) Lujan CSsR who is a member of the Denver Province and was not actually a Capitular nor present at the Chapter until his election. He then flew overnight and joined us the following day. He is 58 years old.

Fr Nicolas Ayouba CSsR belongs to the Vice Province of Afrique de L'Ouest. He has already served on the General Government for the last six years and has now been reelected to do the next six. He is 56 years old.

Fr Jairo Diaz CSsR belongs to the Province of Bogotá. He was on the EPC in his own province and a Director of the Secretariat for Formation. He is 50 years old.

Fr Joseph Ivel Mendanha CSsR was until his election the Vice Provincial of the Vice-Province of Majella in India. He worked for many years in the Redemptorist Spirituality Centre in Rome and was a Professor in seminaries in India. He is 57 years old.

Fr Paul Vinh CSsR belongs to the Province of Vietnam and has been working as a Professor of Theology and was Dean of Studies. He is 48 years old.

We must keep these generous men in our prayers as they have offered their service to the entire Congregation. We must also remember the men who have served on the past General Council and who return to their Provinces. Fr Michael Brehl, Emeritus General, Fr Alberto Eseverri, former Vicar General, Fr Pedro Lopez, former Consultor, Br Jeffrey Rolle, former Consultor, and Fr Sebastian Ani Dato, former Consultor. All these men have served faithfully and diligently, having given their service for the good of us all. Let us ask the Lord's blessing on them.

As a group, we the entire General Chapter numbering about 114 people, (including 91 Capitulars, our Lay Partners, our Canonical Advisor, our translators and interpreters, the Secretariat, the Notaries, the Communication team and the Moderators,) we lived as a community, praying, celebrating liturgy, eating, discussing, sharing, working and recreating with one another. That is a powerful experience in itself and yet as I quietly sat looking around at the people there, be we praying, eating or discussing I would marvel that the confrere was from Japan, Australia, Chile, Canada Spain, Ukraine and so on for the many countries being represented at our General Chapter. It really was a joyful, humbling, positive and enriching experience.

We, the Redemptorists are all over the world doing great things for the Church and God's holy people. We, the Redemptorists are a force within the Church and for society. We, the Redemptorists have so much more to do, as long as we follow the footsteps of the Redeemer. It does not matter where we work or what the work is, (be that mission preaching, parish work, quiet contemplation, suffering through illness, or studying for future ministry) all that really matters is that we are being true to our vocation and joyfully follow our Lord and Redeemer. It is Profession that makes "all Redemptorists truly missionaries." Const.55

Zimbabwe, two things of particular interest. Our **holy novices** were clothed in the **CSsR Habit** on the Feast of St Gerard Majella. Fr Gideon Sidinga CSsR is keeping a watchful warm eye over our young men. The Noviciate is again this year in Tafara, Harare, I say this as it was supposed to be in South Africa this year, but due to Visa problems it had to remain in Zimbabwe.

Fr Tryvis Moyo CSsR has been approached by the Conference of Zimbabwean Catholic Bishops and has been asked to accept the position of **General Secretary** of the Conference. He has graciously and generously accepted this post and will take it on full time next year. We thank Fr Tryvis for taking on this important post within the Church in Zimbabwe. Makorokoto! Interesting enough, Fr Tryvis was almost elected onto the General Council, however obviously God had other plans that now have come to light!

As mentioned above, our Lay Partners were with us for a week during the Chapter, they shared their experiences and dreams of being involved with us as Lay Partners. It was a very rich week. This week we have our Partnership in Mission with the Redemptorists, Redemptorist Lay Associates and prospective Lay Associates, meeting by Zoom this Thursday 27th October 2022 at 3.30pm. If you would like to go along to this meeting then email Fr Maurice O'Mahony CSsR, mpomahony48@aol.com

As we fast approach the Month of November, we remember with great affection all our own dead confreres, family members, Sisters, friends and Benefactors. I am quoting now from our London Province Statutes, *"Every year in November each priest shall offer one Mass for each of the following: The Deceased members of the Province and Region. All deceased Redemptorists. Our deceased benefactors. Our deceased parents and relatives. It is fitting that these Masses be concelebrated."*

I pray that all of you are well and enjoying life such as it is at the moment. I would ask you all to pray for one another among our number, CSsR and CSsR Lay Partners. I know some are not too well at the moment and your supportive prayer, even if you don't know who you are praying for, will give them a healing and helping hand.

Let the courageous example of our 12 new CSsR Madrid Martyrs (Beatified on Saturday) encourage us to always speak the truth and act in sincere love.

Pray for me as I do for you!

Peace,



Richard Reid CSsR
Provincial Superior

25-X-2022

Attachments: 5 Docs on Redemptorist Issues, Pictures of Chapter Members and Holy Father, Fr Richard and Holy Father, Br Michael and Holy Father, Br Benjamin and Holy Father, Capitulars on St. Alphonsus' steps, Our Novices and their Clothing, Our 12 CSsR Madrid Martyrs.