



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

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

I hope that you have all managed some time away - or at home - to have a bit of a summer break and that this letter finds you all in good spirits!

On my recent trip to our wonderful monastery in Gars am Inn I celebrated Mass for our confreres under the age of 50, from the four Provinces, Dublin, St Clemens, Vienna-Munich and our selves at the Shrine of our Blessed Gasper Stanggassinger. This was a real privilege for me and I remembered you individually as I prayed by Bl Gasper's remains. The 26th of this month marked his death, 125 years ago. In my prayer I thanked God for your vocation, which is a wonderful gift to each one of us personally but more so for the Church at large. My prayer went on then to pray for the gift of more vocations in this present age. Our dear Congregation in this part of the world could well do with new, dedicated and sincere vocations, to match our dedication and sincerity.

The meeting in Gars went on for a couple of days, and you will have already received the document I emailed around the other day giving an account of the experience. Suffice to say it was a privilege to be with our younger confreres.

We went to the shrine of Our Lady of Altötting, also known as the Chapel of Grace and it is the national shrine of Bavaria dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. There I knelt before our Mother and prayed for each one of you and again for vocations. In Altötting we have a long Redemptorist tradition as the Church just behind the shrine used to be ours. In fact there is something like 20 confreres buried in the crypt under the church; a place we visited and prayed for our deceased confreres. One such confrere is the nephew of St Clement Hofbauer, a Fr Franz X Hofbauer CSsR. It was a wholesome and blessed experience.

The Province Retreat

I would like to express our thanks to the Apostolic Life Secretariat for organising and making sure that our Retreat became a reality this year. Thanks ought to be expressed to our Retreat giver Fr Piotr Chyła CSsR, who brought CSsR spirituality *en masse* in all his conferences and masses. One line he quoted was from our former Superior General, Joseph Cardinal Tobin CSsR who said,

“we are in danger of falling into mediocrity.” A line I have spent sometime ruminating over. However the retreat was not on a downward track, quite the opposite as Fr Piotr also highlighted the importance of Redemptorists being *Apostles of Conversion* and so much more!

Professions and Ordinations

The weekend before the retreat we had Final Professions in Zimbabwe and then the weekend after the retreat we had Diaconal and Sacerdotal ordinations also in Zimbabwe. Photos are attached with this letter.

We offer our sincere congratulations and prayers to
Br Simbarashe Mashandudze CSsR, Finally Professed
Br Ngonidzashe Magaya CSsR, Finally Professed and Ordained Deacon
Fr Oscar Madzonganyika CSsR, Ordained to the Priesthood
and Fr Eric Makova CSsR, Ordained to the Priesthood

A month later I travelled to Dublin to attend the Solemn Profession of
Sr Máire Bríd O'Driscoll of God's Infinite Love OSsR

The day after the Solemn Profession the Irish broadsheet paper “The Times” carried a full page report on Sr Máire Bríd becoming the newest nun in Ireland! The Paper reported, somewhat in disbelief that Sr Máire Bríd was courageously taking this step when it was quite the opposite from what society now expects. May God continue to bless the OSsR nuns in their ministry, their prayer and community life. As they pray for us everyday, let us be sure to pray, as Fr General recently also said, for Vocations for ourselves and our Sisters.

OSsR & CSsR

St Benet's Monastery Sunderland

Myself and Fr Elias Gweme travelled to Sunderland to visit our monastery that we left 13 years ago and still have not been able to sell. I mention it here just to keep you all up to date. We are dealing with our Solicitors and doing all we can. Please pray for this issue.

NWE CSsR Provinces - Federation

On the 2nd of August the four Provincials met in St Joseph's monastery, Dundalk to carry on our deliberations concerning the Federation that we will enter into on the ***1st of August 2025***. As always the meeting was very good and a lot of serious, honest and respectful dialogue was had. We reconsidered the “Agreement” for the Federation that we had previously written and distributed around the four provinces for reaction. All that came back to us was then knitted back into the “new” agreement. A copy of this is attached and again we ask for any feedback.

Since that meeting, our Superiors in Rome have been in touch asking us to work on more and definitive steps in order to advance this project. Be sure that you will be kept apace of all that is happening.

The next time that we, the four Provincials, will meet will be in Albania for the Conference of the Redemptorists of Europe, 7th - 11th of October. Br

Michael Duxbury and Fr Maurice O'Mahony will be in attendance, respectively as Representative of the Brothers and as the Province's Vocal. With the many other things that we will be dealing with, (i.e., a successor to Fr Johannes Römelt CSsR RIP), this will be a good opportunity for all of us from the four Provinces to get together and discuss things further.

The next formal meeting of the four Provincials will be in Bonn on the 22nd - 24th of November. Prior to that I will also be going to represent the London Province at the St Clemens Provincial Chapter, the 11th - 14th of November.

I hope that you appreciate the amount of work that is being put into this whole reality of our federation and ultimately, (no-one knows the timing at this point) our newly founded Province. Please join with us in prayer that the Holy Spirit will triumph and not the voice of fear!

Redemptorist Parish Missions

Someone sent me a message this morning saying,

"Hats off to Fr Charlie out missioning in his 80s."

I simply replied by typing,

"Absolutely!"

Frs Charles Corrigan and Elias Gweme CSsR both just finished a Parish Mission this morning in East Kilbride, St Vincents. At the same time Frs Peter Morris and Royston Price CSsR have just concluded a Parish Mission in Cannock and Hednesford the two parishes in Staffordshire.

I am also aware of the Mission that is being started by Frs Royston and Elias CSsR this evening in Holy Rood Parish, Watford. I thought the days of Missions back to back were a thing of yesteryear, so it just goes to show you that where there is the energy and inclination, the Lord will perform marvels! We pray for the Lord's blessing on these Missioners, who go out in our name, preaching *plentiful redemption!*

Redemptorist Pilgrimage 10th - 17th May 2025

At the Province meeting in Bishop Eton Monastery in January this year I mentioned whether we would be interested in a CSsR "Alfonsian" Pilgrimage for 2025. There was significant enthusiasm for this and so it was decided to go ahead and organise such a pilgrimage. After much hard work trying to secure dates and accommodation, we have now a wonderful schedule prepared and tailor made for us from the 10th - 17th of May 2025.

This time together, Redemptorists and all others within the CSsR family, associates, parishioners and all interested people, will be a time of reflection, prayer, spirituality and recreation. As we visit 'our' sites we will immerse ourselves in 'our' Redemptorist traditions and 'our' Redemptorist spirituality.

There will be plenty of opportunity to relax and have wonderful meals, and a swim in our hotel's own swimming pool! Our hotel is a four star hotel so

while we will be on pilgrimage there will be the possibility of also feeling like *being on holiday*! Find the poster attached to this email and be quick to book your place as we only have limited places. Please also pray for this pilgrimage that it will be a time of great blessing on us as a Province as we go back to the very places where we began in 1732.

pilgrimage@redemptorists.co.uk

Important Dates for our Diaries

6th - 10th January 2025 - Province Meeting and One Day Chapter
in St. Mary's Monastery Kinnoull Perth, Scotland.

1st August 2025 - Federation of the Four Provinces NWE is established.

15th - 30th September 2026 - General Visitation to the London Province.

As said previously, this not a typing error! The General Government have to plan this far ahead.

Vocations Weekend - What is God calling you to be?

Fr Royston CSsR, our Vocations Director has organised a ***Vocations Weekend*** to be held in St. Mary's Monastery Clapham SW4 on the ***20th - 22nd of December 2024***. Attached is the poster for this weekend. Please pass the news around and keep this very serious ministry in your prayers.

vocations@redemptorists.co.uk

Safeguarding

This Secretariat will meet on the 16th of October and move things on with our Safeguarding Policy and other pertinent documents. Before that we have a meeting with RLSS on the 4th October, via Zoom. In the future we have a one day Conference in Scotland entitled "Preventing Abuse" and this will be an all day National event at the University of Strathclyde, 16th of November.

Here I would like to give our thanks to Br David Nyamuronda CSsR, our Safeguarding Lead, Ms Tina Campbell our Safeguarding Consultant and Fr Andrew Burns CSsR our Safeguarding Trustee for all the work that is being done on behalf of us all, behind the scenes, so to speak.

May I also say thanks to each one of you for all that you do to ensure that the Issue of Safeguarding is paramount amongst us personally and experienced by all who come into our premises. Sincerely, ***thank you.***

Fr Jim McManus CSsR - A new book

Congratulation to one of our Province's most prolific authors, Fr Jim McManus CSsR who is publishing his newest and final work entitled

***"The Divine Invitation of Jesus
Experiencing the Lord's Presence in your life."***

We wish him every success with this latest publication and God speed.

General Secretary - Present and Emeritus

In the last letter I wrote I mentioned that we hoped that Fr James Casey would meet his now successor as General Secretary, Fr Edward Chacón CSsR - photos of their meeting are attached!

Gift Aid

Finally after much trying we have now managed to get our own Gift Aid number and all that goes with that. Ms Elizabeth Sinclair, from Clapham, will be touch as our Gift Aid person for the whole province, with all the details that we will all need. Watch this space!

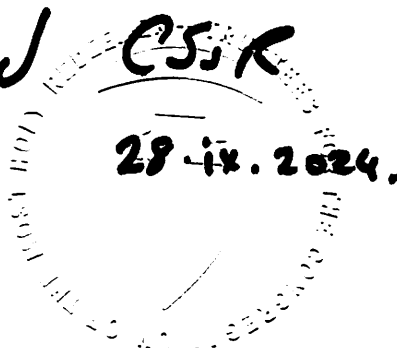
In conclusion

I am quite sure that there are other issues that I should have included in this letter, however time is against me and I hope you have managed to remain with me as I have tried to bring all the news and pictures to you, so you that can fully appreciate all the work that is being done throughout the Province, the Region, the Lay Associates, North Western Europe, the Congregation and our Nuns!

My prayers go with you everyday. Please pray for me.

Peace,


Richard Reid CSsR
Provincial Superior



Attached:

- i Gars Meeting under 50s;*
- ii Photos of Crypt in Altötting;*
- iii Photos of Professions in Harare and Ordinations in Harare;*
- iv Photos of Solemn Profession Dublin;*
- v Photos of St Benet's Sunderland;*
- vi New "Agreement for Federation;*
- vii Pilgrimage Poster May 2025;*
- viii Vocations Weekend Dec 2024;*
- ix Photos of Fr General Secretary Emeritus and Present*

The Coming Months...

RLSS Zoom Meeting	4th October 2024
Bl Francis X Seelos	5th October 2024
CRE Albania	7th to 12th October 2024
OPC	14th October 2024
EPC	15th October 2024
Safeguarding Secretariat	16th October
St Gerard Majella	16th October 2024
Conf of Religious England & Wales	21st October 2024
Visa Workshop	23rd October 2024
Finance Secretariat	24th October 2024
National Vocations Promotion	2nd November 2024
CSsR Martyrs of Spain	6th November 2024
Charities Commission Webinar	6th November 2024
CSsR Rule	9th November 2024
St Clemens Chapter	11th - 14th November 2024
Preventing Abuse (Scotland)	16th November 2024
Meeting of Provincials NWE	22nd - 24th November 2024
Advent begins	1st December 2024
OPC	2nd December 2024
EPC	3rd December 2024
Nat Off Vocation	4th December 2024
Day of Recollection Liverpool Clergy	6th December 2024
Immaculate Conception	9th December 2024
RPTC	12th December 2024
Conf of Religious of England & Wales	16th December 2024
Vocations Weekend	20th -22nd December 2024
CHRISTmas	25th December 2024
Province Meeting & One Day Chapter	6th - 10th January 2025
Finance Secretariat	23rd January 2025
Zimbabwe Visit	Sometime in February 2025
CSsR Pilgrimage	10th - 17th May 2025
Federation of Provinces NWE	1st August 2025
Solemnity of St & Dr Alphonsus de'Liguori	1st August 2025