



The Baltimore Beacon

The Redemptorists of the Baltimore Province

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Provincial Ponderings



Dear Brothers and Sisters:

This month we remember Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., as we do every January on the anniversary of his birth. I share with you this month some reflections on Dr. King that I offered last year at an Interdenominational Service to honor his memory. I pray these few words may help us to keep his memory and his dream for a better society alive today:

Nearly 55 years after the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., the United States remains divided by issues of race and racism, economic inequality as well as unequal access to justice. These issues are stopping the country from developing into the kind of society that Martin Luther King, Jr., fought for during his years as a civil rights activist.

King's words and work are still relevant. How can we address divisions along race, class, and political lines? On August 16, 1967, in a speech entitled "Where Do We Go From Here," Dr. King spoke these words:

"And I say to you, I have also decided to stick with love, for I know that love is ultimately the only answer to mankind's problems. And I'm going to talk about it everywhere I go. I know it isn't popular to talk about it in some circles today. And I'm not talking about emotional bosh when I talk about love; I'm talking about a strong, demanding love. For I have seen too much hate. I've seen too much hate on the faces of sheriffs in the South. I've seen hate on the faces of too many Klansmen and too many White Citizens Councilors in the South to want to hate, myself, because every time I see it, I know that it does something to their faces and their personalities, and I say to myself that hate is too great a burden to bear. I have decided to love. If you are seeking the highest good, I think you can find it through love. And the beautiful thing is that we aren't moving wrong when we do it, because John was right, God is love. He who hates does not know God, but he who loves has the key that unlocks the door to the meaning of ultimate reality..."

Martin Luther King, Jr.'s understanding of the role of love in engaging individuals and communities in conflict is crucial today. For King, love was not sentimental. It demanded that individuals tell their oppressors what they were doing was wrong. King spent his public career working toward ending segregation and fighting racial discrimination. For many people the pinnacle of this work occurred in Washington, D.C., when he delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" speech.

Less well-known and often ignored is his later work on behalf of poor people. In fact, when King was assassinated in Memphis, he was in the midst of building toward a national march on Washington, D.C., that would have brought together tens of thousands of economically disenfranchised people to advocate for policies that would reduce poverty. This effort – known as the "Poor People's Campaign" – aimed to dramatically shift national priorities to address the health and welfare of working people.

Why does this matter today? In the face of violence directed at minority communities and of deepening political divisions in the country, King's words and philosophy are perhaps more critical for us today than at any point in the recent past.

As King noted, all persons exist in an interrelated community and all are dependent on each other. By connecting love to community, King argued there were opportunities to build a more just and economically sustainable society which respected differences. As he said:

"Agape is a willingness to go to any length to restore community... Therefore, if I respond to hate with a reciprocal hate, I do nothing but intensify the cleavages of a broken community."

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

Upcoming 2022/2023 Dates

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

Upcoming 2022/2023 Dates, Continued

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 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, 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 at 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 or YouTube: youtube.com/BaltRedemptorists or on our web site

at www.redemptorists.net These videos are released each Wednesday.

•February 18th: Online video service “Praying with the Icon of Our Mother of Perpetual Help.”

Parish Mission Schedule

- Feb. 2-9, 2023: St. Vincent de Paul, Holiday, FL
- Feb. 9-16, 2023: St. Martha, 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, 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, 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

Beacon Birthdays



New Ministry at Immaculata University, Pennsylvania

Campus Ministry at Immaculata University has seen quite the change over the last few months as the Redemptorists joined the team this past fall semester. This new partnership is one that shares a common charism

between the Redemptorists and the sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (IHM Sisters), who founded Immaculata in 1920. The connection between the Redemptorists and the IHM sisters can be traced back to 1845 and Fr. Louis Gillet, C.Ss.R., who co-founded the institute with Mother Teresa Maxis in Monroe, Michigan. From the humble beginnings in a log cabin, the Sisters continued to grow, and at the request of then-bishop St. John Neumann, came to the Philadelphia area. Since its founding, IU has strived to be a place of learning and faith in the IHM tradition.



talks and retreats during the year.

At IU, Campus Ministry has served as a place in which students can come to enhance their overall university experience while growing in their faith. Whether they come seeking spiritual direction, need to talk about

The addition of Redemptorists Fr. Royce Thomas and Br. Ken Stigner has been a welcome one this semester, especially considering the link between our Congregation and the IHM Sisters. Our arrival here is part of a larger project of “Alphonsification” of the programs that Campus Ministry does. This idea was begun by Sr. Laura Downing, IHM, the Director of Campus Ministry as a means of tapping into the Redemptorist roots that Immaculata has and providing greater exposure to St. Alphonsus and his spirituality through various

things they are going through in their lives, or simply to have a place to study or spend time with one another, the space at Campus Ministry has been a place where all can feel welcome, regardless of their denomination. With the presence of the Redemptorists on campus there is hope that the students will be able to have a greater experience of Campus Ministry through the infusion of Alphonsian spirituality and experience the redeeming love of God in their lives.

Ken Stigner, C.Ss.R.

Rededication of the Church in Sandy Bay to Our Lady of Perpetual Help

One highlight of the rededication of the Church in Sandy Bay was the enthronement of the Icon of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in the church sanctuary.

The Icon was carried in procession from the first place of worship in Sandy Bay, which was again

used for Mass and services during the rebuilding after the volcanic eruptions, to the present church. Parishioners walked with Our Lady of Perpetual on the main road of the community, singing, praying the rosary, and stopping periodically for passersby to witness the event. The Icon was then

carried in the opening procession of Mass and enthroned in the sanctuary. A fitting tribute to Our Lady of Perpetual Help who walks with all who call upon her most powerful name.

Kevin Murray, C.Ss.R.

Partners in Mission, Basilica of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Boston

On Sunday, December 4th, at the 9 a.m. Mass, here at the Basilica of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Boston, our Partners in Mission were formally introduced to the parish community. At the time of the homily, I explained to the community present the concept of Partners in Mission, how we are to understand it, and who were its members in this community at present. I was humbled and honored to call each of them by name to come forward and to stand before the altar. They formed a line the stretched across the central section of the sanctuary. Here were the seventeen who at present had said “yes” to becoming a Partner in Mission.

My intention was to introduce them and to bless them in the presence of the community. My hope was to inspire others to consider becoming a Partner in Mission. It was a perfect opportunity to reestablish our Redemptorist identity here at the Basilica – for those who still might not know that we are a Redemptorist parish. It was an

opportunity to point out the images of our Redemptorist Saints so beautifully painted in the dome high above the main altar – the images of St. Alphonsus Liguori, St. Clement Mary Hofbauer, St. Gerard Majella, and St. John Neumann. It was an opportunity to speak to the community present about the four pillars of Redemptorist spirituality: the crib, the cross, the Eucharist, and Mary. It was an opportunity to remind everyone of the need to pray for vocations to the Redemptorist Priesthood and Religious life.

Most important, it was an opportunity to remind everyone of the serious nature of our communal Baptismal commitment, that we are called as Disciples of Christ to make the Kingdom of God present in this world by the way we choose to love one another, that we are all called to be missionaries of hope in an often very sad and wounded world, that we are summoned to carry the “torch of faith” high and proud that we might – even in some small way – bring the radiant light of Christ Jesus into the

darkness that so often surrounds us.

In the end, it was an opportunity to give humble thanks to God for the gift of these seventeen disciples who have accepted their call to a deeper union with Christ and to His Church by becoming a Redemptorist Partner in Mission. I asked the congregation that was present to join me in blessing them and we collectively raised our hands and asked that the grace of God might pour down upon them – to enlighten, to strengthen, and to lead us all forward in the holy work of humble discipleship.

There was a beautiful feeling of the presence of the Holy Spirit among us as the community offered a heartfelt and extended applause for our “circle of disciples.” After Mass, I was approached by a handful of parishioners who felt the call of the Spirit and asked if they too might become a Partner in Mission. We are indeed abundantly blessed in this, and we give grateful and humble thanks to God.

Anthony E. Michalik, C.Ss.R.



Province Elects New Leadership Team



**John Collins, C.Ss.R.,
Provincial Superior**

Father John Collins, C.Ss.R., was born in Boston and raised in a Redemptorist parish, the Basilica of Our Lady of Perpetual Help (“The Mission Church”). Fr. Collins professed his first vows in 1979 and was ordained to the priesthood in 1987. He has most recently served as the Director of San Alfonso Retreat House in Long Branch, New Jersey, while also ministering as a member of the retreat team since July 2015.

He has previously served as Chaplain and Campus Minister at Gwynedd Mercy University from 2001 through 2015. His prior ministerial background also includes parish ministry, retreat programs and workshops, spiritual direction, pastoral counseling, and psychotherapy. Fr. Collins obtained master’s degrees in Religious Education (MRE) and Divinity (M.Div.) during seminary studies and completed a master’s program in Clinical Social Work (MSW) after ordination.



**John Olenick, C.Ss.R.,
Provincial Vicar**

Father John Olenick, C.Ss.R., was born and raised in Winston-Salem, NC. He worked at the Winston-Salem Journal and then for R.J. Reynolds before entering the Redemptorist congregation in 1996. Fr. Olenick studied Philosophy at the Oblate School of Theology in Washington, D.C., for one year. His novitiate was in Glenview, IL, and he made his first profession on September 11, 1999. His theological studies were done at the Washington Theological Union. After being ordained a deacon, Fr. Olenick spent seven months in Mexico learning the Spanish language and Hispanic culture. He was ordained a priest on May 10, 2003, at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Fr. Olenick was the Associate Pastor at Immaculate Conception in the Bronx from 2003 to 2008. He was transferred to Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Philadelphia in 2008 as an Associate Pastor. Fr. Olenick was made Pastor in 2008 and remained at Visitation until 2018. In 2014 he was elected to the Extraordinary Provincial Council. In October of 2018 he was transferred to Our Lady of the Assumption Parish in Vieux Fort, St. Lucia as Pastor.



**Kevin O’Neil, C.Ss.R.,
Provincial Consultor**

Father Kevin O’Neil, C.Ss.R., was born in Kingston, NY. After grammar school he entered the Redemptorist seminary formation program, studying at St. Mary’s Seminary High School, St. Alphonsus College, and Mt. St. Alphonsus Seminary where he received a Master’s in Religious Education (MRE) and a Master’s of Divinity (M.Div.). He was professed a Redemptorist in 1975 and ordained in 1981. After two years in parochial and Hispanic ministry at Mission Church in Boston, he was sent to study moral theology. He received his Licentiate in Sacred Theology from the Instituto Superior de Ciencias Morales in 1986 and his doctorate in Sacred Theology from the Alphonsian Academy in 1989.

From 1990 to 2012, he taught moral theology at the Washington Theological Union. Since 2013 he has been on the preaching staff at San Alfonso Retreat House in Long Branch, New Jersey. He co-authored with Fr. Peter Black, *The Essential Moral Handbook* and *Life, Death, and Catholic Medical Choices*.

New Provincial Superior, Vicar, and Consultor to Serve 2023-2026 Term

The Redemptorists of the Baltimore Province elect a new leadership team to serve during the 2023-2026 term. Rev. John Collins, C.Ss.R., is elected Provincial Superior; Rev. John Olenick, C.Ss.R., is elected Provincial Vicar; and Rev. Kevin O’Neil, C.Ss.R., is elected Provincial Consultor. These members of the Ordinary Provincial Council (OPC) will guide the missionary activities of the Baltimore Province with five additional Redemptorists who will be elected to the Extraordinary Provincial Council during the Provincial Chapter the weeks of March 13th and March 20th.

The elected leadership team brings new enthusiasm and assumes leadership under the Redemptorist theme “Missionaries of Hope in the Footsteps of the Redeemer.”

“Coming into Provincial leadership under the theme of Missionaries of Hope in the Footsteps of the Redeemer is a humbling entry point,” **Father John Collins, C.Ss.R., newly elected Provincial Superior**, says. “The *Message of Capitulars* from the 26th General Chapter of the Redemptorists states: ‘*We are part of this wounded world, but we are also aware of many signs of hope emerging in the world, in the Church and in our Congregation.*’ I look forward to walking in hope with my confreres in this upcoming term with the Redeemer guiding us each step of the way.”

All have served the missionary charism of St. Alphonsus de Liguori, but each brings a different background and a variety of ministry experience.

The Redemptorists are a religious congregation of Catholic priests and Brothers founded in 1732 by St. Alphonsus Liguori in Naples, Italy. More than 4,000 Redemptorists are currently working with the poor and most abandoned in nearly every part of the world. More than 150 Redemptorist priests, brothers, and students represent the Baltimore Province in the United States and surrounding Islands.

Advent Updates from St. Lucia

On Thursday, December 15, the Redemptorist and Dierremorne Chapel communities hosted a Christmas party for children in the La Tourney neighborhood. Christmas carols were sung, snacks were eaten, gifts were shared, and many bright smiles abounded. Br. Hai Truong, our seminarian from the Extra-Patriam Vice Province gave a wonderful talk about the nativity. It was truly a grace filled evening!

John Olenick, C.Ss.R.



Two Redemptorists become United States Citizens

Congratulations to Fr. Joseph Tran, C.Ss.R., (pictured right) who took his oath of citizenship in Brooklyn and Fr. Peter Linh, C.Ss.R., (pictured left) who took his oath of citizenship in Washington, D.C.



Winter Updates from St. Alphonus Villa, New Smyrna Beach, FL



For three days in early November, we welcomed to the villa Fr. Bob Lennon's niece and her daughter. They were able to stay at our guest house. About 30 years ago, when the guest house property became available for purchase, the Redemptorists had the foresight to purchase it. This guest house on the Indian River has been used by the families of a number of the Villa residents over the years.

In late November, one of our confreres, Fr. Eddie Gray, passed into eternity. Fr. Gray spent over 60 years ministering in parishes in the Carolinas, Georgia, Virginia, and more recently, Florida. Even with the dementia he suffered with, he was always ready to smile and have a laugh with one of the confreres or the staff. We celebrated his life at

our parish of Sacred Heart New Smyrna Beach where he ministered with great care for over ten years. May our loving Lord grant him rest and peace!

As the liturgical seasons of the Church come and go, we are blessed to have Br. Leonard Samuel (Br. Sammy) supervise our Villa sacristy and chapel. We always know what church season we are celebrating, because of the great effort Br. Sammy puts into fixing the chapel appropriately. The green pine trees for the Advent Christmas season are the result of his nurturing the trees through the year. We can do that in Florida.

With the capture of our two Ukrainian confreres by Russian forces, Br. Sammy obtained pictures of them, and we keep them in mind at our common prayer.

We are looking forward to receiving Fr. John 'Champ' Hennessy into our community after the first of the year. In addition to ministering for some years in Boston, 'Champ' has spent almost 65 years in Brazil.

Ray Collins, C.Ss.R.

Winter Series: Redemptorist Conversations on Racial Justice

January 31:

“White Like Me” Video of Tim Wise, part I; Facilitated by Bob Finelli

February 7:

“White Like Me” Video of Tim Wise, part II; Facilitated by Steve Bendon

February 14:

Why “Black Lives Matter” is for All; Facilitated by Joyce Jones

February 21:

“The Catholic Church & Racism” Video of Bryan Massingale; Facilitated by Francis Gargani

Schedule:

Tuesdays, 8-9:30 p.m. EST

If interested in attending this four-part series, please use the QR code to register or visit our website www.redemptorists.net.



Redemptorist Archives Library Catalog Available Online

The Redemptorists of the Baltimore and Denver Provinces are pleased to announce that their archive library catalog is now available live in an online format.

Eventually, any book or pamphlet contained in the Redemptorist Archive Library collections in Philadelphia can be made known with an internet connection and a few key strokes. The catalog currently holds records for more than 6,000 books in our 25,000 volume collection. Records are being added daily.

The library augments other outstanding collections, including

over a million paper documents. It is strong in Redemptorist and American Church history, moral theology, and local history in places where Redemptorists have had a presence. It also houses special collections that include one of the largest sets of books anywhere on the Shroud of Turin.

The new catalog is being built with the intention of sharing records through other key research portals in the United States and abroad. Its platform is being hosted by Lucidea, an information technology leader, using its GeniePlus software for the library’s searchable database.

In October 2022, thanks to the generous support of the Botstiber Institute for Austrian-American Studies, the Redemptorist Archives retained Ms. Lorena Boylan to help catalog the library.

Specific Inquiries may be directed to the archivists – Dr. Patrick Hayes, Baltimore Province Archivist and Jennifer Vess, Denver Province Archivist. Telephone: 215-922-2871.

Visit the Redemptorists’ library catalog at <https://1590.sydneyplus.com/genieplus/final/Portal/Default.aspx>



The Redemptorists

Baltimore Province



Come and Pray WEEKEND

Ephrata, PA · February 17-19

Free and open to single,
Catholic men. Ages 18-45.



Discern your vocation.
Celebrate your faith.

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— Baltimore Province —

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