

THE REDEMPTORISTS REGION OF ZIMBABWE

ISSUE NO. 2

NEWS LETTER

# REDEEMER'S TIMES

24 DECEMBER 2024



**MISSIONARIES OF HOPE IN  
THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE  
REDEEMER**

COPIOSA APUD EUM REDEMPTIO

Nº2



# REDEEMER'S TIMES

## Newsletter

### EDITORIAL TEAM

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR  
FR. MARK CHIKUNI C.Ss.R

EDITORS  
BR. ELVIS CHIRARA C.Ss.R  
BR. NOEL K MAKONI C.Ss.R

DESINGER  
BR. NOEL K. MAKONI C.Ss.R

MERRY  
*Christmas*  
& HAPPY NEW YEAR





## EDITOR'S NOTE

### **Missionaries of Hope: Reflecting on a Year of Grace and Growth in the Footsteps of the Redeemer**

Dear Readers,

Greetings to you all as we celebrate the second issue of The Redeemer's Times! It is with great joy and gratitude that I write this editorial, reflecting on the blessings and milestones that have marked our journey since our inaugural issue last Christmas, December 25, 2023.

As we approach the end of 2024, it is fitting to pause and marvel at our grace-filled year as the Redemptorists Region of Zimbabwe. This year, we have witnessed profound moments of faith, commitment, and mission that continue to inspire our community and strengthen our resolve to serve Christ the Redeemer.

The most notable highlights of 2024 were the celebrations of perpetual professions, diaconate, and priestly ordinations within the Region. On a day of great joy and solemnity, Brs. Simbarashe CSsR and Ngonidzashe CSsR made their perpetual professions, dedicating their lives fully to the mission of Christ. Their "Yes" to God is a powerful reminder of His call to live lives of selflessness and love.

Following this, we celebrated the diaconate ordination of Br. Ngonidzashe CSsR, who now serves as a bridge between the Word and the Sacraments, and the priestly ordinations of Frs. Oscar CSsR and Erick CSsR. These milestones were a testament to their personal journeys of faith, a sign of God's providence, and the vibrancy of vocations in our region. May their ministries bear abundant fruit as they serve God's people with zeal and compassion.

Beyond these celebrations, our apostolates have been at the heart of our mission this year. From the work of our parishes, formation houses, and shrine to the vibrant efforts of Mavambo Trust, the Lay Apostolate, and our youth ministry, each ministry has played a vital role in proclaiming the Good News and meeting the needs of God's people. The Bookshop and vocations desk have continued to be centres of resources and inspiration, while our communications team has worked tirelessly to keep us all connected and informed. Parish missions have renewed faith among our communities, reminding us of our shared responsibility to evangelise and accompany one another on the journey of faith.

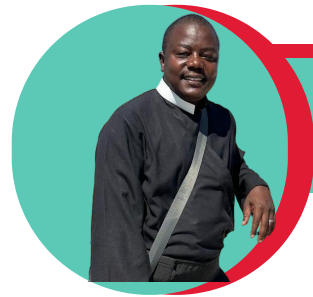
Finally, as we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Redeemer once more, let us remember that our mission flows from the Crib of Bethlehem. Just as Christ came to redeem and restore humanity, so too are we called to be instruments of that redemption in our world.

Thank you for your continued support of The Redeemer's Times. May this Christmas season renew our hope, faith, and commitment to our mission. Together, let us keep walking the path of grace and growth into 2025 and beyond.

Wishing you all a blessed and joyful Christmas season!

Br. Elvis Tawanda Chirara C.Ss.R  
Editor-in-chief





# ST AUGUSTINE'S PARISH

FR. GEORGE HAMA C.Ss.R (Parish Priest)

**"The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid, do not be discouraged." Deuteronomy 31:8**

If there are two verses that encapsulate the year 2024, I would cite Deuteronomy 31:8, which reads, "The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid, do not be discouraged." Additionally, Jeremiah 29:11 states, "For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper and not to harm you, plans to give you a future and hope. The Lord has indeed been faithful."

At the commencement of the year, the task of officially opening Holy Redeemer Centre appeared insurmountable. The bare ground, devoid of any furniture, and the weekly Sunday mass gatherings seemed impossible. However, as we conclude 2024, these challenges have been overcome. Masses are now held every Sunday, a shade has been erected, and parishioners have successfully fundraised for 280 chairs and a two-roomed sacristy. New members continue to join, and the centre is undoubtedly experiencing growth and self-sufficiency.

While the successful inauguration of Holy Redeemer Centre stands as the pinnacle achievement, it would be unjust to overlook the numerous successful events held at the main parish. These events not only served as fundraising opportunities but also fostered a sense of community and prayer among parishioners.

I would like to highlight the following successful events:

1. Easter Gango: A celebration marking the conclusion of the Lenten period.
2. Choir Competitions: Individual sections competed, culminating in parish-wide competitions at the archdiocese level.
3. Africa Day and St. Augustine's Feast Celebrations: These events honored African heritage and St. Augustine's legacy.
4. Brother Simba's Final Profession and Thanksgiving Mass: This solemn ceremony marked the end of Brother Simba's journey and the commencement of his new ministry.
5. Father Oscar's First Mass After Ordination: A joyous occasion celebrating Father Oscar's consecration.
6. His Grace Archbishop Ndlovu confirmed parishioners.
7. 26 parishioners joined the adult guilds a new record for us.
8. Mwoyo Musande Feast of St. Margaret Mary: We successfully hosted this feast at the deanery level.

In conclusion, we express our gratitude to God for a challenging yet successful year. Despite financial difficulties, we have managed to meet all our obligations.



# ST GERARD'S PARISH

FR. MARK CHIKUNI C.Ss.R (Parish Priest)

**creating a culture of care...following the example of our  
compassionate God.**

The year 2024 has been an eventful and blessed year for St. Gerard's Parish, as we embraced a full return to communal worship following the challenging years of the COVID-19 pandemic. It has been a joy to gather once again as a faith community, celebrating the Eucharist and other sacraments in person.

## **Worship and Spiritual Life**

Under the leadership of all the priests at the parish, we have seen the faithful return to the Church with renewed zeal. Masses were held not only in the Church but also in homes, fostering a sense of unity and inclusion. Daily Masses were in full swing, and the sacraments, including baptisms, confirmations, confessions, and weddings, were celebrated with great joy and reverence throughout the year.

The year began with parish retreats, which offered a time for spiritual renewal and reflection. Guilds and devotional groups—such as Divine Mercy, Precious Blood, Charismatic Renewal, Bible Sharing, Men's Fellowship, Seniors, Missionary Childhood, and the Widows' Group—resumed their meetings and activities. Each group celebrated their respective feast days and continued their devotional works with great enthusiasm.

## **Youth Ministry**

Our youth ministry, led by Br. Temba, has grown significantly this year. The youth have been vibrant and active, participating in various outings and activities beyond the parish. Busloads of young people attended events at out-of-town venues, strengthening their faith and fellowship. This renewed energy among the youth is a testament to the Holy Spirit at work in our parish.

## **Feast Celebrations**

This year, we joyfully celebrated the Feast of St. Gerard at the Our Mother of Perpetual Help Shrine in St. Cecilia in October. The event was a resounding success, bringing together parishioners and friends for a day of prayer, thanksgiving, and celebration.

In addition, we marked the Feast of the Immaculate Conception on 8 December at the Immaculate Conception Centre. This special Mass was a beautiful occasion, during which several members were received into different stages of the youth and adult guilds. It was a moment of grace and growth for our parish community, as we welcomed these individuals into deeper participation in the life of the Church.

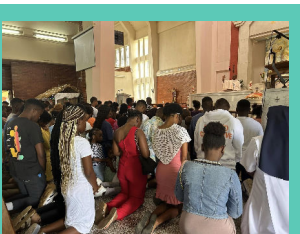
## **Parish Projects and Development**

2024 was also a year of progress in our parish infrastructure. Several projects were completed, including the construction of the St. Joseph's Room, improvements to housing clusters, and the refurbishment of the parish hall. Enhanced security measures were also implemented to ensure the safety of our parishioners and facilities.

## **Conclusion**

This year has been a testament to the resilience and faith of our parish community. Despite a few challenges, God's blessings manifested in countless ways. The year 2024 has been one of spreading the Gospel, strengthening the bonds of our community, and growing in faith and love.

We thank God for His abundant blessings and look forward to the year ahead with hope and faith. May St. Gerard continue to intercede for us, and may we remain steadfast in our mission to serve the Lord and one another..





# ST FIDELIS & OLPH PARISH

FR. Emerson Machepa C.Ss.R (Parish Priest)

## Parish Growth and Activities in 2024

In 2024, our parish—standing as the sole parish in the deanery without any outstation or center—experienced a remarkable and steady growth. This vibrant community welcomed new members into various guilds, and we celebrated the baptism of several lay faithful, marking a significant expansion of our congregation.

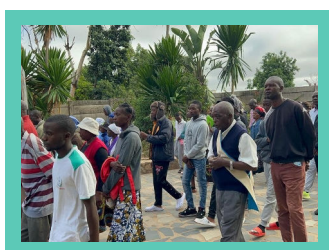
### Major Activities:

#### Leadership Workshop

This year, the parish took a proactive step in enhancing its leadership capabilities by participating in a comprehensive leadership workshop hosted at St. Alphonsus Parish. This workshop aimed to empower our leaders with essential skills and strategies to effectively carry out their responsibilities in their respective roles. The insights gained from this workshop will undoubtedly contribute to the overall development of our parish leadership, fostering a more vibrant and engaged community.

#### Anti-Drug and Substance Awareness Campaign

One of the standout initiatives of the year was the successful hosting of an anti-drug and substance awareness campaign, which featured a marathon and walkathon under the poignant theme “Drugs End All Dreams.” This event not only raised awareness about the critical issue of substance abuse but also brought together members of the community in a shared commitment to combating this challenge. The parish priest, Fr. Machepa, along with a dedicated youth representative, further amplified the campaign's message by participating in a radio segment on Classic FM 263. Their efforts to spread awareness beyond the parish boundaries significantly enhanced the impact of this important initiative.



#### Priestly and Diaconate Ordination (June 20)

A momentous occasion for our parish was the ordination ceremony held on June 20, where we joyfully celebrated the ordination of two new priests, Fr. Eric and Fr. Oscar, along with Deacon Magaya. This event not only marked a significant milestone in their spiritual journeys but also enriched our parish community. Following the ordination, members of our parish attended thanksgiving Masses for the newly ordained priests, with one celebration in Masvingo and another at St. Alberts in Centenary. These Masses allowed us to express our gratitude and support for our clergy as they embark on their pastoral missions.

#### Africa Day Celebration

This year, our parish joined the broader African community in celebrating Africa Day, an event filled with cultural pride and unity. The celebrations took place on a Sunday, featuring a variety of traditional meals available for sale, allowing parishioners to indulge in the rich culinary heritage of our continent. Additionally, this event served as a fundraising opportunity, with proceeds directed towards purchasing a 5-burner gas stove with an oven for the parish kitchen. We are pleased to report that the fundraising efforts were successful, and the stove is now a valuable addition to our parish facilities.

Through these diverse activities and initiatives, the parish not only witnessed spiritual growth but also strengthened the bonds among its members throughout 2024. Each event contributed to the vibrancy of our community, reflecting our commitment to faith, service, and fellowship.





# ST CHARLES LWANGA PARISH

FR. Albert Zindonda C.Ss.R (Parish Priest)

## "Reflecting on a Year of Blessings: Accomplishments and Aspirations at Chiweshe Parish"

As we approach the close of another year, it is a time for reflection and gratitude at Chiweche Parish. This report highlights our significant accomplishments over the past year and outlines our hopes for the future.

**Baptisms:** We joyfully celebrated the baptism of approximately 70 individuals during our Easter celebrations. This event marked a profound commitment to faith within our parish community, signifying a renewed dedication to our spiritual journey.

**Holy Matrimony:** This year, 9 couples received the sacrament of Holy Matrimony. This sacrament not only reinforces the foundation of family life but also strengthens the bonds within our community, fostering love and unity.

**Elderly Guilds:** A total of 40 individuals were welcomed into various stages of our elderly guilds. This initiative has enhanced our support network for senior members, creating a nurturing environment that fosters a sense of belonging and community.

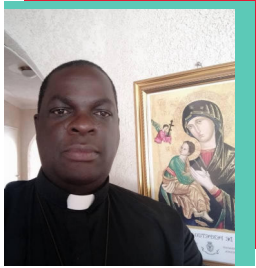
### **Missionary Holy Childhood:**

We proudly welcomed 35 new members into the Missionary Holy Childhood guild. This program nurtures a spirit of mission and service among our youth, encouraging their active participation in parish life and instilling values of compassion and outreach.

### **Hopes for the Coming Year**

As we look ahead, we have several aspirations to guide our parish community: We aim to encourage greater participation in the sacrament of Holy Matrimony, emphasizing its significance and the blessings it brings to individuals and families within our community. We hope to actively engage parishioners as Redemptorist friends and lay associates, facilitating a deeper understanding of Redemptorist spirituality and its transformative impact on their lives and our community. As we reflect on our accomplishments and aspirations, let us remain committed to supporting one another in faith, service, and fellowship. Together, we can continue to build a vibrant and loving parish.





# ALPHONSUS HOUSE COMMUNITY

Br. Tendai Tamai C.Ss.R (Rector of the House)

## "Forming Future Leaders: The Journey of St. Alphonsus House Community"

St. Alphonsus House is a Formation community for students studying Philosophy and Theology. We also have diocesan brothers from Chinhoyi diocese staying with us and studying at Arrupe University. The community had its fair share of challenges particularly in maintenance, water and vandals to our property. Be that as it may, the community is home to all as brothers begin from here and progress in formation years towards final profession and subsequent ordinations. The community welcomes visitors from the province, region, relatives, friends, retreatants and General government delegates occasionally.

### Annual Retreat

In August all members of the region gathered as our tradition at the community for the annual retreat which was preached by Fr Ino 'Africa' Cueto. It was indeed a memorable time to revisit our vocation stories.

### Students

Arrupe Jesuit University opened in early August, and our Philosophy students resumed classes. They were joined by two new students from the diocese of Chinhoyi, Dhidhimu Kabaya and Mike Tserenga who enrolled at Arrupe University. Their arrival brings to five the number of seminarians from Chinhoyi residing with us at the community.

Chishawasha Major seminary opened on Monday 2 September 2024 and our finalist students had to transfer to Chishawasha to complete their theology

Br Tinotenda Kori made his first vows in Kubease Ghana on the 1st of August 2024, and had a short holiday before departing on the 14th of August for his theology studies at the Don Bosco Utume, Salesian theological college in Kenya.

Br Abisai Tatenda Machingauta got his Australian student visa late and had to join Theology classes at Yarra Theological Institute in Melbourne. He left on the 25th of July 2024. Br Denford Hwenya's visa came three weeks later and so he will have to hang around and later join Br Tatenda in Australia in January 2025. Whilst waiting to go for Theology studies he was engaged in pastoral ministry at Mavambo adult literacy centre in Mabvuku.

### Celebrations

The months of July and August were busy yet exciting months as we witnessed the final profession of vows of Br Simbarashe Mashandudze and Ngonidzashe Magaya. We also celebrated the ordinations of Rev deacon Ngoni, and Frs Oscar Madzonganyika, and Erick Makova. The community managed to travel to our brothers' homesteads and parishes for thanksgiving masses. The journeys were wide and far but we travelled with joy and peace.

### Retreat House

The community welcomed religious Srs for their annual retreats and some preparing for their professions during the months of January and December respectively. In the same vein we declined some Religious who wanted to come as groups for retreat. The shortage of accommodation posed a challenge. Our community is on demand for retreats but inadequate accommodation allows only individuals for retreat at any given time.

### Community Projects

We keep Layers that provide eggs as well as Broilers for meat. The chicken project sustains the community for consumption and not selling. We ploughed a small piece of land for maize. Last year we got nothing from it because of no adequate inputs and poor rains. We ended up purchasing maize which we hope will feed us up to the next harvesting season.

### Water Situation

Water has always been a challenge during the months of August to November annually. This year the challenge was experienced early in the month of July. The community members ended up using buckets to fetch water for ablution and bathe. We had to cease gardening and watering of flowers to conserve water. The community had to rely heavily on buying vegetables from Mbare. Luckily this year the regional office came to our aid and drilled a borehole and we appreciate the water situation has normalised.

As a community we continue to pray for God's guidance to live in harmony as brothers in the Lord following the foot steps of our heroes in Faith i.e. Our saints, Blesseds, Martyrs and Venerables, the living and the dead. May the New Year bring us closer to God and one another despite the challenges.

# ALPHONSUS HOUSE COMMUNITY

## PICTURES



**Alphonsus House Community members with the retreat master (2024)**



**Philosophers**



**Theologians**



**Retreat House**



**Green House**



**Chicken Project**



# MARIANELLA COMMUNITY

## Fr. Kudakwashe Kariviro C.Ss.R (Postulant Master)

### Marianella Community: Thriving in Its Second Year

The Marianella community, one of the oldest in the Region of Zimbabwe, has entered its second year as an independent community, continuing its vital role in Redemptorist formation. Situated at Alphonsus House in Tafara, Marianella was originally part of the larger Alphonsus community and served as a centre for the Pre-Novitiate stage (Postulancy). However, in April 2023, Marianella achieved a significant milestone, becoming a fully independent entity. This new chapter brought with it many changes, challenges, and blessings. Over the past year, the community has grown through transitions, welcomed new faces, and bid farewell to others who moved on to new roles and stages of formation.

#### **Farewells and New Beginnings**

In past year, the community had to say goodbye to two beloved members. Fr. Gift Mubayiwa who departed for Melbourne, Australia, to pursue a master's degree in pastoral theology. His dedication to learning and ministry continues to inspire the community. Fr. Bushu was also transferred to the St. Gerard's community in Borrowdale, where he now serves as the curate at the parish, contributing his pastoral gifts to a new environment.

The initial postulants - Stewart Masangomai, Roy Gwapedza, Tanaka Machorani, and Ngonidzashe Gwaringesu - who were the first group to live in Marianella as an independent community, also moved on to the next stage of their formation. They are now under the care of Fr. Kunaka at the St. Alphonsus Students' Community, where they have begun their philosophy studies.

As Marianella bid farewell to these brothers, the community welcomed new members who have brought fresh energy and life to the house. Among them are Fr. Bryne Manyenga and Fr. Eric Makova, who joined the community and have enriched it with their pastoral experience and zeal. In November 2024, two new postulants, Wilbroad Humbasha and Tafadzwa Chadyiwa, joined Marianella to begin their journey of discernment and formation. Their arrival has been met with great joy, and the community looks forward to the gifts they bring to its life and mission.

#### **A Growing Community**

Today, Marianella is home to six members: four final professed brothers and two postulants. It remains a vibrant, prayerful, and united family, deeply committed to its mission of spiritual growth and regular observance. Its spirit of joy, faith, and fraternity continues to shine brightly.





## Formation and Engagement

Marianella community actively participates in national and regional formation programs. The brothers regularly attend Postulants' Days of workshops and get-togethers, some of which have taken them beyond the city of Harare. These events foster collaboration and offer opportunities for personal and spiritual growth.

Additionally, Marianella has organized local events in partnership with other religious congregations in Harare. These gatherings not only strengthen bonds among religious communities but also provide postulants with a platform to engage in meaningful discussions on topics that challenge and inspire them. Through these interactions, the postulants have grown in maturity and wisdom, deepening their discernment and understanding of their vocation.

### Looking Ahead

The community continues to build on its rich foundation of prayer, formation, and fellowship. It remains committed to nurturing its members, empowering them to grow in faith and service as they prepare for future ministry.





# REDEMPTORIST BOOKSHOP

Br. Tendai Lemeyu C.Ss.R (Director)

## "Bringing the Gospel to Life: The Mission of Redemptorist Publications"

### **Mission and Vision**

Redemptorist publication is an evangelizing activity of the redemptorist Region of Zimbabwe which envisions leading in the publishing and distribution of products that make the gospel real in people's lives. Following the congregation's charism, it is the publication's mission to help people experience God's love for them.

### **Product Offerings**

The bookshop offers a wide range of genres, from liturgical, spiritual, educational, and sacred books, that caters for both adults and children and help them on their journey through life. Apart from that, the shop also provides sacred and liturgical items used in the church.

### **Customer Demographics**

The bookshop targets various audiences of customers both adults and young ones who value the importance of literature and other services offered by the shop.

### **Operational Strategies (Marketing and Promotion)**

Some notable changes and developments were experienced during the year. Firstly, we received Brothers Stacey and Alfred who were assigned to assist with the day-to-day running of the business. In addition, there was recruitment of Kirly Kateguru earlier this year and also Wadzanai Zvakaramba who came voluntarily towards the year's end. These replaced Paida who went for her maternity leave and Francis who went for further studies. We would like to acknowledge Paida and Francis for the great job that they have been doing at the bookshop. Apart from that a board of directors was established. This was a requirement to the acquiring of important documents that the bookshop did not have.

The bookshop now actively participates via Facebook (Redemptorists Bookshop Zimbabwe) and WhatsApp (+263777132119) which helps to reach out and promote new arrivals and events. During the year, we engaged the mobile bookshop where Stacy went to Zvishavane during one of the missions held.

In Addition, Brother Alfred also went to the Redemptorist Shrine in Charlotte Brooke. This is a new direction that can help in placing the bookshop at a competitive advantage. Efforts have been made to re-engage Mambo Press so that they can provide essential books that are required within the church however success has not yet been made but we hope for the best in this coming year. In addition, in support of the local church, the bookshop has engaged the ZCBC Pastoral Center in promoting the distribution of liturgical guides. The bookshop acknowledges the good and strong relationship it shares with the Carmelite Handmaiden Nuns in Mutare who support the bookshop by providing Hosts, and quality chasubles. We hope this business relationship continues to exist for the success of our bookshop

### **Repository**

The repository is highly active as a mode of bringing people closer to God through adoration and monthly masses. On the 22nd of November, Fr Makova Jnr celebrated mass in memory of our deceased loved ones. In support of the daily functioning of the chapel, we appreciate the volunteers such as (Mrs. Mudede) who offer their support to ensure the cleanliness of the chapel giving a prayer-filled environment.

### **Challenges**

A decline continues to be noticed in the sales of books due to stiff competition from the neighboring bookshops as well as the advancement in technology where many people are embracing soft over hard copies.

Early this year we placed an order of Zikomo Mass wine from our suppliers. We experienced some delays due to some changes that happened in the processing of paperwork. This delayed the delivery of wine. However, we received the consignment in May. Challenges arose which caused the delay in its delivery.



# MAVAMBO ORPHAN CARE

Br. Benjamin Posvo C.Ss.R (Director)

**Our commitment, as an organisation, to improving the lives of vulnerable children and their communities has yielded significant achievements this year.**

## Project Highlights Summary

**1. Mavambo Orphan Care (MOC) - Mavambo Learning Centre (MLC)** The Mavambo Learning Centre continues to play a pivotal role in providing education to children who have never attended school. In 2024, we successfully enrolled 31 new learners (17 girls and 14 boys) alongside 17 retained learners (9 girls and 8 boys) who did not graduate in 2023. By the end of the academic year, we proudly graduated 35 learners (21 girls and 14 boys), who are now set to transition to formal schooling in 2025. Our accelerated literacy program and various co-curricular activities have proven effective in enhancing the educational experience for these children, laying a strong foundation for their future.

### 2. Sr. Kathleen Barbee Blue Lupin Community Library

The community library has emerged as a vital educational resource for the Mabvuku, Tafara, and Caledonia communities. With a membership of 345 (151 girls and 194 boys), the library hosted several engaging events this year:

A quiz competition featuring 22 schools that fostered a spirit of learning and teamwork.

An essay competition that drew participation from 140 learners across 14 categories, encouraging creativity and expression.

The Chess Club, with 13 active members, participated in a corporate chess tournament, showcasing strategic thinking and camaraderie.

Moreover, we expanded our library collection significantly by acquiring 250 new books, ensuring that our members have access to a diverse range of reading materials.

### 3. Mavambo School Feeding Programme

In partnership with Mary's Meals International, the Mavambo School Feeding Programme has made substantial strides in addressing food insecurity among learners. This year, we provided meals to 86,874 learners (43,214 girls and 43,660 boys) across 110 schools in various districts.

To better understand the needs of the communities we serve, pre-feeding surveys were conducted in 89 schools. Additionally, we organized stakeholder meetings to discuss strategies for program expansion. Although we faced challenges such as fuel shortages and volunteer availability, we implemented community engagement efforts that proved effective in overcoming these obstacles.

## 4. Vana Activity

The Vana Activity initiative has reached 41,635 orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) and their caregivers, achieving an impressive 94% service delivery rate. Key interventions included: School fees support for children in need, ensuring that financial barriers do not hinder their education. Health monitoring for children, particularly those living with HIV, through collaborations with clinical partners for effective tracking and support. Notably, the Seke district exceeded its outreach targets, demonstrating our commitment to enhancing the welfare of vulnerable populations.

In conclusion, the achievements of Mavambo Orphan Care in 2024 reflect our dedication to improving the lives of children and their communities. Our programs have fostered educational development, provided essential resources, and supported health monitoring for vulnerable groups. We remain optimistic about our future projects and the continued positive impact we can make together with our community partners. Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to our mission.





### "A Sanctuary of Serenity: The Ongoing Journey of the Shrine of Our Mother of Perpetual Help"

Nestled beautifully between a serene valley and a majestic mountain, the Shrine of Our Mother of Perpetual Help in St. Cecilia continues to be a vibrant place of prayer, reflection, and worship. The year 2024 was marked by remarkable progress in both spiritual activities and infrastructural development, ensuring that the Shrine remains a haven for pilgrims seeking solace and a deeper connection with God.

#### Infrastructural Developments

Significant strides were made in enhancing the Shrine's facilities, particularly at key prayer points. These included:

**The Way of the Cross:** Improvements made to the stations to provide a more immersive prayer experience.

**The Pool of Mercy:** Renovations were undertaken to ensure this sacred site remains a place of spiritual renewal.

**The Sorrows of Mary:** Enhanced for quiet meditation and devotion.

**St. Gerard's Shrine:** Further beautified to inspire prayer and devotion.

**The Mountain of Prayer:** Additional benches were installed, allowing pilgrims to rest and reflect as they ascend the mountain in prayer and contemplation.

Beyond prayer points, other major infrastructure projects were also completed:

**Construction of the Priest's House:** A new residence was constructed to prepare for the arrival of the Shrine's first resident priest in 2025.

**Solar-Powered Borehole:** This vital upgrade ensures reliable access to clean water for both pilgrims and the Shrine's facilities.

**Stadium Development:** Initial groundwork was completed for the planned stadium, which will host large gatherings of pilgrims in the future.

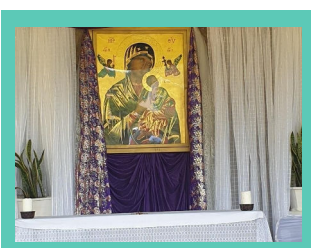
#### Spiritual Life and Pilgrimages

Spiritual activity at the Shrine flourished in 2024 as countless pilgrims visited to spend time in prayer and worship. This included a significant number of young people who gathered fortnightly, fostering a culture of faith and devotion among the youth. The Shrine remained true to its core mandate of prayer, with individuals and groups coming to participate in liturgical celebrations, personal devotions, and communal worship.

#### Looking Ahead to 2025

The year 2025 promises to be a transformative year for the Shrine as it continues its mission to serve as a spiritual sanctuary under the loving patronage of Our Mother of Perpetual Help.

**May our Blessed Mother of Perpetual Help continue to guide and inspire all who come to this sacred place.**





## REDEMPTORISTS VOCATIONS IN ZIMBABWE

Br. Bothwell Chimhende C.Ss.R

### Navigating Challenges and Triumphs: The 2024 Journey of Our Vocations Team

As we reflect on the year 2024, the journey of our Vocations team took us through both challenges and triumphs. While we faced a significant drop in vocations across Zimbabwe, the year was not without its silver linings. We were thrilled to connect with numerous individuals, especially many enthusiastic high school students and a few graduates who expressed a heartfelt desire to join the Redemptorists. Their eagerness to explore a path of service and faith reaffirms our mission and ignites our passion for this vital work. As we look back on the year, it's a cause for celebration for the connections we have made and the bright potential that lies ahead.

#### Appointments to the Vocations Team

On the 2nd of January 2024, a pivotal moment unfolded as the Ordinary Regional Council (ORC) gathered and made a significant decision to expand our Vocations team! Brs. Bothwell Chimhende, Elvis T. Chirara, and Phillip T. Mandibaya, C.Ss.R, along with Fr. Erick S. Makova, C.Ss.R, were co-opted to join this vital mission, previously spearheaded by Fr. Adam Mukabva, C.Ss.R, who continues to serve as the moderator. This strategic move enhances our Congregation's outreach efforts, bringing fresh energy and perspectives to the essential task of scouting for vocations. We are truly grateful for this dynamic addition to our team, as we work together to inspire and nurture the next generation of vocations.

#### October Come and See: Workshop.

The Come and See event, masterfully organized by our newly dedicated Vocations Team, was a remarkable success! We were delighted to welcome a significant number of aspiring candidates, and following fruitful interviews with the Regional Council, we proudly admitted Brs. Tafadzwa Chadyiwa and Willbrod Humbasha as postulants in our congregation. This achievement is especially noteworthy given the challenges we faced this year in finding vocations. We are truly grateful to God for this blessing, and we remain steadfast in our prayers for even more vocations to come.

#### House Visits.

In a heartfelt effort to strengthen our community bonds, we cherish the tradition of visiting the families of accepted aspirants before they officially join us. On November 6th and 7th, we had the pleasure of visiting the families of our two newest postulants, who finally became part of our congregation on November 9th, 2024. These visits were not just journeys; they were meaningful encounters filled with warmth and connection. Both families welcomed us with open hearts, joyfully embracing the news of their children's commitment to our community. This beautiful tradition reinforces the importance of family support on the path to vocations and enriches our journey together.

#### Vocations Month.

July was a remarkable Vocation Month for us. As Vocations Promoters representing various congregations, we had the incredible opportunity to visit numerous parishes and youth gatherings, celebrating Mass and passionately promoting the beauty of vocations. Our journey took us as far as Mary Mount in Rushinga, covering an impressive 460 km round trip. We embarked on this adventure on the 10th and returned on the 11th, and it was an unforgettable experience! Connecting with the youth was truly uplifting, as many expressed genuine interest and enthusiasm about religious life and vocations.

#### Vocations in Zimbabwe

The future of vocations in our country holds great potential, with a steady stream of inquiries from diverse age groups across various Dioceses expressing a desire to join our congregation. From those still in Ordinary Level to those pursuing Tertiary education, enthusiasm for religious life is evident across the board. However, it is crucial to note that this year has seen a scarcity of vocations, worsening from last year. While we celebrate the interest that exists, we must also confront the challenges ahead. Despite this, the interest from these young individuals is a bright sign, a beacon of hope that we can nurture to revitalize the landscape of vocations.

#### CMRS CHM

The CMRS (Chinhoyi, Harare and Mutare Vocation Promoter's Northern Region), had their annual general meeting which was held in at the Chinhoyi Diocese Pastoral Centre from the 15th -17th of November, 2024. The events brought together various promoters to discuss, strategize and share insights on enhancing vocations, particularly among the youths in our communities. The Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer Region of Zimbabwe was represented by two members of the Vocations Promotion Team; Fr Adam Mukabva and Br. Elvis T. Chirara



October 2024 Workshop





## MISSION PREACHING

Fr. Victor Bushu C.Ss.R

### "Unity in Mission: Reflections on a Year of Preaching and Brotherhood"

We have worked tirelessly and as a strong team in the Mission Preaching that we have done in the year 2025. The spirit of brotherhood was very encouraging. The words spoken by the parish priest of St. Barnabas, Mutare Diocese, still echo in my ears when he stressed, "Your unity and joyful communion is stunning." He spoke those words as we lived in his community preaching our very first Mission last year in November. The same spirit continues.

The climax of our Mission Service was at St. Barnabas Parish, Kwekwe, in the Diocese of Gweru. We visited every Small Christian Community (SCC) and literally almost every Catholic family within the parish. There was a huge turnout in the Masses we celebrated to conclude visits to each and every SCC. What was very interesting is that some of the so-called Small Christian Communities consisted of around 40 families. We really became the talk of the town with some non-Catholics asking why we were not visiting their homes as well. However, we only managed to visit a handful of such families. There was news spreading in the neighbourhood that we were casting out devils, leaving no stone unturned. Most people had never witnessed a Mission Service in their life, and they were quite impressed by the amazing work the Lord has worked through us. There are calls already that we return to this parish for another Mission. We told them that this can only be done once five years.

There was a youth encounter on the Saturday preceding the final Sunday which was led by Fr Adam. I then addressed the men of the parish, together with Fr Albert, on responsible fatherhood. It was such a relaxed and beautiful interaction over drinks and barbecue. We did this on Sunday afternoon after the final Sunday Mass, which was packed. The parishioners told us that such a huge number would only come when their bishop visits.

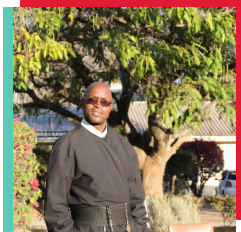
From the 14th to the 28th of April, we launched another Mission at St Joseph's Parish, Zvishavane, which was very fruitful. It falls in the same Diocese of Gweru. Only those who had their own transport came to hear the Mission Sermons in the final week. During the afternoon of the last Sunday, we had highly educational interaction with the youth. They were extremely open with us about their joys, sorrows, and struggles. We concluded with prayers.

We had another Mission lined up at Immaculate Heart Parish, Kuwadzana, Harare, from the 13th to the 27th of October 2024. It could not succeed due to technical issues, including a clash of activities.

We could have preached much more missions, but some parishes kept postponing the programs, and other parish priests got moved elsewhere.

All in all, the year has been great. We hope to do much more missions next year. In the future, we will target lapsed members of the Church, the sick, and others who can not come to Church due to serious reasons for house visits. However, the visits to every household really revived the people in their commitment to Christ. Most of them had never been visited by a priest or brother in their homes.





## **Celebrating Growth and Transitions: Redemptorist Student Community Updates (June–December 2024)**

The past 12 months have been a season of growth, transformation, and new beginnings for our students. From pastoral engagements in various dioceses to academic achievements and community transitions, this year has been rich in experiences reflecting the vibrancy of our Redemptorist formation. Here's a glimpse into the remarkable journey of our student community.

### **Pastoral Experiences and Milestones**

Our students have been actively involved in pastoral missions across different dioceses, living out the Redemptorist charism of bringing Good News to the poor. These experiences not only deepened their connection to the people they served but also solidified their commitment to their vocation.

A highlight of this period was the final professions of Brothers Simbarashe and Ngonidzashe, which took place at St. Joseph Chirumhanzu. These moments of joy and gratitude reinforced the bonds of our community and celebrated the commitment of these brothers to the Redemptorist way of life.

In addition, the Diaconate Ordination of Rev. Ngonidzashe was a significant milestone in his journey toward priestly ministry. We also witnessed the Priestly Ordinations of Fr. Oscar and Fr. Erick at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, Mabvuku, a moment of immense joy and thanksgiving for the entire Redemptorist family.

These milestones were followed by Thanksgiving Masses in the homesteads of the newly ordained priests: Fr. Oscar in Mt. Darwin and Fr. Erick in Bikita. These celebrations were marked by profound gratitude to God, the support of their families, and the encouragement of the communities that have accompanied them throughout their formation journey.

### **Academic Pursuits and International Missions**

The academic and theological formation of our students has taken exciting turns in recent months. Brother Philip Mandibaya enrolled at Lupane State University to study Monitoring and Evaluation, a valuable tool for ministry and mission effectiveness. Meanwhile, Brother Tatenda Machingauta embarked on an exciting new chapter, travelling to Melbourne, Australia, to continue his Theology studies. Adding to this international dimension, Brother Denford Hwenya is set to join him in January 2025, marking another step in his formation journey.

Closer to home, we welcomed back Brother Tinotenda Kori, who returned from his novitiate in Ghana. After enjoying a brief holiday with his family and fellow brothers, he proceeded to Kenya to begin his Theology studies, carrying with him the spirit of perseverance and mission. These academic and formation journeys reflect the global nature of our Redemptorist family and the diverse paths through which our students are being prepared for the challenges of ministry.

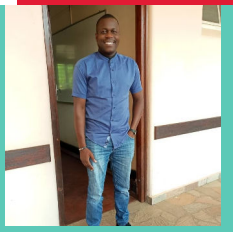
Our community has also experienced significant transitions that highlight the vibrancy of our formation process. In an inspiring moment of growth, four brothers – Steward Masangomai, Roy Gwapedza, Tanaka Machorani, and Ngonidzashe Gwarinesu – moved from Marianella Postulancy House to the Alphonsus Student House. This transition marks a new chapter in their formation, as they continue to discern and deepen their commitment to the Redemptorist way of life.

In December, we also celebrated the students' community Day Out at Graceland Resort, Lake Chivero. This joyful gathering provided an opportunity for relaxation, reflection, and community bonding. The serene surroundings of Lake Chivero served as the perfect backdrop for our students to recharge and strengthen their fraternal ties, a reminder that both work and recreation are essential aspects of holistic formation.



Theologians





### From Holy Trinity College to Chishawasha Major Seminary: A Journey of Transition and Growth

The transition of theology students from the now-closed Holy Trinity College to Chishawasha Major Seminary marks a pivotal moment in our formation journey. This move is more than just a change of location – it is a profound shift in our spiritual, academic, and communal experience. This transition is coloured by a kaleidoscope of emotions: nostalgia, apprehension about the unknown, and a deep, abiding hope for the future. Holy Trinity College was more than just an academic institution; it was a home where faith, knowledge, and fraternity flourished.

For years, this sacred space nurtured the minds and hearts of its students, fostering spiritual growth, academic rigour, and meaningful community life. The bonds formed between students and lecturers transcended the classroom, creating a family bound by shared prayer, intellectual debates, and moments of joyous fellowship. Every corner of the college carried memories of tea breaks filled with laughter, social evening gatherings, and the quiet solitude of personal reflection. For many, leaving this place felt like leaving behind a part of themselves.

Yet, as the students, when we packed our belongings, we carried with us more than just books and personal effects – we carried the values and lessons instilled within us during our time at Holy Trinity. These lessons were not confined to theological doctrines; they included the art of living in community, the beauty of shared worship, and the humility of learning from the diverse traditions represented by our peers.

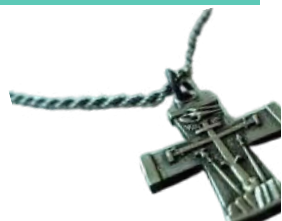
With the closure of Holy Trinity College, the road led them to Chishawasha Major Seminary, a place steeped in history and tradition, yet unfamiliar to us, the incoming students. Questions swirled in our minds: How would we be able to integrate into an entirely new community? What would the academic environment demand of us? Could we carry forward the camaraderie and spirit of unity we had cultivated at Holy Trinity?

Despite these uncertainties, hope emerged as the guiding light. Chishawasha Major Seminary represents a new chapter – where our vocations will be further refined and our theological foundations deepened. Here, we encountered new lecturers with fresh perspectives, engaged with students from diverse backgrounds, and immersed ourselves in an environment dedicated to preparing us for pastoral ministry. The seminary offers opportunities to grow not only as theologians but as shepherds of God's people, equipped to serve their congregations with wisdom, compassion, and faithfulness.

This transition is not merely a physical relocation; it is a spiritual pilgrimage. As students, we stepped into a larger family within the Church, one that will broaden our horizons and challenge us to embrace our vocations with greater zeal. As we navigate these final years of formation – culminating in May 2025 – we do so with hearts full of gratitude for what has been and anticipation for what lies ahead. We carry the spirit of Holy Trinity College within us, ready to contribute to the life of the Church and to answer God's call with renewed commitment.

For us, as students, this journey is a testament to the transformative power of faith, community, and resilience. It reminds us all that while change may be daunting, it is often the very path through which God leads us to greater fulfilment and purpose. As we settled into the new environment at Chishawasha Major Seminary, we did so as bearers of hope, eager to continue our mission of learning, serving, and growing in Christ.

As we have come to the end of 2024 and prepare to step into a new year, the journey of our student community continues to inspire. Each milestone – academic, pastoral, or communal – speaks to the transformative power of formation and the enduring spirit of the Redemptorist mission. We remain grateful for God's guidance and the support of our wider family as we accompany our students on their path to becoming committed missionaries of the Gospel.





## **CALLED FOR A MISSION**

### **Br. Sylvester Kanjiwa C.Ss.R**

#### **"Walking Together in Faith: The Significance of Priesthood in the Redemptorist Community"**

In 2024, the Redemptorist community in Zimbabwe came together joyfully to celebrate the ordination of Brother N. Magaya as a Deacon, and Brothers O. Madzonganyika and E. Makova as priests. The sacrament of ordination is very important in the life of the Church. This year's celebrations remind us that priests are chosen from among the people for a special mission, not to compete with one another. The life of a priest should echo the life and mission of Jesus.

Dear brothers and sisters, we all share in the priesthood of the baptized. We are all called to spread the joy of the Gospel and support each other on our faith journeys. Let's walk together as a unified Church, embracing community, participation, and our mission. Our lives are an extension of the mission of Christ.

The Gospel reading from Luke reminds us of Jesus speaking in the synagogue at Nazareth: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives, recovery of sight to the blind, and to announce the year of the Lord's favour" (Lk 4:18-19). Jesus fulfils the prophecy of Isaiah and gives us a share in his mission. Through priesthood ordination, priests are also anointed to continue his work, becoming his presence in the world and channels of God's grace for everyone.

The Church emphasizes that having a strong relationship with God is crucial for effective ministry. St Alphonsus the founder of the Redemptorists is of the view that being close to God and being close to people go hand in hand. Also, Pope Francis emphasizes that, Prayer, the Eucharist, and Reconciliation help us build this relationship, allowing us to serve joyfully and find strength in our mission.

As Redemptorists, we are called to follow Jesus and serve others generously. Our life and ministry should mirror the life and mission of Christ and nothing else. Self-referential competition and self-preferential ministry should be avoided. Let's remember St. John the Baptist's words: "He must increase, but I must decrease." Being close to God helps us embrace the suffering of Jesus and fulfil our mission to bring light, healing, and freedom to the world.

**Merry Christmas and a prosperous 2025.**



## Moments captured in time



Fr Albert C.Ss.R with Parishioners at St Charles Lwanga Parish, Chiweshe



St Fidelis & OLPH Parish, Mabvuku



Mavambo



Mavambo Celebrating 25 Years



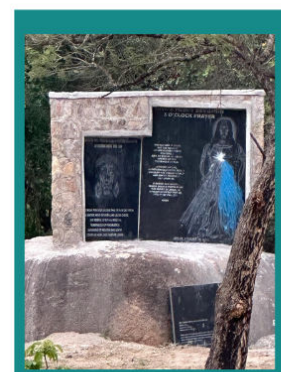
Pilgrims at OLPH Shrine



Br. Tatenda Renewing His Vows in Australia



Regional Retreat 2024



Shrine: Pool of Mercy and Stations under Construction



Visit to Our Deceased Confreres

St Charles Lwanga Parish: Anti Drugs Campaign



St Fidelis Parish: Celebrating Parish Day



April 2024 Vocations Workshop



Mission Team





***HAPPY HOLIDAYS!***

# THE REDEMPTORIST REGION OF ZIMBABWE



## THE REDEMPTORIST VOCATIONS

Are you a young man of 18 years and above and at the same time feeling that God is calling you? Do you have a zeal for the salvation of souls? Do you feel called to preach the Gospel ever anew, especially to the poor and most abandoned- the *anawim* of God?

If this is you, then this message is for you!

The Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer (Redemptorists) is the place for you and we invite you to join us. With us, you will strive to serve the Lord with a rejoicing heart, burning with charity, on fire with zeal, in humility of heart and persevering in prayer as a true disciple of St Alphonsus, and a follower of Christ the Redeemer, always ready to undertake what is demanding and challenging, and sharing in the mystery of Christ by proclaiming the Gospel in simplicity of life and language so as to bring Plentiful Redemption.

*What are you waiting for? There is no need for fear or hesitation. Take out your cellphone and contact the Vocations Director: Fr Adam Mukabva C.Ss.R at +263 772 609 655 or mukabvacams@gmail.com anytime.*

Once again, you are most welcome!