



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

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

As the summer is quickly ebbing away it is time once again to write this letter in order that we can all be kept up to date with the goings on in the province and Congregation at the global level! Recently I received a document from Fr Johannes Römelt CSsR in preparation for the meetings that will take place in Rome next month, for the European Provincials. This document, designed by our own people at Redemptorist Publications Chawton, is for discussion in Rome and then hopefully it will go out throughout the Congregation in Europe. There are a few passages I would like to share as it reminds us all of our CSsR identity.

“For members of the Redemptorist Family, laypeople and members of the Congregation, spirituality and mission cannot be separated.

Mission is our driving force.

We are Partners in Mission, and also Partners for mission, on mission.”

“Conversion happens when we are witnesses to joy and hope and purpose and are impelled to share this with others. It is essential that we provide and offer opportunities for concrete encounter, with real people, in the real circumstances of everyday life, meeting people where they are going, and being mobile enough to go where we need to go.”

There are many more quotations from this document that I could happily fill this letter with, however I shall refrain from so doing and leave you with the desire to see this document in full, albeit only six pages long!

Since I last wrote to you on the 16th of July we have gained a new finally Professed member and deacon, Br Adam Mukabva CSsR in the Region of Zimbabwe; we have very sadly lost a Father through death, Fr Martin Gay CSsR; and we have had the joy of welcoming a new priest among our numbers, Fr Mike Taylor CSsR.

Fr Martin Gay CSsR RIP Funeral

A good group of Redemptorists from our own Province joined by a former and a present Redemptorist from the South African Province, alongside Fr Martin's loving family gathered in Liverpool to take our farewell of Martin.

Fr Andrew Burns CSsR, who had lived in the Province with Martin in South Africa, preached a wonderful homily, which can be found on our website.

<https://redemptorists.co.uk/images/FrMartinGayCSsRHomilyFuneral.pdf>

Masses and Remembrances were also celebrated in South Africa where Fr Martin had many good friends and people he had ministered to over his many years there. Fr Gerard McCabe CSsR the Provincial Superior in South Africa wrote the following message.

“On behalf of the Province of South Africa, I would just like to express my thanks for the wonderful and dignified celebration of Martin’s Requiem Mass yesterday.

Many people here followed the service and were grateful for it.

He will be sorely missed in our Province.”

May the good Lord grant him eternal rest and plentiful redemption.

Ordination of Fr Mike Taylor CSsR

Exactly a week after the funeral we all gathered again in much more jolly circumstances as we were there to attend the ordination of Fr Mike CSsR. Bishop Ralph Heskett CSsR was the ordaining prelate who said to Fr Mike,

“Today Mike we send you out to be an instrument of God’s plentiful redemption, to nourish the people of God with the truth of the Gospel and the Sacraments of the Church. To imitate His humble service, to proclaim that it is only in Jesus will our joy be complete. In doing so we pray that you will both enrich the people you serve, and continue to be enriched by their love for you. “

Captivating Compassion - St Alphonsus for Our Times

I attach a pdf file containing this useful and reflective document produced by the Redemptorist Media Centre, India. They have compiled talks given by confreres from many parts of the world, eg., Rome, Baltimore, Cape Town, Campo Grande Brazil, Dublin, Canada and India. As Fr Edward Joseph CSsR the Provincial Superior of Bangalore says,

marking 150th anniversary of declaring St. Alphonsus Maria De Liguori as the Doctor of the Church, in order to make him known, Redemptorist Media Centre, Bangalore has undertaken an initiative in the form of “Global online Novena to St. Alphonsus.” This Global Novena to St. Alphonsus consisted of themes highlighting a few significant and important aspects from the life and activity of St. Alphonsus Maria De Liguori as reflected and presented by many Redemptorist Confreres from all over the world.

The St Alphonsus Window at St Mary’s Clapham

On the 12th of September, Fr Mike Taylor, Fr Peter Morris and myself concelebrated the 12 noon Sunday mass at which we blessed the new St Alphonsus window. This window is triple glazed and weighs half a ton. It is positioned at the main door of the church, which was closed for use 50 odd years ago, due to safety and traffic passing by right outside. Now that the window is there people can look in and see the wonder of our building, God’s house, and we can see outside and hold the people there before God.

There were a few people complaining about the amount of money that must have been spent, so I had a duty to tell them that the parish did not pay a single penny. The window was gifted to us by Mr John Rafferty and a legacy from Mrs Rose

Shields RIP. We are immensely grateful to them and I would ask you to offer a prayer in thanksgiving.

Bishop Raymond Mupandasekwa CSsR

Our dear confrere Bishop Raymond had a very frightening experience the other night. He wrote,

“We had 10 armed men coming to our offices with explosives in the middle of the night. They detonated all our safes and took away files from our Justice and Peace and Caritas offices. I could hear the explosion but sadly had no one to call....I haven’t slept in days...I will be preaching a mission appeal in Boston on the 25th and 26th. And get back to the war zone.

‘We are beacons of hope and must cultivate it especially at this time. We are dwellers in God’s house. We live there. We pray there. We abide there until it is time to die. We live together in God’s hand and we refuse to be dislodged from this blatant happiness!’
It’s what keeps me determined.”

If you feel that life is tough for you some days, then please think about and pray for our confreres who really do struggle with more serious issues than we perhaps do. I have told Bishop Raymond that we certainly stand with him and offer prayer for him.

Ace of Clubs Silver Celebrations

I told you in the last letter that we were due to have a ‘party’ to celebrate the 25th Birthday of the Ace of Clubs. A wonderful evening was had by all. Our guests of honour were Fr James McManus CSsR, the founder of the Ace of Clubs when he was Provincial all those years ago, and the Archbishop of Southwark, Most Rev’d John Wilson. Many other people, friends, volunteers and benefactors also joined us to mark this sterling event. A huge thanks goes to all the key people at the ‘Ace’. If you haven’t seen the photos on the web I suggest the link below.

<https://redemptorists.co.uk/news/news-items/2306-ace-of-clubs-birthday.html>

Redemptorist Publications AGM

Next week we will have the AGM for RP. As I write about RP I feel the need to express my sorrow again to all the staff working there and to Fr Denis and Br Richard CSsR, over the death of Udish Dissanayake. He became ill a short time ago and only a few people realised the extent of the illness. Our prayers from the wider Redemptorist family go out and up for the repose of Udish’s soul, for his family and friends and for all at RP. *Requiescat in pace Udish!*

Br Richard Maidwell CSsR

Br Richard is still with us in Chawton and we are pleased at this! Several flights have been cancelled thus preventing Br Richard travelling south...

Pray for the 26th General Chapter and the Vocal

Can I please urge us all to pray for the General Chapter. If anyone is looking for more of the *“Prayer for the XXVI General Chapter 2022”* I have a supply. Much work has already been done in preparation for the various phases of the Chapter.

As you will all know by now, Fr Charles Randall CSsR was elected as the Vocal for Phase I and III of the General Chapter. Fr Maurice O'Mahony CSsR is the Substitute.

St Mary's Monastery SW4 Redevelopment

As was expected the monastery is running a few weeks behind schedule! Considering that this was all done during the lock down of a pandemic, I think the men involved could not have done a more fine than they have achieved to date. We carry on waiting in hope!

Jubilees during the Summer

During the summer there were some significant jubilees celebrated.

Fr Francis Dickinson CSsR took his vows **70 years** ago.

Frs Michael Henesy, Anthony Hunt & Philip Jones took their vows **60 years** ago.

Fr Anthony Cassidy and **Bishop Ralph Heskett** took their vows **50 years** ago.

Congratulations confreres - Ad multos annos - Vivant in aeternum!

Dates for your diary

Low Week 2022 Province Meeting Arr. **Monday 25th April** Dept **Fri 29th April**

- a time for us to be together - to share news, to pray and to celebrate our jubilarians.

The Centenary of our CSsR presence in Erdington Abbey - **10th June 2022**.

Let us continue to hold one another in prayer, giving thanks for the gift of one another's vocations, rejoicing in one another's triumphs and humbly supporting one another when we are down. As Redemptorists we do live, pray, work, eat and play as a dedicated family of God; dedicated to God and also one another.

I know it falls on a Sunday this year, however keep the memory of our confrere
Blessed Kaspar Stanggassinger CSsR.

Blessed Kaspar used to say,

*"The saints have a special intuition. For me, who am not a saint, what is
important are the simple eternal truths:
the Incarnation, the Redemption and the Holy Eucharist."*

Holding you all in prayer.

Peace,



Richard Reid CSsR
Provincial Superior

21-ix-2021

Attached:

Captivating Compassion;

Photos of Fr Martin Gay CSsR funeral, Fr Mike Taylor CSsR ordination,
St Alphonsus' Window, Ace of Clubs Celebration