



16 iii 2021

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

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

May I wish you a (belated) very happy and blessed feast of our dear St Clement Hofbauer, whose Jubilee Year in honour of the two hundredth anniversary of his death closed yesterday. Fr General sent out a message, (available in full on the website), where he speaks to us of the spirit of St Clement.

“Like Clement 200 years ago, in spite of all the obstacles and restrictions we have not given up! ...we continue to preach the gospel ever anew... and most of us have learned a new word -Zoom!

As we celebrate St Clement this weekend, I invite you to recognise the ways his spirit is alive and well in the Congregation today. He encourages us, he continues to inspire us and he accompanys us. The Jubilee Year is almost over but the pandemic with all its challenges continues. Like the world in which Clement preached the Gospel anew, our wounded world continues to be ravished by war, by poverty, by oppression, by indifference.

Like Clement we go forward with courage and hope trusting in Jesus our Redeemer who calls us to mission, to bring plenteous redemption to the abandoned poor. May God bless us all as we remember this wonderful confrere.

With Clement we celebrate our missionary vocation to witness to the Redeemer and to preach the Gospel ever anew. St Clement, pray for us... God bless you all.”

I have much to learn from St Clement but I think if there was only one thing that he has already taught me then I would say that it is, determination in the face of chaos. St Clement's life has many 'failures' along the way and yet he carries on with the belief that the Lord is in control - despite what his circumstances are telling him. Even as he died I really struggle to believe that Clement would have had any notion that we would be celebrating and saluting him these centuries later. He is a real hero! Let us not be afraid to bring our position and reality to St Clement in prayer, always trusting that it is not our actual situation that will dictate the future.

Leadership As Witness

Last month I had the pleasure of attending a *Faith Enriching Leadership Seminar* in Glasgow University entitled “Leadership as Witness” given by Cardinal Joseph Tobin CSsR. The talk was inspirational and valid as Cardinal Tobin spoke to Catholic teachers who formed most of the assembled group, speaking to the men and women who want to give witness as they teach every day. We all know that we give witness, both positively and negatively, by the way and the manner of our leadership skills and the way all our relationships work. Cardinal Tobin reminded us of the words of St. Paul VI when he spoke in his Apostolic Exhortation, *Evangelii Nuntiandi*

“Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses.” (41)

Bishop Eton Community

You have already heard of the health problems encountered by our confreres in Bishop Eton Monastery Liverpool, and so I am delighted to be able to share with you that things are beginning to settle and get better. However the community would still appreciate your prayers. I would like to entrust to your prayers the confreres who are currently out of the community and in hospital or rest bite care;

Fr Beverley Ahearn, Fr James Smale, Fr Anthony Hunt and Br William McDermott.

Jerusalema

If you have somehow managed to miss the 'Jerusalema' dance done by our Nuns in Dublin and some of our confreres from around Ireland and one from Brazil, I would highly recommend it!

<http://www.redemptorists.co.uk/news/news-items/2237-jerusalem-cssr-ossr-ireland.html>

A wonderful dance full of joy and energy. Credit to our Sisters and Confreres in Ireland (and Brazil!).

Meeting 4 Provinces

The four Provinces of North Western Europe continue to meet as we all try and work our way forward together. You will have all received the latest up dates from the four Provincials. As I said in that if there is anything that needs clarifying please do not hesitate in getting in touch.

Communication Group for NWE

Fr Royston Price is the person from our province working with representatives from the other provinces. To date they have had already the first of the many meetings they will have in the future. So far there are plans afoot to begin to get a Directory of the Four Provinces assembled, so that we can all get to at least see one another. I have also been asked, as have the other Provincials, to make a short video to introduce the Province to all our confreres in the north western part of Europe. Watch this space.

Zoom Meetings for Parishes and Shrines

There are two meetings via *Zoom* for representatives of our Parishes and our Shrine ministry, where they will be able to share with the other confreres the work of our Province. There will be two confreres representing each province. From this Province the following confreres will attend

- Parish Zoom Meeting - Frs Elias Gweme and Peter Morris CSsR

- Shrine Zoom Meeting - Frs Casper S Mukabva and Charles Randall CSsR

I am grateful for their willingness and enthusiasm to attend and take part.

Due to COVID Retreat cancelled

I am very sorry to have to report that due to COVID the Apostolic Life Secretariat have had to cancel this years spiritual retreat that was due to take place in Low Week. I stress that it is because of COVID as the ALS had everything organised and the retreat giver booked. Sadly we will all miss out this year.

150th Anniversary of St Alphonsus Doctor Ecclesiae

On the 24th of March we as a Congregation are celebrating our Holy Father and Founder St Alphonsus being declared a Doctor of the Church 150 years ago. There is a poster attached to this letter giving all the details of the day's celebrations.

Talks will be given by the Most Rev Fr General CSsR, Prof Alfonso Amarante CSsR, Prof Marciano Vidal CSsR, Prof Raphael Gallagher CSsR, Prof Sabatino Majorano CSsR and Prof Andrzej Wodka CSsR all to mark a day of Study on the occasion of the 150th Anniversary of the Proclamation of St Alphonsus M de Liguori, DOCTOR ECCLESIAE

Fr Tryvis Moyo CSsR - COREAM

Our congratulations go to Fr Tryvis Moyo as he has been appointed as a member of the Conference of Redemptorists in Africa and Madagascar - COREAM. The letter came to Fr Tryvis on the 8th March from Fr General. We promise to keep this important work as part of our prayer intentions. As we know things have been tough for COREAM, as they lost their Coordinator with the sudden death of Fr Zephrein CSsR RIP. Know our support is with you Fr Tryvis Moyo.

RP Books

At the beginning of this month the RPTC met and brought one another up to date with the tremendous work being done by the dedicated staff in and around Chawton. Fr Denis McBride, the Director, gave an eight-page report, obviously it would be inappropriate to share that report, although I would like to share a small figure or two; when it comes to online ministry, this is said,

"...in this last year we have had over 261,000 views of our videos, 54,500 hours of cumulative watching time... In addition to the 52 filmed mass celebrations mentioned earlier we have also filmed 16 reflections (8 x Reflecting with Paintings, 4 x Journeying with Jonah (3300 views) and 4 Lenten Narratives from John's Gospel (5900 views)."

Fr Denis concluded his report with this lovely message. *"Thank God, none of us or the employees' families has suffered from the coronavirus and one of our priorities now is to produce our own road map of returning to work"*. We too thank God that RP has managed to 'keep afloat' and has sailed through this storm most professionally. Thanks to our RP people.

Zimbabwe - News from Br Ben

Our congratulations must also go to Br Benjamin CSsR who for all his massive work load has found another job to keep him busy! Br Ben was elected as a Committee Member on the Zimbabwe Conference of Major Religious Superiors. Makorokoto! You will do great work for us religious.

When Br Adam Mukabva CSsR emerged from the COVID-19 isolation, and we thank God that he is restored to health, Br Edwin who had been looking after Br Adam, was then diagnosed with COVID. Br Ben writes, *"Thanks be to God he has now recovered and likewise is free from his isolation. He is a philosopher doing masters at Arrupe and a Brother Candidate due to go to the novitiate in July 2021. The novitiate has not been taken out of Zimbabwe this year, each country is hosting its own novitiate until corona has given way! We have four candidates for novitiate next year."* We offer our prayers for those in the novitiate now, those preparing to go and all our confreres in first formation in Zimbabwe. Br Ben sent this photo of our theologians after mass on a Sunday!



Ace of Clubs

Br Mike Taylor continues with the team of hard workers to keep the Ace of Clubs as a viable and much needed commodity. During a casual conversation last evening he said that in the last 6 months they have served twenty-two thousand meals (22,000) this figure is more than they served in the previous year. We wish Br Mike and all who work there in the Ace, be they paid or volunteer, every good wish and blessing as they in their way try and help the people they serve something of *plentiful redemption*.

Fr Brian Russell CSsR RIP

The news has already circulated concerning the death of our confrere (and father of the Ace of Clubs) from COVID. His funeral will be Monday 22nd March 2021 in Bishop Eton Monastery at 12noon. *Requiescat in pace*.

Ordination to the Priesthood of Rev Br Michael Taylor CSsR

Again, due to COVID, in conversation with others, it was decided to postpone Br Mike's Priestly ordination to the 24th August 2021 in Bishop Eton by Bishop Ralph Heskett CSsR. His first Mass of Thanksgiving will be on the 25th August 2021. Please keep him in your prayers and Vocations to the CSsR & OSsR families.

Fr Isaac Davies CSsR

I am pleased to announce that Fr Isaac has received his Visa to come here to the Province. It was a long time in the coming but it has arrived now! We look forward to welcoming him among us.

Let us Dream! An advert from Conference of Religious - full details www.corew.org

2021 General Meeting: Tuesday May 18th via ZOOM

This meeting is open to all Religious. Keynote speaker: Austen Ivereigh *Let Us Dream!*

This is the first book written by a pope in response to a major crisis, and the first ever to be drafted in English - by his collaborator and biographer. The book offers not just the Pope's reflections on the multiple coronavirus crises, but spiritual guidance on how to make use of the pandemic to make a better world, drawing on powerful episodes from his own life and a lifetime of leadership.

Austen Ivereigh is a writer, journalist and commentator best known for two highly regarded biographies of Pope Francis: *The Great Reformer: Francis and the Making of a Radical Pope* and *Wounded Shepherd: Pope Francis and His Struggle to Convert the Catholic Church*.

This will be followed by discussion about our hopes and dreams for the post-COVID church.

State of Clapham

I include a 'nice' picture of St Mary's monastery Clapham, just to assure you all that the works continues! Pray for our community there!

I would ask your prayers for a young man James, 17years old, who was stabbed some weeks ago and is still in hospital. All of his family are dedicated and much valued parishioners here at St Mary's. Please ask the Lord to give them the comfort and strength they need at this time.

Enjoy the remainder of Lent

Enjoy these last few weeks of Lent and let us always hold one another in prayer before our most Holy Redeemer. Let us very deliberately and consciously hold in prayer those confreres, sisters, associates, benefactors, family, friends, whomsoever, who may be struggling in any way - physically, spiritually, psychologically. May our Lord give them peace.

St Patrick and St Joseph

Enjoy the forthcoming feasts of St Patrick and St Joseph. We pray for all our confreres and sisters across the water tomorrow as they celebrate their holy patron. On Friday we pray for all our own dads and for those who take the role of the father figure in someone's life. Remember of course that this is the Year of St Joseph.

"We should, indeed, honour St. Joseph, since the Son of God Himself was graciously pleased to honour him by calling him father...If, then, the King of Kings was pleased to raise Joseph to so high a dignity, it is right and obligatory on our part to endeavour to honour him as much as we can."
- St. Alphonsus Liguori

Peace,

Richard Reid CSR

Richard Reid CSsR
Provincial Superior

16/iii/2021

07989 576750





ACCADEMIA ALFONSIANA

www.alfonsiana.org



IN OCCASIONE
DEL 150° ANNIVERSARIO
DELLA PROCLAMAZIONE
DI SANT'ALFONSO
M. DE LIGUORI
DOCTOR
ECCLESIAE

INVITO ALLA GIORNATA DI STUDIO

24 2021
MARZO

PROGRAMMA

- ore 9.00 Saluto del Moderatore Generale
dell'Accademia Alfonsiana
Rev.mo p. Michael Brehl, C.Ss.R.
- ore 9.15 Alfonso M. de Liguori, Dottore della Chiesa:
un santo per il nostro tempo
Prof. Alfonso V. Amarante, C.Ss.R.
- ore 9.45 La morale alfonsiana: un bilancio della lettura storica
Prof. Marciano Vidal, C.Ss.R.
- ore 10.15 *Question time*
- ore 10.35 Pausa
- ore 11.00 Il rapporto tra la grazia e la coscienza nel processo di discernimento
morale in sant'Alfonso
Prof. Raphael Gallagher, C.Ss.R.
- ore 11.30 L'attualità della proposta morale di sant'Alfonso
Prof. Sabatino Majorano, C.Ss.R.
- ore 12.00 *Question time*
- ore 12.20 Conclusione
Prof. Andrzej S. Wodka, C.Ss.R.

Attività organizzata
in ottemperanza alle misure
di sicurezza per l'emergenza
Coronavirus

L'evento sarà trasmesso in diretta streaming
sulla piattaforma Teams (canale "Studenti")
e sul canale YouTube dell'Accademia Alfonsiana
<http://youtube.com/c/accademiaalfonsiana>

Si chiede di far pervenire le domande
per il *Question time* in forma scritta usando
il numero di WhatsApp
+39 380 232 90 24.

Via Merulana, 31
00185 Roma
tel. 06 49490646
e-mail eventi@alfonsiana.org