



The Baltimore Beacon

The Redemptorists of the Baltimore Province

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Dear Brothers and Sisters:

In the twentieth chapter of the Gospel of John, “Peace be with you,” were the first words that Jesus spoke to his disciples on the evening of that first Easter day. As we continue to celebrate our faith during this Easter season, I pray that you are experiencing the blessings of deep peace and immense joy in the love of God that has triumphed over death in the Resurrection of Christ from the dead. Just as the season of spring sings a song of new life with buds blooming and birds singing in more light of day, may the Spirit of the Risen Christ continue to rise up within all of us that we may be ‘missionaries of hope’ to one another and to all our sisters and brothers throughout the world.

The call to be ‘missionaries of hope’ is at the heart of Easter and our invitation to be an Easter people. After beginning with “peace be with you” on that first Easter night and after saying those very same words a second time, the Risen Christ then says, “As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” (John 20:21) Each and every one of us is called and sent into the world to witness to the love and mercy of God. We embrace this Easter summons

not alone but together as confreres and partners in mission in solidarity with our worldwide Redemptorist community and as members of the People of God.

As I write to you at this Eastertide, I would like to draw your attention to two particular processes related to our community life and our ministries as Redemptorists and to especially ask for your prayers that the Holy Spirit lead and guide us as they happen:

1. With our recent Provincial Chapter now completed, we are now in the midst of visitations by members of the Ordinary and Extraordinary Provincial Councils to all confreres and ministries throughout the province in anticipation of changes in both community and apostolic assignments for this new term. The visitations will continue through the end of May and come to completion with new appointments and assignments being made on or about June 15, 2023.
2. The second important event in our life at this time is the gathering of our confreres from the North American Conference of the Congregation for Phase III of our 26th General Chapter and for the North American Conference Assembly. The Phase III meeting will focus our attention on the decisions and directives from the second phase of the General Chapter which took place in Rome in the fall of 2022 and the plan of our General Council for the worldwide Congregation over the next six years. The Conference Assembly will follow the Phase III meeting and involve our consideration and deliberation of how best to implement the

plans and decisions and integrate them into both the community and apostolic life of our North American Conference.

Both of these current events are significant and important experiences of discernment for our Congregation on both the worldwide and local levels as we look forward to our future in faith and with hope. The gift of your presence, care, and prayer for us as these processes continue to unfold is an Easter blessing for our mission, our community, and our ministry to God’s people.

Easter is not just about what happened to Jesus on the day He rose from the dead. It is also about us. It is about what happens within and among us in the now of our lives in the light of Christ. May the Holy Spirit that Jesus breathed on his disciples on that first Easter morn be new life and renewed energy in our response to God’s invitation to be ‘missionaries of hope’ in our world today.

Thank you for all the ways you bless us as Redemptorists by sharing in our life and ministry. We are more than grateful to God for your encouragement, support, and witness.

Blessings of peace, hope, and joy at Easter and always!

*John Collins, C.Ss.R.
Provincial Superior of the Redemptorists
of the Baltimore Province*

Upcoming 2022/2023 Dates

Tuesday, May 30 - Thursday, June 1, 2023: Province Retreat at San Alfonso Retreat House; Long Branch, NJ, Anthony Gittins, CSSp, is the retreat director and the theme will be: "Missionary Discipleship."

Saturday, July 15, 2023, at 11 a.m. Province Jubilee Celebration: Mass and Luncheon at Sacred Heart of Jesus; Baltimore, MD

Tuesday, October 17 - Thursday, October 19, 2023: Province Convocation at San Alfonso Retreat House; Long Branch, NJ, Anthony Gittins, CSSp, is the presenter and the theme will be: "Intercultural Living."

Communications Updates

- Daily Audio Podcasts on the readings of the day may be found at www.redemptorists.net in either Spanish or English.
- Weekly Video reflections on the upcoming Sunday readings (Cycle A) may be

found on Facebook: facebook.com/RedemptoristsBaltimore or YouTube: youtube.com/BaltRedemptorists or on our web site at www.redemptorists.net These videos are released each Wednesday.

- "Praying with the Icon of Our Mother of Perpetual Help" will air on May 20.

Parish Mission Schedule

- April 29-May 3, 2023: Corpus Christi Catholic Church, Landsdale, PA
- May 13-16, 2023: Holy Rosary Catholic Church, Johnsonburg, PA
- June 3-7, 2023: Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Staten Island, NY
- June 11-17, 2023: Sisters of Saint Joseph Conference Retreat, Erie, PA
- June 24-27, 2023: Our Mother of Perpetual Help Catholic Church, Ephrata, PA
- July 15-19, 2023: Our Lady of the Cape Catholic Church, Sandwich, MA
- July 22-26, 2023: St. Pius X Catholic Church, Yarmouth, MA
- Sept. 23-27, 2023: St. Joseph, St. Thomas, and St. John Neumann, Staten Island, NY
- Oct. 21-25, 2023: Sacred Heart, Cornwall, PA
- Nov. 25-29, 2023: Immaculate Conception, Stayton, OR
- Dec. 2-6, 2023: Ascension, Hurricane, WV
- Dec. 9-13, 2023: Our Lady of the Angels, Lakewood Ranch, FL

Jubilarians Honored in Annapolis, MD

On Friday March 17th, St. Mary's High School honored Redemptorists who will be celebrating jubilees. Before the lacrosse game between St. Mary's High School and LaSalle High

School from Philadelphia that was played at the Naval Academy stadium, the jubilarians lined up on the field. Pictures were taken and names were read out loud for the years of service given thus far to

the Redemptorists. All who were celebrating a jubilee were given lacrosse jerseys with their names printed on the back and years of service number printed on the front.

Jubilarians, continued



Those honored were:

- Fr. Alistair Elias, C.Ss.R. (10 years of ordination)
- Fr. Michael Houston, C.Ss.R. (25 years of ordination)
- Deacon Leroy Moore, C.Ss.R. (35 years of ordination as a deacon)
- Fr. Vang Tran, C.Ss.R. (40 years of ordination)
- Fr. Eric Hoog, C.Ss.R. (50 years of ordination)
- Sister Sharon Slear, SSND (60 years of religious profession)
- Fr. Jim O'Blaney, C.Ss.R. (65 years of ordination)

Eric Hoog, C.Ss.R.

Updates from St. Gerard, Lima, OH

Every Friday of Lent here at St. Gerard's Lima, OH, there was a guest speaker under the theme of "Walking the Way of the Cross with Christ and Each Other." In Week one, Brother Dan Hall, C.Ss.R., was the Presider and speaker using *St. Alphonsus' Way of the Cross*. Week two the Presider was the pastor, Father Mike Sergi, C.Ss.R., who used *Everyone's Way of the Cross*, and Sister Leanne Kershner gave the reflection. In the third week, Father Paul Kuzhimannil, C.Ss.R., was the Presider who used the *Good Shepherd Way of the Cross*, with Pat Murray giving the reflection. In week four, Brother Dan was the Presider using the *Family Way of the Cross*, with Rev. Wanda Werking from Southside Community Church giving the reflection. In



week five, Father David Ross, pastor of St. John/St. Rose, was the presider and speaker using *St. John Paul II's Way of the Cross*. Lastly, in week six, Father Mike Sergi, C.Ss.R., was the Presider and speaker with the youth group acting out the *Stations of the Cross*.

Each of these Friday evenings, light refreshments were served afterward.

Brother Dan Hall, C.Ss.R.

Bilingual Unity in Partners in Mission and Misión Compartida, Brooklyn, NY



Misión Compartida pictured above with Fr. Gilmour, C.Ss.R.

After a process of ample reflection and dialogue, one of the decisions made by the 18th Baltimore Provincial Chapter from Monday, March 13, through Tuesday, March 21, 2023, was the recommendation “to the communities of the Province that they review the sections of the North American Conference Ratio relative to Partners in Mission (PIM) with the goal of forming a circle in each community or parish, where feasible.”

In his letter to the Province after the Chapter, our Provincial Superior, John Collins, invites us “to more intentionally engage our shared commitment to promote vocations and to establish Partners in Mission (PIM) circles in our apostolates and communities through our joyful witness to the love of God as a religious

community centered in Christ and by our closeness to the people.”

Significantly, before the autumn of 2022, in different communications and Zoom meetings, Fr. Francis Gargani, C.Ss.R., and our Lay Missionary of the Most Holy Redeemer, Lucy McNamara, had already been motivating the initiation in the Province of Spanish-speaking groups using the terminology used in the Spanish language Directives and Ratio from Rome, that is, Misión Compartida (MC).

After much strategic preparation, an initial session of a Spanish Misión Compartida was held in the Parish Basilica of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Brooklyn on the evening of March 27th. Twenty-eight parishioners participated in this initial convocation. Also,

to take advantage of this timely incentive, an invitation was made to the English-speaking parishioners to revitalize the already present and active PIM membership. Another 18 parishioners responded to the invitation.

The sessions were extremely lively and joyous as the two groups met separately for an hour and then gathered in a bilingual session to listen to Lucy Burich-McNamara’s testimony of what her association with the Redemptorists has meant for her and her family. A prayer of discernment to the Redeemer’s call to participate in the PIM/MC formation was recited by each participant in their native language at the end of this graced evening. Monthly, one-hour formation meetings are presently being prepared and will begin after Easter.

Noteworthy about these two encounters was a dynamic activity where the participants placed on a “post-it” one or two characteristics that they have noticed regarding Redemptorist life and mission as inspired by our spirituality and charism. As all the contributions were placed on a bulletin board, one of our younger confreres deeply impressed the participants with his spontaneous statement that these qualities were what he would have said of the Redemptorists in the parish where he grew up. He paused again for a moment, and you could see the energy flow through him before he directly faced the group, saying, “This is why I became a Redemptorist!”

Bilingual Unity, Brooklyn,, continued



Partners in Mission group pictured above

The presence of two parishioners, invited by our confrere, Fr. Song You, C.Ss.R., of the Chinese community, was an intentional sign of the future formation of a third group integrated with members of the dynamic, growing Chinese community of the Parish.

After the event, the Religious Redemptorist community reflected that this initial PIM/MC encounter has given new meaning and emphasis to the Congregation's sexennial theme, Missionaries of Hope, In the Footsteps of the Redeemer.

Michael Cunningham, C.Ss.R.

Clement Krug, C.Ss.R.

Manuel Rodríguez, C.Ss.R.

The unified Redemptorist community support of PIM and MC groups in the Parish

was evidenced by the active participation of all the confreres in these two sessions.

Blessed Vasyl Velychkovsky Discussion, Partners in Mission



first North American Dialogue in 1989 which has since evolved into what we today call Partners in Mission. Our deepest gratitude to Lesia for sharing her love of our Redemptorist Family and our Redemptorist Ukrainian Martyr and Bishop, Blessed Vasyl. We pray that the witness of the great sacrifices of Blessed Vasyl for his faith helps us bear our crosses with joy and hope, bringing us the fruits of love, hope and peace, especially in Ukraine.

Lucy Burich-McNamara, Lay Missionary of the Most Holy Redeemer

On March 29, 2023, Lesia Sianchuk, a long time Redemptorist Associate of the Canadian Province, joined a group of Redemptorists and Partners

in Mission via Zoom to discuss the life and spirit of Blessed Vasyl Velychkovsky, as well as to share some of her personal experiences of participating in the

News and Events from around the Province



Children help to carry the cross during outdoor Stations of the Cross in Sandy Bay.

Mark your calendars for the Spring series on Racial Equity.

“
O When the Saints Go Marching In
”

A PROGRAM ON RACIAL EQUITY SPONSORED BY THE REDEMPTORISTS

April 18 "Sr. Henriette Delille" by Dr. Ansel Augustine

April 25 "Fr. Augustus Tolton" by Gardis Watts

May 2 "Sr. Antona Ebo and Sr. Thea Bowman" by Rev. Maurice Nutt, C.Ss.R.

May 9 "Pierre Toussaint" by Rev. Kareem Smith

JOIN ZOOM MEETING VIA QR CODE - MUST HAVE ZOOM APP ON DEVICE

Tuesdays for 90 minutes

5 p.m. Pacific,

6 p.m. Mountain,

7 p.m. Central,

8 p.m. Eastern,

9:30 p.m. Newfoundland



TO ACCESS ZOOM LINK VIA WEBSITE, REGISTER HERE:

<https://bit.ly/RedemptoristRacialJustice>

Birthday Celebrations:

Fr. Kevin Moley, left, Fr. Charles Brinkman, center, Fr. John Murray, right





The Redemptorists

— Baltimore Province —

Redemptorists of the Baltimore Province
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