



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

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Dear Confreres, Sisters, Lay Missionaries, Associates, Friends & Benefactors,

Since I last wrote to you the Church has a new Pope, our Holy Father Pope Leo the 14th. As ever, these are exciting times for us as Redemptorists in the world and the Church. Let us hold our Holy Father in prayer as he takes on this amazing responsibility, and pray that he will have the strength and the grace to be open to God's holy people as he leads the Church in this present time.

Napoli and surrounding areas

Pope Leo was elected on the 8th of May and then we left on our Redemptorist pilgrimage on the 10th of May. Our time of pilgrimage together was a wonderful experience as we had gathered from all our Redemptorist places in the UK to form one body that would walk in the footsteps of St Alphonsus and St Gerard Majella. It was also a special time for us Redemptorist Missionaries to be together; Bishop Ralph Heskett, Fr Elias Gweme, Br Michael Duxbury, Fr Peter Morris and myself. Added to that was the fact that the people also gathered from London, Birmingham, Liverpool and Scotland. You can see the article that Fr. Elias wrote and the many photographs that were taken, on the website. All of you within the Redemptorist family were prayed for especially during these glorious days in Napoli and the Amalfi Coast.

I would like to say at this stage that it would be remiss of me if I did not mention the terrific work that Claire Carmichael did in preparation for the journey and continued to do throughout the pilgrimage. I am very grateful to her and I express my thanks.

CoR AGM

When we returned from Napoli we had no time to do anything other than change our suitcases and go to an AGM for the Conference of Religious in England and Wales, just outside Northampton. The meeting was very well represented, and there was a huge gathering of those who are in leadership within their Religious Congregations.

The guest speaker was Sr Maria Cimperman RSCJ who spoke to the theme of our CoR conference which was

"Synodal Leadership - Forward Thinking – Outward Facing".

Sr Maria had been one of the Religious who attended the Synod and it was most valuable to hear her talking of her own experiences and her own thoughts and insights. When she and I spoke Sr Maria told me of the great joy it was to have been together with His Eminence Joseph Tobin our Redemptorist Cardinal and Fr Vimal Tirimanna our Redemptorist Professor. I must admit that I did feel even more prouder to be a Redemptorist as a result of that conversation. I will include some of the right ups that exist for your own private reading.

Another significant factor that happened at our AGM was a lot of conversation around the "Assisted Dying Bill". One Sister got up and said,

'I am a Doctor and I work in London and I am just letting you know that every year this bill comes to the British Medical Association, BMA, and every year the Doctors refuse to have anything to do it.'

I found this quite amazing news and I was indeed glad to hear this and it gave me renewed fight against this campaign. Whatever might happen we need to wait and see, but prayer is certainly not useless!

Family Funerals

It was very good to see the 'gang' of Redemptorists and friends who turned up in Glasgow to celebrate the life of Gerry Brady RIP and to pray for the happy repose of his soul. We remember Fr Kieran Brady CSsR as he gently mourns his father.

We also felt very far away from Fr Joseph Musendami who returned from Rome to bury his mother on Monday after her sudden death. I know that many confreres were there giving Joseph all the love and support he needs at this time. God grant her eternal rest.

The news also came to us of the death of Fr Erick's uncle, who had cared for him since his earliest years. Our heartfelt sympathy and sincere prayers go to him also. God grant him eternal repose.

One of the ladies who worked so wonderfully in our community in Tafara went home suddenly to the Father's house. Mai Sandra worked for us and with us for 27 years. We will miss her terribly.

Requiescant in pace.

The Federation of our Four Provinces

On the 1st of August this year the four Provinces of Dublin, London, St Clemens, and Vienna-Munich, will meet in Limerick during our European Youth Congress and we'll officially start the new Federation. All are invited.

Fr. General will be there and will present the Decree of us entering into this new and exciting phase of our lives as Redemptorists here in North Western Europe. Please keep this new reality at the forefront of your prayers. For the past 30 years we have discussed, argued, commented upon the notion of remodelling and restructuring of our selves as Redemptorists and now finally, we have reached this new point in our history. Let us always trust in the Lord and know that the Holy Spirit has been with us and will continue to be with us to guide, to embolden and to encourage along the way!

International Safeguarding Conference

I had the privilege of attending a Safeguarding Conference in the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome attended by English speakers from all over the globe. I'm sure you can imagine my surprise when I met one of our Sisters, Sr Teodora MSsR, now the Mother General of the Gars Sisters. She gave one of the key note speeches and it was on the abuse of women in Ukraine during this time of war. It was deeply disturbing and horrendous to hear her give this well presented and well thought through speech. From our 'safe' space there is not much we can do except pray! The input and the meeting with other people, some working in the field of Safeguarding and some who had been abused, was a very valuable and defining experience; very precious days indeed.

Br Benjamin Posvo CSsR

Many of you will know that Br Benjamin has been in India for the past few weeks undergoing surgery on his pituitary gland. All being well he will fly home tomorrow evening back to continue his recovery and we pray that he will return to good health.

Fr Emerson, who has been in India with Br Ben has been a wonderful confrere who has proved to be a faithful companion to our brother at this time of his sickness. We wish the two of them a safe and pleasant journey home tomorrow.

General Visitation Harare

As I write this letter, I am aware that our confreres in Harare are going through a General Visitation with two of our General Consultors from Rome. We pray, especially for our Confreres at this time and we also pray for our six young men who will be making their Perpetual Profession this November, as they renewed their vows the other evening at a ceremony with Fr Nicholas Ayoubu CSsR and Fr Paul Vinh CSsR. We offer these men our congratulations - *makorokoto!*

CSsR Bishops in Rome

A group of about 30 Redemptorist bishops met in Rome at the invitation of Fr General to meet, pray and recreate together. At the same time our bishops met our Holy Father Pope Leo in a private audience. Let us remember in our prayers our Bishop's and the difficult ministry that they have been entrusted with.

Clapham

I will attach some photos to this letter showing some of the work being done in our monastery and surrounding parts in Clapham. Our refectory with new lights - our library with new shelves - and the building progress on our hall.

Birmingham

Like above I will provide some photos that show the work being done in Erdington Abbey grounds on the Calvary and the work been done in our Community.

Website www.redemptorists.co.uk

I mention again our Province Website that has been up and running for the past 15 years! Please know that I will, with pleasure, put anything you contribute, either personally or from your community, onto the website. Please check it often in order not to miss out!

Wimbledon and the Ace of Clubs

I had the privilege of going to Wimbledon to watch the Women's Semifinal in Centre Court. This was simply due to the fact that I am one of the trustees of the Ace of Clubs who is sponsored by 'Wimbledon Foundation.' We are very grateful to this Foundation and the great support they give us and have given us these past few years. I will enclose a few photos, and one of them is a man mopping the grass - legitimately!

Other Important Meetings

There are important meetings that are going on around the Province regularly, ie., the OPC, the EPC, the Finance Secretariat, the Apostolic Life Secretariat, the Ace of

Clubs, Safeguarding Secretariat, Redemptorist Publications Trustees Committee, Conference of Religious Executive Board, and the Federation of Northwest Europe meetings. Sincere thanks to the confreres and our great lay partners who give of their time and expertise so generously.

Province Retreat

Next week we will begin our Province Retreat in our monastery in Kinnoull Perth, Scotland and we will have the privilege of having Fr Andrzej Wodka CSsR as our Retreat Master. I look forward to the time and the space we will have to ponder, reflect and pray as Redemptorists, young or old, in today's Church.

Solemnity of the Most Holy Redeemer

This coming Sunday we, as a Congregation, celebrate the Solemnity of the Most Holy Redeemer. I wish you all a wonderful feast day and hope that you will pray well that day and also celebrate. I promise you a continued place in my prayers. and in my heart.

Let us remember that we are pilgrims of hope
in the footsteps of
Our Most Holy Redeemer!

Peace,



Richard Reid CSsR
Provincial Superior



Attached: CSsR Pilgrimage; CoR article; Federation Council;
Sr Teodora and her presentation given in Rome;
Br Benjamin and Fr Emerson leaving for India; Our Bishops in Rome;
Photos of Clapham; Erdington Photos; Wimbledon pictures.