



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

Dear Confreres, Sisters, Lay Missionaries, Associates, friends and benefactors,

On this 18th of December I quote the "O" antiphon for this day, giving below the Latin, the UK and the American version!

O Adonai, et Dux domus Israel, qui Moysi in igne flammae rubi apparuisti, et ei in Sina legem dedisti: veni ad redimendum nos in brachio extento. (Latin)

O Lord and Ruler the house of Israel, who appeared to Moses in the flame of the burning bush and gave him the law on Sinai: come, and redeem us with outstretched arms. (USA)

O Adonai, leader of the house of Israel. You appeared to Moses in the burning bush and gave him the law on Sinai. Come and save us with your mighty power. (UK)

While the 3 versions say the same thing and give a wonderful message, the difference between the UK and USA versions is purely linguistic, nonetheless I wish to make two small points.

The Latin says '*redimendum nos*' and the American version correctly says '*redeem us*' and the UK version also correctly translates as '*save us*'. As Redemptorists the word 'Redeem' has a lot more going for it than "Save" so I would say I am more in favour of the American translation! However, the Latin also says 'O Adonai' while the American one says 'O Lord' and the UK one says 'O Adonai'. On this point I am more in favour of the UK translation. Adonai is one of the ancient names we could call God because God's sacred name, the four letters known as the Tetragrammaton, would never be on the lips of unworthy human beings without being blasphemous. The American version translates into the Greek version, 'Kyrios Lord'. That we can call on God, using a name to communicate with our most powerful and divine is a wonderful mark of the relationship that the 'Lord' 'Adonai' blesses us with. In these next few days of preparation let us pray that our beloved Redeemer will come and redeem us from all the areas of brokenness and woundedness that live within our hearts, our relationships, our community and our Province. May the Prince of Peace be truly welcomed this year among us and our broken world.

Planning Permission for our St. Mary's Redemptorist Hall was given by the Council on the 14th of November 2023 after a group of us attended a meeting to decide the future outcome. The Hall was already sold to a developer, with the understanding that they had to provide us with a new hall. You can imagine the great excitement when this permission was granted bringing to an end a very long and tiring wait. More work is to be done before the ultimate bulldozing which will be carried out in March/April time. The developers have decided that the frontage of the building should remain and be completely renewed. This means that the building will be used for many new things, our parish hall being one of them, and will basically look like the original hall.

The Four Provincials from the Provinces of North Europe, Dublin, London, St. Clemens and Vienna-Munich met in Clapham on the 24th of November 2023. Added to this meeting was Fr Johannes Römelt CSsR the Co-ordinator of Europe and Mr Eric Corsius who works and collaborates with the Province of St. Clemens, was present as our secretary. The meeting was a very good and rich experience for all present as we began the hard work of trying to spell out what a Federation would mean for our Provinces coming together. Between us there was a great freedom to speak and express our hopes and fears recognising the wisdom within our group not to close down whatever was being expressed.

To begin our work for the day there was a positive mood within the group however this was very much followed through with a feeling of impotence and not knowing how to go forward. Nonetheless the Lord was with us and very shortly the conversation was up and running. You will have already seen the paperwork from that meeting which the Provincials sent around to you; it is attached again to this letter.

During the Province meeting in January there will be considerable time given over to this (and many more things) to help us all get our heads around the issues that are at hand. Ultimately, it is the hope of the four Provincials that each Province will appreciate and support what is being put forward in this document. However we know the four Provinces need time to consider and contemplate all the proposals and that is why we know we need to hear what is being said around the 'bottom corridors' of our communities.

Safeguarding has been taking up a lot of my time and I am grateful for this as it is a 100% Gospel imperative!

On Saturday the 18th of November I attended the **Scottish National Safeguarding Conference** in Strathclyde University, entitled, "One Chance to Change a Life". Our

Safeguarding Lead, Br David Nyamuronda CSsR and our Safeguarding Consultant Ms Tina Campbell were also in attendance. It seemed that anyone who was someone in the Church in Scotland was there for that occasion; we were about 260 attendants in person and a whole load more via internet. It was a most welcome conference and a powerful experience.

Alex O'Donnell, co-founder of Epione (epione-training.com) was one of the key speakers and he gave an hour long presentation "Trauma Informed Listening". He was a very engaging, entertaining, knowledgeable and passionate presenter who gave us all in the lecture theatre much to think about.

Rev Dr Barry O'Sullivan, a priest of Salford Diocese and a leading proponent of Child Safeguarding in England and Wales, spoke about the Spirituality and Theology of Safeguarding. This Spirituality and Theology will be introduced to the Church at some time in the new year of 2024. I will bring it to your attention once resources are available.

We, the Redemptorists of the London Province took part in a **Safeguarding Audit** carried out by CSSA (Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency) on December 5th 2023. This was a pilot audit and we were invited to be one of the first to undergo this audit. At this point I would like to note my most sincere gratitude to all those who prepared paperwork etc in order to be ready for this 'unknown' audit and those people are Br David Nyamuronda CSsR, Safeguarding Lead, Fr Andrew Burns CSsR, Safeguarding Trustee and Ms Tina Campbell our Safeguarding Consultant. I too was present as the Provincial Superior. We were all interviewed and were available for anything required during the 5 hour long meeting. It was a good experience and once we have had our report back from CSSA it will be made available to all our members.

I would like to state the obvious and well known here by saying that whilst the Audit was attended by a few of us, it is the responsibility of everyone within our 'ranks' to ensure that *each one of us*, especially children and vulnerable adults, can all be safe and secure.

Bishop Raymond Mupandasekwa CSsR was duly installed as the Second Bishop of Masvingo in Zimbabwe. This diocese is the biggest in Zimbabwe that stretches down and borders South Africa in one direction and Mozambique on another. He is also the Apostolic Administrator of Chinhoyi that goes from above Harare right up to the border with Zambia! Our confrere has much work in front of him and he would benefit greatly for the prayers that we might offer for him.

At the installation he spoke of the “great privilege” it has been for him to be a Redemptorist, trained and formed in such a rich tradition and ministering as a powerful preacher. He then spoke of how now as a Bishop, he is most certainly a **Redemptorist Bishop**. Having +Raymond in the Zimbabwean Episcopacy we certainly have not lost a confrere and we can be rightly proud of him.

The Province Meeting Jan 8th - 12th 2024 taking place in Bishop Eton Monastery, Liverpool L16 arriving for supper on the 8th and departing after breakfast on the 12th. The reason that is taking place in Liverpool is simply to accommodate as many of our confreres as possible, as Bishop Eton is the halfway point in the Province. Please, if you are going to be in attendance then let either Fr Casper S Mukabva CSsR, Chair of the ALS or Fr Andrew Burns CSsR, Rector of Bishop Eton Monastery know in advance as we are having to hire rooms across the road in Hope University. Email addresses are mcaspersimba@yahoo.com or atburnscssr@icloud.com

During the Province Meeting many issues are to be discussed as well as times for Mass, prayers and of course not forgetting moments of relaxation and recreation. Among the issues to be considered are;

- * Training on Safeguarding given by our Consultant and our Safeguarding Lead
- * Four Provincials' Communique and Federation of NWE Provinces
- * Accountability in modern day Religious Life

If possible I would like to offer each Rector and each Parish Priest to give the assembly a quick up to date with all that is going on in the respective Monastery/Community and Parish.

The Regional Superior of Zimbabwe, Fr Kenneth Macharaga CSsR has been invited along with our three young deacons in Harare. They have applied for their visa and now await! A prayer or two please...

These times when we can be together and spend time enjoying our brotherhood do not come by us that often. Please therefore make every effort to be with us as we celebrate all that it means to be a Redemptorist in today's world.

Many of us will remember **Br Fabrizio Podda CSsR** who was with us in Clapham for an academic year, he was ordained with another confrere by confrere, Archbishop Alfonso Amarante CSsR, to the Diaconate on the 7th December in our Church in Rome, San Gioacchino. *Auguri caro fratello!*

Our **Canadian Provincial**, Fr Michael Smolinski CSsR was recently appointed by Pope Francis as the Bishop Elect of the Eparchy of Saskatoon of the Ukrainians (Canada). Another man in need of our prayers. I sent our congratulations and our

prayers to him when I heard of the appointment. He is to be ordained 20th January 2024 and Installed on the 21st January 2024.

As I do every year, I will hold each one of you before the crib at the first mass of Christmas and during the 12 days that follow. As I see the Christ child I consider the many people who have blessed my life in one way or another and I give thanks for that person and I ask the Lord's blessing on them. It can take some time(!) but it is a wonderful thing for me to do. Looking at the Christ child is also a reminder to me of the beauty each one of us is in the world, however we may interfere with that, but nonetheless each one of us reflects something of the beauty of Jesus the Christ. I also see within the baby Jesus something of the feebleness and vulnerability that each of us knows and has great experience of within our own lifetime. I ask the Lord to give me the strength, courage and fortitude that I need at this moment of my life, and I also ask for those same qualities to be with those people I pray for at the crib on Christmas night -

you!

May the Christ Child for who St Alphonsus had immense love
come and be with us this Christmas and always!

Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Reid CSsR". The script is cursive and fluid, with the letters "Richard" and "Reid" being more prominent than "CSsR".

Richard Reid CSsR
Provincial Superior

18 - xii - 2023

Attachments:

A Biography Red Pope - Cardinal Willem van Rossum CSsR,
Together for Mission - A Newsletter for Partners in Mission,
Four Provincials of North Western Europe Message and Statement,
Photos of Bishop Raymond Mupandasekwa CSsR, Photos of Rev Br Fabrizio Podda CSsR
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=68mCdwb4A3k> Tu scendi dalle stelle