



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

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

You will have already heard of our two Ukrainian Confreres, Fr Ivan **Levytskyi** CSsR and Fr Bohdan **Geleta** CSsR who were released from Russian detention on the 28th of June 2024, the day we celebrate all over the world our CSsR Ukrainian Martyrs. It is news that brings great rejoicing. Since November 16th 2022 they have been held hostage and we believe were subject to some conditions and treatments that I would rather not think too much about here in this letter. Suffice to say that, thanks to God, these two confreres are free and now at home in the Province of Lviv. Their only crime was their desire to stay close to their people and continue ministering to them.

Their example and their commitment to the People of God should give us pause for reflection. Let us also pray for these two brothers that they might get whatever healing they are now in need of, and we should pray for the whole Province as it comes to terms with all that has happened and all that is happening to their country.

For the Peace in this part of the world and so many others we have much to pray. Let us remember our confreres in Russia, in Ukraine and in other parts of the world that do not know or enjoy the relative peace that we are blessed with here.

PAX

Meetings Galore...

Since I last wrote a Provincial Letter, on May 1st, I have been going around on my travels to various meetings of differing sorts, Conference of Religious in England and Wales COREW, National Office for Vocations, Religious Life Safeguarding Service, Scottish Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency, to name but a few. Fr Elias Gweme CSsR as the Vicar Provincial Superior attended the AGM of the COREW in May as I couldn't due to another engagement. It was good for his to be there and for people to see a younger face. I am grateful for his generous spirit and willingness to do that part of our Leadership ministry.

I had an interesting 'meeting' with a young German fellow from the St Clemens Province and he, from our chat, produced an article for the St Clemens Province web page. You can read it here <https://www.stclemens.org/en/2024/07/01/a-journey-of-faith-unity-and-service/>

Democratic Republic of Congo...

The first week in June I attended a meeting in Democratic Republic of Congo DRC where the Conference of Africa and Madagascar was taking place. When I arrived there it was late in the evening and I was picked up by a confrere and was taken from the airport to our community in Kinshasa. The journey took two hours just because the traffic was so heavy and unruly. Eventually I got to my bed late on in the night, which was under a mosquito net and had a large bin full of water at its foot. We were then up a few hours later as we had planned to leave at four am in order to arrive somewhere for a large celebratory Mass marking the 125 years of our presence in the country.

The Mass was celebrated by the Cardinal Archbishop of Kinshasa, a Capuchin who studied with us in Rome, he was joined by four other Bishops, Fr General CSsR, Fr Nicolas Ayoubu CSsR, a General Consultor, six Provincials representing Denver, Bangalore, St Clemens, Dublin, London and Europe South, the Coordinator of Africa and Madagascar, many other Vice Provincials and Regional Superiors, including our own Fr Kenneth Macharaga CSsR, and other representative from various other parts of Africa, plus the Redemptorists from the Vice-Province of Matadi and many other clergy, Religious and Lay Faithful. It was a marvellous celebration.

When the meetings began the next day the following was written for an article in Scala News.

"In his opening remarks, Fr. Rogerio Gomez, the General Superior, indicated that, above all, the very reason for this network meeting is to ensure that the structures of the Congregation respond to the urgent needs of the mission. He also thanked the Mother provinces for their continued support and for what they will continue to do for the units in Africa and Madagascar in the future. He urged all the members present and encouraged them to put aside their fears, forge ahead courageously with hope and charity, and believe that the Congregation is the work of the Holy Spirit, a family of Missionaries of Hope in the Footsteps of the Redeemer." <https://www.cssr.news/2024/06/coream-5th-network-for-africa-and-madagascar/>

Fr General CSsR also said at the first mass, early in the morning, during his homily,

"The future does not threaten us if we face it with faith, hope and love. My question is this, do we? If we don't then we are here for a bankrupt institution!...The Redeemer is the

corner stone - many confreres believe this completely - therefore we are not being called to look after a bankrupt entity."

The meeting was good and I shall attach a document from the end of the meeting.

The Brothers Vocation...

I know from my own experience, from speaking to confreres within the Province and the Region and with other confreres from many different parts of the world, that a Brother has contributed something special to our lives. As such we should do all that we can to help people realise that there is something called a Brother's Vocation. Attached to this letter you find a presentation that could be used in the community, in the parish or at a Vocations workshop. Have a look and see what you think. This material has come to us from Rome and one of the Secretariats looking to really promote this precious vocation, and I use the word 'precious' quite deliberately as we are much more impoverished the fewer our Brothers become. Please pray for Vocations to the Religious Life - for Redemptorist Brothers.

Ace of Clubs - Substantial Grant...

Today I had the privilege of signing the accepting of a Grant for the Ace of Clubs for the next three years. This is a brilliant boost to the work of the Ace of Clubs. With this grant we are going to be able to guarantee service and nourishment to those of our 'guests' who need it the most. The donor of this Grant is the City Bridge Foundation.

"City Bridge Foundation is the working name of the historic Bridge House Estates, which originated in the late eleventh century and was formally established by royal charter in 1282 by the City of London Corporation in London, England." Wikipedia

Please do offer a prayer in thanksgiving.

Fr George Webster CSsR Funeral...

It was long time in coming however it was a real celebration of Fr George's life and ministry. He was celebrated by so many good people; his family, his confreres, the People of God from here and from Zimbabwe. The preacher for the occasion was Bishop Raymond Mupandasekwa CSsR, who made sure that no matter what else might be happening he would be here to say goodbye. You will find more details on the Province Web site www.redemptorists.co.uk

Professions and Ordinations in Zimbabwe...

Two of our confreres are making their Perpetual Profession on the 13th July, Br Simbarashe Mashandudze CSsR and Br Ngonidzashe Magaya CSsR. Please keep these confreres in your prayers as they prepare for the big day that lies ahead. Br Simba is a Brother, while Br Ngoni is a clerical candidate.

As such Br Ngoni will be ordained a Deacon at the Ordinations that will follow on one week later. Rev'd Br Oscar Madzonganyika CSsR and Rev'd Br Erick Makova CSsR will be ordained to the Priesthood by Archbishop Robert Ndlovu in St Fidelis and OLPH in Mabvuku 20th July 2024. Again we give thanks to God for these wonderful men who are making this huge step in their vocational journey. To these four confreres I would like to assure them that they have the support, encouragement and affection of all of us this side. *Makorokoto!*

Redemptorist Publications...

Recently we heard the fantastic news that RP had "received the good news that our tender to publish the New Sunday Missal with the ESV-Catholic edition translation has been accepted by the Liturgy Office." We offer to all the team at RP mighty warm congratulations. The hard work that goes into these things can never be underestimated.

General Visitation...

Fr General told me while we were both in Congo that the General Visitation will be from the **15th of September until the 30th of September 2026**. As the General Government has so many places to visit it must plan far ahead, so please don't think these dates are typing errors! Please put these dates in your diary.

The Way, My Way...

I had the good fortune to join John Rafferty (our one time organist at Clapham, now living in Santiago) to watch a film about the Camino of Santiago de Compostela at a private viewing in Piccadilly. The film, "*The Way, My Way*", has recently just been released in Australia and will be premiered in Santiago in Spain later this month. Our screening in London was basically trying to make sure other countries are aware of this film and all that it contains. Having watched it just once I would certainly recommend it to anyone, community family, school, walkers group etc. I am sure we will hear of this very soon.

St. Mary's Redemptorist Hall...

Demolition has officially begun although that being said there is no obvious 'destruction' going on at the moment. I had a meeting with the owner of our old property and he said that they would be doing all sorts within the building to ensure that the demolition will cause the least amount of chaos when they properly start the demolition process. Suffice to say that day is almost upon us. They are estimating 18 months before we are given our newly built hall. However he did say, "don't hold me to that!"

Fr Jim McManus CSsR...

Fr Jim recently appeared on the front cover of The Courier Magazine with the headline, "The Real Exorcist". I shall attach this also to this letter. It also said on the front page, "Perth Priest discusses 50 years of battling Satan and the healing power of prayer." It is a powerful article and it was very brave of Fr Jim to engage with this process as one would never know what could be done with this sensitive material. *God bless you Fr Jim!*

Novenas to Our Lady of Perpetual Succour...

The Preachers of the Novenas in Erdington and London were very good. Fr Dan Baragry CSsR from Dublin kept the crowds in Birmingham spiritually nourished. While Fr Elias Gweme CSsR from Kinnoull and Fr Emerson Machepa CSsR from Harare did the same for the people of Clapham and beyond. Great spiritual experiences that we all love!

Bishop of Dunkeld...

Our prayers are with our Bishop-Elect Andrew McKenzie, the newly appointed Bishop of Dunkeld. Recently he made his pre Episcopal Consecration retreat in our Monastery in Perth. We wish him well and promise him a place in our prayers.

Safeguarding...

There has been a fair amount of Safeguarding meetings attended by myself and other, specifically Br David CSsR our Safeguarding Lead. We both were at a day in Carfin in Scotland. I Chaired a meeting of RLSS - Religious Life Safeguarding Service, we both attended another Zoom meeting, again for the RLSS and CSSA during which Br David was asked to address the meeting telling them his experience of undertaking the Audit at the end of last year. Next week we will have a Safeguarding meeting with the RLSS. On all these fronts we are working hard.

Province Retreat...

In under two weeks the Province Retreat will begin on the evening of the 15th of July until breakfast of the 19th. Fr Piotr Chyła CSsR will be our Retreat Master. Fr Piotr is a gifted man who brings much to the spiritual table.

General Secretary...

Fr Jim Casey CSsR our General Secretary Emeritus was being spoken of fondly last week as we, in the Clapham community welcomed his successor, Fr Edward Chacón CSsR the present General Secretary, here to learn English to facilitate his considerable ministry. Hopefully the two, the present and the emeritus, might meet!

Missions Ongoing...

Missions are going on up and down the country as more and more priests are asking if we "still do Missions?" Our dedicated group of men are putting themselves out there at the service of the church. God bless and continue your missionary energy!

Before this letter gets any longer...

I must bring it to a conclusion. At least you are able to appreciate that there is plenty of things going on and that we are far from being deceased!

Let us continue to hold one another humbly in prayer, asking the Lord to continue giving us strength to do our ministry or indeed say our prayers, that in all things we will be Missionaries of Hope following in the footsteps of the Redeemer.

Please do think of that and certainly put out of our minds the notion that we are looking after a bankrupt institution! The Redeemer... He is our Corner Stone!

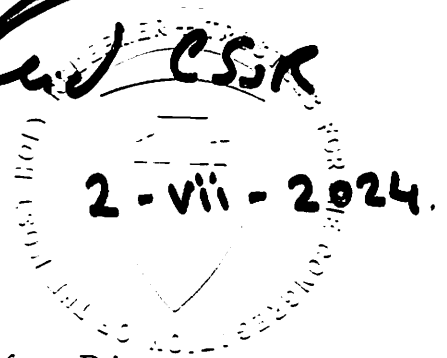
May Our Mother of Perpetual Succour pray for us all.

My warm affectionate good wishes and prayers come to you with this letter.

Peace,

Richard Reid CSsR

Richard Reid CSsR
Provincial Superior



Attached -

Photos of our Ukrainian Confreres released from Prison

Article from St Clemens Province Website

Photos of the 125 years in Congo celebrations

Document from the COREAM Meeting in Congo

Material for Brothers Vocation

Posters Final Vows, Ordinations

Fr Jim McManus CSsR Exorcist

Photo of Bishop Elect Andrew McKenzie

The Coming Months

The Coming Months...

Safeguarding Meeting RLSS	9th July 2024
Final Profession Zimbabwe	13th July 2024
Priestly and Diaconal Ordinations	20th July 2024
Solemnity of Our Most Holy Redeemer	21st July 2024
OPC Meeting	23rd of July 2024
EPC Meeting	24th of July 2024
Finance Secretariate	25th July 2024
Solemnity of St Dr Alphonsus	1st August 2024
Implementation Group Dundalk	2nd August 2024
RPTC - AGM	8th August 2024
Solemn Profession of OSsR in Dublin	17th August 2024
Bl Methodius Trcka	25th August 2024
Bl M Celeste Crostarosa	11th September 2024
Young Confreres Meeting Gars	16th - 20th September 2024
Bl Caspar Stanggassinger	26th September 2024
Bl Francis X Seelos	5th October 2024
CRE Albania	7th to 12th October 2024
OPC	14th October 2024
EPC	15th October 2024
St Gerard Majella	16th October 2024
Conf of Religious England & Wales	21st October 2024
RPTC	24th October 2024
CSsR Martyrs of Spain	6th November 2024
CSsR Rule	9th November 2024
Advent begins	1st December 2024
OPC	2nd December 2024
EPC	3rd December 2024
Nat Off Vocation	4th December 2024
Immaculate Conception	9th December 2024
RPTC	12th December 2024
CHRISTmas	25th December 2024