



# The Baltimore Beacon

The Redemptorists of the Baltimore Province

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## Provincial Ponderings



Dear Brothers and Sisters:

One of the first Broadway musicals I ever saw contains a song that has some of the most haunting lyrics I have ever heard. In “Les Miserables,” the character of Marius sings the following words: “There’s a grief that can’t be spoken There’s a pain goes on and on Empty chairs at empty tables Now my friends are dead and gone.” The month of November in the Catholic Church is indeed a time to reflect upon all the empty chairs at empty tables.

This year all of us, I am sure, have been touched by the death of someone we knew and loved. The COVID pandemic did not discriminate based on race, religion, or economic status. The pain that goes on and the grief that cannot be spoken are real, and the month of November is a time for us to remember our departed loved ones and acknowledge this pain, this grief.

As a Province, this year has been an emotional one for many of us as we have said farewell to so many good and zealous Redemptorists. During this year we have said farewell to our youngest Redemptorist at the age of 39 as well as several confreres who were in their late 90s and approaching the century mark. There have been many others of various ages in between who have died faithful in the Congregation. In many of our communities we read “Cherished Memories” each day which gives a thumbnail sketch of the life and ministry of the Redemptorists who died on that day. The short narrative can never capture the full life of these apostolic men. In our Washington, DC community at our time of reading

“Cherished Memories” it is often accentuated by someone adding more to the narrative if they knew the confrere.

We all have our cherished memories of our deceased confreres. Hopefully all of us during this month can take time to remember and share those memories. We pray that all deceased Redemptorists share eternal life with the Redeemer, and by our sharing stories of their memoirs they will forever live within each of us. Our sharing of these cherished memories means there are no empty chairs at empty tables but living memories of men who inspired us, formed us, and made us who we are today. The grief and pain may forever be present but in the eyes of the Lord they are not dead and gone ... they are alive with the Saints and the Redeemer in heaven.

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed thru the mercy of God Rest in Peace. Amen.

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

## Upcoming 2022/2023 Dates

**Wednesday, January 5, 2022 at 12:15 p.m.** Feast Day Mass of St. John Neumann & Final Profession Ceremony for Royce Thomas, C.Ss.R., and Brian Vaccaro, C.Ss.R., at St. Peter Church/St. John Neumann Shrine; Philadelphia, PA. Rev. Jack Kingsbury, C.Ss.R., (North American Conference Coordinator) is principal presider and preacher

**Saturday, January 8, 2022 at 10 a.m.** Deaconate Ordination for Royce Thomas, C.Ss.R. and Brian Vaccaro, C.Ss.R. at Sacred Heart of Jesus; Baltimore, MD. Bishop Bruce Lewandowski, C.Ss.R. is the ordaining Bishop

**Sunday, January 9, 2022 at 3:30 p.m.** Sunday Mass Celebration of the Feast of St. John Neumann at St. Peter Church/St. John Neumann Shrine; Philadelphia, PA. Rev. Paul Borowski, C.Ss.R. principal presider; Rev. Kevin Zubel, C.Ss.R. preacher.

**Monday, February 21-Wednesday, February 23, 2022** Province Retreat (Southeast Region) at St. Alphonsus Villa; New Smyrna Beach, FL

**Thursday, February 24, 2022** Province Jubilee Celebration (Southeast Region)

**Monday, May 9 - Friday, May 20, 2022** North American Conference Assembly & Phase 1 of the XXVI General Chapter at San Alfonso Retreat House; Long Branch, NJ

**Tuesday, May 31 - Thursday, June 2, 2022** Province Retreat at San Alfonso Retreat House; Long Branch, NJ

**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) is the ordaining Bishop

## Upcoming Dates, Continued

**Saturday, August 13, 2022 at 11 a.m.** Priesthood Ordination for Royce Thomas, C.Ss.R. at St Anthony's; Guapo Cap-de-Ville Main Rd; Point Fortin, Trinidad. Archbishop Charles Jason Gordon (Port of Spain, Trinidad) is 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, 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

## Communications Updates

- Daily Audio Podcasts on the readings of the day may be found at [redemptorists.net](http://redemptorists.net) in either Spanish or English.
- Weekly Video reflections on the upcoming Sunday readings (Cycle B) 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.

- Sunday, December 5 – Tuesday, December 7: On-line Triduum in Honor of the Immaculate Conception

- Wednesday, December 8: On-line Feast Day Mass in Honor of the Immaculate Conception
- Saturday, December 18: 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

- December 15th – 16th, 2021
- January 12th – 13th, 2022
- February 16th – 17th, 2022

- March 23rd – 24th, 2022
- April 27th – 28th, 2022
- May 25th – 26th, 2022
- June 15th – 16th, 2022
- 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)

## Upcoming Missions, Retreats, and Video Series

- Nov. 26-28, 2021, Sacred Heart of Mary Parish, Barling, AR, Peter Linh, C.Ss.R.
- Nov.27-Dec. 1, 2021, Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Manville, NJ, Kevin MacDonald, C.Ss.R.
- Nov 29-Dec 1, 2021, Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Carrollton, TX, Peter Linh, C.Ss.R.
- Dec. 4-8, 2021, Holy Spirit Catholic Church, Fountain Valley, CA, Peter Linh, C.Ss.R.
- Dec. 5-8, 2021, Triduum for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception on YouTube or Facebook for The

- Redemptorists of the Baltimore Province, Redemptorist Team for Evangelization
- Dec. 10-12, 2021, Vietnamese Martyrs Parish, Tukwila, WA, Peter Linh, C.Ss.R.
- Dec. 10-15, 2021, Paris Mission: “Walking in the Dark, Living in the Light of Christ,” St. Mary’s Church, Pompton Lakes, New Jersey, Redemptorist Team for Evangelization
- Dec. 16-19, 2021, Church of the Vietnamese Holy Martyrs, Kansas City, MO, Peter Linh, C.Ss.R.
- Jan.22-25, 2022, St. Martha

- Catholic Church, Sarasota, FL, Kevin MacDonald, C.Ss.R.
- Feb. 26-March 1, 2022, St. Patrick Catholic Church, Armonk, NY, Kevin MacDonald, C.Ss.R.
- March 5-9, 2022, St. Paul Catholic Church, Tampa, FL, Kevin MacDonald, C.Ss.R.
- March 12-16, 2022, Holy Family Catholic Church, Orlando, FL, Kevin MacDonald, C.Ss.R.
- April 23-27, 2022, Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, Erie, PA, Kevin MacDonald, C.Ss.R.

## Annual Hispanic Festival Celebration at Clinton

On Saturday, October 16, the Feast of Saint Gerard Majella, the Hispanic community of Immaculate Conception Parish in Clinton, NC, sponsored our annual Hispanic Festival in one of the parking lots adjacent to the church. With the aid and participation of our sister parish of Saint James the Greater in Concord, NC, the local community was delighted with the music and animation of choral groups from both parishes, as well as performances from singers from both locations and a folkloric dance troupe from Saint James. They also presented a comedic play that they had prepared to the amusement of all. There was more than ample food from every Latin-American country with a presence in our parish: Mexico, Honduras,



Delicious food was enjoyed by all.

Guatemala, El Salvador, Venezuela, and the Dominican Republic.

One of the apostolic groups, dedicated to ministry in the local migrant camps (appropriately called Misioneros) were the prime organizers. But these received all the support that they needed from the other missionary endeavor here—Apóstoles de la Palabra, a public association of the faithful dedicated to Catholic apologetics as deduced from the Scriptures. Present and active throughout all stages of this project were our Pastoral Associates, Sisters of Divine Providence (C.D.P.) Maxine Tancraitor and Theresine Gildea, both in their 80's. Sister Theresine oversaw the hourly raffle that was a major source of revenue for the event.

The day ended with festive dances drawn from the retreat experience common to both parishes, Cristo Renueva Su Parroquia (CRHP in Spanish).



There was fun to be had for the whole family!

Immaculate Conception was erected as a parish in 1944 at the behest of the Province, and from that time there was a Redemptorist community resident in Clinton until 1953. Saint James the Greater was my former parish (the Redemptorists have ministered there since 1974) prior to my assignment in these parts, some three hours east of Concord.

Clinton is the governmental seat of Sampson County, some 18 miles south of where we reside in Newton Grove. Sampson County is reputed to be the most rural of all of North Carolina. In the autumn months it is blanketed with a magnificent cotton harvest ready for the picking.

*Joseph Dionne, C.Ss.R.*

## “Regatherbration” at Concord

After a Hot Summer of Discernment and Pastoral Experimentation, St. James the Greater in Concord, NC celebrates a “Regatherbration” on Sept. 26, 2021.

The summer of 2021 offered us opportunities for “opening up” once again some of our former pre-covid summertime pastoral and faith

formation events. With the virus still hanging around and threatening us, the staff and C.Ss.R. community felt that “standing still” wasn’t an option. We wanted to be safe but not paralyzed with signs of improvement all around us. So, we held popular events like the summer bible school, the two-week summer intensive faith formation program and other youth

and family outdoor gatherings and picnics. Masks were readily available and encouraged, and distancing was present where necessary. Many of our parishioners were vaccinated and we felt somewhat “normal” once again.

One of the advantages that our rural/somewhat urban location provides is space to do things and celebrate events

## “Regatherbration”, Continued



formation programs; and this animated some inspired members of our staff and parish council to pursue other

that could never be realized in most of our C.Ss.R. communities in very urban/large city settings. And that advantage helped us to imagine and celebrate a wonderful gathering of our parish family.

For two years now, we have been forced to remain distant and very careful. People watched the Mass from home on YouTube, and most parish programs and events were attended by way of Zoom or some other internet platform. We truly missed each other but distancing and masking up was the best that we could do. Things began to loosen up a bit over the months of late winter and springtime. We had to cancel our celebration in early June of our Parish Picnic, but we kept looking for an opportunity to regather and animate our community from the paralyzing effects of the “covid coma.” Fortunately, we had very positive and safe experiences of the regathering of our children for summer faith

regathering events for the whole parish family. After the brainstorming of the summer, we came up with a celebration called “A Regatherbration” of our parish family and we chose the weekend of September 26, 2021 to hold the event.

In short, the event was a smashing success! We gathered over a thousand parishioners in the “amphitheater” style section of our parish parking lot and invited the participants to bring their own seating and cushions for comfort. We canceled all other morning masses and had a 10 a.m. bilingual Eucharistic celebration. All our community was represented in every possible way. Music, language, dress, liturgical postures, age, ethnicity, and food! After the Eucharist, we fed the multitudes with hamburgers, hotdogs, tacos (most popular), sweet tea (a southern thing) and all the ice cream you could eat! Music and

games were provided, and smiles were everywhere.

Our celebration was further enhanced by the presence of our newly ordained permanent Deacon Rev. Mr. Todd Labonte! It was his first public Mass, and he gave a very stirring and inspirational reflection on his journey to the Diaconate. He also announced that he had been assigned to our parish for ministry by the Bishop of Charlotte. We are all thrilled and hopeful that the two Hispanic deacon candidates in the wings will soon join him in ministry.

From the ashes of Covid rises the Phoenix of ministry! Can we say that? Our parish was never dead or destroyed rather it lay dormant awaiting the call and healing of the Lord! We still have a long way to go as only about half of our families have returned to weekly attendance. But we are hopeful that in short order we will see a faithful community returning to communal prayer, fellowship, ministry, and service. Most parishioners were truly moved by our “Regatherbration” and requested that we have a similar event soon. It felt like a family reunion long overdue and a moment of grace calling us to renewal, community life, and an embracing of our mission

*Jermoe Chavarria, C.Ss.R.*

## Redemptorist Honored with Award



On September 19 at a ceremony at the Cathedral in Charleston, Fr. Peter Sousa, C.Ss.R., received the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice Cross. Fr. Mike Koncik, C.Ss.R., came in support, as well as a number of parishioners. Fathers Blas and George had to stay home to celebrate the Masses but were there in spirit. There were six in total who were given awards. Fr. Sousa

received his award for ministering 10 years in the Diocese, serving on various diocesan committees, assisting with youth ministry, and appreciating his previous vocation ministry, Army chaplaincy, and service at Shaw Air Force Base in South Carolina.

*Peter Sousa, C.Ss.R.*

## New Pastor and Continued Successes at New Smyrna

Fr. Kevin MacDonald was appointed Pastor Pro Tem after the death of Fr. Tom Burke. This was a difficult moment in the life of a parish. Fr. Kevin performed admirably. Used to being a missionary Fr. Kevin accept the appointment with Christian wisdom, understanding, and patience, and guided the parish successfully through the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as Fr. Burke's passing.



Fr. Kevin MacDonald

During this time Fr. Kevin gave the keynote address at priest's retreat during the Advent season and his talk was well received. He also successfully endured a knee operation and now is in fine form to resume his athletic interests – mainly golf!

A heartfelt thanks is extended to Fr. Kevin for guiding the parish through a difficult period and a warm welcome to Fr. John Tizio.



Fr. John Tizio with Wilbur

"I arrived here in New Smyrna Beach in the middle of September, having never been stationed in the South before. I was touched by the way so many parishioners remembered those

Redemptorists who have served here at Sacred Heart and St. Gerard. Tom Burke, Glen Parker, John Murray, Frank Browne, Mike Dillon, Ed Gray, Gene Daigel, George Rosario, Frank Nelson to name just a few. They remember all those who have ministered here so fondly, with great stories! What a great legacy of Redemptorist ministry here in New Smyrna Beach, both in the past and looking forward. I am happy and excited to be here and to build upon what they have done."

In the spirit of our Redemptorist call to reach out to the poor, many might not be aware of the parish ministry to the hungry in the New Smyrna Beach area by Fr. Aldrin Nunes helping the Knights of Columbus each month in feeding the homeless, from 150 to 200 people a day.

Fr. Aldrin Nunes, a Redemptorist from the Mumbai Province is an excellent priest in the Sacred Heart Parish. Every Friday, except during the pandemic, Fr. Aldrin leads a group of eight extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist (EMS) in visiting approximately 55 parishioners who are not able to come to church or receive communion. The people visited appreciate the effort of all these volunteers as it brings them great joy – to receive the Christ and listen to words of Christian comfort from these volunteers.

In addition, Fr. Aldrin presides at Mass at Lexington Assisted Living facility once a month after distributing the body of Christ to the infirm. The

people who gather for this Mass are treated to an excellent homily by an energetic presider who loves them dearly.

Fr. Aldrin's work in this area encourages the other extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist to continue to serve Christ by remembering those who cannot attend Mass or regular parish functions. By doing so these people not only feel connected to the parish but are connected through the parish by the Body of Christ. The Body of Christ is one of our faith's most powerful assets and allows people to connect and be a part of the missionary endeavor of our faith.



Fr. Aldrin at Lexington Assisted Living

Our Sacred Heart School is celebrating 60 years of operation and bringing the message of Christ to school-aged children – preschool through eighth grades. Fr. John Tizio, our new pastor, celebrated the kickoff Mass for the year-long celebration with great joy and allowed him to be introduced to our parish. His message of hope and encouragement during his homily was well received and will be continued throughout the year.

*John Tizio, C.Ss.R.*

*Jim McCabe, C.Ss.R.*

# Ordination Celebration and Homily

On Saturday, November 6 at 10 a.m., the Redemptorists celebrated the ordination of two men, Huan T. Le and Huyen T. Nguyen with Bishop Bruce Lewandowski, C.Ss.R., as the ordaining Bishop.

This ordination marks the first time a Redemptorist has been ordained at St. Peter the Apostle Roman Catholic Church since the 1850s. The last man ordained there was Rev. Joseph Wissel and he was ordained by Bishop John Neumann.

Please enjoy the homily from the ordination celebration given by Bishop Bruce Lewandowski, C.Ss.R.

## Priesthood Ordination, Deacons Huan Le and Huyen Nguyen

### *Vietnamese Family – The Elders*

Family is the most important aspect of life in Vietnam. It is much more interdependent and tight-knit than what many Western cultures are familiar with. Family is always first. And extended family, including aunts, uncles, grandparents and other

relatives are often very close. These relationships provide care and support and security. It is common for three generations to live under the same roof: grandparents, parents and children. Many would agree that living alone is unknown in Vietnamese culture.

Within the family, age is the factor that most determines the level of respect and responsibility a person receives. The cultural respect of age also requires that family members defer to elders. When arguments occur, this can mean that the older family members' views prevail. Vietnamese children almost never talk back to their parents. There are no nursing homes in Vietnam. Families need to stay close-knit as parents depend on their children for care in their older years. This expectation remains for many Vietnamese families living in America.

We are here today thanks to Huan's and Huyen's parents. As soon as this date was proposed for the ordination, our deacons called home. Their parents gave us permission to celebrate the ordination today. We are very grateful to Huan's and Huyen's parents.

How do Vietnamese people treat their elders? Elders are the leaders in families, have the strongest influence in decision making, and are respected and sought after for advice. Younger family members are to be obedient and respectful. Elders living and deceased are greatly revered. The oldest brother in



Huan T. Le and Huyen T. Nguyen lay prostrate at St. Peter the Apostle Church

Vietnamese families has a tremendous amount of responsibility. In the absence of the father, he is responsible for the care and wellbeing of the family.

Why am I spending so much time on this? The word "priest" comes from German origins and is related to the Greek word "presbyter" which is understood to mean "elder." With the celebration of your ordination to the priesthood, you become "elders." There is a change in status, a shift in where you fit into the hierarchy of the Church, but also the family hierarchy heavily influenced by Vietnamese culture.

### *The First Born Son, Older Brother*

Be careful. An "elder" without Christ can be frightening.

Elders can be cruel, exercising their power and authority without feeling,



Huan T. Le and Huyen T. Nguyen



Bishop Bruce Lewandowski, C.Ss.R., was the ordaining Bishop.

The elder brother resents the prodigal son, and refuses to join the celebration.

*In the Absence of the Father, Jesus, First Born Son, Older Brother*

“If there is any encouragement in Christ, any solace in love, any participation in the Spirit, any compassion and mercy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, with the same love, united in heart, thinking one thing. Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves, each looking out not for his own interests, but [also] everyone for those of others. Have

among yourselves the same attitude that is also yours in Christ Jesus, Who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross. Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Philippians 2:1-11).

Jesus teaches us that priestly ministry, service, living the sacrament of orders, being the elder, means becoming small, the servant and slave of all. Take the lowest place. Greatness is found in giving our lives in self-sacrificing

love for the good of others without counting the cost to ourselves. Jesus is our elder brother in the family of the Church. He’s the older brother who gives his life as the ransom for the many. Paying the price with his blood to save us from sin and death.

*Newly Ordained Priests*

You must be the older brother in God’s family, the Church. At baptism, confession, anointing of the sick, funerals, wedding, in the pulpit, at the parish office. Older brother to the poor, the sick, the stranger, the sinner, with special love and for those who have no family and are alone, the most abandoned.

Always with kindness, gentleness, and compassion, with mercy and patience, with joy and hope.

In the person of Christ, as first-born sons, older brothers, you will celebrate the Eucharist, the liturgy, standing at the altar, your lives on the altar, giving yourself completely and totally for plentiful redemption in a wounded world.

I look on you today as my older brothers. We need you to be our older brothers, like Jesus, the Holy Redeemer. And so, today, I will not ask you to deny your culture. Be who you are, how God made you. Culture is a God given gift. Celebrate this new role that Christ calls you to today. Take your place as an “elder” among God’s people. But, at the same time, marry this moment and the living of your priestly ministry to the words and example of Jesus.

Without exception, be priests, “elders,” older brothers to everyone after the heart of the Most Holy Redeemer.

*Homily by Bishop Bruce Lewandowski, C.Ss.R.*

love and care. Elders can be self-seeking, unconcerned about the needs of others, striving after personal gain. Elders can be greedy, selfish with their time, their gifts, talents and abilities. Elders can hurt and wound, and cause pain and suffering.

It was the elders, who through their influence and corruption, put Jesus to death.

Look at the Hebrew Scriptures:

Adam, the firstborn son, older brother, turns back on God and leads family down the road to separation from God.

The elder Cain kills Abel. “Am I my brother’s keeper?”

Joseph is sold into slavery by his elder brothers. They lie to their father. Eliab is resentful and jealous of David whom Samuel anoints king.



## Father Lawrence E. Lynch, Army Chaplain



Flag on Main Street in Ephrata, PA honoring Fr. Lynch

Between 1939 and September 1941, Father Larry Lynch called the St. Clement Mission House home, but he was hardly ever there. A man of restless temperament, his main responsibility was to preach missions throughout Pennsylvania and New Jersey. He had already been a missionary in Paraguay and Brazil, done work with labor organizations in Buffalo, New York, and ministered to Black Catholics in a rural parish in Orangeburg, South Carolina. Yet his crowning achievement, at least the one for which he won the most fame, was as an exemplary Army chaplain during the Second World War.

Lynch had a rollicking personality. Eclectic in his tastes, as a student he exhibited a remarkable talent for poetry, painting, and baseball. He used

his ability with words to cajole and befriend, and his straight-talk cut to the things that matter. He had a square jaw and a thick frame, which he carried with a gregarious swagger. He could often be found clinching a cigar between an affable grin. Father Lynch was a priest to Everyman. When he told his mother that he was going to enter the Chaplain Corps, she wondered why when he was doing such good work from St. Clement's Mission House. His reply was true to his character: "Mom, the Army is one unending mission for a Chaplain."

Born in Brooklyn on October 17, 1906, Father Lynch entered the Redemptorist

preparatory seminary at North East, Pennsylvania in August 1919. He was accepted into the Redemptorist novitiate at Ilchester, Maryland, where he eventually pronounced his vows on August 2, 1927. Five years later he was ordained at Mount St. Alphonsus in Esopus, New York, by Patrick Cardinal Hayes and gave himself over to missionary life.

His commission as an Army chaplain came in September 1941 and his first posting that November was to Camp Wheeler, Georgia, where he was attached to the 8th Infantry. His next three assignments were with the 7th Armored Division which brought him to the swamps of Louisiana and training in the Mojave Desert. He shipped out to the Pacific theater in December 1943 and was stationed at

the Headquarters Service Command at New Caledonia until February 1945. His men called him "the Champ" partly due to his zeal on behalf of individual GI's and partly for his organizational ability. While in New Caledonia he brought together a mammoth twelve-priest mission that drew 15,000 from all the command posts on the island. He inaugurated a broadcast called The Catholic Hour which was sent over the island's mosquito network. He gave each man he met a holy card depicting Our Lady of Perpetual Help and many later recalled how she protected them from harm.

From New Caledonia he joined the 165th Infantry Regiment—what had been known as the "Fighting 69th" (New York's Irish Brigade)—and was a front line chaplain on the Island of Okinawa. For his gallantry in action against the enemy at Okinawa, Shima, Nansei Shoto, between April 21 and 24, 1945, he received the Silver Star and the Purple Heart. He was mortally wounded by an exploding shell on April 24 and died on the battlefield while ministering to his men.

Father Lynch was buried hurriedly on Okinawa, almost one hundred days before the Japanese surrender on August 15. After the hostilities on Okinawa were brought to heel, fifty Catholic chaplains returned to his grave site and, on the hoods of fifty jeeps, simultaneously chanted a Mass of Requiem before a congregation of 3,000. His remains were later translated for burial from the Redemptorist parish of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Brooklyn, New York. Captain Lawrence Edward Lynch, C.Ss.R., is interred in the Redemptorist Cemetery at Mount St. Alphonsus in Esopus, New York.

*Patrick Hayes, Archivist*

## Saint Vincent Volunteer: Jelani Brudy, Caritas

After nearly 42 years without an eruption, on April 9, 2021 the La Soufrière volcano erupted on the mainland island of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, displacing approximately 20,000 residents on the most northern part of the island. The pyroclastic flows and ash-fall devastated the livelihoods of many Vincentians which created a need for assistance/workers to help in combating the consequences that were associated with the natural disaster. With this in mind, I decided to volunteer my time and effort in helping with such relief efforts but did not know where or how to go about it. However, when Father Kevin and his team contacted me about joining Caritas SVG in order to start the immediate, much-needed relief work, I jumped at the opportunity, since I myself am a firm believer in the Catholic Church's teachings on discipleship and the Bishop's mandate of being a missionary church. From the get-go, it was clear to see that the desire and drive of the team (mostly young volunteers from the Red Zone) to help as many people as possible was extremely high. No place was too far, no road was too bad, when it came to reaching those in need. Up and down the island we rode delivering necessities such as food, clothes, mattresses, pillows, sheets, face masks, face shields, and most importantly water, from early morning to late evening. Over time the evacuees living in the more central and safe areas (Green Zone) had come to rely on us, to the extent that we believe that "The Green Truck" was one of the most recognizable vehicles on the island.

However, that was not enough, additional volunteers (all evacuees from Red Zone areas) were enlisted to increase the effectiveness of the project. These evacuees turned



Jelani Brudy volunteers to help the island after the devastating volcanic eruption.



volunteers, worked diligently and effectively to prepare food packages for all those in need. This continued even after the government lowered the alert level from red to orange, and then eventually gave the all-clear for residents to move back.

Caritas SVG is still actively helping residents with food supplies, safety gear, building tools, and much-needed cleaning supplies. We have been working hard on cleaning and rebuilding certain key areas in the countryside in hopes of getting homes and shops up and running again soon. I could not have asked for a better project to devote my time to. Seeing the joy we brought to people, gives me great joy knowing that we were

making a difference in a difficult time in the lives of these people. I will cherish the friendships, comradery, and overall experience for the rest of my life.

*Jelani Brudy, Caritas Volunteer*

*Jelani graduated from Saint Martin's Secondary School in 2019 as Valedictorian. He went on to continue his studies at the St. Vincent Community College where he also excelled academically. He is an athlete, accomplished musician, and devout Christian. He serves the Church faithfully through his home parish, the Cathedral of the Assumption, and throughout the Roman Catholic Diocese of Kingstown, SVG.*

## Report on Partners in Mission

Fr. Francis Gargani, C.Ss.R., presented the following report on Partners in Mission at the Baltimore Province Convocation via Zoom on Thursday, October 21, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. Thank you to Fr. Paul and the Convocation organizers for this opportunity to address our Province on the development of our Redemptorist “Partners in Mission” program, both in our Province and in our Conference of North America. Having just completed presenting a retreat with our global Director of PIM and North American Conference PIM Secretary, Anne Walsh, this past weekend, to over one hundred associates, in five different time zones, in English, Spanish, French, and Vietnamese languages, it is exciting to see the growth and energy of Redemptorist “Circles of Associates” throughout our Conference.

Convinced that the Holy Spirit is inviting us Redemptorists, along with many other religious communities of women and men, to form the laity in our unique Alfonsian spirituality, and to engage the laity in our mission of announcing God’s redeeming love in Christ to our wounded world, it has been a joy, as your Province PIM coordinator, along with Lucy Burich McNamara of our former Bethpage Parish of St. Martin of Tours, to experience such positive development and momentum among us.

Hopefully, you are all aware that we now have an approved working document for our world-wide Congregation, “The Directory of ‘Partners in Mission,’” as well as an approved working document guiding the formation process, “The Ratio of ‘Partners in Mission.’” Hopefully, you are also aware the two main categories, “Circles of Associates,” and “Lay Missionaries,” are ever growing throughout the world. There are one

hundred “Lay Missionaries” in the entire Congregation. “Associates” now number in the thousands world-wide.

Of course, aware this movement which flows not only from the evening chapels of St. Alfonso, but especially from the “circles of lay associates” of St. Clement, and is a response to the Second Vatican Council’s daring vision of the laity to live their baptismal call more fully, we are thrilled it has a real momentum in our North American Conference, after years of pioneering ministry of Fathers Arthur Wendel, Tom Travers, and Pat Woods in our Province alone. There is a North American Conference Committee of approximately ten members representing every unit, coordinated by myself and Wendy Barnes, Lay Missionary of the Denver Province, long-time employee of Liguori Publications, under the guidance of Anne, with Jack Kingsbury, our Conference coordinator, our ex-officio members, that has been meeting by Zoom every month for over two years now. Our own PIM Baltimore Province Committee of John Olenick, Anthony Michalik, Michael Cunningham, Glenn Parker, Tom Travers, Lucy and myself, meets monthly, along with Anne Walsh as our cheerleader. We’ve also been trying to keep all the Province informed through our monthly Baltimore Beacon newsletter.

The graphic to the right shows us the present overview of our PIM Circles of Associates in the Baltimore Province.

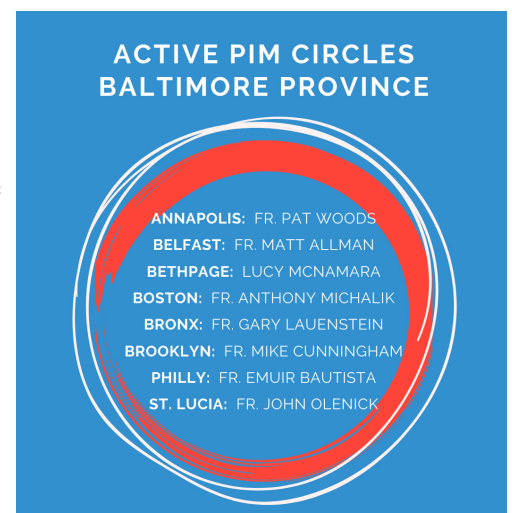
I am thrilled now to welcome our Province Lay Co-coordinator, Lucy Burich McNamara, who has managed to form and sustain a sizeable “Circle of Associates,” even after we Redemptorists returned St. Martin of Tours to the Rockville

Centre Diocese of Long Island. Lucy has shown that even after we move on, parishioners want to grow in our rich Alfonsian Charism and together make a difference for others. You are welcome to view Lucy’s witness video at: <https://youtu.be/IT0VS1RkdUs>

Our Conference Secretariat for Partners in Mission invited each of the Province Lay Co-coordinators to create a witness video so that professed Redemptorists and the laity interested in Redemptorist spirituality and mission could begin to imagine the possibilities of PIM.

Three different confreres in varying locations of our Province also shared their experience of recently forming a Partner in Mission ‘Circle of Associates’. These reflections will be presented in the December issue of the Baltimore Beacon.

Thank you again for your interest, support and attention. Though so many of you have engaged numerous lay sisters and brothers in ministry among the parish communities, PIM offers interested parishioners and others not only a unique path of spiritual formation that is grounded in our christic-centered charism of crib, cross and sacrament, accompanied by Our Mother of Perpetual Help, but



opportunity to deepen their baptismal vocation by joining our ever-widening Redemptorist Family on mission to our wounded world. We hope this short report will encourage all of us professed Redemptorists to “get on board,” and help us join hands with many more sisters and brothers “to circle” our hurting world with the redeeming love of Christ. For as our graphic joyously proclaims, “It is not greatness that we aspire as Redemptorists, but an attitude of gratefulness to God’s redeeming love we ourselves experienced and we are called to share and experience with others.” ~ Father Eric Paul Soliven Sevencruz, C.Ss.R.

To support you, please note both the PIM section in our SCALA website, as well as our NASPIM website.

We invite you share your feedback or questions with Fr. Francis Gargani, C.Ss.R., at francescogcssr@yahoo.com or Lucy Burich McNamara at mcnamaraLucy@aol.com

May St. Alphonsus bring this dream of one Redemptorist Family of professed and lay members to fruition!

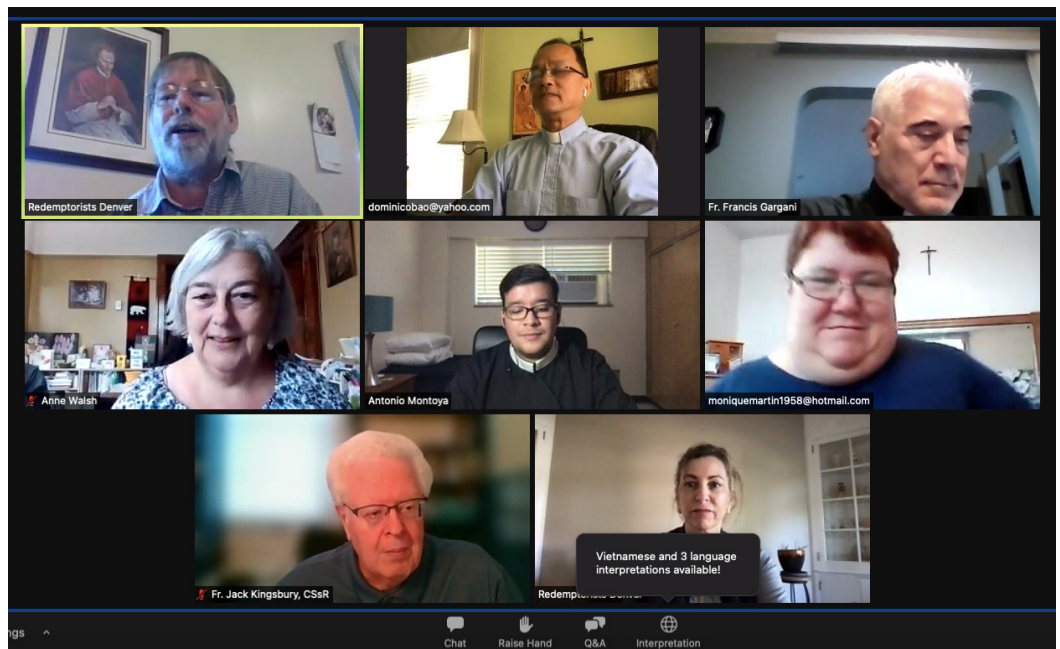
*Partners in Mission Province  
Co-coordinators  
Fr. Francis Gargani, C.Ss.R., and Lucy Burich McNamara*

**PIM Leader Resources**  
Redemptorists' Scala News Website  
**www.cssr.news**  
Secreteratiats > Evangelization > PIM > Resources  
NA Conference Secretariat for PIM Website  
**www.cssr.net**  
See Leader's Tab  
Email mcnamaraLucy@aol.com for Password

## A C.Ss.R. Family Gathering

Partners in Mission (PIM) from throughout North America discussed selections from the Gospel and Pope Francis’ *Fratelli Tutti* through the lens of Redemptorist spirituality during the Fall Retreat on October 15- 16. Months in the planning, the retreat was the very first online webinar hosted by the North American Conference Secretariat for PIM. “A total of 141 people registered for the retreat, which spanned five-and-a-half time zones and was facilitated in four languages,” explained Fr. Greg May, host of the retreat. “There were a lot of moving parts, so it took a concerted group effort to ensure the success of the retreat.”

Panellists included: Fr. Jack Kingsbury,



North American Conference Coordinator; Anne Walsh, PIM Coordinator for the North American Conference and retreat presenter; Fr.

Francis Gargani, Co-Chair for the PIM Secretariat and retreat presenter; and Wendy Barnes, Co-Chair for the PIM Secretariat and co-host.

In addition to Fr. Jack, group leaders included: Lucy McNamara, Lesia Sianchuk, Diana Davenport, Wendy Barnes, Fr. Dominic Bao Tran and Br. Antonio Montoya.

Fr. Dominic translated for the Vietnamese, Br. Antonio translated for the Spanish, and Monique Martin translated for the French.

Featuring a “Catch the Dream” theme, the retreat format included three sessions: “The World is My Neighbour,” “Your Wounds are My Wounds,” and “Co-Redeeming God’s New World.” Each hour-and-a-half presentation was followed by small group discussions. Participants then returned to the webinar, and each small group leader shared thoughts discussed by their group.

“The message of the 25th General Chapter – WITNESSES OF THE REDEEMER: In Solidarity for Mission to a Wounded World – invites us to develop a listening attitude and be attentive to the wounds we encounter, which will enable us to heal our own wounds,” Anne explained. “The amount of suffering in the world can feel overwhelming. We may be afraid to touch the wounded because we may be afraid to examine our own wounds, which isn’t pleasant. We are invited to a life-long process of formation and conversion, which



requires us to see ourselves not only as wounded, but also as redeemed.”

In *Fratelli Tutti*, Pope Francis illustrates the way to rebuild our wounded world with the Parable of the Good Samaritan. “The parable shows us how a community can be rebuilt by men and women who identify with the vulnerability of others, who reject a society of exclusion and act instead as neighbors – lifting up the fallen for the sake of the common good. This is our mission as Redemptorists and PIM,” Fr. Francis said. “We were created for a fulfillment that can only be found in love. We cannot be indifferent to suffering. We should feel indignant, challenged by our contact with human suffering.”

Collaboration with the laity is a sign of the times and a clear manifestation of the action of the Holy Spirit, Fr. Francis said. “We are discovering that the charism of an institute doesn’t belong exclusively to the institute. Charisms are gifts of the Spirit to the Church and the whole world, to be poured out in mission. The Redemptorists aren’t opening the door to the laity; the Holy Spirit is opening the door.”

Early leaders – both Redemptorists and lay leaders from the time of St. Clement Hofbauer – have brought us to this moment, he said. “Our baptismal identity makes all the difference. A lay missionary is one concrete expression of the vision of Vatican II, and the PIM movement is the Spirit’s movement to make the Church a beacon of hope and light.

Vowed religious are so enriched by the laity, and we rejoice and pray that you are equally enriched by the missionary dynamism that courses through our veins. You have called us to a renewed vision of this rich gift of Alphonsian spirituality and vision that propels us forward to bring Christ’s redeeming passion to our wounded world.”

Participants look forward to more group gatherings to strengthen communication and build relationships. Check the North American PIM website – CSsR.net – to view sponsored retreats and a host of other material related to PIM.

*Article posted in Denverlink  
Submitted by Kristine Stremel, with contributions from Anne Walsh and Fr. Greg May  
Photos submitted by John Davenport*

## A Cemetery, a Garden, and a Historical Site in Annapolis



The land on which Saint Mary's Church, Rectory, and schools sits has a long, storied history. It had belonged to Charles Carroll, a delegate for the Colony of Maryland to the Continental Congress. He was the only Catholic to sign the Declaration of Independence.

The property, together with one of Charles Carroll's homes, was acquired by the Redemptorists in 1853 from relatives of Charles Carroll. It was to be used for "religious purposes." Since

that time, the Carroll House has been used as a residence of Redemptorist priests, a novitiate, an added year of training for our priests called the tirocinium, a place of meetings, and at the present time, as offices for the parish and school administration. It is a historical monument.

The property around the Carroll House is a wide arc on the shore of Spa Creek which empties into the nearby Chesapeake Bay. It is known as Carroll Gardens.

From the beginning of Redemptorist history in Annapolis, a Redemptorist cemetery was set apart. Dozens of Redemptorists are buried there, including the Redemptorist seminarians who drowned in a boating accident while enjoying a day of sailing.

In recent years the gravestones have been battered by the weather and

storms. They were dirty, unreadable, with green moss growing on them. This October 2021 the cemetery was power washed. October is also a time when the city of Annapolis celebrates a two-weekend "Boat Show." Many who love sailing converge on Annapolis. These pictures reveal the beauty of this peaceful place of rest, overlooking the sailboats moored there.

Carroll Gardens has also been very useful as we move into a more normal school year. Most days, the high school students have picnic lunches on the lawns. The parish has an outdoor Mass on Saturday at 5 p.m., which became very popular as we were cautiously returning to parish life, with many restrictions. Open-air Masses became popular. There is also another outdoor Mass at 9 a.m. on Sundays, on the grounds of Saint John Neumann Church, just outside of Seelos Hall.

*John McKenna, C.Ss.R.*

## C.Ss.R. Happenings



Fr. Peter Hill participated in a conference at the University of Notre Dame along with Father Maurice Nutt, C.Ss.R., of the Denver Province. The conference was the Black Catholic Theology Symposium. Fr. Hill concelebrated the closing Mass with Fr. Nutt and Cardinal Wilton Gregory of Washington.

Photo by Peter Ringenberg, University of Notre Dame.

Roof repairs are underway at Grace Chapel in St. Lucia.



## In Memoriam: Fr. Carl Hoegerl, C.Ss.R.

Father Carl entered my life in 1968, when I began theological studies at then Mt. St. Alphonsus Seminary. It was definitely a “love/hate relationship!” As Prefect of Students, he often critiqued me and sometimes even made me weep, but he also delighted me with his expansive knowledge and sharp wit.

I also loved to hike, so his famous hiking excursions were a “hot ticket.” He loved to tell the time I called a “lean-to” a “le-an-to”, confused by the sign with no hyphen!

When I was serving as rector at our Provincial House on Shore Road, it was clear he was the raconteur for all our table conversations, and still had amazing memory for the most minute



details in his storytelling! I developed a real affection for him and always was happy to transport him to/from the airports when he would travel with the

smallest suitcase you ever saw.

I will not forget his amazing resiliency when in one of many forays into Manhattan and his ever-new discovery of a new section of Central Park, he was struck by a cyclist and had his elbow and arm shattered. The doctor said he never had a patient who healed faster and was more faithful in the exercises to regain mobility after the surgical reconstruction of the arm!

It was not easy for me to see Fr. Carl deteriorate to only wheelchair mobility and then to no longer tell his long and funny and fascinating stories! I am so grateful God has embraced Carl into God's arms forever.

*Fr. Francis Gargani, C.Ss.R.*

When I was hired by Father Pat Woods to assist Fr. Hoegerl in the provincial archives, I quickly got used to working in a basement. I was directed to a desk in the walk-in vault, a windowless concrete box sitting under aging pipes. Fr. Carl gave me a simple task that didn't let me venture too far. “Why don't you organize the papers of the bishops,” he said. The files were two feet from the desk. Well, I dove right in and soon found that I had lots of questions. It seemed that every document generated the two-fold feeling all archivists have—for order and for meaning.

In those early days Fr. Carl never supplied me with a formal tour of the collections, nor a crash course in archiving. Instead, it was a gradual immersion. The pleasure of it was in the questioning and then the inevitable story behind everything. Suddenly, the day passed, and you forgot you were working in a vault with no daylight. Today I am still amazed at what can be found in the Redemptorists' documentary heritage,

but Fr. Carl's endless patience with my questions and his vigorous gift for explanation are traits I cherish.

His scholarship was marked by exactitude, giving his mornings to reading and note taking. He was a disciplined man and one can see it in his work on the Seelos cause. The three-volume positio remains a model for investigative power and persuasive content that were built up over many years.

He was hardly ever given to distraction. Punctuality for chapel and the hours of the day were sacrosanct, but he was not a rigid person. He loved “table talk”—the friendly discussion between confreres over good food, particularly over “family gossip.”

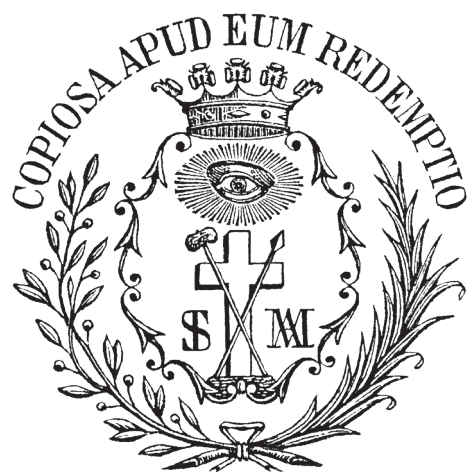
Two further memories suggest a man who was both resilient and joyful. After his injury from a bicycle accident in New York's Central Park, at age 90, I went up to St. Luke's Medical Center near Columbia University. He

was all tangled up in wires meant to monitor vital signs. It was all rather bewildering, but he was determined to recover. Part of that was to be magnanimous to the person who ran into him. “I'll forgive her,” he told me, and he did.

Finally, Father Hoegerl had survived a rather serious form of leukemia and was treated for several months in Boston. I think it changed him. It was while he was doing research into Seelos and he took great delight in grasping that Seelos was a joyous person. Through every type of affliction, what made him both a real person and a saint in Fr. Carl's mind was his great ability to find happiness in all things. Like Seelos, Fr. Carl wanted to be cheerful as a religious. He was never a gloomy Gus. Now when I think of him, it is in his squeaky office chair, head back, with a belly laugh bubbling up.

I learned much from Fr. Hoegerl and I will miss the esprit de corps we shared.

*Patrick Hayes, Archivist*



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