



Feast of St Teresa of Jesus

The Redemptorist Provincialate,
St. Mary's Monastery, Clapham,
SW4 7AP

Dear Confreres, Sisters, Lay Associates and our many friends,

In the spirit of St Alphonsus I am tempted to begin this letter with JMJT - Jesus, Mary, Joseph and Teresa! Such was Alphonsus' high esteem for her and her theological message that the Redemptorists the world over call her our 'spiritual grandmother'! In these past few weeks, St & Dr Teresa's words and prayers have been in my heart and on my lips.

*"May today there be peace within.
May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be.
May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith.
May you use those gifts that you have received,
and pass on the love that has been given to you.
May you be content knowing you are a child of God.
Let this presence settle into your bones,
and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise and love.
It is there for each and every one of us."*

Let us pray for one another in the province and in our CSsR family, that the gift of the Lord's peace may be truly renewed in us, and by extension, live in the lives of all those we have and had the privilege to minister to; yesterday, today and in the future.

14th Assembly of the CRE

This meeting was held just outside Rome in the male Carmelite property called Il Carmelo. For those of you who knew St Anselm's Institute in Kent, you will be glad to know their "new" home is in a wing of Il Carmelo, so I went to greet Fr Len Kofler MHM in the name of Fr James McManus and Fr Denis McBride. Clearly our two confreres are held in extremely high regard by St Anselm's and I did not mind basking in their glory for a few seconds!

In total we were 33 participants at the meeting, that includes all the Provincials of Europe, Fr General, General Consultors, Coordinator and Consultors of the CRE, Representatives of the Brothers, Representatives of the Lay Partners, 2 Notaries, 2 Interpreters, and one Communication Technology confrere. Of the 33, three from our Province were, Br Mike as a Brothers' representative and Fr Mike Taylor as one of the Notaries and myself.

The very first thing we did as an assembly, apart from prayer of course, was to reflect on how our situations and world have been affected by the whole pandemic. This was a fascinating and humbling experience as we listened to one another sharing our vulnerability, pain and our extraordinary creativeness in as far as preaching the Gospel goes and our reaching out to the people around us. In our group Br Michael and I shared that in “one of our communities” we even had an 86 year old confrere cooking the meals for a large group of men!

During the meeting many things were shared and discussed mainly concerning the forth coming General Chapter and our mission as Redemptorists within the Conference of Europe. I attach to this letter the document mentioned when I last wrote to you in September called

*The Transformative & Redemptive Force of Encounter & Accompaniment;
Going the Missionary way together. Rome Sept 2021.*

In the coming weeks the Central Preparatory Commission for the XXVI General Chapter will invite us to study and discuss the Phase 1 Working Document that they have been preparing for some time. When I have it available for ‘publication’ I will make sure it is readily distributed prior to any dates for meetings.

In short, I would say that the Assembly was a great privilege to be part of, listening to our confreres share and reflect on what it is to be a Redemptorist in their part of Europe.

Again may I encourage everyone to pray the special prayer for the XXVI General Chapter which begins with:

Phase 1 20th March - 2nd April 2022 - venue to be decided

Phase 2 11th Sept - 9th Oct 2022 Rome - Il Carmello

and then finishing with Phase 3 later in the year.

Fund raising in the Province

For many years within the Province we have been no stranger to fundraising and different projects to get the money coming in for various charities and organisations. However, in Bishop Eton, Liverpool, one of our parishioners decided that she would do something wonderfully different - she shaved her head and raised a huge amount of money for Project Zimbabwe, Friends of the Holy Land and Asylum Link. See pictures attached! Well done Kris! You are a wonderfully courageous person. Thank you!

<https://www.redemptorists.co.uk/2326-fundraising-head-shave.html>

COP26

Can I ask for your prayers for the COP 26. COP stands for ‘Conference of the Parties’, and will be attended by countries that signed the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) - a treaty agreed in 1994. The 2021 meeting will be the 26th meeting. Hence COP26.

There will be many young people going to this event in Glasgow this first week of November. In order to show them the Church's support and encouragement, a group of Religious, Lay People and Priests are getting together to "be" there to demonstrate our concern for our God's wonderful creation and the responsibility we all have for caring for it. *National Office Vocations England and Wales, Vocation Network Scotland, and Vocation Ireland will be there in collaboration with the Knights of St Columba, and the Eucharistic Life Group.*

During these days there will be opportunities for;

- Rosary Procession - Carfin Grotto
- Welcome Hub - St Enoch's Sq.,
- Mercy Bus - offering confession
- Night Fever - Eucharistic Adoration - St Andrew's Cathedral
- Carlo Acutis Eucharistic Miracle Exhibition,

to name but a few things that the Church is doing on the sidelines.

To find out more www.sowingseedsofthefuture.org

Confreres travelling

There is much sadness that Br Richard Maidwell has finally returned to South Africa. We wish him every blessing in his ministry and his religious life. God speed!

Sadness aside, there was great rejoicing when Fr Casper came 'home' to Clapham after being at 'home' in Zimbabwe and then enduring the time in quarantine when he returned! Welcome back Baba!

Month of the Holy Rosary

We have many things to pray for and about. Please use the holy rosary very especially this month of October.

Feast of St Gerard Majella - Fr General's Greetings

Tomorrow marks the feast of our dear Brother, St Gerard Majella. Let us use time tomorrow praying for all that needs prayer and all in need of healing. We can bring everything and anything to our saintly confrere, knowing that he will be a brother and help carry the burdens that we may struggle with.

Please also find attached a lovely greetings card from Fr General for St Gerard's Feast Day. I had the opportunity to speak with the General on a number of occasions about a number of things, and he greets us all with peace and prayer.

St Mary's Monastery, Clapham

We have no further real news about our re-entry into the monastery in Clapham London. Nonetheless, many things are really now coming together and there are dates that we can towards, for example putting in the lift and reconnecting to the gas! All I can say is, it will be worth the wait!

There are a few photographs that will show substantial change, like the new ramp from the monastery door out into the garden. As I have already said, things are happening and we can all see changes happening everyday.

Have a blessed Feast today for St & Dr Teresa
and tomorrow for our Confrere & St Gerard.

Know that you have my sincere prayers and support.
I thank you all sincerely for the prayer & encouragement you each give me.

Peace,

Richard Reid CSsR

Richard Reid CSsR
Provincial Superior

15-X-2021

Attached:

- 1) Picture of Assembly;
- 2) The Transformative & Redemptive Force of Encounter & Accompaniment;
Going the Missionary way together. Rome Sept 2021;
- 3) Picture of Fundraising;
- 4) Sowing Seeds Prayer Card;
- 5) Greetings from Fr General;
- 6) St Mary's Monastery Photos.