



The Baltimore Beacon

The Redemptorists of the Baltimore Province

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Provincial Ponderings



Dear Brothers and Sisters:

May the Lord give you peace and love in this joyous Christmas Season!

Come the Spring of 2023, we will have a new Provincial Superior. Before he takes over the responsibility of guiding The Redemptorists of the Baltimore Province, I am writing you this last pastoral letter. I look back with gratitude at the last eight years, which I spent with you as your companion on our journey in faith. Like any other journey, it had its ups and downs. There were moments of joy when God's presence filled us with hope. There were moments of sadness when you reached out to me for prayers for yourself, for those you love, and especially for those you lost. There were moments when I needed you, and many offered me words of encouragement, prayer, and support. Thank You!

It is true, there were difficult moments that stand out. I think about Hurricane Maria in Dominica in 2015, the volcanic eruption that destroyed our three missions in St. Vincent in 2021, and of course, the two years of isolation during the pandemic. The faces of despair are etched in my heart forever. I remember the many who joined together with me to provide help and create hope! Together, we rebuilt, restored, and witnessed the power of sacrificial love for our neighbors in need.

I give thanks for all of you who assisted us in providing for the special needs of our sick and retired priests. We were able to buy new medical beds and new mattresses, stand-up lifts, build a wheelchair ramp, and buy new

wheelchairs for our Redemptorists with special needs. Your donations allowed us to buy a Sprinter Van and to adapt it so that our priests and brothers can travel to gatherings with their confreres. Additionally, there have been renovations of showers, purchase of special bathtubs, Hoyer lifts - all to assist the nursing staff in providing comfort to the men in their care. These special purchases were not covered by medical insurance, and without you they would not have been possible.

We helped our young people grow in their faith with support to our Catholic Schools, youth retreats at San Alfonso Retreat House in Long Branch, Summer Camps in Grenada, and special support for those attending the World Youth Day with the Holy Father.

While looking back, I can say that I enjoyed this journey together with all of you. When fellow passengers are generous and inspired, the journey is not only pleasant but even memorable. There are so many memories and experiences which can never be forgotten, and I will treasure them in my heart. Each one of you has contributed directly as a collaborator in the mission . . . living an exemplary life of faith in action. Therefore, whenever I remember these wonderful experiences of my life, I will joyfully pray for you.

St. Paul, when in prison for his witness to Christ, wrote to the Philippians, "I give thanks to my God each time I remember you, and when I pray for you, I pray with joy" (Phil 1:3). The apostle is not worried about his present situation, but he thanks God for the wonderful community of Philippi who had been concerned about his well-being. St. Paul thanks those who helped him in his missionary journey to share the Good News. For the last eight years, you have accompanied me and many Redemptorists on our missionary journey. You have helped us in our work of spreading the Gospel. Thank you!

Christmas is about Peace! There is joy where there is peace. We follow Christ in our life. Peace and joy in the Holy Spirit are the gifts given to us by the

Redeemer. During these last eight years I have witnessed a lot of joy in our Church. We find joy in our faith and peace in this multi-cultural, multi-lingual Church. This is the gift we should thank God for; we should hold on to; and, we must keep our compass pointing toward . . . unity and mission!

We ask God to send us an able shepherd! Now, my dear friends, I am about to leave my responsibilities to my successor. I ask you to join me in prayer asking the Holy Spirit to guide our election process in choosing the right person who will serve humbly in the image of the Holy Redeemer who Himself, though divine, emptied Himself of His divinity in order to serve others.

Let us always remember, that it is God who sends us pastors and shepherds. God gave us the great High Priest in His own Son, born on Christmas Day, who saved us through his blood, and takes us closer to His Father.

God has also sent His people good and able servants. Following the teachings of our founder, Saint Alphonsus Liguori, I return to the work of the Lord, being a good Samaritan, a servant spreading the Gospel and bringing the Good News to the most needy among us. Finally, my dear people, do not forget to pray for me. I have done whatever was possible in the given situation for the well-being of the whole Church. You helped me with your prayers and your sacrificial offerings to change the world and make it better. May the Lord of Mercies reward us for all the work we have done together. Like St. John Neumann, C.Ss.R., today we can say "As Christ has His work, we too have ours; as He rejoiced to do His work, we must rejoice in ours also."

May Mary, the Mother of Perpetual Help and of the Most Holy Redeemer, intercede for you and favor you with graces and blessings all the days of your life. Merry Christmas!

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

Upcoming 2022/2023 Dates

Wednesday, January 18 - Thursday, January 19, EPC Meeting

Wednesday, February 8 - Thursday, February 9, EPC Meeting

Monday, February 13 - Wednesday, February 15, 2023: Province Retreat (Southeast Region) at St. Alphonsus Villa; New Smyrna Beach, FL. Anthony Gittins, CSSp, is the retreat director and the theme will be: "Missionary Discipleship."

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 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 & 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, in either Spanish or English, at redemptorists.net.

• Weekly Video reflections on the upcoming Sunday readings (Cycle A) may be found on Facebook: facebook.com/RedemptoristsBaltimore

or YouTube: youtube.com/BaltRedemptorists. These videos are released each Wednesday.

Parish Mission Schedule

- Jan. 19-26, 2023: Sacred Heart in New Smyrna Beach, FL
- Jan. 21-25, 2023: St. Patrick Catholic Church, Sarasota, FL
- Feb. 2 -9, 2023: St. Vincent de Paul in Holiday, FL
- Feb. 9-16, 2023: St. Martha in Sarasota, FL
- Feb. 11-15, 2023: Resurrection Catholic Church, Allenton, WI
- Feb. 23-Mar. 2, 2023: St. Columba in Hopewell Junction, NY
- Feb. 25-March 1, 2023: St. Edmund Catholic Church, Lafayette, LA
- March 2-9, 2023: St. Mary in Dumont, NJ
- March 4-8, 2023: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church, Lafayette, LA
- March 11-15, 2023: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church, Shrub Oak, NY
- March 23-30, 2023: St. Bede in Williamsburg, VA
- March 25-29, 2023: St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, The Villages, FL
- April 1-4, 2023: Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church, Rock Lake, ND
- 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

Convocation, San Alfonso Retreat House, Long Branch, NJ



A huge thanks to all who attended Convocation at San Alfonso November 29-December 1. There were a total of 82 confreres present during the week and on

Wednesday we were blessed to have seven seminarians from the Bronx and four Partners in Mission from Bethpage, NY. From the opening retreat to our festive

dinner to the Provincial Candidates presentations it was a great time of fellowship and prayer.

Paul Borowski, C.Ss.R.

Updates from Visitation, Philadelphia, PA



Visitation in Philadelphia, PA, celebrated The Virgin of Divine Providence, the Patroness of Puerto Rico, on November 17. A special thank you to Fr. Russ Piedra who preached the homily. We also recognized Maria Turcios, a Honduran immigrant, who started her own sewing factory that employs immigrants.

*Francis Mulvaney,
C.Ss.R.*



Rededication of Sandy Bay Catholic Church, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines



Sandy Bay Catholic Church opened and was rededicated under the patronage of Our Lady of Perpetual Help! The celebration was held on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary, December 8, 2022.

Heartfelt gratitude is warmly expressed to all who have helped to make the reconstruction of this Church in Sandy Bay possible. As we open the doors, under the patronage of Mary, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, many persons were responsible for

seeing this day happen. Thank you first to our loving God, with whom all things are possible. To our Blessed Mother, particularly under the title of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, for answering countless prayers in the process. To Bishop Gerard County, C.S.Sp., for his unwavering support and commitment to the work at hand. To the Redemptorists of the Baltimore Province, with special mention to Father Paul Borowski, C.Ss.R. Provincial Superior, for his ongoing support and interest in the



community here, and for approving grants that have helped to fund the project. To so many benefactors who have contributed and offered prayers and support for the ministry of

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Sandy Bay Catholic Church, Continued

rebuilding. To all who have worked on the church: parishioners, young men of the community, John Ballantyne, Mr. Harry, Lambert “Cuthbert” Charlemagne from Saint Lucia, members of the Missionaries of the Poor – Brother Anthony and Brother Francis – and all who have had a hand in this wonderful gift we celebrate and share today. To the ladies who have decorated and helped to prepare the church for Mass, and to Brother Manoj of the Missionaries of the Poor

for the program and music to enhance our celebration. Thank you to all who have responded to the call of God to rebuild this church.

*Kevin Murray,
C.Ss.R.*



St. Clement Mission House, Ephrata, PA



Frs. Kevin Moley, Arthur Tuttle, and Gordon Cannoles pictured above receiving their Covid booster shots. All men received boosters at the location recently.

St. Clement Mission House is a House for Redemptorist Priests and Brothers who need some care and assistance in their living. When I arrived as Superior of St. Clement Mission House in 2019, we had 14 Redemptorist Priests in the community, nine of whom needed care and assistance in their living. The other five needed no assistance.

I, Fr. Kevin Moley, was appointed the Superior of the community. Fr. John

Murray was appointed the Pastor of Our Mother of Perpetual Help Parish in Ephrata, PA, and Fr. Jim Szobonya, the Vicar of the Parish.

Fr. John Tizio was appointed the Vicar of St. James Parish in Lititz, PA. Fr. Jim O’Blaney was the Pastor of the Parish of St. James for over 20 years. Fr. Ed Faliskie took care of all the properties of St. Clement and helped in the Parish of Our Mother of Perpetual Help.

Because of the needs of the Province, Fr. John Tizio was assigned as Pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in New Smyrna Beach, FL, and Fr. Ed Faliskie was assigned to San Alfonso Retreat House in Long Branch, NJ.

Fr. Tizio and Fr. Faliskie were two great losses for our community.

During these three years, three of our men who lived at St. Clement have gone to their Eternal Reward: Frs. Jim

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Geiger, the brother of Fr. Bill Geiger, who worked many years at Our Mother of Perpetual Help Parish; Fr. Arthur Gildea, the former Pastor who officiated at the building of the church and school hall of Our Mother of Perpetual Help; and Fr. Pat McGarrity, the former Pastor of Our Mother of Perpetual Help Parish. All three men are buried here at St. Clement Mission House Cemetery. They were wonderful Redemptorist priests and confreres. We miss them very much. May they bless us from heaven.

We welcomed Fr. Jim Cascione to St. Clement Mission House this year to receive some care and assistance in his living here.

As a community we come together two times every day for prayer and for Mass together. We also come together for breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

We have been blessed by a terrific staff who take care of the men in a very wonderful way. We are very blessed by Sisters Serafina and Joela who care for the medical care and needs of our men. We are blessed by a wonderful staff including Rita, Anne, Shirley and Shawn who take care of the food, cleaning, secretarial, and maintenance and other needs of our community. We are blessed by a staff who love our men, and give of their lives for our men, and are always willing to do more than they have to. They are truly our

family. We are very fortunate in having them.

We do realize that we are getting older and having more difficulties every day, so we thank God for the wonderful help and the goodness of the people who serve us.

Even though some of our staff got Covid, none of our confreres did. That is a great blessing knowing the age of our men! We thank God for the generosity of our Province and benefactors for the support and care of our confreres.

Kevin Moley, C.Ss.R.

St. John Neumann Residence, Timonium, MD

Time once more for the healthcare sector to give a shout-out to our confreres. This month, I'd like to concentrate on three individuals of the St. John Neumann Residence who go a long way to make our liturgical celebrations particularly beautiful and inspirational.

Two of them work together in tandem with each other. Fr. Gerry Brinkmann seems to be the go-getter as far as coming up with the hymns appropriate to the day's liturgy. Gerry will make sure that he's in the Chapel area early so that he can canvass the crowd for any suggestions. If no one has anything to offer, he'll rely on the list of "oldies but goodies." Fr. Gerry's partner is an accomplished musician that is hindered by a recent stroke. Fr. Arthur Wendel used to tickle the ivories and bellow out the hymns himself. Now, he cannot coordinate

his hands to play the piano/organ, though he certainly can read the music and lead the community in singing. Between the two of them, Fr. Gerry and Fr. Arthur, they are the basis of singing the hymns. The rest of the community will follow their lead and the finished product gives God great glory. St. Augustine said, "The one who sings, prays twice."

My other choice for good liturgy is Fr. John Murray. Due to his unfortunate accident at a West End boardwalk, Fr. John is effectively paralyzed from the waist down. So, he doubly utilizes all from the waist above. Fr. John loves Holy Scripture and reads voraciously any article that brings out the meaning of the day's scripture readings. Not only that, but he will also volunteer many times a week to present the Homily at Mass. His exposition of the readings is very clear. He'll give the

background to the scripture reading; he'll then indicate possible avenues of approach to our community's application of those readings. Fr. John will delve deeply into his computer to find the best stories and the best applications for our confreres. Though there be more than two of our community that tend to "zone out" during our liturgies, when Fr. John is presenting, all are awake and attentive. I am particularly impressed with Fr. John's zeal as a missionary to prepare weekly sessions of Bible Studies, which he will then use Zoom to host a group of interested parishioners in Brooklyn, NY.

The zeal of these three confreres is admirable. Their motive is to be the best Redemptorist Missionary as possible given their situation.

John Harrison, C.Ss.R.

St. Alphonsus Villa, New Smyrna Beach, FL



The Villa recently weathered a hurricane and heavy rains. This is the Indian River coming over the sidewalk. No damage was done to the house.

The confreres of St. Alphonsus Villa, New Smyrna Beach, FL, recently went out to Sacred Heart School to participate in All Souls Day events, including a Living Saints Museum, pictured below.



In Memoriam, Eddie Gray, C.Ss.R.



Eddie Gray, C.Ss.R., was a Missionary of Hope who represented the best of a Vice-Province. Fr. Gray was stationed in almost all the most famous missions in the former Vice-Province of Richmond. He touched many of these important pastoral centers with his flare for humor, simplicity, a livable (Alphonsian) spirituality, and his deep humility before the mercy and love of God.

Fr. Eddie was a priest for the common person and perhaps that is why he flourished among some of the most rural and marginalized communities in the South. His ministry spanned the decades of much change in our country. From the days of rural evangelization to the challenges and promises of the Civil Rights' Movement, to the Northern

Immigration from the North to the South and the Formation and Education needed after Vatican II, Fr. Eddie worked at his posts with kindness, charity, and always a smile and humor. Visit any place where he served, and you will hear the same remarks about his ministry and personality. A parishioner at our parish here in North Carolina texted these words to me after hearing of Fr. Eddie's passing:

"Joe and I have fond memories of Fr. Gray; he always gave away what he received, his contagious smile, his socks held up with rubber bands, a shared favorite NFL team (the Patriots) and mostly, as you said, his tremendous humility. Fr. Gray was a person, when you met him, you think, 'that's the kind of person I want to try and be.'"

Fr. Eddie was so humble that he enjoyed us calling his time as Vice Provincial the "Reign of Terror." It was anything but.

Most of us who knew him have wonderful and sweet memories of our

kind confrere. He was a community man, a faithful priest, a hard worker, a levelheaded superior and pastor; and a Redemptorist to the end. I happen to know that his favorite movie was "Caddyshack," and I often joked with him about that fact. He loved happy hours with confreres like Fr. James Geiger, (It's Five O'clock Somewhere!) and the joys of community life. In my last days with him before I left New Smyrna Beach, I had the blessing of sharing prayer, happy hours, golf, and many smiles with him, Archbishop Ed Gilbert, and the Villa community. It was some of the happiest moments in my Redemptorist life and a time I will always cherish.

Fr. Eddie Gray was at the heart of it all and I will never forget him. I include a photo I took of them at one of our favorite golf venues because it captures our competitive encounters, the fun of enjoying God's simple pleasures, the blessings of gospel friendship, and the treasure that is life as a Redemptorist. As Fr. Al Sieradski used to say, "All this and heaven too." Rest in peace, Fr. Eddie!

Jerome Chavarria, C.Ss.R.

In Memoriam, Frank Sullivan, C.Ss.R.



Frank was a creative, zealous Redemptorist confrere and priest. He had a great voice. He was a wonderful preacher and had a great laugh. He loved people and people loved him. Frank was a strong man coming from his Irish roots. He defended the church, the Congregation, our ministry. There were several episodes that stand out during our time in Brazil together.

Adjacent to our sacristy in a small two-room setup which became our radio station "Radio Antonia" which was run in coordination with "Radio Paranagua," we took turns every week on the radio for 15 minutes with a message of Evangelization preaching the Lord. One day, one of the local politicians without our knowing it got on the radio for his personal political campaign. Frank confronted him and in no short terms let him know that this was not acceptable as our radio

did not permit this. This was quite a courageous thing to do.

There was another confrontation with the mayor of the town. Our province was building a new residence next to the church which was on a small hill overlooking the bay. It was really a beautiful construction going up. Being on a hill, this demanded a protecting wall on the street below so that the whole thing would not collapse. The architect had brought in Spanish stone masons to construct the granite wall. Frank had gone down to the town hall to get the necessary permits. This was all approved. We of course would widen the street. At the end of this retaining wall there was an older wall around the church hill. The town did not appreciate what was being done until our retaining wall was complete. They then wanted to knock down several feet of the new wall. Sully then said "No, unless you bring back the Spanish stonemasons, there is no way will we do this." They refused to do so. As a result, a major battle began with the mayor. The wall still stands as it was.

Another episode was with the patronal feast of our Lady of Pilar on August 15. This was a huge affair. The whole city was involved, a novena, prayer, eucharist celebration, a festival, and then a prayerful procession carrying the statue of Our Lady through the town with thousands of people. This was a major celebration for the town and for the parish. The sisters had been

decorating the church all year, every week, but a group of "ladies" wanted to run the show. Frank was insistent that the nuns who worked all year be on this committee, but the madams wanted no part of them. This caused a great conflict. The sisters did the decorations for the feast.

Another time with regards to the procession, there was almost a battle with people who wanted to carry the "andor" the Image of the Virgin of Pilar on a special portable shrine. This was a prestigious honor. At the end of the procession there was almost a fight on the steps leading up to the church of people who wanted the honor of carrying the virgin. A disgrace! The following year we decided to put the image on the back of a pickup truck to avoid any future commotions. That year there was almost a riot because these so-called devotees wanted to carry the image. They wanted to rip the image of the Blessed Mother off the pickup. Most of these "devotees" were not real church goers but appeared only on the patronal feast. Frank faced the crowd down. It was stressful and challenging for Frank. Frank was close to the people, as we had a community of really dedicated and committed parishioners. Antonina was a city, with deep superstition, voodoo, and serious evangelicals that hated the Catholic faith, a real missionary place. I share all this with you to show a little of who Frank was.

Clem Krug, C.Ss.R.



The Redemptorists
— Baltimore Province —

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