



Bl Peter Donders CSsR
14 i 2021

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

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

Peace for 2021

As my first words to you this year I simply wish you all a deep sense of peace for the year that lies ahead. We can only hope and pray and wait for all things to return to our former reality, when COVID will no longer be the threatening menace that it has been for almost a year. With the vaccinations now beginning to move around the country we have a bit more hope than we had originally. Indeed I know that some of our confreres already have received the jab and they are not all in the elderly bracket!

Fr Andrew Burns CSsR received a phone call from his medical people just before Christmas to be given as a Christmas present the news that he has had a complete metabolic remission. This good news we all share in and rejoice that Fr Andrew has come out the other side of a difficult and trying illness. We thank the medical staff and we also thank God.

Confreres mourning...

Lately there has been quite a lot deaths among the families of our confreres. As I post this letter today, **Br Mike Taylor CSsR** has been in Liverpool celebrating the funeral of his father Richard Taylor, it took place in Bishop Eton.

Fr Casper Simba Mukabva CSsR and **Br Adam Mukabva CSsR** lost their sister Catherine as a result of Coronavirus. She was only 38 years old and a mother to four children. As Fr Casper was in Clapham there was no way he could have arrived in time for the funeral. Br Adam was in isolation in Tafara and was also unable to go.

Fr George Hama CSsR in Zimbabwe sadly lost his grandmother as a result of Coronavirus, please remember Mybuya Taruvingira in your prayers.

Our sympathy goes to all our confreres in their grief - we share that sorrow with them.

Fr Francis Allinson CSsR RIP, went home to the Father on the 9th January aged 87 years of age. His death had nothing to do with COVID rather it was the perforation of an aneurysm. He died at complete peace with Sr Veronica at his side. She remained with him in hospital for about an hour after his death, praying the prayers for those who had just died and reciting the rosary.

Fr Francis had spoken to Sister shortly before he died and he said, "I have said mass about 12 hours ago and I have been anointed so I am ready to go." Thank God for a blessed death.

The Redemptorists owe the Sister of Our Lady of Pity in Kiln Green an extraordinary amount of gratitude for all they have done for our confrere who lived by them and celebrated mass there for about 30 years. We will have the chance to thank them in person when the **funeral** will be celebrated in **St John's Convent on Wednesday 27th January at 1.30pm**. Fr Frank will be buried within the grounds in the Convent plot. Obviously because of the current lockdown many of you will not be able to travel, if the funeral can be streamed on the internet, it will be and more details will be given in due course.

General Chapter Video and Presentation. As part of the preparation for the 26th General Chapter there are a few presentations being done by our Government in Rome. In order to be able to fully engage with this process there is a sheet offered to us for our own "personal reading, reflection and prayer prior to the actual presentation." This comes as an attachment to this letter, please make sure that every confrere and lay associate receives this document. The Superiors/Rectors of each community will in due course arrange for the community viewing of the message from Fr General.

Year in honour of St Joseph. As Redemptorists we all owe St Joseph a great deal of honour. Remember that it says in our Constitutions and Statutes, "They {we} honour St Joseph;" 05. Many other saints are traditionally held up as those to whom St Alphonsus had a devotion, a certain St Teresa of Avila would be one such saint. However that St Joseph is named in our Constitutions and Statutes might well show the place that he has always had in our Redemptorist tradition.

As Vatican News reported on the 8th December 2020,
"In a new Apostolic Letter entitled *Patris corde* ("With a Father's Heart"), Pope Francis describes Saint Joseph as a beloved father, a tender and loving father, an obedient father, an accepting father; a father who is creatively courageous, a working father, a father in the shadows."

I attach Pope Francis' Apostolic Letter for those of you who have not had the chance to read and meditate on it. Of course we know Joseph as being the Patron of a happy death, which is a very noble thing, but Pope Francis draws our attention to the many other ordinary and extraordinary roles that St Joseph gently portrays.

Meetings with our fellow Provinces of Northern Europe

The OPCs of the four provinces of Northern Europe, Vienna-Munich, St Clemens, London and Dublin, will carry on meeting, the next meeting will take place on 22nd January. Many things will be discussed then yet the two most important will be "Communication" and "Zoom groups". The first is concerned with how we engage in a process of getting to know one another and the latter how we can talk and get to know what is being done "in our name" in other parts of the Congregation by our neighbours. As things take shape I will keep you up to date.

Fr Brian Dolan CSsR, a Scotsman belonging to the South African Province was recently diagnosed with prostate cancer and is due to undergo surgery at some point in this new year. Please hold him in prayer.

Br Kenneth Temba CSsR was told a short time ago that he has a heart condition. So please also hold him in your prayers.

Next of Kin

When one of us dies it is someone's job to get the next of kin documents out of the files and deal with the situation. We have these documents, however they are now so dated they may be unusable! Hence the attachment of the "CV and Next of Kin" doc., that is also attached to this letter. **Please** fill out this form with as much detail as you think would be good to keep on file and then return to your Rector, who will return it to me.

While we all still must endure 'lockdown' let us all keep one another in our prayers.
To anyone who may be struggling at the moment, for whatever reason,
know that the Province is holding you in prayer.

Peace,

Richard Reid CSsR

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