



The Baltimore Beacon

The Redemptorists of the Baltimore Province

Volume 4 // Issue 7 // 7.19.2023

Provincial Ponderings



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The Dominican mystic, Meister Eckart, once wrote “if the only prayer you ever said was ‘thank you,’ that would be enough.” I come to this July pondering with a deep sense of gratitude for the many blessings that I have experienced with people, at celebrations, and in the happenings of my life and ministry since last month. My sense of gratitude impels me to say, ‘thank you’ and to express appreciation.

While time and space obviously do not permit me to speak of everything that awakens my thanks, please allow me to express my thanks for the goodness, generosity, and giftedness of people from a few highlights of the recent past. I do so with the hope that my sharing them may inspire your awareness and expression of grateful thanks for the people and experiences of your own life.

Thank you to the wonderful people of God that I was so privileged to companion on a weeklong silent-directed retreat at San Alfonso. Your quest for God and your deep faith have inspired me in my own prayer and life journey.

Thank you to my Redemptorist confreres for the blessing of your

presence and our gathering as brothers for some leisure time and relaxation at our Province picnic at West End. The blessing of our fraternity and community is indeed real and it is good when we come together to enjoy one another’s company.

Thank you to our Jubilarians who gathered in person and/or in spirit to praise and thank God for our religious life and priesthood and the privilege of serving God’s people. Your unfailing commitment, unwavering dedication, and faithful witness to the love of Christ and the Church is a great blessing of encouragement, inspiration, and thanksgiving for me and for all.

Thank you to Frater McQuain Clovis, C.Ss.R., our newest professed member of the Province, who recently made his first religious vows as a Redemptorist with five other confreres from our North American Conference. Your presence among us brings with it a sense of hope and joy, along with the promise of prayer, presence, and support as you continue to live into your life as a Redemptorist.

Thank you to Katie Carpenter, our Province Director of Communications (and editor of

the Baltimore Beacon!), as she completes her tenure with us this week, for her generous sharing of her gifts and talents and for the blessing of her support, creativity, and collegiality over these past three years. Katie will be relocating to Colorado with her husband who serves in the military and who has been reassigned there. We Redemptorists wish Katie well in her move to Colorado and every success in her next professional adventure. Thank you, Katie, for the legacy of professional competence, diligence, and service that you have shared with us. You leave behind so much vision and work for us to continue to build upon and to grow. Thank you and Godspeed as you begin a new chapter in your life!

These expressions of thanks and gratitude brings me into a deep awareness of God, the Giver of all Gifts, and into a heartfelt experience of the Love of God that opens me up to my soul and to others. Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel speaks eloquently to the grace and power of gratitude for fullness of life:

Only one response can maintain us: gratefulness for witnessing the wonder, for the gift of our unearned right to serve, to adore, and to fulfill. It is gratefulness that makes the soul great.

Provincial Ponderings, continued

My hope and prayer for all of us in these lazy, hazy days of Summer is that we all make and take time to rest and reflect on the events, experiences, and people of our lives that awaken our gratitude and inspire our 'thank you' to God and to one another. God is

good, grace is real, and an attitude of gratitude makes all the difference in the world! "Always be thankful (Col. 3:15)."

Blessings and all the best for a restful and relaxing August! Thank you, as

always, for your presence, support, and encouragement of our mission and ministry as Redemptorists.

Gratefully,
John Collins, C.Ss.R.
Provincial Superior of The Baltimore Province

Upcoming 2022/2023 Dates

EPC Meetings

July 11-12, 2023
September 19-20
October 16-20
November 7-8
December 5-6

January 9-10, 2024
February 19-23
March 19-20
April 16-17
May 21-22
June 18-20

Tuesday, October 17 - Thursday, October 19, 2023: Province Convocation at San Alfonso Retreat House; Long Branch, NJ

Parish Mission Schedule

- 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. 4-8, 2023: St. Joseph in Force, 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
- Dec. 16-19, 2023: St. Jude Catholic Church, Ocala, FL

Redemptorist Partners in Mission to Administer Notre Dame Retreat House



Since its founding in 1967 by the Redemptorist Congregation, generations of Christians spanning all denominations have come to Notre Dame Retreat House overlooking Canandaigua Lake in Upstate New York to renew and reflect on their faith journey with God. When it was announced that the facility was slated to close due to staffing shortages, the public outcry spurred a committee of 100% non-paid lay volunteers into action by establishing a new chapter of Partners in Mission (PIM). Working closely with the Redemptorists, a plan was

formulated to allow this group to form a 501c3 non-profit group, which will lease the Retreat House and carry on its mission.

“It was a very difficult decision for the Redemptorists to leave the retreat house and they are doing so not for lack of love for the ministry, but because of declining numbers and financial difficulties,” said Father Dennis Billy, C.Ss.R., who is forming this PIM group in Redemptorist spirituality and mission by meeting with its Board of Directors monthly. “I have been deeply moved by the desire of so many dedicated lay Catholics to continue the mission of Notre Dame Retreat House in line with the Redemptorist charism of walking in the footsteps of the Redeemer and bringing his Gospel message to a wounded world. I am deeply grateful for the impact the Redemptorists have had on the spiritual life of the people of the Rochester area and beyond. The commitment of this group of lay volunteers is really something to behold.”

“When they announced the closing of Notre Dame, there was a palatable shockwave sent throughout our Catholic community,” explains Tom Crumlish, elected president of the 501c3 non-profit, which will officially take over operations on August 1, 2023. “From the minute the Redemptorists announced the closing, volunteers began raising their hands to see what they could do to save this beloved place. That’s how this board came to be.” Although located in the Diocese of

Rochester, New York, Notre Dame Retreat House is independent from the Diocese and, therefore, receives no financial support from the Diocese.

“Our Bishop Matano has been very vocal in his desire to keep Notre Dame open as a place for Catholics to reflect on and grow in their faith. While the Diocese can provide no funding, the number of priests, deacons and others volunteering to run retreats has been outstanding,” states Crumlish. “This has definitely become an ‘all-hands-on-deck’ effort to keep this community treasure open and growing.”

As with any effort of this nature, the bottom line to success comes down to financial support. The Redemptorists have agreed to lease the facility to the newly established 501c3 non-profit at a very low rate, but all maintenance and upkeep of the aging facility becomes its responsibility. This includes major heating and cooling updates, as well as new windows in many of the rooms. Payroll for a director, maintenance personnel, a chef, and housekeeping staff will also fall on the shoulders of the volunteer board beginning August 1st.

“Our fundraising goal for this first year is \$500,000, which will barely cover the immediate building upgrades needed along with a small operating reserve,” says Crumlish. “We have already raised nearly \$100,000 through a simple email outreach to past retreatants, so we are very hopeful our goal can be reached once our fundraising efforts swing into high gear.”

Those fundraising efforts include outreach to past donors, a social media campaign and communication to all parishes in the Diocese of Rochester, as well as those in neighboring Buffalo and Syracuse. A free one-day retreat with Gus Lloyd from Sirius XM Radio’s Catholic Channel is scheduled for Saturday, August 19th, with the hope of introducing new people to the beauty of Notre Dame’s campus and the power of retreats.

“We encourage everyone to learn more about Notre Dame and, if possible, make a gift to support our efforts, which can be made at our website” concludes Crumlish. “Of course, the most meaningful way to show your support is to attend a retreat yourself and learn why this place is special to so many.”

Readers can learn more or make a gift online by visiting [www. NotreDameRetreat.org](http://www.NotreDameRetreat.org)

Contact information:

Name: Tom Crumlish, president
Organization: Notre Dame Retreat House, Inc.
Phone: 585.303.5020
Email: tcrumlish@pyragon.com
Address: 5151 Foster Road,
Canandaigua, NY 14424
Website: www.NotreDameRetreat.org

*Mike Schwabl, Chair of the
Communications Committee*

Commemoration, Christ the King, Orangeburg, South Carolina

Anyone who forgets their history is doomed to repeat it. So, Father Michael Koncik, C.Ss.R., reminded attendants in opening his Juneteenth remarks on the occasion commemorating the former Christ the King Church and School in Orangeburg, SC. Christ the King may no longer stand, but a stalwart contingent of alumni and friends of the school and congregants of the church recently convened to memorialize its existence. Two historical markers approved and authorized by the State of South Carolina were unveiled and blessed by the Vicar General of the Diocese of Charleston. The Oblate Sisters of Providence joined the ceremonies by a video link. It was a most fitting tribute.

The Redemptorist Fathers embedded themselves into the fabric of Christ the King. Beginning as early as the 1930s at Holy Trinity Church in Orangeburg, the priests made themselves part of the local community. Unfortunately, that community was racially divided, a reality that made life very hard. With two HBCU's in town then, the order inevitably began to expand its ministry onto and

around their campuses. Their proselytization and evangelical efforts proved successful as members of the Black community converted to Catholicism in growing numbers. This brand of success, however, was not accepted favorably by the white Catholics in town. They were not any more eager to integrate the Holy Trinity congregation than the public schools and facilities in town. They did not wish to share their church pews with African Americans even if they happened to be Catholic.

Undaunted, the Redemptorists pressed on with their mission. Toward the end of the 1930s they collaborated with members of the African American community to construct another church. That church was called Christ the King. In 1942 they opened the doors of the church to offer mass and provide the sacraments for an eagerly growing parish.

The new congregation blossomed as the churchgoers moved to establish a choir, a Knights of Columbus chapter, a CYO on campus, and a Holy Name Society branch making Christ the King a well-known feature of Orangeburg.

The Oblate Sister of Providence arrived in 1943 to begin teaching at Christ the King School. The sisters educated students from kindergarten through the eighth grade. At the behest of the Redemptorists, the diocese afforded financial assistance to help expand the school. Over the following three decades Christ the King nurtured hundreds of students, many of whom went on to advance their academic careers or soar toward unprecedented professional heights.

From Juneteenth 2023 forward, no one will ever be able to forget Christ the King Church and School in Orangeburg, SC. Long will they remember the Redemptorist Fathers who came with unbridled zeal to make seemingly impossible dreams come true for so many souls who grew up and lived in this place. The names of Father Francis Donlan, Father James McGonagle, and others will remain etched in the hearts and minds of Catholics in this city forever.

Jim Sulton

Feast Day Celebration, Basilica of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Brooklyn, NY

Undoubtedly, all our Redemptorist communities and missions celebrate the annual feast of Our Mother of Perpetual Help in an extraordinary way. The Basilica of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Brooklyn, New York, was no exception.

Feast Day Celebration, continued on pg. 6

The month of June began the celebrations of the patronal feast at midnight monthly Mass for the Guatemalan migrant community with a detailed description of the icon to the over 300 participants, most





of whom are young men under the age of 30 years old.

Since the feast this year, June 27th, 2023, fell on Tuesday, the community decided to dedicate the previous Sunday Masses for the celebration, besides the Masses on Tuesday, the actual day of the feast. A triduum anticipated the festivities.

On Sunday, June 25, besides the regular Mass schedule to accommodate the parishioners who could not participate in the principal Masses, the Basilica celebrated two main Masses. The first one at 10 a.m. was celebrated by the diocesan bishop, Roberto Brennan, D.D., who dedicated the liturgy and homily to Our Mother of Perpetual Help. After

this Mass, a procession down 5th Avenue, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, was organized to anticipate and honor the upcoming national festive day of Independence on July 4th.

The principal Mass of the Solemnity of Our Mother of Perpetual Help, June 27th, was celebrated with our Pastor, Father James Gilmour, C.Ss.R., as the presider, with six concelebrants, and other community members, including Brother Augustus J. Riviere, C.Ss.R. The Mass was trilingual, with three short homilies given by Fr. Manuel Rodriguez Delgado, C.Ss.R., in Spanish, Fr. Song You, C.Ss.R., in Chinese, and Fr. Francis Skelly, C.Ss.R., in English. Following the Mass there was a procession down the main avenue and connecting streets around the Basilica, with food and refreshments afterward for all the participants.

On the Feast Day itself, Tuesday at 7 p.m., the Basilica hosted a special Mass for the Haitian population in the upper Church,

again with the Bishop of the Brooklyn diocese, Robert Brennan, as the principal celebrant. Our Haitian brothers and sisters from the area participated in this special Eucharist, completely filling the upper Church. Our Mother of Perpetual Help is the patronal feast of Haiti.

Also, at the same time as the Mass in the upper Church, another Mass was celebrated in the lower Church in Spanish, and in which a homily on Our Mother of Perpetual Help was given by Father Cristian Bueno, C.Ss.R., the executive secretary of the Redemptorist General Secretariat for Evangelization in Rome.

It is difficult to estimate the number of participants in all the activities and celebrations of our Redemptorist patroness. Nevertheless, over 3,000 faithfuls demonstrated their devotion and love for Our Mother of Perpetual Help on her feast and in her Brooklyn Basilica this year, 2023.

Manuel Rodríguez Delgado, C.Ss.R.

The Juan Neumann Center, Basilica of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Brooklyn

The Juan Neumann Center, sponsored by the Baltimore Province and the Basilica of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Brooklyn, is well known in this New York area. At its beginnings, the name, Juan Neumann Center, was chosen because 98% of immigrants seeking accompaniment and legal aid were

Hispanics. The patronage of St. John Neumann is very appropriate as he came to the United States in 1833, spoke 11 languages, and ministered to the growing Catholic immigrant population in the New World. He later became the archbishop of Philadelphia. He was beatified during the Second Vatican Council on October 13, 1963 and

canonized on June 19, 1977. At his canonization, Pope Saint Paul VI, said of this Redemptorist Saint: “He was close to the sick, he loved to be with the poor, he was a friend of sinners, and now he is the glory of all emigrants”.

For 130 years, the Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Help has served



and is recognized for its service to generations of immigrants of the past, including Irish, Germans, and Norwegians. Today, although mainly Hispanic, the demographic percentage reality has changed with a growing number of other nationalities, for example, Bangladeshi, Russians, Africans, Caribbean Islanders, and more recently, Chinese speakers.

The Juan Neumann Center was first formally established by Fr. Ruskin Piedra, C.Ss.R., in 2003. The main objective of the Center is to assist immigrants to obtain lawful status, avoid deportation, or help achieve family unity and other legal protections and benefits. As a legal, government-approved entity, the Center cannot and never intended to favor one religion over another, has never refused a blessing request, and always assures our clients that the Lord loves and

watches over them.

The Juan Neumann Center's underlying motive is to bring all to God and God's family on earth by showing our care and concern for the immediate needs of our immigrant brothers and sisters. In no way is the material gain for the office a priority, as is, unfortunately, the

reality of other legal representatives.

Over the years, the Center has helped hundreds of migrants from diverse continents and document needs. The walls and ambient of the office are decorated with images of the Blessed Virgin Mary in accord with the patroness of the countries of origin of most of our immigrants.

Father Ruskin Piedra, C.Ss.R., is aided by other Redemptorist confreres: Brother Augustus J. Riviere, C.Ss.R., Father Francis Skelly, C.Ss.R., and Father Karl Esker, C.Ss.R. The office also has a team of professional immigration lawyers, agents, and volunteers.

One of the services offered by the Center is the process of obtaining American citizenship, always respectfully in response to the immigrant's petition. In a prelude

to celebrating Independence Day, July 4th, at the main Hispanic Eucharistic celebration, a group of immigrants who have already succeeded in obtaining American citizenship and others who are in the last stages, were given special recognition and a blessing by Fr. Ruskin Piedra, C.Ss.R.

The vision of the Immigration Center, John Neumann, is that which is reflected in our Constitutions and Statutes, that is,

...the Congregation's mandate to evangelize the poor is directed to the liberation and salvation of the whole human person. The members have the duty of preaching the Gospel explicitly and of showing solidarity with the poor by promoting their fundamental rights to justice and freedom. The means employed must be effective and at the same time, consistent with the Gospel. (Constitution 5)

The thinking of the Church, as projected by Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, has often prioritized the defense of immigrants, expressing that few on the periphery are in greater need of the Church's care and concern than undocumented immigrants.

We can ask why our immigrants would seek American citizenship while being very much identified and enamored of their own countries, customs, and nationalities.

In response to this question, some authors point out what they consider several benefits to

obtaining this citizenship, among them being:

1. Legal Status and Security:

Becoming a U.S. citizen provides a sense of security and protection from deportation. As a citizen, our migrant brothers and sisters have the right to live and work in the United States permanently, and their status is less vulnerable to changes in immigration policies.

2. Right to Vote: U.S. citizens have the right to participate in federal, state, and local elections. By becoming a citizen, immigrants can directly impact the democratic process, helping to shape the policies and leadership of their communities.

3. Travel Benefits: U.S. citizens can travel with a U.S. passport, providing greater ease of travel and access to consular services abroad. Additionally, some countries have visa waivers or special entry privileges for U.S. citizens, making international travel, including

to their native countries, more convenient. Many immigrants have been impeded for many years from reuniting with their families and loved ones in their native country because of their undocumented status.

4. Family Reunification:

Citizenship can facilitate the reunification of families. As U.S. citizens, our migrants can petition for certain family members to immigrate to the United States, including spouses, children, parents, and siblings, potentially reducing the time and bureaucratic hurdles involved in the immigration process.

5. Employment Opportunities:

Citizenship may open additional job opportunities and career prospects. Some employers prefer U.S. citizens due to legal requirements or security clearances. Certain government positions and roles in the military are often restricted to U.S. citizens as well.

6. Social Benefits: As citizens, our

migrants gain access to a range of social benefits and entitlements, including eligibility for federal student aid, scholarships, and government-sponsored healthcare programs like Medicare and Medicaid. Through various social welfare programs, our migrants may also have a stronger safety net in times of financial hardship.

7. Civic Engagement and Rights:

U.S. citizens can actively engage in civic activities, such as serving on juries or running for public office. They also enjoy constitutional rights and protections, such as freedom of speech, religion, and assembly, which are fundamental to American democracy.

Fr. Piedra's thought is notable when he hears the argument "We can't let everyone in!". His response is always, "Well, how about treating them as children of God"?

James Gilmour, C.Ss.R.

Immaculata University Update

Ending the semester at St. John's, and then going back to college for the summer was the last thing I would've expected for my summer ministry. Yet, I'm privileged to have the opportunity to join the team here at Immaculata University's Campus Ministry – Fr. Royce Thomas C.Ss.R., Sr. Laura Downing IHM, and Amanda Bielat – as they power through the summer and prepare

for the upcoming school year. Campus ministry for me always felt like an integral part of our ministry, and often, I think it's overlooked because there is either a lack of ability, motivation, or often resources. This summer I've seen what it takes to run an incredible ministry that creates a lively spiritual home for students. The most important quality for an amazing campus ministry office

is availability, and these past few weeks, even though its summer, students are still coming through our office doors – and we are most definitely here for whatever they need.

A typical day for me starts with morning prayer at the Sisters' over in Gillet Hall, followed by Mass. If I'm giving the reflection that day, I'll stay in the vestibule of the



chapel after mass for feedback from the sisters and then meet with Fr. Royce and Sr. Laura in the office for feedback. At 8:30 I'm usually in the office where some days I'm helping reorganize the office to prepare for remodeling and the upcoming school year, or I'll be at my desk working on the new website or designing a resource book for the semester. Some events that I'll go to with Fr. Royce in the evenings have been the baccalaureate masses for the surrounding schools, or Kairos retreats, or heading to the Shrine in Philly. I even had the opportunity to give a presentation on St. Alphonsus' life, legacy and spirituality to a summer camp of 160 kids preparing for Confirmation.

Besides attending the online Encuentros with the Superior General for the Students of North America, I'm learning the various ways campus ministry hosts summer service trips for students,

on campus events, and plans for the upcoming school year. Recently, the 2023 Nun Run, a fundraiser for the IHM Sisters' retirement home, Camila Hall, brought people to run or walk the 5k loop that weaved through campus. Amanda and I went with the students to Shenandoah, PA where we helped

the sisters there clean and clear out the former school building. We carried thousands of books from the third-floor library down to the basement where others set them up for people to browse and take home whatever they like.

We also hosted a service trip to St. Monica's in South Philadelphia to repaint classrooms in early July. The students had a blast using their creativity to paint the walls in bright colors that will hopefully create a delightful environment for students to learn in the coming school year. During the school year, the IHM sisters have many existing projects that students usually volunteer at ... well, those needs don't stop when the semester ends. One of these projects is the Sustainable Garden, managed by Sr. Susan Cronin, and Camila Hall, the Sisters' retirement home down the street from Immaculata.

A new experience that I discovered this summer were Kairos retreats.

I didn't grow up going to a private Catholic school for middle school and high school, so I never knew what these retreats were and how essential they are for those my age. With Kairos, students can reflect on their relationship with God, family, and friends while allowing them to step back from the demands of higher education. Dropping in on other schools' retreats with Fr. Royce gave me a new perspective on contemplation and how ministry evolves to meet people where they are.

My highlight was the Camp Out that Campus Ministry hosted in late June on back campus where students returned to campus and slept outside. We started with a Vigil Mass celebrated by Father Royce, followed by a night of fun, food, and friends – emphasizing one of our main goals of building community. After our service trip to Shenandoah, we all went to Knoebels, an amusement park nearby, for students to unwind, hop on rides, and grab a bite to eat before coming back to campus.

I've had an incredible opportunity to add my own skills to our incredible team here at Immaculata. I've been given many opportunities to create resources that students can use throughout the school year from the prayers of the faithful for the semester to novena books. Redesigning the website, www.iucampusministry.com, consolidated all the various information sources into one where students could find the calendar of events, register for retreats, find their photos from

Immaculata, continued



masses, service trips, volunteering, and other events that students can simply attend what benefits them, to help the team meet students where they need.

I'm grateful that this summer is allowing me to explore new methods of ministry beyond the usual Redemptorists ministries that I've been exposed to. I hope that this dedication to ministering to those my age expands beyond just Immaculata's campus, that Fr. Royce, Sr. Laura, and Amanda's experience ministering at Immaculata can inspire others in their own ministry, to build bridges to the next generation of Catholics, and maybe, inspire the next generation of Redemptorists and IHM Sisters.

Andrew Tran-Chung

previous events, and find worship sites not on campus. Getting to sit in on planning meetings for the upcoming year, I can say that the team creates community nights,

There are a host of opportunities for ministry here at Campus Ministry and that's just what I'm able to experience during summer.

A Redemptorist History in South Carolina



On July 2, 2023, the Redemptorists completed their 93-year mission to the Diocese of Charleston, South Carolina. Arriving in May 1930, the Redemptorists began serving the rural poor, especially African Americans in Orangeburg. They established St. Joseph's Church for African Americans in Spartanburg in 1940 and served until 1962, leaving the parish because of its lack of growth over those 22 years. They established St. Gerard's in Aiken which continues to serve as a parish on the west side of Aiken. In the 1980s, Bishop Thompson asked the Redemptorists to establish a parish on Hilton Head Island, primarily for the workers who lived on the north end of the Island. With changing tax laws and development of the island, the lower income workers moved

South Carolina History, continued on pg. 11



from the island. Once the church and school of St. Francis by the Sea were built the Redemptorists gave the care of the parish to the Diocese.

In the meantime, with changing conditions in the Orangeburg out missions, a new church on the edge of the city, the Redemptorists returned the pastoral care to the bishop who asked that we provide a community to serve two churches in Sumter to replace the Oblates of Mary Immaculate who were leaving. After 16 years in Sumter, the Redemptorists in 2015, were asked by the bishop to send at least two confreres to Our Lady of the Hills Parish in Columbia. The original community was made up of Fr. John Murray II and Fr. Peter Sousa. We were joined by Fr. Rodney Olive in 2018. At the last quadrennium Fathers Blas Caceres and George Rosario (Majella Vice Province) with Peter Sousa provided the pastoral care of the parish. It has had a continuing

growing Hispanic population and a vibrant English-speaking community.

The Redemptorists also assisted the diocese as the chaplains to the Diocesan Evangelization Team and by helping in neighboring parishes. Fr. Sousa served on the Diocesan Presbyterial Council and the Seminary Admissions Board.

On June 3, 2023, the present ordinary, Bishop Jacques Fabre-Jeune, CS and the previous ordinary, Bishop Robert Guglielmone, celebrated a special Mass that commemorated the 50th anniversary of the parish and the farewell to the Redemptorists. Fathers Blas Caceres, George Rosario, Michael Koncik, John Murray II, John Tizio, Peter Sousa and the two vicar generals of the Diocese Monsignors Anthony Droze and Richard Harris concelebrated with the bishops. It was a bittersweet event but filled with hope. Following

the Mass, over 350 parishioners came together for a festive meal in the gymnasium. All enjoyed the gathering and celebrated the accomplishments that have taken place in the parish since its founding but were saddened at the departure of the Redemptorists.

On Sunday, June 25th, a farewell Mass was presided over by Father Mike Koncik at Corpus Christi Church in Lexington, SC. This was the parish he resided at while he did his prison ministry. He also assisted in the parish. He was assisted by his Redemptorist confreres and a few diocesan priests. The church was full as the members of the parish, Catholic Charities, his prison chaplain colleagues, Knights of Columbus, and the Kairos community gathered to wish him farewell. A reception followed in the parish hall.

Although the planned departure was for June 15th, the Redemptorists were asked to remain until July 2nd. Finally on June 20 Father Bruce Barnett was appointed pastor and Fr. Santiago Guzman was appointed parochial vicar. That final weekend so many people expressed how sorry they were to see the Redemptorists depart. We had touched their lives, helped them grow in their faith, helped them love Our Mother of Perpetual Help, and left them with an experience of our Alphonsian message, "with him there is plentiful redemption."

Peter Sousa, C.Ss.R.



The Redemptorists

— Baltimore Province —

Redemptorists of the Baltimore Province
Holy Redeemer
3112 7th St NE
Washington, DC 20017