

The Redemptorists of the Baltimore Province

Volume 4 // Issue 8 // 9.21.2023

PROVINCIAL PONDERINGS



Fr. John Collins, C.Ss.R.

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Happy September and welcome back to the *Baltimore Beacon* after our annual August hiatus! I hope that summer afforded you time for rest, relaxation, and recreation, along with opportunities to enjoy the company of family and friends in some of summers' great venues: the family vacation, a day at the beach, the ballpark, the golf course, the big cookout, or maybe even the clambake!

Summer gives us all some opportunity to take a "break" from the experience of the rigors of our fast-paced, hectic, and demanding lives and selves.

Summer invites to play and 'chill out,' and to enjoy ourselves, one another, and the beauty of God's creation from the within and without of our lives. Thank God for the graces and blessings of summer!

The words on the picture at top right were painted on a canvas in the breakfast room of a hotel where I had stayed overnight the week after Labor Day. As I was enjoying my free bagel, yogurt, and coffee breakfast, I was struck at how the words captured

so much of the 'end of summer' emotional experience for me, and I suspect, for many of us. Summer's relaxation of the regular schedule and usual order of the day gives way to the return of the very regular 'Monday to Friday' grind! Back to school! Back to work! Back to life with all its demands, responsibilities, meeting schedules, and regular routines!

While the summer season draws to a close in terms of nature, weather, and calendar in this month of September, her graces and blessings thankfully need not come to an end from within our hearts and souls. As men and women of faith, we believe that God is with us in every age and season of our lives. The blessing of God in nature's season of summer, as indeed God blesses us in every season, is a gift for our souls to 'choose life' as we journey through time unto eternity. While on a purely natural level it may feel like a bit of a struggle to say good-bye to Summer and hello to Fall, let us remember that even as the seasons of nature may come and go, the Spirit remains to make us whole and holy. We need both Monday and Summer, (and every day and season!), for the experience of our full humanity.

My hope and prayer for all of us is that we thank God for whatever blessings we have known this summer and bring the grace and good energies of all of them into the "Monday" return to the more regular routines of our lives. As September brings us Indian summer and inaugurates the season of colors and falling leaves, and the season of hearth and harvesting, may summer's blessings linger in us and flow into our experience of being and living. Even as summer ends and Autumn dawns upon us, 'more summer' does not sound too farfetched to me as a person of faith. The Spirit, I believe, inspires what summer teaches



for fullness of life in every season under heaven. A few lessons that stand out in my mind and heart as I ponder today ...

Remember to take a break ... they are not just for summer!

Chill out....so you can become more tuned in!

Spend good and relaxing time with family, friends, and community ... loving and being loved are the most important things in life and to the experience of God.

Make time for play and recreation ... There is more to life than work, however important it may be!

Look up to the sky and out to the sea ... you are held in the palm of God's loving hand!

May the blessing of God in every age and season of our lives draw us ever more into the mystery of God's presence, the abundance of Christ's love, and the grace of their Spirit, now and always.

Peace, blessings, and thanks to all!
Fr. John Collins, C.Ss.R.
Provincial

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Growing up in a flower and gift shop instilled a deep appreciation of creativity and customer service in Rob Purdy, who began his tenure as The Redemptorists new Marketing & Communications Specialist this month.

His Marketing and Communications Specialist position at The Redemptorists will entail producing and managing the Province's digital and traditional communications to promote the Province's mission, values and needs to those within the Province and the broader Redemptorist world. Helping others, especially the poor, was a major attraction for him.

His paternal grandmother opened Purdy's Flower Shop in Newport, Arkansas, in 1931. It became so successful that her husband closed his dental practice to join her in this exciting new endeavor. Rob's father, born in 1940, grew up in the shop. When he married Rosanna, they added a fine gifts section, establishing Purdy's Flowers & Gifts. It quickly became a community hotspot where people came by to browse, shop and catch up with friends and family. Rob and his sister grew up working in the shop.

A voracious reader, Rob developed a love for writing at an early age.



Rob Purdy

When the movie "Fletch" came out in 1985, he set his sights on journalism. After receiving his bachelor's in journalism from the University of Arkansas in 1992, he worked for half a decade at small newspapers across the South. He covered everything from politics, religion, education, sports, entertainment and more. During this time, he not only wrote articles, but developed his design and photography skills.

Upon completing his master's degree in communications from the University of Florida in 1999, he moved to the DC area and embarked upon a career with member-based nonprofits. He served as a communication/marketing professional for various

nonprofits focused on public housing, education, health care, leadership and more.

He left the DC area in 2005 for Raleigh, North Carolina, where he continued working for nonprofits and teaching academic writing part-time at the university level. After a brief stint in Denver in 2009, Rob returned to Arkansas to help his parents with preparation to sell the flower and gift shop. He returned to the DC area in 2011 for eight years, working for nonprofits and as a manager at a few retail outlets such as Macy's and Dollar Tree.

In 2019, his mother's health began to rapidly decline, and, after careful deliberation, he made the choice to move back to Arkansas and provide live-in care for her. When she passed, he and his sister coordinated the estate and selling of the home and the flower shop building. Once this was accomplished, he set his sights on returning to the DC metro region, moving to Vienna, Virginia, in February 2023.

In addition to reading and writing, Rob's hobbies include volunteering (soup kitchens, animal shelters, literacy organizations, etc.), fishing, hiking, camping and cooking.

PARISH MISSION SCHEDULE

- 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

REDEMPORIST PARTNERS IN MISSION SPIRITUALITY COURSE: PART ONE

"Alfonso! Alfonso!" exclaimed four-year-old Nella in a heartwarming blend of innocence and melodic charm often associated with Italian accents. In her voice, there was a purity of emotion spoken with enthusiasm and a sense of wonder. Her shoulder-length black hair, adorned with charming curls, swayed with every step as she dashed straight towards the tomb of St. Alphonsus Liguori and placed her hands on its glass casing as if to give him a hug, instantly filling this sacred space with boundless love.

We had just entered the Basilica of St. Alphonsus Liguori in Pagani, Italy, the last stop of our Redemptorist Spirituality Course, when precious, little Nella punctuated the Course with its final lesson: "Acquire the habit of speaking to God [and St. Alphonsus] as if you were alone with Him, familiarly and with confidence and love, as to the dearest and most loving of friends."

Reflection on the invaluable spiritual legacy that St. Alphonsus bestowed to both our Congregation and the Church is necessary to authentically revitalize our Congregation and enhance the spiritual growth of every individual engaged in our missionary endeavors. For three weeks, through a combination of lectures, workshops, prayer, reflection, and visits, 27 professed Redemptorists from Africa, Asia, and Europe, and I, as a Lay Missionary of



the Most Holy Redeemer of the Baltimore Province, United States, engaged in a deep and meaningful exploration of the spiritual riches imparted by St. Alphonsus and our other Redemptorist Saints and Blesseds. This return to the source from which the Congregation originated was not solely about nostalgic reminiscence of things past and historical facts, but, more importantly, about understanding the underlying spirit and reasons behind those facts so as to further enflame the spirit that is still living.

As a group of 28 participants, we viewed ourselves as an experiment of an international community format, showcasing the global reach and unity of our shared Redemptorist charism. It was fascinating to ponder how through numerous, intricate paths, our lives were ultimately guided into the fold of St. Alphonsus' Family, sharing in its abundance, knowing that

the divine Providence of the Lord had orchestrated this journey. As the trajectory of the Congregation fulfilling its mission in the Church and the path of each individual who becomes a part of it align in their shared journey towards the Lord and in service of the most abandoned, the importance of deepening one's understanding of the inner life and heart of the man whose life profoundly impacts our own is underscored. Our ability to embrace the teachings of St. Alphonsus, to reflect on the nature of the original inspiration, and to integrate them into our daily lives and actions is how we will faithfully continue the purpose of our founder.

Our first day of the Spirituality Course began with a Mass at the Church of St. Alphonsus Maria de Liguori in Rome, the Shrine of Our Mother of Perpetual Help. Fr. Rogério Gomes, our Superior General, presided over the Holy

Continued on pg. 5

REDEMPORIST PARTNERS IN MISSION SPIRITUALITY COURSE, continued

Mass and, except for one, all the General Consultors were also present. Later that week, we had the opportunity to spend a morning visiting with the General Curia and I also had an opportunity to meet Cardinal Joseph Tobin. The warmth and hospitality extended by all at the General House were incredibly heartwarming. I am thankful to my Redemptorist Family in Rome, including the Partners in Mission group of the Hispanic community at the Shrine, for your generous reception and extraordinary kindness.

During our first week, lectures were held at the Accademia Alfonsiana, a pontifical institute specializing in moral theology and the study of St. Alphonsus' teachings and their contemporary relevance. With over 100 published works, St. Alphonsus left us an entire library containing his thoughts, dreams, and the very essence of his character. I cannot adequately convey my appreciation and gratitude to Fr. Alfonso Amarante, Fr. Piotr Chyla, Br. Larry Lujan, Fr. Antonio Marrazzo, and Fr. George Puthenpura, for generously sharing their extensive expertise, allowing us the opportunity to not only carry forward the wisdom of St. Alphonsus into the world and deepen our friendship with St. Alphonsus and all of our Redemptorist Saints and Blessed, but also to forge stronger connections with all who continue to be part of our community today.

While we were in Rome, we also participated in a Papal General Audience. Already filled

with a sense of excitement and anticipation to stand in the presence of the spiritual leader of the Church, there was an unexpected honor in hearing our name announced by a Vatican official, welcoming us as guests. Our sense of thankfulness for such a grace-filled privilege only intensified later in the day when we discovered that the Pope had been admitted to the hospital for surgery immediately after our Papal Audience.

Exploring the depths of the Catacombs of San Callisto, one of the most famous and historically significant catacomb complexes in Rome that span five floors and hold over half a million bodies, evoked a powerful connection to the roots of Christianity and the challenges faced and sacrifices made by many in the name of their beliefs. Before returning, our Redemptorists presided over a Mass in the catacombs, and in this unique setting, profoundly changed how I understand and appreciate our solidarity with the communion of saints. A small number of us continued to the Church of the

Holy Stairs (Scala Sancta) in Rome for what became another spiritually charged experience. This staircase is believed to be that which Jesus ascended during his trial before Pontius Pilate in Jerusalem. The slow and deliberate pace of ascending 28 marble stairs on one's knees instilled a profound sense of humility and connection to our suffering Redeemer. It was as if we were sharing in His trials and tribulations, and this act of devotion also served to unite us with those resting in the Catacombs, as we collectively acknowledged the enduring power of faith amidst adversity.

Departing Rome, we set out on a bus journey heading south, towards the outskirts of Naples. Our destination was the Redemptorist mother house in Ciorani, where we were privileged to spend two weeks.

To be continued in the October edition of *The Baltimore Beacon*.

Lucy Burich McNamara Lay Missionary of the Most Holy Redeemer, Baltimore Province



REDEMPTORIST NUNS ASSOCIATE'S RENEWAL OF COMMITMENT

A joyful noise was raised to the heavens when four women renewed the commitment as Redemptoristine Associates on September 10, 2023. This happened at the celebration of the Eucharist presided over by Fr. Provincial John Collins, C.Ss.R.

The chapel in the Beacon
Carmelite Monastery of the
Incarnation, where the 'Red
Nuns' reside, was festooned with
sunflowers. Prioress, Sr. Moira
Quinn, gave a welcome before
Mass started and said, "Just as
sunflowers turn their faces to
follow the sun throughout the
day, so our Associates follow the
Beloved Son."

At this Mass Jeannie, Marguerite, Carole and Angela renewed their commitment to follow the Redeemer, faithfully and generously as they strive, like sunflowers, to follow Christ in their daily lives, who is the light of their faith, the strength of their charity and the source of their hope. May God bless them and the other Associates who were unable to attend today's Mass. May God bless you all." And the assembly responded, "Amen."



During the Mass, each Associate participated in either proclaiming a reading, singing the Responsorial Psalm or leading the Prayer of the Faithful. After Fr. John's right-on-point homily about forgiveness and talking through our concerns with one another, the Associates renewed their commitment for another year.

After Mass, we went to the community room for refreshments

and chatted with Fr. John and the ladies over coffee and cakes. Before they left, each Associate received a sunflower as a remembrance of the day.

We thank our Associates for their faithfulness, friendship and the inspiration they are to us, their families, their local communities and the church. May they always be like sunflowers following, adoringly, the Beloved Son.

UPCOMING DATES

EPC Meetings

2023

October 16-20 November 7-8 December 5-6

2024

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

"COME & PRAY" WEEKEND

"Come and Pray" Weekend September 8-9-10 Ephrata, Pa. St. Clement Mission House and St. Peter the Apostle Church/Shrine of St. John Neumann, C.Ss.R., Philadelphia, Pa.

It was Friday, September 8, 2023, the feast of the Birthday of Our Blessed Mother that eight young men gathered at our Guest House in Ephrata, Pa., for our 'Come and Pray" weekend. Five of the men; Darren, Steven, Michael, Alan and Ziping arrived by car from our parish, Basilica of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Brooklyn, New York. They are part of the Chinese community there, are involved in the youth ministry and work alongside Fr. Song You, C.Ss.R. who is associate pastor. Of the other three, Johua flew in from Florida, Aaron drove from Ohio and Tuan flew in from Texas.

We had ideal weather as our weekend got underway. We always try and have a Redemptorist brother or priest speak to our candidates on Friday evening. So, after a sumptuous dinner of pizza and soda, Fr. Ed Faliskie spoke to our candidates at 7:00 p.m. Fr. Ed just recently arrived to the Redemptorist community as Rector. The rectory houses the parish priests and also our elder confreres in need of assisted living. The Redemptorist community consists of 10; three priests assigned to the parish and seven Redemptorists in need of assisted living.

In his vocation story, Fr. Ed shared about growing up in a coal mining

town in Pennsylvania and his introduction to the Redemptorists through our former Retreat House in Tobyhanna, Pa., where he made men's retreats with his dad. From there he made inquiry into the Redemptorists and eventually entered our pre-novitiate program. His journey continued with novitiate and his profession of temporary vows. In time he made

before taking a further step in their discernment. You may find out in entering the pre-novitiate program that this is where God wants you to be. You may also discover this in not your calling from God. Fr. Ed told them that he was not sure when he entered if this was his vocation, but he had to give it a try and find out. Otherwise, he said it would have always gnawed at him



his Perpetual Profession, Diaconate Ordination and Ordination to Priesthood. Fr. Ed shared the joys and challenges of community life as well as his ministry in the inner city, his work as Vocation Director and his missionary labors in the Caribbean, especially in St. Lucia. Following his story and during our question/answer period, many were grateful to Fr. Ed for encouraging them not be afraid to see if this calling is for them. He told them that you do not have to have it all figured out in your mind

during his life for not giving it a chance.

Our "Come and Pray" weekend centers around prayer and quiet time for reflection. On Friday we closed out the day with Night Prayer in the Redemptorist house chapel. The men are free after prayer to get together back in the Guest House for conversation or quiet reflection. Saturday morning brings us back to the house chapel for Mass at 7:30 followed by breakfast in the

Continued on pg. 8

"COME & PRAY" WEEKEND, continued

Guest House. At 9:15 Fr. Denis and Fr. Ed did a role play for our eight candidates that centered on the discernment process. Through the role play we stress the need of a good spiritual director and also what we call the Four A's in Discernment. They are AWARE in your life that the Holy Spirit is at work within you. ARTICULATE through parents, spiritual director, friends what you are feeling. ACCEPT that discernment is a process and takes time. ACT with the willingness to give it a try and see if this is God's call.

Saturday began with Morning Mass in the house chapel and during the day time for Holy Hour, Rosary at the Grotto, individual interviews with the candidates, dinner at an Amish restaurant and Evening Prayer in house chapel. On Sunday we went to the 7:30 a.m. parish Mass at Our Mother of Perpetual Help and Fr. Bob Harrison called on the parishioners to pray for these men, for Redemptorist vocations

and for an increase of vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Following our breakfast we were off to Philadelphia and the Shrine of St. John Neumann, C.Ss.R. Our candidates had the opportunity to visit the beautiful upper church, to kneel in prayer before the body of our Redemptorist Saint and hear a bit of his life story from his beginnings in what is now the Czech-Republic to his setting foot in New York and his ordination to the priesthood, to his ministry in western New York and his eventual acceptance into the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer (Redemptorists). The museum that we walked through with our candidates unfolds the story of his life, his untiring ministry as diocesan priest, as Redemptorist missionary and as Fourth Bishop of Philadelphia. His most beautiful motto at his ordination: "Give me Holiness."

Departure time came upon us. There were car rides back to Brooklyn and Ohio and dropoffs at the airport for Texas and Florida. We prayed the powerful intercession of St. John Neumann for these men of the 21st century who are discerning a Redemptorist vocation. Let us all continue to pray for them and for many others to hear the call of Jesus.

On a separate note, Fr. Peter Linh Nguyen is presently at home in Vietnam. His dad, Lai, passed away on Wednesday, September 6, after almost a six-year long battle with cancer. His father was buried on Saturday, September 9. May he Rest In Peace!!! Let our prayers be for his father, his mother, his three sisters, his brother and for Fr. Peter Linh.

Christ, the Redeemer, pray for us
Our Mother of Perpetual Help,
pray for us.
St. John Neumann, C.Ss.R.,
pray for us.
May it be so!
Fr. Denis Sweeney, C.Ss.R.



MISSION TO VIETNAM

It was so wonderful to be home again, after two months away on Mission to the Montagnard in the Highlands of Vietnam. I feel exhausted because of constant travelling with the Viet Toc team to reach remote regions where our tribal peoples live, under the care of teams of local priests and religious communities. Only by being there with our people are we able to understand their living conditions and at the same time effectively support our teams to best meet the needs of the suffering and most abandoned. Being harassed and stopped by regional police on the one hand caused a lot of stress, but on the other hand helped us to be more empathized with our people who have to put up with discrimination and even persecution in subtle ways every day.

Twenty-five years of the founding of our Viet Toc Foundation marks the blessings of the vocation to serve the Tribal people in 30 regions of the five provinces of Vietnam. We provide clean water, medicine (especially for the leper colonies), food, and homes; we help build chapels. Most especially, we provide





education by way of scholarships so younger generations can stand on their own two feet, and able to give back. Living testimonies of many men and women who once received the scholarships and who now become priests, religious, doctors, nurses, teachers, and other professionals inspire communities, especially younger generations, with hope and faith so they can dare to dream, to move forward, to build a new future, in spite of discrimination and even persecution. They know they are not alone. The grace of God, the love and sacrifice of many will empower them to overcome discrimination and even persecution and try their best to make their dreams come true, not only for themselves but also for others.

I give thanks to God for our Redemptorist charism of serving the poor and most abandoned. I thank the Province for allowing me to be full-time on Mission, and even support us financially. I appreciate so much my Annapolis community who has been very caring and supportive in many ways. I thank many of my Redemptorist brothers who have been very affirming with their love and prayers. And I thank so many who have been part of this mission with your prayers and loving support.

Twice a year, the team and I go back to Vietnam for about three months. The rest of the year we go to different regions in the States, Canada, Hong Kong and Australia, to preach Mission Appeals, to organize events to promote our Mission for support.

This is God's Work, this is our Redemptorist mission, this mission is for our most forgotten and abandoned Montagnard sisters and brothers in the Highlands who are still bearing the brutal effect of the War.

Please continue to pray for us and for our suffering people.

Thank you and may God bless you. Fr Vang Công Trần, C.Ss.R.



To Activate Our Ecological Self To Heal Our Planet, Our Common Home

You're invited to join us for a day of inquiry and dialogue on the state of our planet, offering global perspectives informed by United Nations initiatives, possibilities for engagement inspired by the Laudato Si' Action Platform, and wisdom of gelogian Thomas Berry for an empowering ecological spirituality.

GUESTANIMATORS

Brother Kevin Cawley, CFC & Sister Kathleen Deignan, CND
Leaders of the Deignan Institute for Earth
and Spirit at Iona University, New Rochelle, NY

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2003
9:00 a.m. - Hospitality • 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. - Program
Redemptorist Provincial Residence

Washington, DC 2001

RSVP by Sunday, Sept. 24, 2023 to register for in-person or virtual attendance to: Fr. Francis Gargani, CSsR francescogcssr@yahoo.com • (718) 644-5127

Sponsored by the Redemptorist Congregation

Fr. Glanville Ignatius Joseph, C.Ss.R.

Glanville Ignatius Joseph, C.Ss.R., a member of the St. Alphonsus Villa community in New Smyrna Beach, Florida, died, age 71 and nine months.

Born in St. John, Antigua, January 5, 1952, to Alexis Ignatius Joseph and Mary (Allen), he was baptized in the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Antigua, where he also received the sacrament of confirmation.

As a boy he attended the Foundation Mixed School and for high school, St. Joseph's Academy in St. John's, conducted by the Christian Brothers. He was always close to the Church, serving as typist to Bishop Antoon Demets, C.Ss.R., even as a high schooler.

After two years of college at University College Galway, Ireland (1977-1979), he entered Kimmage Manor Seminary in Dublin (Holy Ghost Missionary College conducted by the Spiritans) with the idea that he be destined for service in Trinidad. He enrolled from 1980 to 1983.



However, he decided to enter the Redemptorists and was received into the order at St. Joseph Monastery, Dundalk, Ireland, where he made his first profession on September 13, 1980.

He received minor orders in Dominica at the hands of Bishop Arnold Boghaert, C.Ss.R. and was ordained to the diaconate on Trinidad, May 20, 1984, by Archbishop Anthony Pantin, C.Ss.P. He was ordained to the presbyterate on July 1, 1984, in Dominica by Bishop Boghaert.

Father Joseph's assignments thereafter are as follows: St. Joseph (1984-1985); Sts. Peter and Paul,

Calihaut (pastor, 1985-1986); St. Joseph (1986-1987; pastor, 1987-1992); Our Lady of the Assumption, Wesley, Dominica (pastor, 1992-1993); Our Lady of Fatima, Newtown, Dominica (rector and pastor, 1993-2002); Our Lady of the Assumption, Vieux Fort, St. Lucia (pastor, 2002-2005). Between September 2005 and June 2006, Father Joseph went on sabbatical at Marianella, Dublin, and Sangre De Cristo Center in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Upon his return to the Caribbean, he was stationed at St. Clement House, Belfast, Dominica (2006-2008); Holy Redeemer Retreat House, Eggleston, Dominica (2008-2009); St. Theresa, Barataria (rector, February 2010-); St. Clement House, Belfast, Dominica (2013-; rector, 2015, 2017, 2018); St. Alphonsus Villa, New Smyrna Beach, Florida (2020-2023).

One of Father Joseph's stand out ministries was continuous involvement with "Engage Encounter," a marriage preparation program. He also thrived doing mission preaching and retreat ministry.

GOT NEWS?

Email Rob Purdy, Marketing and Communications Specialist, with articles and photographs at rpurdy@redemptorists.net.

MISSION ADVANCEMENT

Thank you for your continued interest, investment, and prayers in and for The Redemptorists. If you would like to share this newsletter with your wider community, please email Terrie Montminy, Director of Mission Advancement, at tmontminy@redemptorists.net, to get your friends and family added to our email list!



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