



The Baltimore Beacon

The Redemptorists of the Baltimore Province

Volume 4 // Issue 3 // 3.21.2023

Provincial Ponderings



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It is a privilege to share a word with you in my first message in “Provincial Ponderings!” I am most grateful to Father Paul Borowski for all of his wonderful ponderings over these past years and for his ministry of servant leadership to our community as our Provincial. Please join me in prayer that Father Paul enjoys some good rest, enjoyable re-creation, and peaceful relaxation as he begins his sabbatical time in the days to come.

This month of March has been a bit of a whirlwind in my life and ministry. At the request of our Redemptorist General Government, I traveled to Rome from March 4-11 to attend a weeklong meeting with 28 other English-speaking Provincials with our Superior General and his Council. It was a grace-filled time for me to gather in prayer, dialogue, and fraternal communion with confreres from all around the Redemptorist world, and to

experience firsthand the power of the Spirit that ‘makes us one missionary body.’ We are indeed blessed as the Baltimore Province to be part of the world-wide Redemptorist Congregation in proclaiming the Good News of God’s plentiful love to the poor and most abandoned. It was quite touching, as well, to hear so many expressions of appreciation and admiration from confreres of other units for the support and solidarity of our Province to the mission and work of the whole Congregation throughout the world. While it was certainly a busy week in Rome, the Spirit moved within and amongst us in the flurry of meetings and events to energize our sense of solidarity and hope for the mission we share.

As this edition of *The Baltimore Beacon* goes to print, we have begun the second week of our 18th Provincial Chapter at San Alfonso Retreat House in Long Branch, New Jersey. Beginning on Monday, March 13th and continuing through midday on Friday, March 17th, the Chapter fathers and brothers have gathered together to reflect on our Identity, Mission, Religious Life, Formation, and Leadership as Redemptorists. Presentations, prayerful reflection, and shared conversation have generated ideas, suggestions, and proposals to provide direction and inspiration to our life and

ministry for the years to come. Our former Superior General and dear confrere, Father Michael Brehl, encouraged all Chapter Members to live and to celebrate the Chapter as a “Pentecost event” in his opening retreat talk to us. It has been both moving and inspiring for me to experience the power, strength, and light of the Spirit in the prayer, process, and presence that we have shared and celebrated with the Lord and with one another during these days. As it was in Rome, so it has been back home at Chapter: busy and full days filled with the grace and peace of the Holy Spirit!

Be assured that your prayer, presence, and support to all of us is a gift of the Holy Spirit for which we are all most grateful. Thank you for all the ways you bless us and share in our celebration of who we are as Redemptorists at Chapter and in our ministry to God’s people.

I look forward to keeping in touch with you in *The Baltimore Beacon* in all the months to come. May God continue to bless all of us in the Redemptorist family and the people of God we are privileged to serve.

Peace, thanks, and best to all!

Very Rev. John Collins, C.Ss.R.
Provincial Superior of the

The Province is pleased to announce the election of the five-member **Extraordinary Provincial Council**, who, along with the Ordinary Provincial Council, manages the province’s missionary activities and implements its policy and governance decisions.

Fr. Jerome Chavarria
Fr. John Kingsbury
Fr. Manuel Rodriguez
Br. Jeffrey Rolle
Fr. Ako Walker

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 resume in April.

Parish Mission Schedule

- March 23-30, 2023: St. Bede, Williamsburg, VA
- March 25-29, 2023: St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, The Villages, FL
- March 27-29, 2023: Our Lady of Lavang Shrine, Australia
- April 1-4, 2023: Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church, Rock Lake, ND
- April 10-14: U.S. Region Annual Retreat to the Missionary Society of St. Paul, Houston, Texas
- April 15-19, 2023: Holy Name Catholic Church, Nashville, TN
- 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

Immaculate Conception, Bronx, NY

Lent is a wonderful opportunity for all of us. As the Church proclaims through St. Paul on Ash Wednesday: “Behold, now is a very acceptable time; behold now is the day of salvation” (1 Cor. 6:2).

Like all churches around the world, Immaculate Conception tries to provide opportunities for all of us to grow in our love of God and neighbor during this special season. Along with the usual Lenten

devotions and practices, we have inaugurated a special program. Every Friday during Lent we have a bilingual Mass at 4:30 p.m. This Mass is open to all, but it is especially for the participants in

Immaculate Conception, continued

our religious education program for children and teens. The Mass is bilingual because many parents also participate. After Mass all are invited to the school cafeteria for a simple meal - cheese pizza and soft drinks.

The whole Redemptorist community is involved in this project. Br. Gene Patin and parish volunteers bring the pizza and refreshments to the school. Some of the postulants provide the music at Mass. Others help to guide the young people who read, serve, and bring up the gifts during the Mass. They all help to serve the pizza and drinks in the cafeteria. The priests in formation and the parish take turns being the main celebrant. All the Redemptorists join the get-together in the school after the Mass. This is our evening meal.

As we celebrate these liturgies with our parishioners, we are very grateful for the contributions of our Redemptorist students to the program. Two of them, Cody Hill and Dang Nguyen, are catechists in our program for the youth. They both enjoy connecting with the young people in this very important area of their lives - their relationship with God and the Church. They both find it challenging and enriching.

We are also very grateful to the other Redemptorist students for their ministry in other areas of the parish and surrounding community. Three participate in the Hope Walk every week. Along with parishioners, the Redemptorists in formation, other religious, and youth from the school and catechetical program, they visit with those living on the streets and in shelters. They share a simple

lunch and prayers with them. Andrew Tran Chung and John Nguyen point out what the group constantly proclaims: "They are our brothers and sisters - people who happen to be homeless." Andrew Jones is grateful for what he learns from them about God's love. "They are evangelizing me."

Two are working with the Sisters of Charity in their soup kitchen and pantry. Dominick Do-Tong sees it as a great experience of working as an apostolic community, a team which works and prays together. Son Lai really enjoys sharing his faith with these people. Along with the sisters he sees the work as an opportunity to feed body and soul.

May God bless all of us as we participate in this wonderful season.

Sean McGillicuddy, C.Ss.R.

Sacred Heart of Jesus, Baltimore, MD



Parishioners at evangelization talk at Sacred Heart.

From February 8-10, 2023, the parishes of Sacred Heart of Jesus/St. Patrick hosted three nights of evangelization talks. Each night there were about 150 people in attendance which exceeded expectations. The topics were prayer, community, and perseverance.

The first night began with Mass celebrated by Fr. John Martinez, Pastor of St. Frances de Sales in Abingdon, VA. During the Mass, he expressed his happiness at being able to celebrate Mass in our beautiful church given the fact that he had done his pastoral experience while a seminarian here at Sacred Heart. After the Mass, Fr. John

Sacred Heart, continued

elaborated on the importance of prayer as a follower and believer of Jesus Christ. He intimated the centrality of prayer in Christian living and the need to always be in communication with God who loves us without end. He provided participants with various examples of prayer: thanksgiving, petition, supplication, etc., and invited each one of us to become comfortable with one of the prayer styles. As part of his talk, he invited two persons to share their own testimony on the power of prayer in their lives.

On night two, we welcomed Lia Garcia, the Director of the Office of Hispanic Ministry of the Archdiocese of Baltimore. Lia gave us an overview of the first Christian communities and some of the challenges they faced in their nascent years. Lia then spoke about the need for strong prayerful Christian communities, highlighting that the first community to which we

have an obligation is our family. She reminded all that Church is not supposed to come between a person and his/her family life. Couples are to dedicate themselves to their family communities before committing themselves to the church community. In a very anecdotal way, she warned us to be mindful as to how we speak to members of the church community because we can attract or repel persons. Our tone and body language sometimes speak louder than our words, and not every response might be appropriate for every situation. We need to be mindful and present to people as we all belong to the community of God.

Our own associate pastor, Fr. Alipio Flores, C.Ss.R, closed the three nights with a lively talk on perseverance. He noted that as believers it is easy to give up, but because we are children of God we should not let go. Prayer is the tool to help us forge ahead despite the many obstacles that

we may encounter. By the grace of the Holy Spirit, we can face any challenge, but we must continue to fight the good fight and trust wholeheartedly in God who loves us unreservedly. Fr Alipio then led the group in a candle lighting ritual, symbolizing that they are the light of the world.

An important feature of each night was the sharing of a meal. Participants were invited to sit and have dinner as a way of building community and getting to know one another. For the Hispanic community, like other cultures, eating is very important. Jesus taught and healed, and did many other things, but he also ate. While people ate, they also shared their experience about what it meant to be Christian.

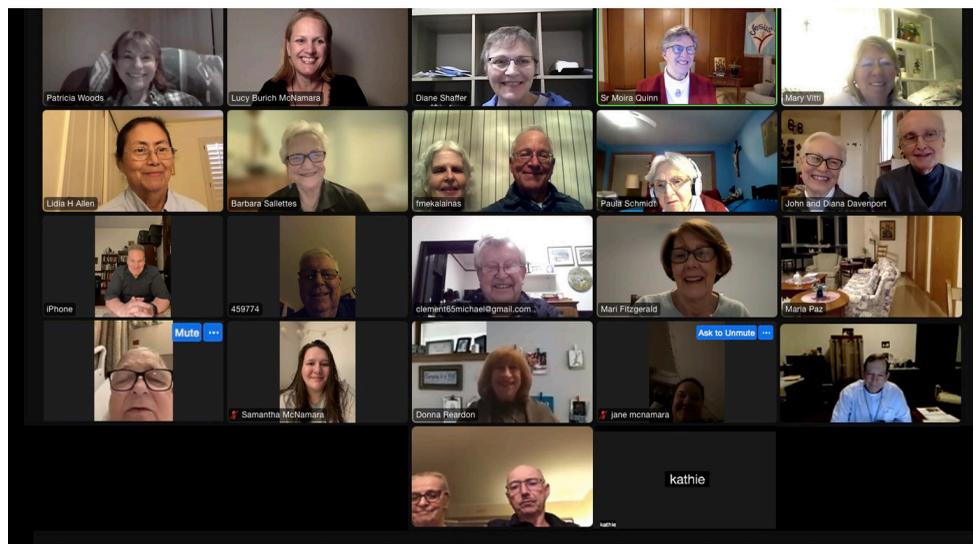
All the participants received a token for their participation and expressed the desire for upcoming opportunities like these.

Ako Walker, C.Ss.R.

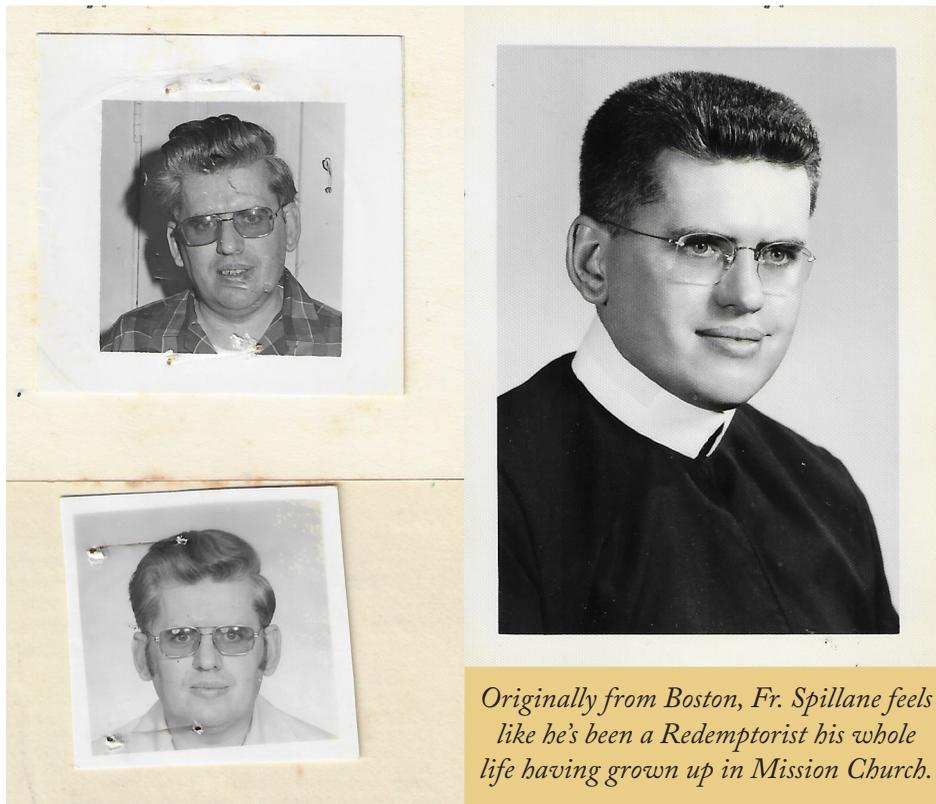
Partners in Mission, United in the Redeemer

On March 8, a group of 25 Redemptoristines, Redemptorists, PIM, and friends met via Zoom to discuss the life and spirit of Blessed Maria Celeste Crostarosa. Our gratitude to Sr. Moira Quinn, O.Ss.R., joined by Srs. Paula Schmidt and Maria Paz, O.Ss.R., for being guest speakers at Bethpage PIM's monthly gathering and for sharing their love of their Foundress. "Tell them I am Pure Love."

Lucy Burich-McNamara



Lifelong Missionary: Fr. William Spillane's Journey with the Redeemer Highlights Community



Originally from Boston, Fr. Spillane feels like he's been a Redemptorist his whole life having grown up in Mission Church.

As I said before, I almost didn't know any other way of life than the Redemptorist Mission from where I grew up. It felt like a natural next step."

For Fr. Spillane, his journey was one that required a lot of trust in God. He entered the Minor Seminary, went to Novitiate and then finally was at Major Seminary in Esopus, NY. He did all that to become a priest. Imagine his surprise when, after seminary, he ended up being sent to Catholic University in Washington, D.C., to get a degree...in physics.

"When I finished at Major Seminary I was set to go on foreign missions. I couldn't believe when I got called in and was told I'd be going to graduate school for physics! The journey to trust God in some ways began there. I had no background in physics. I entered the priesthood to become a priest! Talk about a curveball. That really was a major change in vocation. I went on to teach at the Minor Seminary for 10 years followed by two more years of service in facilities. It wasn't where I thought I'd be, but the community life was so strong," says Fr. Spillane.

After his time teaching, Fr. Spillane was finally sent on foreign missions. After a crash course in Spanish for three months in Mexico, Fr. Spillane went to Puerto Rico. He recalls his time there as his favorite time in ministry. Community life proved to be a huge part of his time in Puerto Rico, as well.

Fr. William Spillane, C.Ss.R., is turning 90 this May. Some may hear that and say "Well, done good and faithful servant – enjoy retirement!" The beauty of the Redemptorists, though, is that "A Redemptorist, not in spite of old age...but through [it] can remain a missionary to the end."

Fr. Spillane was born in Boston, and due to not having an automobile at the time, was quite limited to his neighborhood. Lucky for him, that neighborhood was where Mission Church was located.

"I remember Mission Church from my childhood quite clearly," says Fr. Spillane. "The priests at the time had a big collar, and robes and a rosary, and a cape! I was an altar server at the time, so I remember them vividly. The

Redemptorists were embedded in my life from a young age. I went to a Redemptorist school, went to Mission Church (Basilica of Our Lady of Perpetual Help), and even lived on Mission Street! In a way, I grew up a Redemptorist."

While attending a school run by the School Sisters of Notre Dame through eighth grade, Fr. Spillane attended a Vocation Club where he heard firsthand from a priest about his time serving in Puerto Rico. Shortly after, Fr. Spillane wrote a letter to the Redemptorist Minor Seminary in North East, PA and got accepted.

"I was so young," says Fr. Spillane. "Your 'why' is so different when you enter the seminary at a young age. It was a unique experience from the guys who enter when they're older.

Lifelong Missionary, continued



Fr. Spillane, pictured in a jacket he was gifted for his time in Puerto Rico, now resides at Saint Alphonsus Villa, New Smyrna Beach, FL.

“I remember in Hampton we attended a lot of hospital calls. The hospital was in a neighboring parish, but they always called the Redemptorists because they knew we’d show up and care for those who needed it.”

Retirement is here for Fr. Spillane. For most of us, that means its finally time for us to rest, relax, and put our needs first. Not for Fr. Spillane. He is in New Smyrna Beach, FL at St. Alphonsus Villa where he still can be seen helping with maintenance, harking back to his time when

he was over facilities at the Minor Seminary.

“At the Villa I am still in community – it just looks a little different. It’s the Redemptorist way. I’ve been in community, and I’ll always be in community with them.”

To quote another Redemptorist, Fr. James Brennan, “For the rest of us, old age, or elderhood as it’s sometimes called, is either already here or not far away. No matter how old you are or how young you are, some day you’ll preach your last mission or your last retreat or your last homily. Is there life after that?”

If Fr. Spillane is any indication, the answer is a resounding yes.

*Katie Carpenter
Communications Director*

To give to the HOPE fund and support other sick and retired priests like Fr. Bill Spillane, C.Ss.R., use the QR code below.



For more information or if you have any questions on giving to the Redemptorists, contact Theresa Montminy, our Director of Advancement, at tmontminy@redemptorists.net or by phone at 888-813-0648.

Letters can be postmarked to
Theresa Montminy
Redemptorist Office of
Mission Advancement
3112 7th St NE
Washington, D.C.
20017

“The people were so incredibly warm there,” says Fr. Spillane. “The faith of the people in Caguas, Puerto Rico was so well preserved. For them, going to Mass was a special occasion. They got dressed up, took a break from their work, and were able to be in community together. The music ministry stands out to me – the people couldn’t read music, but it didn’t matter. They played guitars and sang the most beautiful songs.”

After his time in ministry in Puerto Rico, Fr. Spillane had a full life of ministry in Florida, Virginia, and North Carolina. He spent a few years in Jacksonville, FL, Hampton, VA, and Concord, NC as a parish priest. He now resides at Saint Alphonsus Villa in New Smyrna Beach, FL.

“Community life was strong in all of these locations,” says Fr. Spillane.

Partners in Mission Hearing Screening Event, Brooklyn, NY



a potential hearing problem is discovered, the individual is promptly provided with a consultation with a registered nurse, who then provides a doctor's referral for a free follow-up visit and ground transportation. If a hearing aid is required, one will be provided at no cost to the individual. This is all possible due to a generous grant provided by Larry Silverstein, the developer of the rebuilt World Trade Center Complex in Manhattan, who suffers from hearing loss.

Hearing Loss Screening

NYU Langone Health

To mark World Hearing Day, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, in collaboration with NYU Langone, Bay Ridge Community Development Center, Center for Family Life, Islamic Society of Bay Ridge, The Temple of Restoration and God's Battalion of Prayer, will host a **FREE** hearing loss screening event for children



Free Refreshments & Giveaways!

When:
Wednesday, March 1st

Time: 10:30 AM - 2 PM

Where:
Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Sunset Park
(526 - 59th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11220)

with joy, hope, and healing. The program targets "low-income immigrant communities" because immigrant children frequently aren't afforded the same neonatal hearing screenings in their native country. Early intervention is essential because hearing loss affects a child's quality of life, speech, growth in learning language, and performance in school. It can also affect the child's ability to develop social skills.

The day was beautifully summed up in the words of Lucy Burich-McNamara, the Baltimore Province Partners-in-Mission Co-coordinator and Lay Missionary of the Most Holy Redeemer, who said, "The miracle taking place here today is more than hearing being restored. It is also the coming together of various faith communities under one roof, working together for this important cause."

Bibi Esahack, the executive director of Bay Ridge Community Development Center, echoed these words when she noted her community's mission statement, "From Many One," to which Fr. Manny Rodriguez, C.Ss.R., added, "E Pluribus Unum, those are the very same words that appear on our currency."

We may not be so different after all.

Please see additional news coverage by PIX11 here.

Michael Cunningham, C.Ss.R.

On Wednesday, March 1st, the OLPH Church community, NYU Langone Hospital, Brooklyn, Bethpage Partners in Mission (PIM), and several local faith communities hosted a hearing screening event for the students of OLPH Catholic Academy and the community of Brooklyn. It was an interfaith experience that not only helped remove barriers to hearing, but also helped remove barriers that frequently exist between interfaith communities. It was a day filled

The hearing program instituted by NYU Langone Hospital's Institute for Excellence in Health Equity looks to promote health equity and build an inclusive culture of medicine by bringing awareness, screenings, and early intervention using state-of-the-art technology to diagnose potential hearing problems or obstructions within the ear. Several of the local faith communities and community-based organizations of Brooklyn, including OLPH Church, received a hearing testing device and training provided by NYU Langone Hospital. If

Campus Ministry at the U.S. Naval Academy



Daily Mass in the lower Chapel, St. Andrew's Chapel, at the USNA



FOCUS group pictured below

Catholic campus ministry at the U.S. Naval Academy (USNA) is much the same as campus ministry at any college or university. The difference is that the young men and women attending the USNA are also members of our nation's military. The Midshipmen (please note: not Cadets!) at the Naval Academy are there because they want to be future officers in the Navy and the Marine Corps.

Ministry at the USNA is a blend of campus ministry, parish ministry, and military chaplaincy.

Catholic campus ministry at the USNA consists of providing times for daily and Sunday Masses; specific hours for going to Confession; opportunities for counseling and spiritual direction; an OCIA program for those Midshipmen needing to make their Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist, and Confirmation for those who might wish to become Catholics (at present there are 28 Midshipmen in the OCIA program); a Catholic Midshipmen's

Club that meets once a week for fellowship, support and education in "things Catholic"; service as liturgical ministers; opportunities for community service; Bible study groups and Eucharistic adoration times. There is a small 24-hour Eucharistic Chapel in Bancroft Hall. Bancroft Hall is the dormitory for the "Mids." Bancroft Hall is said to be the largest contiguous dormitory in the world having 1,700 rooms and consisting of 4.8 miles of corridors. The multi-denominational Chaplains offices are in one of the buildings of the Bancroft Hall complex.

The ministry at the USNA also extends to the graduates of the Naval Academy, to the faculty and staff of the Academy, and to many retirees who might attend the Sunday 0900 Mass. You would be correct in guessing that pre-marriage preparation and wedding ceremonies are on the ministry menu.

The children of the faculty and staff have a Sunday morning religious

education program. Some of the Midshipmen teach in that program. The children have an opportunity for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist.

There is a cemetery and a Columbarium at the Naval Academy. Funerals and Committal Services are part of the ministry.

We are blessed to have a FOCUS team assisting the Catholic clergy. FOCUS stands for Fellowship of Catholic University Students. FOCUS team members are college graduates who provide peer ministry with the Mids. The FOCUS members provide not only peer religious guidance but also social events and community activities. FOCUS teams are on more than 200 campuses in the U.S.

Providing guidance, ethical norms, and spiritual direction to generations of future Navy and Marine Corps leaders is a rich blessing.

Eric Hoog, C.Ss.R.

Updates from St. Lucia



Pictured left: Fr. John Olenick and Fr. Yvon Tremont with St. Lucia's Partners in Mission. The partners were gifted an icon of Our Mother of Perpetual Help on the occasion of Fr. John's last meeting with the group.

Pictured right: Saturday morning tutoring sessions in St. Lucia.

Updates from Dominica



Fr. Joseph Tran and Br. Jeffrey Rolle led a Lenten Retreat at St. Joseph's Parish in Dominica.

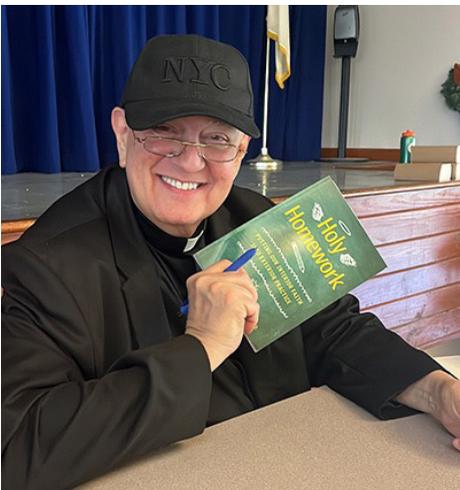
News from around the Province



Fr. Richard Knappick celebrated his 91st birthday on February 17 in Ephrata.



The staff at Holy Redeemer Provincial Residence said their farewells to Fr. Paul Borowski and Fr. Jerry Knapp.



Redemptorist Father Robert "Bob" Pagliari holds up a copy of his book, "Holy Homework," while autographing it for students during one of his stops at archdiocesan schools at the beginning of January 2023.



Redemptorist Jubilees were celebrated in February 2023 at Saint Alphonsus Villa in New Smyrna Beach, FL.



The Redemptorists

— Baltimore Province —

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Holy Redeemer
3112 7th St NE
Washington, DC 20017