



The Baltimore Beacon

The Redemptorists of the Baltimore Province

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Provincial Ponderings



Dear Brothers and Sisters:

At the Easter Vigil we heard of a theatrical God who fashions a world out of a formless void; we listened about a God who rescues His people from an army that pursues them; we recounted the story of a God who gives us bread, wine, and milk without us paying for any of it; and we proclaimed a God who gives all of himself to a world He loves, even to the point of death, only then not to remain captive to a grave but to rise in all God's glory. Let's face it, Holy Saturday night was an evening of fast-paced drama, narrow escapes, harrowing passages, miraculous feedings, and spectacular rescues—stories chock full of swirling waters, earthquakes, and surprise appearances.

And yet the story of Easter conveys another truth as well. The Jewish day begins at nightfall, and so we began the Easter Vigil as the sun set and a hush settled on our neighborhoods. That evening there was a small procession, but no Easter parade; the Easter candle was brought into the church, but there was no grand display of fireworks; we shouted "alleluia," but not at the same decibel level as the cheers of the March Madness basketball crowds in New Orleans. Perhaps this relatively understated arrival of Easter is fitting.

After all, Jesus' resurrection takes place in the still of night. When the women arrive at the tomb at dawn, the stone has been rolled away and the body

is gone. The resurrection has already happened—silently, without fanfare and without audience. In her book *Learning to Walk in the Dark*, Barbara Brown Taylor writes:

For many years as I have been listening to Easter sermons, I have never heard anyone talk about that part. Resurrection is always announced with Easter lilies, the sounds of trumpets, bright streaming light. But it did not happen that way. It happened in a cave, it happened in complete silence, in absolute darkness, with the smell of damp stone and dug earth in the air. . . . New life starts in the dark. Whether it is a seed in the ground, a baby in the womb, or Jesus in the tomb, it starts in the dark.

Resurrection isn't always accompanied by bright lights and party music. It usually happens in the most ordinary moments, often slipping in quietly. We find resurrection in the forgiveness of a family member, when an immigrant woman puts on glasses and for the first time can see an object on the floor, when someone who has lost a loved one during the past year can finally move on with a funeral and the burial of their loved one, in the smile of a person who has experienced a stifling depression. Resurrection happens in the here and now, in this moment we are in. It may not be a sudden theatrical event like those we read about at the Easter Vigil. But just as the Grand Canyon was formed by the Colorado River over four million years, these smaller resurrection experiences shape our lives over time in very powerful, salvific ways. Experiencing resurrection is a process more than an event.

In 2014 when the parish of St. Clement put on Jesus Christ Superstar, we went out of our way to promote it. In a discussion with a local Christian radio station, they said they would not promote the play since

it omitted the resurrection of Jesus Christ. With respect to Andrew Lloyd Weber, we told the radio station we had added a resurrection scene. After the crucifixion we had the character of Mary Magdalene sing a song written by Natalie Grant entitled "Alive". As she sang, the Christ character came back into the Church dressed all in white followed by the cast paying homage to the Risen Lord. The refrain of the song goes as follows: Alive! Alive! Look what Mercy's overcome; Death has lost, and Love has won Alive! Alive! Hallelujah, Risen Lord, the only One I fall before I am His because He is alive. Every time I hear that song and remember that experience it is another resurrection moment for me and I am saved and alive.

In some evangelical religions, people talked about when they were saved. We Christians were saved two thousand years ago when Jesus lived and died and rose again. We were saved in the waters of our own Baptism; like so many people who at Easter Vigils throughout the world received the Sacraments of Initiation, we are saved every time we receive our Risen Lord in communion; we are saved in the smile and laughter of family and friends; and we are saved every time the sun shines brightly after a rain. The list could cover a hundred pages, back and front.

During this Easter Season, don't let the many resurrections of your life pass by unnoticed while you're waiting for that one dramatic event that lands you on the front page of some religious newspaper and upends your whole life's routine. Do not be amazed! God's saving love never sleeps; resurrection is at work in our lives every second of every day, if only we have the eyes to see it.

*In the Spirit of the Redeemer,
Paul J. Borowski, C.Ss.R.*

Upcoming 2022/2023 Dates

Monday, May 9 - Friday, May 20, 2022 North American Conference Assembly & Phase 1 of the XXVI General Chapter at San Alfonso Retreat House; Long Branch, NJ

Monday, May 16 - Friday, May 20, 2022 North American Transition to Ministry Program at San Alfonso Retreat House; Long Branch, NJ

Monday, May 23 - Friday, May 27, 2022 North American Redemptorist Student Gathering at Redemptorist Retreat Center; Oconomowoc, WI

Tuesday, May 31 - Thursday, June 2, 2022 Province Retreat at San Alfonso Retreat House; Long Branch, NJ

Tuesday, July 5 - Thursday, July 7, 2022 A Summer Break "Coming Together as Confreres" at San Alfonso Retreat House; Long Branch, NJ

Wednesday, July 6, 2022 Province Picnic at San Alfonso Retreat House; Long Branch, NJ

Saturday, July 16, 2022 at 11 a.m. Province Jubilee Celebration: Mass & Luncheon at Sacred Heart of Jesus; Baltimore, MD

Saturday, July 23, 2022 at 10 a.m. Priesthood Ordination for Brian Vaccaro, C.Ss.R., at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception; Washington, DC. Bishop Michael Burbidge (Arlington, VA) is the ordaining Bishop

Saturday, August 13, 2022 at 11 a.m. Priesthood Ordination for Royce Thomas, C.Ss.R. at St Anthony's; Guapo Cap-de-Ville Main Rd; Point Fortin, Trinidad. Archbishop Charles Jason Gordon (Port of Spain, Trinidad) is the ordaining Bishop

Monday, August 15, 2022 Convoking of the XVIII Provincial Chapter

Sunday, September 11 - Friday, October 7, 2022 Phase 2 (Canonical Phase) of XXVI General Chapter; Rome, Italy

Tuesday, November 29 - Thursday, December 1, 2022 Province Convocation at San Alfonso Retreat House; Long Branch, NJ
(Tuesday, November 29, 2022 will be Provincial Candidates Day)

Monday, February 13 - Wednesday, February 15, 2023 Province Retreat (Southeast Region) at St. Alphonsus Villa; New Smyrna Beach, FL

Thursday, February 16, 2023 Province Jubilee Celebration (Southeast Region)

Monday, March 13 - Friday, March 17, 2023 and if necessary Monday, March 20 - Friday, March 24, 2023 XVIII Baltimore Provincial Chapter at San Alfonso Retreat House; Long Branch, NJ

Tuesday, May 30 - Thursday, June 1, 2023 Province Retreat at San Alfonso Retreat House; Long Branch, NJ

Communications Updates

• Daily Audio Podcasts on the readings of the day may be found at redemptorists.net in either Spanish or English.

• Weekly Video reflections on the upcoming Sunday readings (Cycle C) may be found on Facebook: [facebook.com/RedemptoristsBaltimore](https://www.facebook.com/RedemptoristsBaltimore) or YouTube: [youtube.com/BaltRedemptorists](https://www.youtube.com/BaltRedemptorists). These videos are released each Wednesday.

• Saturday, May 21: On-line video service "Praying with the Icon of Our Mother of Perpetual Help."

Upcoming EPC Meetings

Future EPC meetings will begin at 9:30 a.m. via ZOOM until further notice

- April 27th - 28th, 2022
- No May Meeting

- June 15th - 16th, 2022
- July 6th, 2022 (San Alfonso; Long Branch, NJ)
- No August Meeting
- September 7th - 8th

- October 19th - 20th
- November 16th - 17th
- December 2nd (San Alfonso; Long Branch, NJ)

Upcoming Missions, Retreats, and Video Series

- **April 23-27**, Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, Erie, PA, Kevin MacDonald
- **April 29-May 3**, Parish Mission Theme: “Preaching to the Hungers of the Heart,” Nativity at St. Leo Church, Tully, NY, James Wallace, Francis Gargani, Phil Dabney
- **April 30-May 4**, Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Osceola Mills, PA, Kevin MacDonald
- **May 21-25**, Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Cornwall, PA, Kevin MacDonald
- **June 11-15**, St. Patrick Catholic Church, Pasco, WA, Kevin MacDonald
- **July 5-7**, Retreat to the Trinitarians at their Provincial Headquarters in Baltimore, MD, Kevin MacDonald
- **July 9-13**, Parish mission at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in West Harwich, MA, Kevin MacDonald,
- **August 26-29**, Retreat to Redemptorist seminarians at San Alfonso in Long Branch, NJ, Kevin MacDonald

Updates from Lima, OH

Greeting from Lima, Ohio! This is Mike Sergi coming to you from the Western Frontier. I hope all of you had a repentful Lent and a joy-filled Easter Sunday. We did our best to walk with the Lord during this Holy Season. The community began Lent with a day of retreat. We told the people of the parish we were going on retreat and would be unavailable all day. We had our morning prayer and then all of us celebrated the 8:30 a.m. Mass together. The rest of the morning was for private prayer until our meeting. After lunch, it was time for private prayer or a little rest. We began our Holy Hour at 4 p.m. and 5 p.m. was evening prayer and benediction. We ended our day of retreat at Applebee's. It was a good day for us.

A few years ago, we started having Stations of the Cross with guest speakers. We continued that custom this year. We use a different type of Stations of the Cross each Friday. We always begin by using St. Alphonsus' Stations. On the other Fridays, we use the Shepherd's Way of the Cross, The Family's Way of the Cross, Everyone's Way of the Cross, John Paul II's Way of the Cross, and finally our youth group acts out the Way of the Cross.

After we pray the Way of the Cross, someone gives a reflection. Our speakers were Br. Dan, Chaplain Lydia (chaplain at St. Rita's Hospital who was born in Bethlehem), Sr. Yvonne (a Franciscan Sister who works at the neighboring parish), Pastor Wanda Werling (Pastor of the South Side

Christian Church), Fr. Dave Ross (Pastor of St. Rose here in Lima), and finally yours truly. Our parishioners really enjoy the preaching, especially by our guest speakers.

We also celebrated Confirmation. We brought three people into the Church at the Easter Vigil.

The last big event that is upcoming is the famous St. Gerard's Festival on June 3- 5. We have not had it since covid came into our lives. If you are around Lima, come see us and enjoy the food, especially our famous chicken wings!

Signing off from the Western Frontier and Happy Easter!

Mike Sergi, C.Ss.R.

Partners in Mission, St. Lucia

On the Solemnity of St. Joseph, the St. Lucia Redemptorist Partners in Mission began their ministry tutoring at-risk children. The partners were inspired to choose this apostolate after participating in the Partners

in Mission Zoom retreat held last October. The group wanted to make a difference to the children of our “adopted” families who lost so much in-person classroom time due to the pandemic.

Dr. Morella Joseph, one of our partners and a retired educator, helped to organize the effort. Apart from our partners, we also have volunteers who generously give their time weekly.

St. Lucia PIM, Continued



Kindergarteners receiving help with their numbers and letters.



Dr. Mirella Joseph and Ms. Mary Hippolyte, Partners in Mission.

Transportation and a snack are provided. There are 18 children participating, ranging from kindergarten to 8th grade. We are so excited to be able to help these children learn and grow using their own God given talents!

John Olenick, C.Ss.R.

The children and tutors use the Vieux Fort Primary School from 10

a.m. - 12 p.m., noon, on Saturday.

Partners in Mission Formation Update

This is us! The Baltimore Province Partners in Mission Province Committee is tasked to promote the development and formation of Partners in Mission throughout our Province. In alphabetical order, Fr. Mike Cunningham, C.Ss.R., Fr. Francis Gargani, C.Ss.R., Lucy Burich McNamara, Fr. Anthony Michalik, C.Ss.R., Fr. John Olenick, C.Ss.R., Fr. Glenn Parker, C.Ss.R., and Fr. Tom Travers, C.Ss.R., are the current members of the Committee. Fr. John is our Partners in Mission liaison to the EPC and Fr. Francis and I are our Province PIM co-coordinators. Fr. Francis is also a Co-Chair of our North American Conference Secretariat for Partners in Mission [NASPIM], and together, Fr. Francis and I are the Baltimore Province's representatives to NASPIM.

At a March 19, 2022, Zoom gathering of the five Unit Province PIM Committees that comprise our North American Conference, we showcased each of our Baltimore Province Partners in Mission circles.



Fr. Jack Kingsbury, C.Ss.R., our North American Conference Coordinator, and our Provincial, Fr. Paul Borowski, C.Ss.R., were in attendance; we appreciate their continued support of Partners in Mission. On April 2, 2022, Fr. Francis and I, as members of our North American Secretariat for Partners in Mission, attended a Zoom gathering hosted by the General Commission for Partnership in Mission that assembled the

five Conference Secretariats for PIM. Both meetings were a "first" such gathering. With the recent promulgation of the Ratio Formationis for Partnership in Mission, we look to develop relationships and encourage communication and the sharing of best practices.

With ten active PIM circles in the Baltimore Province and additional locations targeting to begin their



Photo credit: John Davenport, Denver Province Redemptorist Associate

WE ARE

Strong in faith, rejoicing in hope,
burning with charity, on fire with zeal,
in humility of heart and persevering in prayer.

The Redemptorist Family as missionary apostles and genuine disciples of Saint Alphonsus follow Christ the Redeemer with hearts full of joy; denying themselves and always ready to undertake what is demanding, they share in the mystery of Christ and proclaim it in Gospel simplicity of life and language, that they may proclaim plentiful redemption by witness and word to all.

#RedemptoristFamily #Mission #Together #Vocation

Photo credit: Redemptorist Communications Ireland

gatherings later this year, PIM is now a vibrant reality in our Province. It is inspiring and energizing to see that we are cooperating with the Holy Spirit, gathering as Family, sharing our individual graces so that they multiply when in collaboration, all while wrapped within the lens of

our Alphonsian spirituality, together, becoming the face of the Redeemer to the most abandoned of our world!

If you are interested in developing your spirituality, together with other members of the Redemptorist Family who share these convictions, please contact me at mcnamaraLucy@aol.com.

com or contact Fr. Francis Gargani at francescogcssr@yahoo.com for information about becoming a Partner in Mission in your area. We will gladly get information to you and answer any questions that you may have. We look forward to hearing from you! Partners in Mission Province Coordinators

Fr. Francis Gargani, C.Ss.R., and Lucy Burich McNamara

One-Year Anniversary of the Eruption of La Soufriere, St. Vincent and the Grenadines

A year ago, at this time, the island nation of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines was experiencing volcanic eruptions on the mainland. As many readers will recall, La Soufriere volcano, located in the north of Saint Vincent, explosively erupted many times, beginning on April 9, 2021. Memories of that day are vivid. For persons on the island, it is one of those days easy to recall exactly where you were at the moment.

For many it was in schools converted into shelters, others with family or friends, still others remained in the red zone, as the eruptive-affected areas came to be known. For the Redemptorist community, home became the Pastoral Center in Kingstown at the gracious invitation

of Bishop Gerard County. He opened the doors of his residence and his heart not only to Brother Gerard and Father Kevin but to three young parishioners as well, who volunteered in the massive relief efforts undertaken by the Diocese of Kingstown.

The Pastoral Center served not only as home for four months but also as mission control for relief activity. Many Sandy Bay parishioners joined the ministry of receiving and preparing goods for distribution. From there, many shelters and homes were visited with food and supplies sent from abroad – mainly through the generosity of our friends at Food for the Poor, and contributions made through the Baltimore Province of Redemptorists and to the Roman

Catholic Diocese of Kingstown. All persons involved in sharing the bounty were selfless with their time and service as many miles were covered in response to great needs. Strangers along the various routes became friends and the volunteers formed a strong bond among themselves in service of the broader community. No task was too great, no distance too far, in response to those affected by the eruptions.

Over time, as the red zone areas were cleared, efforts shifted to local families returning home – or in many cases, what was left of home. Serious structural damage was obvious in many areas, and it became clear that rebuilding would be take a good deal of time, labor, and funding.



Through the generosity of many, a new roof was built in time for Easter!

Parish buildings in Sandy Bay were no exception. Focus turned toward the Garifuna Bakery, a ministry of the Diocese and thus the parish, now under the direction of the Redemptorist community. Through the talents of many skilled laborers and volunteers, among them many of the same young persons who organized relief efforts, doors reopened under a new roof in January.

The Garifuna Village Market, renovated through the support of the Redemptorist Mission Advancement Office, was reasonably intact; however, a pavilion constructed before the eruptions was badly damaged. Roofing had to be replaced as did the posts for support; concrete columns now stand in stronger support of the roof there. Electrical work was redone and lighting restored. The Pavilion now serves as the center of liturgical activities for the Sandy Bay Catholic community, with Mass celebrated there every Saturday evening until the church can be rebuilt.

The same good crew of laborers and volunteers, all extremely dedicated to the tasks at hand, are now at work on the church. Months ago, they worked tirelessly clearing out fallen debris from the collapsed roof there. What seemed like tons of ash were removed along with fallen rafters, boards, and shingles. With the area cleared, steady attention has been given to rebuilding the church roof since February. When assessing how to proceed on

the new roof, it was determined by builders and an engineer, that the best way forward would be to construct pillars (six feet in from the existing walls) to provide a better pitch for the roof. The original design of the church building included no pillars and a roof that had very little pitch – a contributing factor to its demise. The initial phase of rebuilding thus saw construction of the pillars then beams to hold the rafters of the new roof. This design would be in two parts: one with rafters stretching upwards forming the much-needed pitch and then rafters to the sides with a lesser pitch stretching to the ends of the building.

The beginning stages were completed with the same devoted crew of laborers and volunteers. As things began to progress, Mr. Lambert (“Cuthbert”) Charlemagne joined the team from Saint Lucia. He serves the Redemptorist parish in Vieux Fort as facilities manager, always doing a fine job with whatever task is needed. In fact, readers may recall seeing the recently-completed roof on the chapel in the community of Grace featured in a previous issue of this publication. Cuthbert was responsible for the construction there.

Fresh off of that project, he gave up his vacation time to help lead the project here. Appreciation for his presence, talents, and gifts go beyond words. He has been an extremely valuable asset to the work here. He has led the team with great vigor and

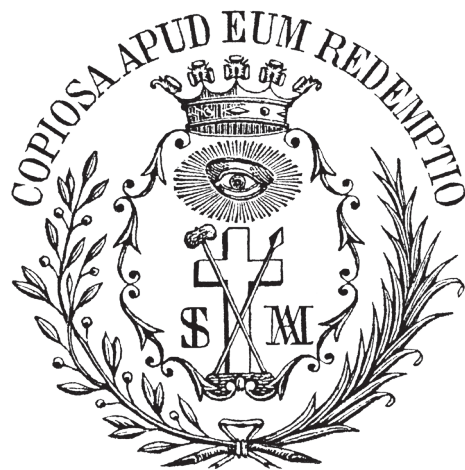
enthusiasm, allowing the project to progress by leaps and bounds. His gifts also include teaching and motivating the young persons involved. They have been especially impressed not only with his work but also with his ability to help them grow and develop skills. His presence in the community for five weeks left a tremendous impact, for which all involved are grateful.

As he returned to Saint Lucia, the local builders returned to the area. They, for the most part, are from the Sandy Bay area but work on the Grenadine Island of Mustique as contractors. Hence, they are able to give full-time attention to the project only when getting a break from Mustique. God saw to a seamless transition between Cuthbert and themselves, so work has continued at a steady pace.

A goal of Easter has been in sight for the roof to be completed. The rafters and plywood are in place and the galvanized-roofing installation began during Holy Week, with completion on Holy Saturday. A few bits and pieces remain to be tied up, but indeed the goal for the roof was reached in time for the celebration of resurrection!

The accomplishment is a major one for the community, and no small feat for all involved. Without the goodness of so many persons – benefactors, family, friends, laborers, volunteers, colleagues, and not least, the power of prayer – the work would never have been completed within the year. Borrowing a thought from a well-known proverb: it has taken a village to raise the roof! A village with committed members far and wide, too numerous to name, but known to God. Prayerful gratitude is extended to all who are making hopes and dreams here a reality. Together, we are rising again!

Kevin R. Murray, C.Ss.R.



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