



# The Baltimore Beacon

The Redemptorists of the Baltimore Province

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## Provincial Ponderings



Dear Brothers and Sisters:

May brings with it many experiences of life that are full of meaning and cause for celebration in its special occasions and events that bring people together to celebrate family, faith, achievement, and the goodness of those whose love and kindness has helped us become the person we are. This month I have already been to a First Communion, have been invited to two of my nieces' graduations, and have celebrated my first Mother's Day since my mother's death about a year ago. And perhaps like you and countless others, I am also looking forward to Memorial Day and to the 'unofficial' beginning of summer!

Reflecting on these May experiences has helped me to appreciate the reality of change and transition in all our lives. At the First Communion, joyous and wonderful as it was to be sure, little Joe's mother said, "It seems like it was just yesterday that he was born, and we were bringing him home." My sister Helen's comment, "Oh gosh, I can't believe Carolyn is graduating from college, I will never forget her first day of school," echoed a similar sentiment. Both comments brought home to me that even happy and joyous occasions are also times of change and transition. The infant

has become the young child, and the young child has become the college graduate going into the world!

Mother's Day this year was also the first anniversary of my "Ma's" death. It was a tender day of grateful and loving remembering with my siblings, our hearts well aware of how the loss of our mother has been a huge transition for all of us. And even though Memorial Day transitions us from spring into summer with cookouts, pool parties, and beach trips, it is also a holiday when we celebrate and honor the memory of those who lost their lives in service to the country for our freedoms and our future as a nation. We fittingly honor their service and sacrifice with parades and grateful acknowledgement. Who of us hasn't known change and transition in our life through the death of a loved one?

My reflecting on the reality of change this month has helped me to become more conscious that I am in the midst of my own transition in my new ministry as Provincial. I began this ministry on March 13 after having served in retreat ministry at San Alfonso Retreat House for seven and a half years. The change from retreat work to the ministry of leadership has involved me having to end my ministry as retreat director, clean up, pack up, and move to my new home and office in Washington, D.C. While I am nowhere near being settled in, and often feel 'betwixt and between' being anxious and overwhelmed on the one hand, while energized and excited on the other in this new place of home and ministry, I have been busy learning more about the many responsibilities of my new assignment and am gradually coming to appreciate more fully all that is involved in doing it well and with due diligence.

These past few months of my own life have taught me a thing or two about

change and transition. I share them with you with a hope and a prayer that they may be of some help to you in whatever transition you are in within your own life. I have come to appreciate that:

- 1. Transitions take time...**so be patient in whatever transitions you are facing in your life.
- 2. Transitions need talk...**the more I speak about my experience of change, the freer I am to embrace it and not be overwhelmed by it.
- 3. Transitions need truth...**transitions are not easy, sometimes challenging, and often difficult, and this reality, when present, needs to be owned rather than denied or sugar coated.
- 4. Transitions need tenderness...**the inner dispositions of kindness, compassion, and forgiveness towards self and others quell the rough edges that surface within us in times of transition.
- 5. Transitions need trust...**God who has seen us through our past transitions is no less present to us in the ones we are in right now.

Change does not just happen in May! Welcomed or unwelcomed, change is a constant throughout every age and season of our lives. As a people of faith may we not fear it, but rather embrace our transitions with hope and trust in the goodness of God who is with us wherever we go.

Blessings and all the best to you in your transitions and many thanks for your prayers and support of our community. May our Mother of Perpetual Help bring us hope and courage to be grateful for all that has been and hopeful for all that is yet to be!

*John Collins, C.Ss.R.  
Provincial Superior of the Redemptorists  
of the Baltimore Province*

## Upcoming 2022/2023 Dates

**Tuesday, May 30 - Thursday, June 1, 2023:** Province Retreat at San Alfonso Retreat House; Long Branch, NJ, Monsignor Stephen Bosso is the retreat director

**Saturday, July 15, 2023, at 11 a.m.** Province Jubilee Celebration: Mass and Luncheon at Sacred Heart of Jesus; Baltimore, MD

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

## Communications Updates

- Daily Audio Podcasts on the readings of the day may be found at [www.redemptorists.net](http://www.redemptorists.net) in either Spanish or English.

- Weekly Video reflections on the upcoming Sunday readings (Cycle A) may be

found on Facebook: [facebook.com/RedemptoristsBaltimore](https://facebook.com/RedemptoristsBaltimore) or YouTube: [youtube.com/BaltRedemptorists](https://youtube.com/BaltRedemptorists) or on our web site at [www.redemptorists.net](http://www.redemptorists.net) These videos are released each Wednesday.

- “Praying with the Icon of Our Mother of Perpetual Help” will air on June 17.

## Parish Mission Schedule

- June 3-7, 2023: Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Staten Island, NY
- June 11-17, 2023: Sisters of Saint Joseph Conference Retreat, Erie, PA
- June 24-27, 2023: Our Mother of Perpetual Help Catholic Church, Ephrata, PA
- July 15-19, 2023: Our Lady of the Cape Catholic Church, Sandwich, MA

- July 22-26, 2023: St. Pius X Catholic Church, Yarmouth, MA
- Sept. 23-27, 2023: St. Joseph, St. Thomas, and St. John Neumann, Staten Island, NY
- Oct. 21-25, 2023: Sacred Heart, Cornwall, PA
- Nov. 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

## Archbishop Warda, C.Ss.R., visits St. Mary, Annapolis, MD

On Thursday May 4th, Redemptorist Archbishop Bashar Warda, C.Ss.R., of Erbil in Iraq visited St. Mary’s church and schools in Annapolis. He brought with him Dr. Nazar Shalib, the President of the Catholic University in Erbil (CUE) Iraq. At a morning assembly of elementary and high school students in St.

Mary’s Church, Archbishop Bashar Warda was presented with a check for \$15,295.79 for the support of the Catholic elementary and high schools that the Archbishop has started in Erbil. The parishioners had a special one-time donation drive in the two churches of St. Mary’s and St. John Neumann. The students had their own fundraising

events in the schools. Archbishop Warda spoke to the students about the necessity of Catholic education in Iraq. He also spoke about the origins of the Chaldean Catholic community in Iraq. He later visited the classrooms and spoke to the students. He was also given a tour of the Charles Carroll House and of the Naval Academy.



*Pictured right: Dr. Andrew Moore, Dr. Nazar Shalib, Megan Back, Mindi Imes, Archbishop Bashar Warda, C.Ss.R., and Fr. Eric Hoog, C.Ss.R.*

*Eric Hoog, C.Ss.R.*

## Call for Parish Missions

I will jump right in with some thoughts on parish missions. First, the recent Chapter reminded us that we are all missionaries, and we should be involved in leading at least one parish mission a year. It is our legacy – and there are enough parishes to go around. If it has been a while since you were involved in a mission, pull together your best talks. The mission talk is usually 30 or 40 minutes. Then there is ritual action that embodies the message of the night. The ritual action of one night, for example, is confession. If you need an outline for a parish mission, I would be happy to send you one. I have borrowed the Symbols Mission from the Denver Province. It can run for three to five nights, though most parishes prefer three nights. The symbols could be the Bible, Easter Candle, Altar, Cross, and the icon of OLPH. A theme can be developed that runs through all the talks, like the Mercy of God.

Doing a mission by yourself can be intimidating, at first, but it gets

easier. People respond to a new voice. They hear what God wants them to hear – even if you didn't say it. People are appreciative of something that is different from an ordinary parish mass. Weekends can be exhausting because most parishes are clustering now, which means five to seven Sunday Masses on average. The advantage is that you get to speak to everyone in the parish who comes to church. Just like a parish priest needs to be at his best at a funeral, a parish missionary needs to be at his best over the weekend. Usually 25% of the people will return for the mission.

In this time of Eucharistic revival, I have a second mission that is getting very popular and it's quite simple. On the first night of the mission, I expose the Blessed Sacrament with the traditional songs and prayers. Then I begin one of four meditations. The first meditation is a reading from John Chapter 6. The others are

from Ronald Rolheiser, Henry Nouwen, and other contemporary writers who can help listeners put the Eucharist into action. In between the meditations there are about four minutes of quiet before the next meditation begins. It has the advantage of teaching about the beauty of the Eucharist as well as helping people move into contemplative prayer. The last night's closing Mass has two parishioners share what the Eucharist means to them. I share afterwards. Both the Symbols Mission and the mission on the Eucharist last only an hour, which is another selling point for increased attendance in the States.

Redemptorists preach, whether it is in our missionary parishes, shrines, and retreat houses, or out on the road. We are good preachers. St. Alphonsus has given us a wonderful gift and we have the obligation to share it.

*Kevin MacDonald, C.Ss.R.*

## Sixth Anniversary of the Haitian Youth Group, Boston, MA



My mom used to say: “If God gives you a lemon, don’t complain about it being sour. He will make you make lemonade out of it.” When I look at the Haitian youth group here at the Boston Basilica, this is exactly what has happened.

Six years ago, we had a few kids who used to come to Mass with their parents, but they were misbehaving, talking a lot, playing with their games, and being distracted during the Mass. Even their parents used to complain about them. One day, a parent approached me and said: “Father, I feel embarrassed because of my daughter’s behavior. I won’t attend mass anymore.”

I paused for a while, thinking about what she said and at the same time pondering on these verses: Psalm 127:3, “Children are gifts from the Lord,” and what Jesus said in the Gospel of Luke 18:16, “Let the little children come to me.” Then I said to her: “The Church is the house of God, therefore don’t be embarrassed by your child’s misbehavior. Please continue to come to God’s house with her. Even David did what people did not expect him to do in the temple

of God.” She felt relieved and continued to attend Mass.

A few months later, as my mom said, God made me make lemonade with the lemons he gave me. He

did that when He allowed me to use the same kids to create a group named “Shining Light of OLPH” for the beauty of His Church. Now they behave so well, and the entire community loves their presence.

The group started on Mother’s Day of 2017 with 12 kids. There are now 27 youth in total. They range between 4 to 17 years old.

In the group, we mainly help them to develop two dimensions: human and spiritual. They meet on Saturdays from 4-7 p.m. Their weekly meeting entails Bible sharing, Catholic teaching, creole and Haitian culture classes, and social activities like etiquette, dance, and singing.

To me, the youth group is a beautiful gift to the Haitian community and what really amazed me about them is the impact that they have on the whole community. They shine so brightly that you cannot miss their presence in the church. They are really involved in the church activities. They participate actively in our liturgy and our social activities. For instance, they read and dance at

mass to bring out the Haitian culture to our celebrations. Also, they are the group that represents the Haitian community at the Basilica’s Annual Multicultural Fair.

When a month has five Sundays, they sing on the last one. For example, last month, they had the opportunity to sing on April 30th, which was the fifth Sunday. They did an excellent job as usual. It was a day of blessings for them because, each community held its First Communion separately, so they had the chance to sing for the first time as three of them were making their First Communion.

For their sixth anniversary Mass, on Mother’s Day, they oversaw everything in the Mass.

When I thought of this saying: “Kids today, adults tomorrow” and what they already bring to the Haitian community, I consider the Haitian youth group as the future of the Haitian community, and with them, the Haitian community will have a bright future in the Basilica.

Jesus said, “Unless you become like little children you will never enter the kingdom of heaven,” Matthew 18:3. Therefore, with humility, and sincerity of heart let us continue to take care of the children of God. Let them know, they are precious in God’s eyes, and important now and for the future of the Church of Christ.

*Pierre Desruisseaux, C.Ss.R.*

## Induction of Lay Missionary of the Most Holy Redeemer



During the first week of the Baltimore Provincial Chapter, on the Feast of our brother, Clement Hofbauer, Lucy Burich-McNamara was professed as a Lay Missionary of the Most Holy Redeemer! See the photos that tell the story of that happy evening!

Lucy has been serving the Province as co-coordinator with Francis Gargani, for several years. After the Redemptorists handed over the reins of her parish of St. Martin of Tours in Bethpage, Long Island, to the Rockville Centre Diocese, with Pat Woods serving as its final Redemptorist pastor, Lucy orchestrated a Partners in Mission [PIM] group to keep the Redemptorist Charism alive among

many of the parish community. It continues to thrive!

Clement was rejoicing with the Province and our entire Redemptorist Family, for sure, that special evening, since in his own ministry Clement enthusiastically promoted lay leadership in our mission.

It was lovely that Lucy's parents and children were present and joined in the festive dinner that followed the Eucharist.

Festive indeed, because not only did the toastmaster par excellence, John McGowan, orchestrate a wonderful after-dinner "cabaret," but there was surprise after

surprise. Our Vietnamese confreres sang a special song for Lucy, while Phil Dabney composed a rap for her that was truly delightful!

At that 4:30 p.m. Eucharist, Francis invited both our retiring Superior General, Michael Brehl, and pastor of Annapolis, former Provincial, Pat Woods, to join him in sharing the Homily. Michael gave a wonderful historical sketch of Clement, highlighting his promotion of the laity in mission, and Pat shared how Lucy took up the banner of the Redemptorists, after we moved on from Bethpage, and helped birth our first PIM in a former ministry site. Our new Vicar of the Province, John Olenick, presided at the Mass, and



our new Provincial, John Collins, presented Lucy with her certificate and offered gracious, affirming words of Lucy's commitment.

PIM Redemptorist facilitators then had a small "after-party," presenting Lucy with a small token of congratulations, and toasted her with champagne and lots of mirth and storytelling! As they say, a lovely time was had by all!

Lucy continues to coordinate our Province efforts to share both our rich Redemptorist spirituality and invitation to shared ministry, with Francis. With several confreres,

she and Francis meet monthly to promote and support our PIM groups. Special focus has begun to expand PIM to our Spanish parishioners in several of our parishes. More will be shared in future editions of the Beacon. Lucy also meets monthly with Francis for the PIM Commission of our North American Conference, and recently participated in both the North American Conference Assembly and Phase III of the General Chapter.

As we have been doing, we hope to keep all our Beacon readers aware of our various PIM Groups,

and our on-going promotion and formation and mission of our PIM members.

We are proud of Lucy and all she represents for us, as we are proud of all our PIM members!

*Francis Gargani, C.Ss.R.*

## Daily Bread arrives in St. Vincent and the Grenadines Thanks to Donor Generosity



“Give thanks,” is an expression often heard in the Caribbean. The phrase is used to express appreciation not only to a person who may be offering something,

but also as an acknowledgment of “the Almighty.” Thanks is given to a person and to God at one and the same time. The word “respect” is often heard in the same conversation as a means of conveying esteem for another.

Once again, the staff and all associated with the Garifuna Bakery in Sandy Bay, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, give respectful thanks to the Redemptorist Mission Foundation and to Our Most Holy Redeemer for another great gift. In early February, a grant was approved by then Provincial Superior, Father Paul J. Borowski, C.Ss.R., for the purchase of a brand-new panel van. The van is a welcome addition to what was a worn down “fleet” of two vehicles used for bread deliveries.

Early each morning, and again in the evening, two drivers leave the bakery in Sandy Bay and take to

the long and winding roads of the vicinity. They travel to communities north and south of the bakery. One driver, who now has custody of the new van, travels all the way to the northern tip of the island to the community of Fancy. He stops through the village of Sandy Bay and various communities on the way to Fancy – selling as he goes up and comes back. The other driver reaches to Georgetown and beyond, carrying bread to communities south of the bakery.

Their ministry is an important one to the work of the bakery and to those who benefit from their presence on the road. Daily bread is available near and far to people living away from mainstream markets. The accessibility of bread to outlying areas is an important component to the mission of the bakery. Among others, it reaches families with schoolchildren. Early in the morning, as they prepare for



## *Bakery Van, continued*

the journey to school – often on foot – children are nourished as they begin their day.

The new vehicle is a Godsend to the work at hand, as it is much more reliable than previous vans, all of which have been second, maybe third, hand. It is also

more efficient with gas mileage, helping both the budget and environment. Furthermore, it is more recognizable now with a newly-placed artistic decal on the sides that advertise the bakery with the words: Blessing Communities since 1993. The Province logo is on the back of the van acknowledging

funding from our generous donors. All involved, give thanks. Huge respect to all who made it happen!

*Kevin R. Murray, C.Ss.R.*

## From Guatemala to Brooklyn, NY



The Redemptorists of the Parish Shrine of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Brooklyn search for new ways to be “Missionaries of Hope” to the most abandoned and needy. Among these are our migrant parishioners from México and Central America.

One of the outreach gestures of the Parish is the Eucharist on the first Sunday of each month at midnight for young men and women from Guatemala, most of whom are under 30 years of age.

This unusual schedule is because three years ago, representatives of the Charismatic Community of the Assumption of Our Lady, an extension of the same community in Sololá, Guatemala, approached the Parish in search of how they could celebrate the Sunday Eucharist. The Community unites young Guatemalan migrant women and mostly men who are restaurant delivery persons. The members of this community, which number over 300 and live within the boundaries of the Parish,

cannot celebrate the Eucharist on Sundays during the day because of their busy work schedules. If you walk the streets of our Parish, practically all the delivery persons on motorcycles and motorized bicycles are members of this community.

The community rents a hall near the Church, and several participate in the Parish’s formation programs. This year 45 of them received the Sacrament of Confirmation.

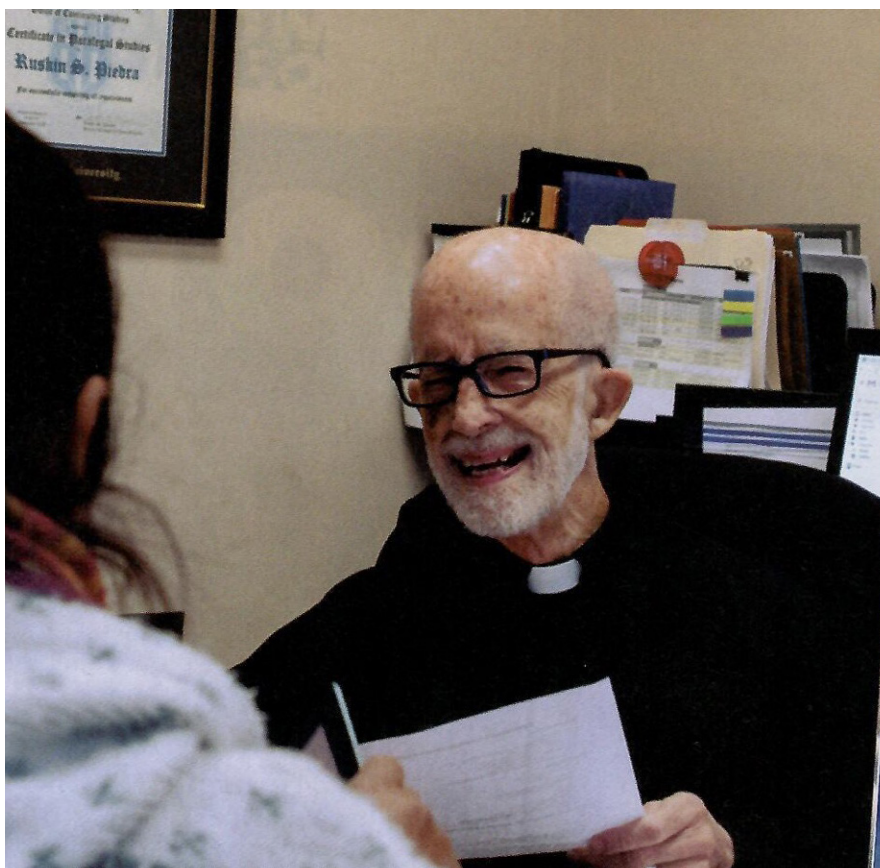
The community’s organizational structure is impressive, with an elected directive council of 16 members who meet regularly and attend to the needs of Guatemalans already present in our Parish territory and other recent arrivals. The sub-committees are varied and include a youth group. Father

James Gilmour, C.Ss.R., our pastor, is the community's chaplain.

The monthly Eucharist is lively with active participation, beautiful music, and internet streaming transmission so that their relatives in Guatemala can see them and be assured they are well cared for by their fellow Guatemalans and the Church.

The Guatemalan migrants of our Parish faced various challenges and experiences, both in their home country and on their journey to Brooklyn, New York. Guatemala is one of the most populous countries in Central America and has a long history of political and economic instability, poverty, violence, and corruption. These factors often force Guatemalan citizens to migrate in search of better opportunities, safety, and security.

The journey to the United States, often traveling through Mexico, is one in which our Guatemalan brothers and sisters are exposed to dangerous conditions in which they are vulnerable to violence, exploitation, and human trafficking. They also risk arrest and deportation by Mexico and the US



authorities. Once in the US, they face further challenges, including language barriers, discrimination, and a difficult path to legal status.

Our migration office, led by Fr. Ruskin Piedra, C.Ss.R., founder, and director, with the collaboration of Frs. Karl Esker, C.Ss.R., Frank Skelly, C.Ss.R., and Brother Augustus J. Riviere, C.Ss.R., is kept

busy with the legal processes of many of our migrant population, including our Guatemalan brothers and sisters.

*Manuel Rodríguez Delgado, C.Ss.R.  
James Gilmour, C.Ss.R.*

## Redemptorist made Ambassador for Solar System Exploration

Fr. Michael Cunningham, is a Redemptorist priest stationed at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Brooklyn, New York. He has been an ordained priest since 2019. He studied pharmacy while attending university and became

a licensed pharmacist. He was a practicing pharmacist for sixteen years. He would later acquire a master's degree (M.Div.) at Boston College and an additional certificate in philosophy at St John's University. He traveled the world,

from the Bronx to Mississippi, Canada, Boston, St. Lucia, and then back to Boston again. He then traveled to Bolivia for a year and then to Brooklyn, where he currently resides. Recently at OLPH Church in Brooklyn,

*Solar System Ambassador, continued on pg. 11*

## *Solar System Ambassador, continued*



he has established the OLPH Observatory, which is perched high above the streets of Brooklyn. His church also recently acquired its own observatory code (W69) from the Minor Planet Center (MPC). The observatory allows him to peer into the night sky to better look at the cosmos and gives a glimpse into the one who created it. In the same way, we may examine the stitches of an old quilt left behind by our grandmother to understand better who she was and what she may have been thinking when she created it. So, it is with God and the remnants he left behind in the universe, the planets, and the stars. From this posture of wonder, we

look up at the night sky here in Sunset Park, Brooklyn, all in the hopes of better understanding what we see and sharing that knowledge with others.

First published here: [https://solarsystem.nasa.gov/ambassadors/2452/?fbclid=IwAR3mLKb2qWsO92ftpJq-FU0\\_5x-1y5H7hZpAeaFiPn4KAYZGBUIRo59hhhk](https://solarsystem.nasa.gov/ambassadors/2452/?fbclid=IwAR3mLKb2qWsO92ftpJq-FU0_5x-1y5H7hZpAeaFiPn4KAYZGBUIRo59hhhk)

## *Easter Celebrations in St. Vincent and the Grenadines*



A Easter egg hunt was held for the Parish in St. Vincent and the Grenadines made up of



Georgetown and both St. Joseph (Belvue) and OLPH (Sandy Bay).

The children's ages ranged from 2 to 15 and rules and regulations were given by Br. Gerard, C.Ss.R.



# The Redemptorists

— Baltimore Province —

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