



The Baltimore Beacon

The Redemptorists of the Baltimore Province

Volume 3 // Issue 6 // 6.21.2022

Provincial Ponderings



Dear Brothers and Sisters:

I wish to share with you a letter I wrote on May 26th of this year. There are a countless number of issues that we as Catholics and Christians should speak up about, but this issue of gun violence in our country is one that strikes me to the heart because of my passion for youth and young adults. I sent this letter to President Biden as well as Senate and House leadership of both political parties. I also attended the March for Our Lives against Gun Violence that was held on June 11th in Washington, DC. My plea to those reading this letter is that you speak up for any issue that moves you. As disciples of the Risen Lord let us be filled with his Spirit of courage to speak for those that seemingly have no voice!

Subject: Gun Control in the United States of America

Dear President Biden, [Senator Schumer, Senator McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, and Congressman McCarthy]: I originally wrote this letter four years after the shooting in Parkland, FL and will continue to resend one to my elected officials after each new senseless act of gun violence in our country. I write you now after violence has once again shown up in Uvalde, Texas.

I have been an ordained Catholic priest for thirty-five years and my passion for ministry is with school children, teens, and young adults. In recent years I have had to comfort elementary school children and their parents while trying to explain the tragedy of Sandy Hook. I have had to walk with my youth group after the various high school shootings have occurred. I have stood for too many moments of silence after events like the Las Vegas, Orlando, and now the Buffalo and Uvalde shootings. I have stood in the pulpit too many Sundays in recent memory and tried to offer words of comfort to a congregation that is searching for a loving and compassionate God amidst these tragic shootings. As an ordained minister I am tired and weary of offering comfort to those not directly affected by these recent shooting tragedies but affected nonetheless because we as Americans care for one another. I am tired and weary that our elected officials refuse to stand up for these innocent victims.

I pray and pray, and now I pray that you will have the courage to stand up and say enough!

After the tragedy this week in Uvalde, TX, I could no longer stay silent in the political forum. Would anyone care what I had to say? Is there anyone who would act on behalf of my voice, the voices of all Americans living in fear of another mass shooting, and the voices of those who grieve a lost loved one? I am hopeful you are the person who will hear us and help us make a difference.

If I could get exactly what I wanted, I would ask that guns be removed from the hands of anyone outside of law enforcement. I realize that is very unlikely and we must start small. I am writing today to ask that you support legislation that would, at a minimum, support expanded background checks and ban military style weapons.

Please be the person who will stand with all of us who are exhausted, saddened, and broken by the gun violence in our country. Be the one who will help us to begin healing our country. Help us bring peace and brightness back to this once great nation that is being darkened daily by gun violence.

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

Upcoming 2022/2023 Dates

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

Wednesday, July 6, 2022 Province Picnic at San Alfonso Retreat House; Long Branch, NJ (with Night at the Races after the Picnic)

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

Saturday, July 23, 2022 at 10 a.m. Priesthood Ordination for Brian Vaccaro, C.Ss.R., at the Basilica of the

National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception; Washington, DC. Bishop Michael Burbidge (Arlington, VA) will be the ordaining Bishop

Saturday, August 13, 2022 at 11 a.m. Priesthood Ordination for Royce Thomas, C.Ss.R., at St Anthony's;

Upcoming 2022/2023 Dates continued

Guapo Cap-de-Ville Main Rd; Point Fortin, Trinidad. Archbishop Charles Jason Gordon (Port of Spain, Trinidad) will be the ordaining Bishop

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Communications Updates

• Please note the upcoming changes to The Baltimore Beacon schedule. The July issue will be released on August 1. There will be no August issue. We will resume normally again in September, with that issue being released on September 21.

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

• Weekly Video reflections on the upcoming Sunday readings (Cycle C) may be found on Facebook: [facebook.com/RedemptoristsBaltimore](https://www.facebook.com/RedemptoristsBaltimore)

or YouTube: [youtube.com/BaltRedemptorists](https://www.youtube.com/BaltRedemptorists). These videos are released each Wednesday.

• Saturday, July 16: Online video service “Praying with the Icon of Our Mother of Perpetual Help.”

Upcoming EPC Meetings

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

• July 6th, 2022 (San Alfonso; Long

Branch, NJ)

• **No August Meeting**

• September 7th – 8th

• October 19th – 20th

• November 16th – 17th

• December 2nd (San Alfonso; Long Branch, NJ)

Transition to Ministry and Apostolic Community

The last phase of formation in the Conference is Transition to Ministry and Apostolic Community (TMAC) for men in their first five years of full-time ministry after final profession or ordination. The latest session for the TMAC program was held at San Alfonso Retreat House, Long

Branch, New Jersey. There was a total of 19 participants including Frs. Pete Schavitz and Bob Wojtek, Co-Directors of the program, and Thomas Ha from Extra-Patriam who assists the Co-Directors. The unit breakdown was: 10 from Extra-Patriam, 6 from Baltimore, and 3 from Denver.

Unfortunately, there were 10 absentees for a variety of reasons. Eumir Bautista (Canada) is the Brother chosen to represent the Conference and was involved with Phase 1 of the General Chapter. Michael Cunningham and Ako Walker (Baltimore) had both tested positive for COVID. Thomas



All TMAC attendees, pictured above, enjoyed a fruitful weekend.

Hoang (Extra-Patriam) and AJ Riviere (Baltimore) were involved with studies. Loi Nguyen, Quan Nguyen, and Truong Nguyen (Extra-Patriam) are preparing for their June 11 priesthood ordinations. Royce Thomas (Baltimore) had visa difficulties. Huy Vu (Denver) is transitioning to his new assignment.

Monday was the travel date, with the majority arriving late due to flight delays and cancellations.

Redemptorists in America, especially the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Phase I of the General Chapter for our Conference took place at the same time as TMAC at West End. So that the members of TMAC could attend a special festive meal for Father General, Michael Brehl, the Wednesday free day was moved to Thursday.

On Wednesday morning, Wendy Barnes, a longtime employee of Liguori Publications and a C.Ss.R. lay missionary with the Denver Province,

Tuesday began with the usual check-in format. Dr. Patrick Hayes, the Baltimore Provincial Archivist, was the presenter for the Tuesday afternoon and evening sessions. He spoke about the history of the early

presented about Partners in Mission. Against a history of PIM in the Congregation and Conference, Wendy excitedly shared what is presently happening in the Conference's units regarding PIM and her hopes as we go forward. TMAC participants expressed their appreciation for both presenters and topics.

Thursday everyone took off to relax and enjoy the day and spend time together with their peers.

At our final Eucharist together, we blessed our six "graduates" who completed their five years in the program.

After prayer and breakfast Friday morning, the exodus began as everyone began the trek home for weekend ministries. The next TMAC session will take place November 14-18 in Oconomowoc.

Bob Wojtek, C.Ss.R., and Pete Schavitz, C.Ss.R.

Missions with Fr. Kevin MacDonald, C.Ss.R.

The seasoned missionary, Fr. Bill Gaffney, used to say that a mission preacher could read the telephone book and the Holy Spirit would still get God's message across. People hear what they need to hear. Bill's point was not only to relieve the stress of preaching a mission sermon, but also to remind us that we need to get out of the way and let the Spirit of God do the work.

People hear what they need to hear. What do you need to hear? "You are my beloved Son (Daughter)," would

be nice, "with you I am well pleased." Or, "Well done, my good and faithful servant... Come, share your master's joy." The older crowds that missions often attract seem to be waiting to hear these words. Perhaps it is because they are more aware of the passage of time and the utter brevity of our lives. Whereas Redemptorist mission preaching used to emphasize the four last things (death, judgment, heaven, and hell), I think our modern listener is better served by stressing the mercy of God. They already feel the burden of children who do not go to church

and grandchildren who might not even be baptized. They need to hear that God's love and mercy extends to their children, and that God's love is more powerful than death and judgment.

I like a story about a man appearing before St. Peter at the Pearly Gates. Peter welcomes the man but tells him before he can enter, he has to make an account of his life, and it needs to add up to one hundred points. "Well," the man began, "I helped raise five daughters and they all still go to church." "Very good," said St.

Missions, continued on pg. 5

Peter. "Five points." "Well," continued the man, "I served two terms on the Parish Council and was even elected President." "Excellent," St. Peter said. "Two points." "I was a Partner in Mission at my Redemptorist parish." "Wonderful," St. Peter said. "I love the Redemptorists. Three points." "Hmm," the man continued, "I coached my daughter's youth soccer teams." "Very Good," St. Peter responded. "One point." This went on for long time and, finally, when the man could not think of anything else, he only had twenty-five points. "That's it," said the man. "I rest on the mercy of God." "The mercy of God?" St. Peter repeated. "That's seventy-five points. Come on in!"

Whenever I get overwhelmed with fears – fear of judgment, fear of dying, fear of not being good enough – I think of the Carmelite poet, Jessica Powers, known also by her religious name, Sr. Miriam of the Holy Spirit. Jessica was pursuing a career in writing in New York City. She had arrived in the city from a farm in Wisconsin, where, after the death of her parents, she had looked after her siblings and the family farm.

By the late 1930s, everyone was old enough to look after themselves and she pursued her love of writing. Her poetry had been published by a variety of magazines including *Commonweal* and *America*. Before she had taken the step into a contemplative monastery, she found herself sitting on a city park bench engaged in a two-hour conversation with an editor. They were debating whether truth or beauty was the greater attribute in God. She sided with beauty, of course, and the editor with truth. Many years later and just a few months before her death in 1988, she reflected upon that conversation. She said that, perhaps, they were both wrong. "In the end," she said, "all we have is the mercy of God. That is God's greatest attribute."

The mercy of God overcomes all fears. Mercy whispers to us that all the times we have wandered from the path, that all of our missed opportunities and poor decisions, have led us to the place where we are now, the center of God's Sacred Heart of mercy.

I would like to conclude with "The Mercy of God," by Jessica Powers:

"I am copying down in a book from my heart's archive the day that I ceased to fear God with a shadowy fear. Would you name it the day that I measured my column of virtue and sighted through windows of merit a crown that was near? Ah, no, it was rather the day I began to see truly that I came forth from nothing and ever toward nothingness tend, that the works of my hands are a foolishness wrought in the presence of the worthiest king in a kingdom that never shall end. I rose up from the acres of self that I tended with passion and defended with flurries of pride: I walked out of myself and went into the woods of God's mercy, and here I abide.

"There is greenness and calmness and coolness, a soft leafy covering from judgment of sun overhead, and the hush of His peace, and the moss of His mercy to tread. I have nought but my will seeking God; even love burning in me is a fragment of infinite loving and never my own.

"And I Fear God no more; I go forward to wander forever in a wilderness of His infinite mercy alone."

Kevin MacDonald, C.Ss.R.

The Mission (a poetry submission by Bryan Pilkington, MD)

*It was a parish mission.
Why would I go – ugh!
A Redemptorist, from Mass.*

*He played baseball for BC
He played for pirates
Maybe, he is not so bad*

*The first day, the Bible was key
The next, a candle
The third night was an altar*

*What did I learn from Jesus?
Was he really there?
Why did I cry? Am I lost?*

*He told jokes about the pastor
He took a girls hand
He dissected woman and well*

*He gave my wife a confession
Lifted her burden
Why did I not go question – He knows!*

*Peter was saved – Judas not
There is a judgment!
How will it be for myself?*

*I've led a good life – have I?
Did I follow him?
My riches I did not sell*

*Am I the camel who can't
Pass through the needle?
Did I bury the talents?*

*He told of Mary asking
Loved ones gone, I cried.
Gave them to Jesus – Heaven*

*The last night was so special
We ended with mass
With anointing of the sick*

*Why did I go? Am I new?
Not reborn – revised?
Altered, shaped, work in progress*

*I think it's about the questions
Answers – elusive
Perhaps it's about the process*

*Perhaps it's about the journey
The choices we make
Is resurrection for all?*

*If yes – the road matters not
If no – answer me –
How does pure love condemn me?*

Be Their Light of Hope: Fr. John Murray, C.Ss.R.

Twelve years ago, on a beautiful sunny day when I was in ministry at San Alfonso Retreat House in Long Branch, New Jersey, I decided to go for a walk and was on the boardwalk when I tripped and fell. My life changed forever that day. Now, I am paralyzed from the chest down.

The story of my recovery began at the Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation, a clinic in the New York City area. I remember the doctors telling me that they were concerned about any recovery. The doctors and physical therapists taught me to cope with my paralysis and I began to learn new skills. Simple everyday tasks became major accomplishments as I relearned how to brush my teeth, comb my hair, and put on a shirt.

You'd call me a paraplegic today. I continue to have to place great effort to do things that you might take for granted. It's difficult for me to type, I cannot sit straight for long periods of time, travel is near impossible due to my limitations . . . all has been taken from me!

The greatest blessing in all of this has become my understanding of love. My large and strong family has accompanied me. My Redemptorist family, that emphasizes strong family ties, has journeyed with me. The teachings of the founder of the Redemptorists, Saint Alphonsus, have guided me. You and many people like you, continue to support me and pray for me for my ongoing healthcare needs. Your donation has provided for me the specialized medical equipment that improved the quality of my life... you are my source of HOPE! Thank you.

I have had an amazing number of years in ministry with the Redemptorists of the Baltimore Province. I have served

in a wide variety of areas, that includes but is not limited to the formation and education of seminarians, working with the poorest of the poor in the inner cities, and my years at Saint Mary's Catholic Community in Annapolis. I have worked with the people of God preaching Parish Missions and serving in the capacity of Mission Coordinator, and I have been the retreat director at San Alfonso Retreat House in Long Branch, New Jersey.

Now is the time to turn the page to a much quieter form of ministry; preaching, not by what I say or do, but by patiently carrying my cross . . . being a paraplegic. God's Will often comes in the form of the CROSS. I embrace the Cross rather than resist the Cross or complain about the Cross. Even more, I have come to thank God for my cross. I have come to fully understand Psalm 119:71 "It was good for me to be afflicted, in order to learn your statutes." **My suffering is my gift to God. In this life, no matter how long it lasts, it's a momentary affliction preparing me for eternal glory.**

We shouldn't pray for an easy life, but for the strength to endure a difficult one. I look to God and cooperate with His grace. Now is the time to relearn an old lesson, that good works depend not on our efforts, but on the Holy Spirit. God always takes the initiative. God has loved us first and He alone knows the reason that He created us. Each morning, I relearn the true meaning of the Cross and I know how much I am loved, for He sent His Son, and His sacrifice and suffering redeemed the world for you and me.

We all experience times when we feel weak, whether physically, mentally, emotionally, or spiritually. The unexpected happens and we feel at a loss for what to do. It's in these

times of need that pausing to pray can provide powerful relief. God is waiting for us to call out to Him and ask Him for strength.

God tells us to come to Him when we are burdened, we must come to God with humility and honest faith to request physical and spiritual strength. Only then can we begin to experience the power of prayer.

All the Redemptorist Missionaries who reside with me here at Saint John Neuman Residence at Stella Maris in Timonium, MD, as well as the men at the St. Alphonsus Villa in New Smyrna Beach, FL, and St. Clement Mission House in Ephrata, PA, join forces each day as "Prayer Champions" offering Masses and Prayers for you and those you love. We are now called in a special way to live out our call as Redemptorist Missionaries . . . praying, teaching, and loving you. Thank you for allowing us into your heart.

I ask for your continued prayers and assure you of mine. Please send your prayer petitions to me. I will pray that God's mercy and love bring you comfort, caring, and curing through the healing of body, mind, and soul.

May God Bless you all the days of your life. Thank you for your care. In the Redeemer,

*Father John Murray, C.Ss.R.
Your own personal Prayer Champion!*

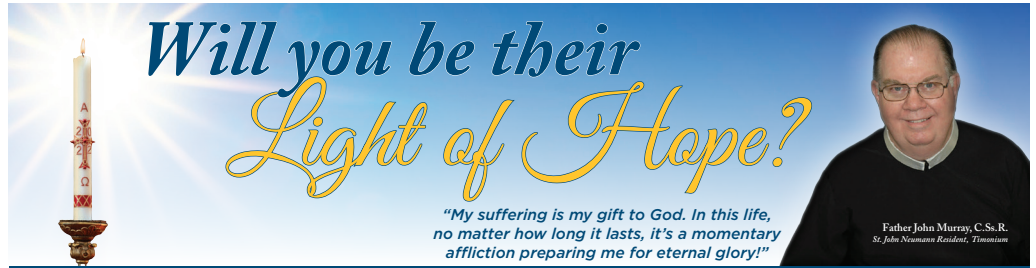
If you are interested in giving to the HOPE fund, please visit redemptorists.net/giving and select HOPE fund under the drop down for "How would you like your gift to be used?"

“The well-being of our sick and elderly Redemptorists is a central concern as they live out the last season of their lives. We consider their physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual well-being and determine their ongoing healthcare needs. I thank you for your financial support. It allows us to purchase the durable medical equipment and medical supplies required to provide comfort, caring, and curing of body, mind, and soul.”

-Father Paul Borowski, C.Ss.R.,
Provincial Superior

The residents of our healthcare facilities are our “Prayer Champions,” because despite their very limited mobility, they bring petitions to Our Mother of Perpetual Help and ask Her to give healing, forgiveness, comfort and renewal in Christ, the Most Holy Redeemer. You find the Redemptorist priests and brothers in our chapels or in their rooms, Rosary in hand, asking for graces and blessings for all who send them their petitions.

When you give to the HOPE Fund, you get more than you can ever imagine. Your donation has a positive impact on the health and welfare of our Redemptorists in our Assisted, Palliative, and Hospice Healthcare Facilities. In return, our “Prayer Champions” live out the Mission of the Redemptorists and offer daily Mass and prayers for you and your intentions. Please continue to forward your special intentions to them. We have heard of many healings from those who call on them. Thank you for joining the thousands who provide faithful care of our beloved Redemptorists.



Assisted-Living Community of Saint Alphonus Villa at New Smyrna Beach in Florida

Suited best to active, independent Redemptorists.



Nursing Home Community of St. John Neumann Residence at Stella Maris at Timonium in Maryland

Redemptorists living here require an environment of daily medical surveillance and ongoing nursing.



Assisted-Living Community of St. Clement Mission House at Ephrata in Pennsylvania

Redemptorists who live here are still relatively independent, but need some assistance in their daily activities.



If you are interested in giving to the HOPE fund, please visit redemptorists.net/giving and select HOPE fund under the drop down for “How would you like your gift to be used?” Or feel free to call 888-813-0648 for more information on how to give via mail.

My History with Partners in Mission (PIM)



PIM members of Puerto Rico, St Agustin's Parish in San Juan, Ela Iglesias and Carmen Judy Nine Curt pictured

My history with PIM began in Puerto Rico long ago. I can remember what I call a sort of “pre- PIM history.” It began after I was named Vicar of the Vice-Provincial. We began, as our job always did, with making up the appointments for the new triennium, and one evening I was travelling with Fr. Tom Forrest, also a member of the Ordinary Council. We decided to stop on Route One, the highway from San Juan to Caguas, to have supper. We began to talk of what we were doing, making up new appointments for the Vice Province which included two foundations in the Dominican Republic, three in the Virgin Islands and 12 in Puerto Rico, and we had about 90+ confreres to fill these commitments but doing so was difficult due to the “manpower shortage.” We decided to talk to all the Bishops to see if they could cover any of our parishes. The Archbishop of San Juan said he could and thus we ended our commitment to serve the parish of Miramar, in San Juan. However, our job was still difficult. At supper that night, Fr. Tom, asked, “What are we going to do in the future?” And I remember that I answered him with just one word, “Laity.” That is where

my commitment to laity in mission began and at first this translated into encouraging the involvement of more and more Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist in our parishes. Later some of these became Deacons. And from then on lay men and women began to participate more actively in all our preaching and teaching

ministry, and the administration of the Eucharist in our Churches and Chapels, including bringing it to the sick who could not attend, and later in other ministries like the recruitment and formation of future seminarians, where their gifts were generously employed and greatly effective.

As Vice Provincial, I went to the General Chapter in Rome in 1973 and, as I remember it, there was not much talk of the use of laity in our ministry. But later, in the General Chapter of 1979, the conversation began. Fr. “Scotty” Stratton, the new Provincial of the Province of Oakland, and I, as well as others, began to talk about a change in how we viewed “Oblates.” Instead of an honorary title for those who normally offered their professional services to the congregation “pro bono” we talked about what we called “Oblates in the Extended Sense of the Word.” We proposed that they would be persons who would be united to us, like PIM is today. They would be persons who, aware of their Baptismal commitment, would share with us our life and our mission and form part of the

Redemptorist family. We were able to affirm these ideas in the General Statutes on Oblates, #02 which now reads as follows: “The Congregation may take as associated ‘oblates’ both cleric and lay. In doing so, it should envisage and seek to recruit helpers for our apostolate. They may be either permanent or temporary. (Vice) provinces should define in more detail the actual forms this association will take. (cf. 085). And that statute reads: “Oblates who share the spirit and missionary zeal of the Congregation must have the benefit of proper initiation and constant contact with the Congregation, according to the norms to be laid down in the individual (Vice)provinces.” (cf. St. 02) Our clumsy title, “Oblates in the Extended Sense of the Word” was not mentioned but some of our ideas were.

It was not until 12 years later, in the General Chapter of 1991, in Itaci, Brazil that the whole concept of involvement of laity in our mission was developed with the help of Fr. Juan Manuel Lasso, our Superior General, and the title of this effort became PIM (Partners in Mission) because other proposed titles were difficult to translate in the various languages of the Congregation. Later, under the direction of Fr. Lasso, the General Council in 1995 published the *Communicanda* #4, with the title “Collaboration Between the Redemptorist Community and the Laity.” This became the “foundational document” of the PIM movement in the Congregation.

Back in Aguas Buenas where I was stationed in the 1980s, armed with the ideas we shared on Oblates in the Chapter of 1979, we faced the situation of Marcos Gonzalez, a lay “Hermano Cheo,” a member of a group of laymen and women which

was started around 1915 to combat the entrance of other religious sects to Puerto Rico. He organized a group of 10 or so “lay missionaries” with their own Music Ministry and they used to go around the town and country of Aguas Buenas to give missions on street corners, basketball courts, or outside the Chapels in a common place. Marcos also lived with us as a full member of our Redemptorist community. He had his room and his office, and many people would come to him for spiritual direction. He also helped in house duties. Sadly, for our community and his group of missionaries, he died of a sudden heart attack which left his group orphaned. Our Redemptorist community met, and we decided that two of us, Fr.

Willie Caragol and me, would try to continue his important work and for our project we took over the convent that the School Sisters had left. There we had our training sessions, our weekly meetings, our library, etc. We did this because we believed that our lay missionaries should have a place that they can call their own where they could meet and store their materials. Thankfully we had this in Aguas Buenas. So, we continued the weekly missions monthly in the local areas that Marcos and his team began, and we were blessed with having our own “Traveling Music Ministry” with their own sound system. We believed that music was important for the mission. Often, we would invite Padre Pablo Straub, C.Ss.R., to come from

Bayamon where he had his own lay missionary group, to come and give the first talk of the mission so that our missionaries could learn from seeing this great missionary in action. When we decided to give missions in the Public Housing Developments in town, we invited another group of lay missionaries to share their experience with us since this was their special calling. Some even came to help us with the “apartment visiting and inviting” weekend which preceded the weeknights of the preached mission.

Part 2 of this installment will come in the July issue of The Baltimore Beacon, to be released on August 1.

Fr. Tom Travers, C.Ss.R.

Phase One of the XXVI General Chapter for North America

Phase One of the XXVI General Chapter for North America took place at San Alfonso Retreat House; Long Branch, NJ between May 10th and May 18th. Members of Phase One from North America represented the Provinces of Baltimore, Canada, Denver, Mexico, and the Vice Province of Extra-Patriam. The first part of the gathering saw the delegates busy working on various North American Conference reports. Further reflection and discussion of the Conference’s Working Document was the primary focus of the small groups and the larger group.

Frs. Kevin O’Neil and Santo Arrigo provided an overview of the Working Document, which was prepared for Phase One. The working document was the fruit of broad consultation in the congregation, including the General Council, Conference Coordinators, major superiors and

their councils, and confreres and Partners In Mission (PIM) through discussion of the video presentations which reflected on the theme of the past sexennium: Witnesses of the Redeemer, in solidarity for mission, to a wounded world.

Small group members focused on Chapters One, Two and Three of Working Document. Afterwards, they reported points of importance for the larger group to reflect and act on. Personal and group sharing focused on 1) the Redemptorist Mission; 2) Solidarity; 3) Formation for Mission and Ministry; 4) Consecrated Life; and 5) Governance.

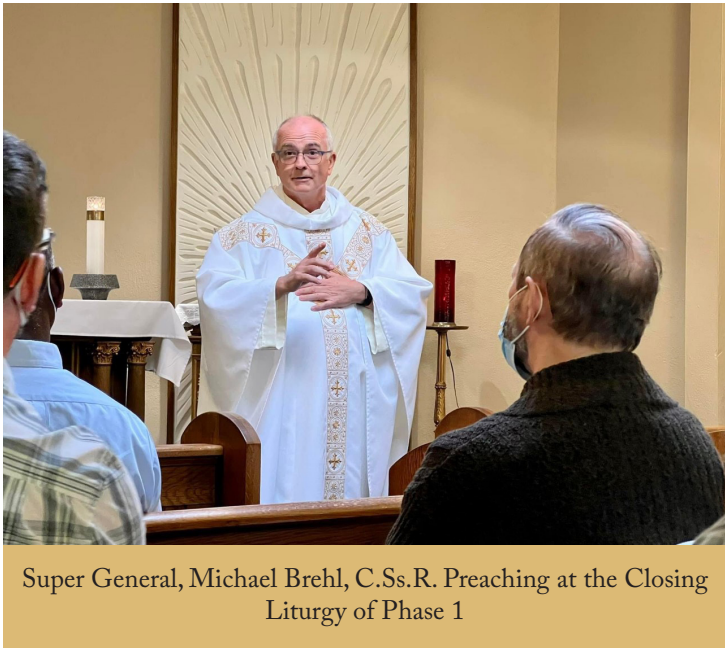
Aside from the Working Document, other reports included Fr. Jack Kingsbury’s presentation of the coordinator’s report. He provided a comprehensive overview of the workings and accomplishments of the

Conference, which was later reflected on and discussed by the small groups.

Members also studied and voted on several postulata. The postulata that are approved by three of the five Conferences will be sent to Phase Two of the General Chapter in September.

In addition, the assembly reviewed the postulata presented by the General Government. Time was set aside on Monday afternoon for prayer and discernment about the future leadership of the Redemptorists. The participants gathered together in chapel for prayer, invoking the Holy Spirit, as they reflected on the qualities necessary, and the type of person needed at this time, in the Congregation and in the life of the Church.

After the period of prayer, the members gathered in small groups and



Superior General, Michael Brehl, C.Ss.R. Preaching at the Closing Liturgy of Phase 1

These names are forwarded to Phase II of the General Chapter.

The last day of Phase One for the 26th General Chapter ended with Mass in the chapel at San Alfonso Retreat House in New Jersey.

Superior General Fr. Michael Brehl, C.Ss.R., was the Celebrant.

Assisting Father General were Br. Eumir Bautista (lector), and Fr. Peter Tuan Bui, Vice Provincial of Ex-

Patrium, (proclaimer of the Word.)

The Mass officially closed Phase One. Phase Two, the canonical phase, will be held in Rome this autumn.

Following Phase One members of the North American Conference Assembly met for two days to discuss the Conference Budget, Formators for the Common Formation Programs as well the possibility of a Common Missionary Project between the five Units. While enjoying the beautiful setting of the Atlantic Ocean while at San Alfonso, after two weeks of intense meetings, the delegates were glad to return home thankful to God for all the good work that was done while at Long Branch.

Charlie Wherley, C.Ss.R.

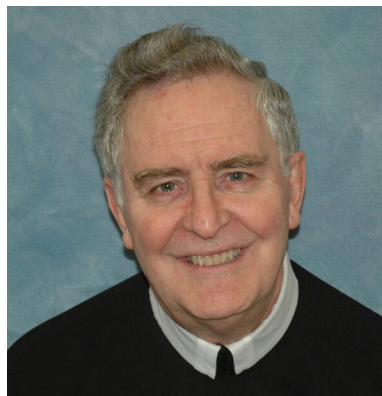
then in plenary session to nominate and then vote for people whom they would support for the roles of both superior general and consultor general.

In Memoriam of Fr. Patrick McGarrity, C.Ss.R.

“Well done, good and trustworthy servant. You have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things, enter into the joy of your master.” (Matthew 25: 21)

There are many television programs (i.e. **The Voice, Master Chef, So You Think You Can Dance, America’s Got Talent**) that encourage, enable, and empower ordinary people to “shine,” be discovered, and bring great joy into other people’s lives. On these programs people share their abilities and talents, performing before a live audience and before millions of people at home, hoping to win a grand monetary prize, receive a trophy and be crowned a champion, be named the best among their peers, and hopefully obtain future fame and fortune.

I have no doubt that Fr. Patrick McGarrity could and would have been a “shining star” on any of those television shows mentioned above as he was a



multi-talented Redemptorist priest, pastor, preacher, spiritual director, counselor, mentor, professor, formator, colleague, confrere, and friend who generously shared his God-given talents and gifts for God’s glory and for the betterment of God’s People.

Pat lived, witnessed, proclaimed, cherished, and celebrated proudly his vocation as a Redemptorist, as a Consecrated Religious, and as a Priest. As a professed Redemptorist for 65

years he proclaimed, lived, and witnessed to a broken and wounded world Our Holy Redeemer’s message of God’s everlasting unconditional love for all. As a devout, holy, prayerful, humble, and dedicated servant priest for 60 years, Fr. Pat prophetically and boldly proclaimed “glad tidings to the poor, liberty to the captives and justice for all.” In his meticulously well-prepared inspirational and often very long-detailed homilies, Fr. Pat eloquently shared His deep love and understanding of Holy Scripture with us. So often, his homilies reflected his desire to teach the Church’s dogma and doctrine to God’s people. Pat had a marvelous and uncanny ability to explain the importance and significance of St. Alphonsus’ theological teaching of the “Crib, Cross, Holy Eucharist, and the Blessed Mother Mary” with his listening audience.

In his preaching of God’s Sacred Word, Fr. Pat became **The Voice** for the voiceless as he spoke up for the

In Memoriam Fr. Patrick McGarrity, Continued

protection of the rights of the poor, the downtrodden and forgotten and the most vulnerable, particularly the Unborn. He promulgated the Church's traditional teaching of peace and justice by boldly proclaiming and campaigning for the respect and protection of the dignity and rights of every human person from conception to natural death. He proclaimed this message of truth and hope through his reflections on St. Pope John Paul II's Gospel of Life and his constant condemnation of our modern "Culture of Death." Pat promoted and defended the rights of all for life, fair housing, excellent education, equal employment, and proper health care.

In celebrating the Church's Sacraments with the People of God, like Jesus, Pat was a compassionate, loving, Good Shepherd with his beloved flock. In the confessional his kind and consoling words brought great healing, comfort, and forgiveness to God's broken, scarred, and wounded people as he touched them with the gift of God's unconditional grace, love, and mercy. In his great passion of reverently celebrating the Eucharist, like Jesus the **Master Chef**, Pat invited and welcomed all to the banquet table of life to remember, celebrate, and believe in the Real Presence of Jesus present in their midst as they consumed His Sacred Body and Precious Blood.

Fr. Pat had a great love and passion for taking care of the infirmed, the elderly, and the dying. He often referred to this passion as his special "peer ministry." His special love and compassion for the sick, the elderly, and the dying was so evidently shown in his personal care for his mother Margaret while he

pastored at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in New Holland and with our own Redemptorist confreres at St. Clement's Residence in Ephrata. Over the years he made countless visits to shut-in parishioners and to the suffering and dying patients at the various hospitals and nursing facilities in Lancaster County. In his visiting and anointing of the sick, elderly, and dying Pat brought great comfort and solace to those suffering physical, emotional, and spiritual ailments; reassuring them that they were not alone on their journey of suffering since God was still as they faced, carried, and embraced their cross of pain and anguish.

We all know how much Pat enjoyed dancing. He gracefully and reverently tap-danced with Jesus, **Lord of the Dance**, in his daily prayer, meditation, study, and worship. The Risen Jesus filled Pat's heart with life, grace, humor, enthusiasm, and love. Pat fervently waltzed into the hearts and lives of so many people. He shared our Redemptorist Charism and our beloved St. Alphonsus' message of hope and plentiful redemption for all with so many students, confreres, and parishioners. He invited numerous individuals (including myself) to become his dance partner and friend as he helped choreographed our lives in Spiritual Direction and in Christian Formation. I am sure that our beloved **Jesus: The Lord of the Dance** has brought Pat home to His Eternal Heavenly Dance Hall for all his faithful service and ministry. I am certain that Pat is now gloriously and joyfully Irish-jigging in God's Kingdom. He is now **Dancing with the Stars**: with Jesus, Our Holy Redeemer, Our Mother of

Perpetual Help, all our Redemptorist Saints, with all our deceased confreres, with his own deceased parents and siblings, and with all the faithful departed marked by the sign of faith.

We all are keenly aware that Fr. Pat "**Had Talent.**" Pat was talented in the pulpit, on the stage, in the classroom, and in his parochial ministry. Like the good, faithful, and trustworthy servant in the Parable of the Talents, Pat cherished the gifts and talents that God graciously and generously bestowed upon him. Pat wisely used his God-given abilities for God's glory and for the benefit of others. Unlike the worthless servant in the parable, Pat never buried his talents, nor did he use them for his own personal glory, fame, or fortune. Rather, Pat used his abilities, gifts, and talents to fully live out his vocation and mission to love, honor and serve his God, and faithfully minister to and with God's People. We are grateful for Pat's many years of Redemptorist Priestly Ministry. We do hope and pray that Pat now is experiencing the fullness and joy of eternal life as we take great comfort in the words of our Founder St. Alphonsus: "Let us not lose the beautiful crown which I see prepared for everyone who lives in observance and dies in the Congregation. I am certain that Jesus has prepared a beautiful place in Paradise for those who die in the Congregation."

Fr. Pat, my dear brother and loving friend, may you Rest in Peace and until we see and meet you again, may Jesus, Our Most Holy Redeemer hold you in the Palm of His Hand.

John McLoughlin, C.Ss.R.

In Memoriam of Fr. Frank Nelson, C.Ss.R.

When Redemptorists or parishioners hear the name of our recently deceased, Father Frank Nelson, I wonder who or what they remember. Some might recall

that one of his first assignments was St. Philomena in Pittsburgh, during which time he became the unofficial chaplain to the Penguins of the National Hockey

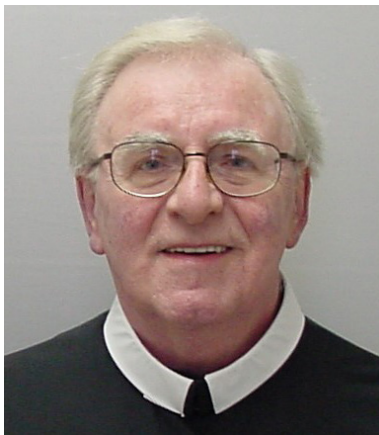
League. He was so dedicated to the team, that they invited Fr. Frank to skate with them during some of their practice sessions.

Fr. Frank Nelson, continued on pg. 12

In Memoriam Fr. Frank Nelson, Continued

Others will know Fr. Frank as a dedicated pastor of St. James (Lititz, PA) and Our Lady of Perpetual Help (Ellicott City, MD). Because the Redemptorist superiors had asked him to serve in the Provincial Finance Office when his term as pastor of O.L.P.H. was completed, Fr. Frank pursued studies in that area. He earned a Master of Science (M.S.) in Finance from the University of Baltimore, while he faithfully served as pastor and even oversaw the building of a new church.

Fr. Frank was appointed as Assistant Provincial Procurator (Treasurer) in 1987 and as Provincial Procurator in 1990 and served in the latter position for 15 years. It was during that time when I was appointed as his assistant that I had the privilege of working with him and more importantly of getting to know him. There are three attributes that I remember about Fr. Frank. He saw his job as treasurer as a ministry to the Redemptorists and the people that they served. As if a M.S. in Finance was not sufficient for him, he attended St. John University (Queens, NY) and earned a Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) in Economics, all in effort to serve the Redemptorists to the best of his ability. His office television was usually turned to a business station, and he knew the ins-and-outs of the stock market as well as, if not better than, any money manager or stockbroker. He carefully watched over our investments and other financial concerns so that



there would be sufficient funds to support Redemptorist ministries in the present as well as well as far into the future. Fr. Frank did this because he knew that the Redemptorists needed funds for their ministry of “preaching plentiful redemption.”

The second attribute that I remember is that Fr. Frank was a dedicated religious and a zealous priest. He was always present for community prayers, meals, and other gatherings. He also looked forward to helping in St. Martin of Tours Parish in Bethpage (Long Island) that Redemptorists staffed for 30 years. During the summer, he also preached appeals for the Redemptorist missionaries working in Puerto Rico, Brazil, and Paraguay.

The third and final attribute that I remember was his care for the sick. When the various Redemptorists, especially those working outside of

the United States, needed any medical attention, they would call Fr. Frank. He set up the various appointments. If necessary, Fr. Frank drove them to the appointments and waited by the phone for a call to pick them up. If a Redemptorist had to be admitted to the hospital, Fr. Frank visited him every single day or night. Many Redemptorists said, “That when I get sick, I want Frank Nelson to be there for me.”

One example of his care for the sick was Fr. Frank’s attention to Brother Albert, who had developed an infection on his foot due to poor circulation. The infection was so severe that if Brother Al did not receive daily treatment, there was the possibility of his having the foot amputated. Every morning and evening, Fr. Frank would bathe the foot, apply the antibiotic to the wound, and then carefully wrap the foot in a bandage. Had it not been for Fr. Frank’s dedicated service Br. Albert would have surely lost his foot and perhaps his entire leg, and maybe even his life.

So, there you have Fr. Frank Nelson in a nutshell – hockey chaplain, zealous pastor, competent administrator, dedicated Redemptorist, compassionate caregiver, faithful and loyal servant of the Gospel. In short, he was a good man. Fr. Frank (or Frankie as his family knew him), may you rest in peace! You certainly deserve it.

Jerry Knapp, C.Ss.R.



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