



The Baltimore Beacon

The Redemptorists of the Baltimore Province

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Provincial Ponderings



Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Most of you by now know about recent pastoral planning decisions that have affected the Redemptorists of the Baltimore Province. While the focus may be on locations the Redemptorists are departing from and handing back pastoral care to various Dioceses, we must not lose sight that we have also begun to engage in some new ministerial activities. A key one is that as of August 2022, the Redemptorists of the Baltimore Province are supplying two young confreres to be part of the Campus Ministry Team at Immaculata University outside of Philadelphia, PA.

It is a ministry our Province has long been looking to be part of and we were overjoyed when an invitation came from the IHM Sisters at Immaculata to be part of the team. To begin this new adventure, it was necessary to restructure some of our other ministries. However, one of our Missionary Priorities is working with young adults and we saw Campus Ministry at Immaculata as a way to respond to the priority. We pray for Ken Stigner and Royce Thomas as they enter their first semester as part of the team and pray that the Spirit will

fill them with love for this ministry.

As we enter this new venture, I thought about my own years working with youth and young adults, returning to think about my experiences at events such as working with Habitat for Humanity, World Youth Days (WYD), and Redemptorist Young Adult Gatherings in both North America and Europe. I found myself leafing through material of the first WYD I attended in Denver in 1993. While I remember the 20-mile hike, the camp out under the stars, and Mass with Saint Pope John Paul II, I must admit I forgot his words from his homily until I reread them. As the Redemptorists of the Baltimore Province begin working as part of this ministry at Immaculata, the words of this Saint still hold meaning for young people today. Saint Pope John Paul II said:

“Do not be afraid to go out on the streets and into public places, like the first Apostles who preached Christ and the Good News of salvation in the squares of cities, towns, and villages. This is no time to be ashamed of the Gospel (Cfr. Romans 1,16). It is the time to preach it from the rooftops (Cfr. Matthew 10,27). Do not be afraid to break out of comfortable and routine modes of living, in order to take up the challenge of making Christ known in the modern “metropolis”. It is you who must “go out into the byroads” (Matthew 22,9) and invite everyone you meet to the banquet which God has prepared for his people. The Gospel must not be kept hidden because of fear or indifference. It was never meant to be hidden away in private. It has to

be put on a stand so that people may see its light and give praise to our heavenly Father.

Jesus went in search of the men and women of his time. He engaged them in an open and truthful dialogue, whatever their condition. As the Good Samaritan of the human family, he came close to people to heal them of their sins and of the wounds which life inflicts, and to bring them back to the Father’s house. Young people of “World Youth Day”, the Church asks you to go, in the power of the Holy Spirit, to those who are near and those who are far away. Share with them the freedom you have found in Christ. People thirst for genuine inner freedom. They yearn for the Life which Christ came to give in abundance. The world at the approach of a new millennium, for which the whole Church is preparing, is like a field ready for the harvest. Christ needs laborers ready to work in his vineyard. May you, the Catholic young people of the world, not fail him. In your hands, carry the Cross of Christ. On your lips, the words of Life. In your hearts, the saving grace of the Lord.” (8th WORLD YOUTH DAY; EUCHARISTIC CELEBRATION AT THE CHERRY CREEK STATE PARK OF DENVER; HOMILY OF HIS HOLINESS JOHN PAUL II. Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Sunday, August 15, 1993)

May these words continue to challenge us all to bring the Good News everywhere we go!

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

Upcoming 2022/2023 Dates

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

Mid-September 2022: Convoking of the XVIII Provincial Chapter

September 25, 2022: Enrollment of Partners in Mission [PIM] Circle Associates at St. John Neumann

Upcoming 2022/2023 Dates

Church, St. Mary's Parish, Annapolis, MD, at 11 a.m. Fr. Patrick Woods is the PIM Coordinator. All are invited and the ceremony will be live streamed.

Saturday, October 1, 2022: The Great Work of Our Time: Healing Our Planet at Redemptorist Provincial Residence. 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. RSVP to Francis Gargani, C.Ss.R., at francescogcssr@yahoo.com.

Thursday, October 6, 2022: First Nominating Ballots for Provincial, EPC & Chapter Delegates go out.

Sunday, October 16, 2022: Enrollment of PIM Circle Associates at St. Martin of Tours; Bethpage, NY during the 12noon Mass. Lucy Burich McNamara is the PIM Coordinator. RSVP to smtpartnersinmission@gmail.com

Tuesday, November 29 – Thursday, December 1, 2022: Province Convocation at San Alfonso Retreat House; Long Branch, NJ [Thursday, December 1, 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 Anthony Gittens, CSSp, is the retreat director and the theme will be: "Missionary Discipleship."

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

Monday, March 13 – Friday, March 17, 2023 and if necessary Monday, March 20 – Friday, March 24, 2023: XVIII Baltimore Provincial Chapter

at San Alfonso Retreat House; Long Branch, NJ

Tuesday, May 30 - Thursday, June 1, 2023: Province Retreat at San Alfonso Retreat House; Long Branch, NJ Anthony Gittens, CSSp, is the retreat director and the theme will be: "Missionary Discipleship."

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

Tuesday, October 17 - Thursday, October 19, 2023: Province Convocation at San Alfonso Retreat House; Long Branch, NJ. Anthony Gittens, CSSp is the presenter and the theme will be: "Intercultural Living."

Communications Updates

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

• Weekly Video reflections on the upcoming Sunday readings (Cycle C) may be found on Facebook: facebook.com/RedemptoristsBaltimore or YouTube: youtube.com/BaltRedemptorists. These videos are

released each Wednesday.

• Saturday, October 15th: On-line 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

- October 19th – 20th
- November 16th – 17th
- December 2nd (San Alfonso; Long

- Branch, NJ)
- January 18th – 19th
- February 8th – 9th

Evangelization Team Parish Mission Schedule:

- Nov. 10-17, 2022: Good Shepherd in Lenexa, Kansas
- Dec. 1-8, 2022: St. Michael in Long Branch, NJ
- Dec. 8-15, 2022: Sacred Heart in South Plainfield, NJ
- Jan. 19-26, 2023: Sacred Heart in New Smyrna Beach, FL
- Feb. 2 - 9, 2023: St. Vincent de Paul in Holiday, FL
- Feb. 9-16, 2023: St. Martha in Sarasota, FL
- Feb. 23-Mar. 2, 2023: St. Columba in Hopewell Junction, NY
- Mar. 2-9, 2023: St. Mary in Dumont, NJ
- Mar. 23-30, 2023: St. Bede in Williamsburg, VA

Save the Dates

Redemptorist Conversations on Racial Justice *For Confreres and Partners in Ministry*

Furthering the program begun last Spring with our new fall series, **Building on Our Roots**

October 11: Redemptorists and Oblate Sisters of Providence

October 18: Redemptorists and Race

November 8: Redemptorists & the South

Tuesday Evenings on ZOOM, 90 minutes of conversation
Eastern : 8 p.m. - Central: 7 p.m. - Mountain: 6 p.m. - Pacific: 5 p.m.

Presentations by and Discussions with
Dr. Patrick Hayes and Dr. Nicholas Radmacher
RSVP to Francis Gargani, C.Ss.R., for the ZOOM link - francescogcsr@yahoo.com

New Baltimore Province Website

We are pleased to announce that we launched our new website in late August. The new site was part of an effort to align our communications efforts under a new look that is rooted in our history. You'll notice it fits with the logo that was created focusing on the four pillars of St. Alphonsus.

Think of the website as a living, breathing, document. If you ever see something that is in error, needs added, or have any of your own ideas, please email Katie Carpenter, our director of communications, at kcarpenter@redemptorists.net.

We hope the new efforts in communications make getting to know the Redemptorists of the Baltimore Province and interacting with us regularly that much easier.



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Welcome

Since 1732, the Redemptorists — a congregation of missionary priests, deacons, and brothers — have followed in Jesus' footsteps, preaching the Word and serving the poor and most abandoned.

"In Him there is plentiful redemption" (Psalm 130:7).



PIM Enrollment, Philadelphia

When I arrived in Philadelphia at Saint Peter the Apostle Church/ National Shrine of Saint John Neumann for a year of pastoral experience in September 2018,

I encountered a vibrant Filipino community with great devotion to Our Mother of Perpetual Help and Saint John Neumann. The Filipino community faithfully gathers every

Wednesday evening for OMPH devotions using the novena prayers of the Baclaran Shrine in the Philippines.

The Filipinos were organized as a

PIM Philadelphia, continued on pg. 5



PIM Enrollees pictured above

community in August 1976 which led the members to be involved in the liturgical life of the shrine and parish. Their devotion attracted more and more Filipinos from other parts of Pennsylvania, Delaware, and New Jersey to express their faith in God and their loving devotion to His Mother. Soon after, the community started to gather for Wednesday devotions to Our Mother of Perpetual Help. Throughout the years, the community faithfully supported the shrine and parish in many of its ministries and projects.

During the formation phase of Redemptorist students, they are introduced to the importance of lay collaborators in the mission of the congregation and charism to the universal church. These lay faithful, who are partners in the work of the Redemptorists, have been formed

in the early years of the Congregation. The lay partners have continually supported the Redemptorists in their mission whether as individuals or organized groups.

For many years, the Filipino community in Philadelphia has been living out the Redemptorists mission in their

prayers, outreach, and community life. They emulate Constitution 20 having “strong in faith, rejoicing in hope, burning with charity, on fire with zeal, and humility of heart and persevering in prayer.” The seed of a Partners in Mission Circle has been planted, and now they are ready to sprout as they grow an ever deeper relationship with the Redemptorist Family. We started to introduce the idea of intentionally gathering as a Partners in Mission Circle to some of its members in late 2019. Then in August 2020, we gathered virtually as a circle for the first time during the Covid-19 pandemic. Our initial gatherings were devoted to learning about the Foundation of the Redemptorist Congregation, the life of Saint Alphonsus de Liguori, and Redemptorist Spirituality. Since then, we have been gathering about four

times a year for a day of prayer and reflection.

On the 7th of September 2022, the first Partners in Mission in the National Shrine of Saint John Neumann were enrolled as Redemptorist Associates. The celebration was held on the First Wednesday Mass of the Filipino Community and presided by Fr. Francis Gargani, C.Ss.R., and Fr. Richard Bennett, C.Ss.R. After the Partners in Mission stated their intentions, Fr. Francis welcomed them as Redemptorist Associates and Lucy McNamara bestowed unto each of them the Redemptorist cross. The newly enrolled Redemptorist Associates expressed their commitment to continue in their faith journey with the Redemptorist Family.

The first fruits of public celebrations like the enrollment of Redemptorist Associates are for the Holy Spirit to plant the seed in people’s hearts. After the Mass, there were several people who expressed their interest in the Partners in Mission Circle. May the Holy Spirit inspire more men and women, especially those who have been supporting the professed Redemptorists in their ministries for many years, to grow deeper into relationship with the Redemptorist Family.

Eumir Bautista, C.Ss.R.

Under 55 Mexico Meeting

“This has been an historic week.” “I really enjoyed meeting so many Redemptorists.” “I hope we can do this again soon.” These are just some of the things overheard during the meeting of Redemptorists 55 years old and younger from the United States, Mexico, and the English-speaking

Caribbean. The meeting took place from August 30 - September 1 at Casa Lago, the Mexican Episcopal Conference’s retreat/conference center outside of Mexico City. Seventy Redemptorists came from the Provinces of Baltimore, Denver, Mexico, and the Vietnamese Extra-

Patriam Vice-Province.

The meeting came about as a direct result of the on-going discussions between the Extraordinary (Vice) Provincial Councils during their bi-monthly Zoom meetings. As the Units discussed the most beneficial



The meeting took place at Casa Lago, the Mexican Episcopal Conference's retreat/conference center outside of Mexico City.

way to restructure for the future of North American Redemptorist ministry it was suggested to have the younger confreres come together. Those at or under the age of 55 will be the ones who will most have to deal with the consequences of any major restructuring decisions that will be coming within the coming years. The four councils felt it would be important to give them an opportunity to have a voice and see where they were at regarding a new way forward for the Redemptorist congregation.

There were numerous purposes for the gathering. The most obvious one was for the confreres to get to know one another. Some had been together in the seminary, in the novitiate, previously studied Spanish in Mexico, or been a part of the Transition to Ministry program. However, there were lots of new faces to get to know during the time together. The first morning of the meeting each participant answered a few short questions such as: "What Unit do you belong to?" and "What has been a highlight of your ministry over the past year?" to get a glimpse of who they are as a confrere. There was also time set aside for some team ice breakers to liven up the meeting.

Apart from getting to know one another on an individual level, the planning committee believed that getting to know the Units that the

confreres belong to was equally vital. Time was set aside for PowerPoint presentations to be given on each Unit which gave basic details such as the number of confreres, number of ministry sites, and how the Unit was responding to the pastoral priorities

of the Conference: Immigrants/Indigenous, Youth/Young Adults and those who do not receive the Gospel as Good News.

The following day the confreres broke out into small groups to answer a simple question - "What drew you to the Redemptorists?" There were varied responses to this query. Some confreres had grown up in a Redemptorist parish. Others responded to an ad in a Vocation magazine. Many had been drawn to the Congregation through a parish mission or an encounter with an individual confrere. It was obvious through this sharing how all the confreres felt blessed to have responded to the call to follow Christ the Redeemer in the Congregation.

The last day of the gathering was a time set aside for the confreres to share about their hopes, dreams, and vision for the North American Conference. There was a lot of positive energy in

the discussions as the confreres identified numerous ministerial possibilities where either an individual or a Unit has a particular gift that could be used to a wider extent than it is at the present time. The zeal for preaching the Good News to the poor and abandoned in new and creative ways was expressed by countless confreres. During these discussions it became apparent that there were a lot of common desires and ideas in this large group even though we were a diverse group of brothers.

Each day the confreres gathered for Morning Prayer in the chapel, ate together, and celebrated Mass as one Body of Christ in the afternoon. The spirit of good will was among the diverse Units as some confreres attempted to dust off their high school Spanish to communicate with another Redemptorist. Every night was a fiesta with the Mexican Province playing host and truly embodying the saying "Mi casa es tu casa." The informal and relaxing atmosphere around the bar enabled various confreres to engage one another in personal conversation. The last night was especially memorable as spontaneous group karaoke broke out among the different Units. The Vietnamese began with a rousing rendition of a traditional Vietnamese song. Later, the famous Mariachi song "Cielito Lindo" was played and to the surprise of many the Vietnamese confreres sang along! The positive spirit that was ignited during this week of coming together bodes well for the future as the Redemptorists of North America continue to respond to the urgent needs of the continent inspired by the charism of St. Alphonsus and with a strong desire to serve the poor and abandoned.

John Olenick, C.Ss.R.



Fr. Brian Vaccaro, C.Ss.R., pictured

A Call to Serve – Ordination of Royce Thomas, C.Ss.R.



Royce Thomas, C.Ss.R., was ordained on Aug. 13; him and fellow Redemptorists pictured.



Archbishop Charles Jason Gordon was the ordaining Bishop for the ordination in Royce's home of Trinidad and Tobago.

“There is no greater love than this, says the Lord, than to lay down your life for a friend” (Jn 15:13). The life of Christ embodied this scripture, as He spared nothing to save all of humankind. He invited the disciples and all baptized believers to imitate his expression of love by asking us to love God with our all heart and to love our neighbor as ourselves.

On January 5, 2022, my life changed forever at the National Shrine of St John Neumann when I professed perpetual vows in the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer. On August 13, 2022, through the imposition of hands by Archbishop Charles Jason Gordon in my home of Trinidad and Tobago, this call of total self-surrender was deepened. The gift of the priesthood was

bestowed, signaling a responsibility to represent Christ, to display his love, compassion, and care throughout my ministry. As a Redemptorist, this expression of love, compassion, and care will be shaped by Redemptorist charisms and apostolic zeal. Nonetheless, it will be one of service, marked by mission.

In following St. Alphonsus, founder of the Redemptorists, I desire and pray to be a priest who will work tirelessly to promote the good news of Christ, selflessly sharing the gifts God gave me to build his Church. As a son of Alphonsus, prayer will be the core of my relationship with God and my ministry. Relying totally on the Holy Spirit, I hope to celebrate each Mass and liturgical act with reverence and grace.

Grateful forever will I be, for the call of God in my life. Though unworthy I am, for such a precious gift, God called me, and on Him I depend to live out this call to the best of my ability and for the glory and honor of His name.

Royce Thomas, C.Ss.R.

Ordination of Royce Thomas, C.Ss.R., Continued



“In following St. Alphonsus, founder of the Redemptorists, I desire and pray to be a priest who will work tirelessly to promote the good news of Christ, selflessly sharing the gift. As a son of Alphonsus, prayer will be the core of my relationship with God and my ministry. Relying totally on the Holy Spirit, I hope to celebrate each Mass and liturgical act with reverence and grace.” Royce Thomas, C.Ss.R.



Fr. Royce Thomas, C.Ss.R., pictured with family above, Fr. Song You, C.Ss.R., and Fr. Royce Thomas, C.Ss.R., pictured left

The Redemptorists in St. Ann, Dominica

It is an honor and privilege to have been asked to write something about and for the Redemptorists who have served this parish of St. Ann from 1912 to the present.

The growth of the parish all began with Fr. Cyril Bossuyt from Belgium who quickly realized that the church was dilapidated and too small for the growing population.

Fr. Bossuyt wanted to build a place of worship worthy of the Divine Occupant of the Tabernacle. He enlisted the help of his confrere, Fr. Cuvelier, C.Ss.R., from St. Croix to design the beautiful edifice which still stands today although battered by major hurricanes in 1930, 1979 and 2017.

Early in 1917 the corner stone of the new church was blessed, and less than two years later the new church was solemnly blessed by Bishop Philip Schelfhaut, on Sunday December 1, 1918.

Next, the church tower was constructed and solemnly blessed on the Feast of St. Ann, the patroness of the Parish, on July 26, 1921. A memorial slab reads: ST. PAUL AND ST ANN'S CHURCH A.D. 1918-1921.

Fr. Bossuyt's completed his work by installing beautiful stained-glass windows in 1922 and importing a church bell in 1936. The inscription on the bell, still in use today, reads: "NOMINOR JOSEPHUM + C. BOSSUYT MAHAUT DOMINICA."

The Redemptorists labored long and hard over the years to build the church here both physically and spiritually which has manifested itself in the growth which is seen today.

All the church structures which exist today throughout the parish were built by or with the help of the Redemptorists, most recent being the Holy Spirit Chapel in the village of Warner which was rededicated on the August 10, 2022. That chapel was destroyed by Hurricane Maria in 2017. With the financial assistance of the Redemptorists the chapel was rebuilt into a beautiful, more climate resistant structure, much to the joy of the residents there. During the five-year interim, villagers had to journey about three miles on a Sunday for liturgy.

Although there have been no direct vocations to the Redemptorists from the parish, the spiritual growth and maturity which still exists in the parish must be attributed to the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer. There was one young man who entered the priesthood as a direct influence of the Congregation but was encouraged to serve the local church and so became a diocesan priest. This can also be viewed as the commitment of the Redemptorists to help grow the local church in which they serve. The Parish of St. Ann has been blessed with Redemptorist priests of varying charisms; there were the builders; those who worked to improve the lives of the poor through the provision of scholarships for the less fortunate sometimes up to university level; others who would bring the surplus food from the house to those without; some who organized soup kitchens to feed the poor and marginalized and did not leave it entirely to the laity but fed them personally.

The fathers were not aloof but ameliorated with the community by being involved in the life of the community; participating in the villages local cultural activities, organizing activities which promoted the natural environment, promoting activities building the bond between



fathers and sons, or the development and self esteem of the youth, or activities to bring the community together.

The Congregation did not monopolize the running of the church but enabled the local leaders through training to accept responsibility for the running of their church, and so in every community there was a local chapel committee to oversee the chapel that reported to the parish council.

The spiritual aspect of the church was never neglected. In each community, activities for the spiritual growth of the communities were promoted, be it Life in the Spirit seminars, bible workshops, and meetings of lay leaders to discuss and share on the Sunday's readings, patronal novenas or Triduums, exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, pilgrimages and devotion to the Blessed Mother - all the pillars of the Redemptorists.

We hold fond memories of deceased Fathers Jolly, Paul Loncke, Francis, Henrique, Vandenberg, Charles Vermulen and Jackie Merilan among others. We recall the St. Martin de Porres chapel being blessed and dedicated by Redemptorist Bishop Edward Gilbert.

St. Ann, Dominica, Continued



Fr. John McLoughlin and parishioners at farewell mass in Dominica.

We honor and express our profound gratitude to Fathers Rodney Olive, Glanville Joseph, Franklin Cuffy, Jude, Elton Letang, Matthew Allman, and John McLoughlin, as well as others who have ministered to us through retreats and novenas.

We also recognize and say THANK YOU to those who worked with parishioners to ensure the continuous improvement of the church buildings

As our Redemptorist Fathers take leave of St. Ann parish, we the parishioners, past and present, extend

our sincerest gratitude to you and assure you of our loving friendship and prayerful support for the continued work and growth of your ministry and congregation. We pray this through the intercession of Our Mother of Perpetual Help.

Thank you, thank you, thank you, dear Fathers! Blessings and more blessings always!

“In Him there is plentiful redemption” (Psalm 130:7).

Parish of St. Ann, Diocese of Roseau, Dominica

Surrounded by Nature, Redemptoristines

Here in the Hudson Valley, our monastery is set snugly against the foothills of Mount Beacon. Mount Beacon played an important role in the Revolutionary War when it served as an early signaling system with its beacon fires atop the summit during that conflict.

Here, in our monastery in Beacon, our life of prayer is a beacon of hope in the resurrection. As a contemplative monastic community, we are called to be Radiant Witnesses of God’s Love for the world. Jesus is the light of our faith, the strength of our charity, and the source of our hope. In community, along with our Carmelite Sisters with whom we live in the monastery of the Incarnation, we find light and strength in the Word of God and in the sacraments so that we can, following the example of Christ, make of our whole life a sacrifice of praise to the glory of the Father as we share the faith, love, hope, joys, and sorrows of those who live in the local Church.

Our contemplative life is nurtured and enriched by nature on every side. Out



the front door is a pond. This spring we were delighted by nine goslings (two families of Canadian geese), a fawn, Myrtle the Turtle laying eggs below the refectory window, a baby bunny eating all our pansies, a bobcat sitting under a bench watching the geese, a mink checking out the pond (it did not stay), and the nightly howl of the coyotes.

Trees, like a wall, climb up Mount Beacon. The radio towers on Mount Beacon send out modern beacons to all who are tuned in. The cross atop the monastery is a beacon of our prayerful presence. In chapel, we are tuned in to the voice of God. Our

offerings of adoration and praise go out for all our sisters and brothers with the intercession that a new heaven and a new earth will become a reality where God will be all in all. The sisters who are able hike the Madonna Trail adjoining the property with its trickling streams and enjoy the peace and solitude which leads to finding the wonders of God in nature.

Out the back door, many sisters pull out a lawn chair to read or pray in the quiet or just watch or listen to the birds fluttering in the trees. The grounds are a birder’s paradise with red-tails, bluebirds, owls, herons, ducks and the occasional osprey and egret.

Surrounded by Nature, continued on pg. 11



Sr. Mary Jane Stefanik, O.Ss.R., birding on site

Up in the north field is a secret path leading to the parish cemetery where sisters can stroll and pray for the deceased. Five of the Carmelite sisters are buried there.

Inside the monastery our life of prayer is ever flowering growing, deeper and wider. Because of aging, we may look a bit wilted around the edges, but our hearts remain rooted in the mercy of Christ our Redeemer and cast seeds of faith, hope and love. By following the world news, phone, and email requests for prayer, Redemptorist news bulletins and such, we are united

with the world. By our daily prayer of praise and intercession, our website: rednunsny.org and Facebook: Redemptoristine Nuns of New York, we are a beacon to the presence of our Savior in our midst and the Kingdom of God in the world.

This Spring brought us times of rejoicing. At the beginning of May, Sr. Paula celebrated her 70th anniversary of religious profession. And on the last day of May we celebrated Sr. Maria

Paz's 60th anniversary of religious profession.

On May 14th, we celebrated with our Carmelite Sisters and friends the canonization of Carmelite Titus Brandsma, Martyr. He was an early critic of Nazism and defended the freedom of the press in Holland. He wrote: "To win the world to Christ, one must have the courage to come in conflict with it."

This spring also brought times of

sorrow. We were devastated by the invasion of Ukraine and all the lives lost in the mass shootings in our own country. During the weekend of Pentecost, we joined 'Wear Orange' by wearing orange poppies in remembrance with all those who have died because of gun violence and in solidarity with those working to install sensible laws.

June 19th began our novena in honor of our Mother of Perpetual Help. It was a special time for us to be beacons, not only of God's merciful love but of our Lady's strong and tender care. We follow her example and, just as she holds Jesus close to her heart, so, too, do we hold all your intentions close to ours.

We are truly surrounded by nature, blest by nature. By the nature of our life as radiant witnesses, as beacons of God's love, we signal to the world the true nature of Jesus: love, mercy, and plentiful redemption.

Moira Quinn, O.Ss.R.

Mexican Coalition and Immaculate Conception, Bronx, NY

Thursday, Sep.1, 2022, was a banner day for Immaculate Conception and for the Mexican Coalition, which has offices here. Years ago, Fr. Frank Skelly invited Jairo Guzman to use an office in the parish rectory for a nascent organization which would serve immigrants to the area. The work was both in line with the history of Immaculate Conception, which has always been an immigrant parish, and with the calling of Redemptorists to serve the most abandoned and poor.

Jairo's organization has expanded to include not only legal services

to immigrants but health services, mental health services, business training, and an increasing number of other services to help newly arrived people to the neighborhood. Fr. Sean McGillicuddy offered the Coalition the large building at 471 E 150th St., where they could expand into office and meeting space, as well as house interns from Ibero-Americana, a Jesuit college in Mexico City. The building had originally been the convent of the Sisters of Christian Charity, then became the formation house for the Redemptorist philosophy-level seminarians, and

most recently the residence of a lay missionary organization from France, the Emmanuel School of Mission. Covid shut down the possibilities of the missionary group continuing in operation here and the building sat empty for a year. Now it has a new and fortuitous purpose.

The area we live in is the poorest Congressional District in the United States. It is a godsend to have Jairo and his organization here and working so hard on behalf of the people.

Gary Lauenstein, C.Ss.R.

Update from Saint Vincent and the Grenadines



The new baking equipment at the Garifuna Bakery.

During the week that the Church celebrates the Feast of Mary's Assumption into heaven (August 15), a bit of that bliss came to earth once again in Sandy Bay. The blessing came by way of a forty-foot container; the contents of which were sent by the wonderful organization, Food for the Poor. Their support throughout the effects of the volcanic eruptions cannot be measured in words. Their team seems to be on the ground here as much as anyone else, although they operate from Florida. Their virtual and spiritual presence is very much a part of the continued response to persons still recovering from the disaster of last year.

On this particular container, two new and sorely needed mixers were sent to the Garifuna Bakery. Also included for the bakery were baking pans with rolling racks (replacing those lost with the eruptions), a kitchen oven, microwave, blender, and a bread slicer.

Imagine – it will be the first time that sliced bread is sold from the bakery! Numerous folding chairs for the Sandy Bay Chapel (renovations ongoing) also arrived. Some furniture, bedding, and other items useful for persons still recovering from damaged homes and properties were sent. Clothing and play articles for children were also on board – to be distributed in red zone areas soon.

All the above has been received with much joy and gratitude. The contents of the container will be very useful in the continued efforts of resurrecting the bakery and furthering the good work of the staff there, as well as providing for the restoration of the church and families served in the

Parish. Much has been accomplished in that regard over the past year, but the work is ongoing as there always is someone in need. Gratefully there is always someone ready to help – here and abroad.

The Redemptorist mission is vast and encompasses many persons throughout the world. While Saint Vincent and the Grenadines may be a small corner on the map, the lives of the people here are hardly isolated or insulated from the global mission scene. The church community and beyond has been enriched by the presence of Redemptorists and benefactors, admirable local volunteers, and the goodness of our friends at Food for the Poor. Together restoration of homes, lives, and businesses is happening. The road to recovery continues to be a long and sometimes bumpy one, but its path has been made smooth through a communal spirit, generosity, and prayer. All so prevalent in the midst of those serving and be served on the mission.

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