



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

Our Lord Jesus Christ the Eternal High Priest

Dear Confreres, Sisters, Lay Associates and friends,

It is quite sometime since I last wrote to the Province however this has been to do with the fact that I have been travelling a lot lately. As a result of these travels there is some news which I will share as we go on with this letter.

After our recent **Province Meeting** there is not much to say other than it was an enjoyable success, at least that is what I have received by way of feedback. For those of you were not able to be with us in Kinnoull let me share something of the content of the meeting...

Day One: We began which each community saying something of how they had coped with Covid. It was interesting to hear of the various ways that our communities appreciated anew the value of the brethren. Then I gave a 'report' on **Phase 1 of the (European) General Chapter**. One thing I said was that during those ten days in Rome was the first time I thought of myself as a 'European Redemptorist', this was due to the questions that were being asked, "eg. what are you as the Redemptorists of Europe doing about...?" It was also inspiring to listen to the confreres from each part of Europe share something of their vision and dreams.

Mass was celebrated by Fr Andrew Burns CSsR, Vicar Provincial Superior and Rector of the Bishop Eton Community. After lunch we then had a whole session on **Safeguarding** looking in particular at "**Caring Safely for Others**" the document from the Conference of England and Wales. It comes again as an attachment to this letter. Please take the time to read it, reflect upon it and study this well written document.

Following this there was an opportunity for our confreres to update us on their ministry, including: **Missions, Ace of Clubs, Vocations, Erdington Abbey's Centenary Celebrations**.

Day Two: We started the day by asking ourselves what a **federation** with the other **Provinces of North West Europe** would look like. There was energy in the room as this started to become a reality.

Frs Charlie Corrigan and Charles Randall then gave a presentation on "**Advanced Directives**" or '**Living Will**'. Soon that document will be sent around to the Rectors and then distributed to each confrere. This document is an important one for each one of us to sign as "*it ensures that your wishes will be taken care of should there be a time in your life when you are unable to make a decision for yourself.*" It has been written "*in line with Catholic moral theology and in keeping with the Mental Health Act 2005.*"

After lunch there was a session of the **Chapter** that voted on whether or not we ought to reduce the number of Capitulars on the Chapter. The proposal was that we should reduce the Chapter number from 18 members to 12 members, this was unanimously voted in favour. We must now await the decision being accepted by Fr General and his council.

Then **Mass** was celebrated by myself as the Provincial to give thanks to God for our many jubilarians.

Religious Profession CSsR

75 Years	Rev'd Fr Beverly Ahearn CSsR	15 August 1947
70 years	Rev'd Fr Michael Creech CSsR	15 August 1952
65 years	Rev'd Fr James Casey CSsR	08 September 1957
65 years	Rev'd Fr James McManus CSsR	08 September 1957
60 years	Rev'd Fr Joseph Doherty CSsR	09 September 1962
60 years	Rev'd Fr James Smale CSsR	09 September 1962

This came to **395 years of Religious Consecration** and service!

Ordination to the Priesthood

65 years old	Rev'd Francis Dickinson CSsR	08 July 1957
50 years	Rev'd Fr Oliver Keyes CSsR	02 July 1972
50 years	Rev'd Fr Denis McBride CSsR	02 July 1972

This came to **165 years of Priestly life and Ministry!**

There was great rejoicing in the evening when we celebrated a festive meal in honour of the Jubilarians and toasted them with the singing of the "Vivant" as well as very moving and amusing tributes being paid to the jubilarian confreres. ***Vivant in aeternum.***

It ought to be included here that **Fr James McManus CSsR** returned from Rome where he had his important meeting with the **Missionaries of Mercy** and **Pope Francis**. "The Missionaries of Mercy will be specially selected priests who have been granted *"the authority to pardon even those sins reserved to the Holy See,"* the Pope wrote in *Misericordiae Vultus*, (The Face of Mercy)".

Day Three: The following day included the business of finance with our auditor being present via Zoom. Then there were two presentations on our **Shrine Ministry** and a presentation on our partnership with **Lay Associates**. Fathers Timothy Buckley and Maurice O'Mahony gave very thought provoking and engaging presentations.

On the 13th of May there was the Presentation of the **Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice** to our Fr Timothy Buckley CSsR by Bishop Thomas Neylon (Auxiliary of the Archdiocese of Liverpool). Many of our confreres were there, from our own community and those who had travelled for the occasion, including Bishop Ralph Heskett CSsR and myself. Also in attendance were many clergy from the Archdiocese of Liverpool. The parishioners turned out in great numbers for the Mass followed by a reception where the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Quartet graced us with their wonderful musical presence. A great evening was had by all. *Thanks Fr Buckley CSsR Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice.*

Many of you will know that due to Covid restrictions I was unable to travel to **Zimbabwe** in February. However the last two weeks of May myself along with Frances Sibert, a Lay Associate of ours from Bishop Eton parish, found ourselves in Harare. It was a very rich, inspiring and moving experience after having not been there for two years and with so

much happening in Zimbabwe during that time. Even though it was only a visit of 10 days we managed to pack in so many different engagements and visits to our communities and all the people there involved.

We were very fortunate in that we also bumped into **Sr Brenda CSN**, the **Superior General** of the **Nazareth Sisters**, and **Sr Veronica CSN**, one of the General Consultors, as they both were making a Visitation to their community in Harare. They came with us to our community in Tafara where they prayed by the graves of our three novices RIP. We then went on a tour of what our Brothers do in **Mavambo** (Feeding Agency and Learning Centre for thousands of children) in Mabvuku.

I was also able to bring much love from the Province to all our confreres of the Region. This love and all the prayerful support has been an enormous help to the brethren. Much gratitude was expressed and much love has come back from the Region to us. Let us not forget to hold one another in fraternal and supportive prayer.

One piece of good news from the Region is that **Brother Kudakwashe Kariviro CSsR's** request for **Perpetual Vows** was granted and the ceremony will take place on the **23rd of July 2022**. Ordination to the **diaconate** will follow on the **30th of July**, the ordaining Bishop will be Archbishop Robert Ndlovu, Archbishop of Harare. So let us pray especially for Brother Kuda during this time.

The Regional Council needed updating and so the following confreres take up the leadership of the Region.

Ordinary Regional Council

Br Benjamin Posvo CSsR - Regional Superior
Fr Gift Mubaiwa CSsR - Vicar Regional Superior
Fr Kenneth Macharaga CSsR - 2nd Consultor

Extraordinary Regional Council

Br David Nyamuronda CSsR
Fr Dominic Kofi CSsR

After the recent ruling of the Holy Father Pope Francis, making sure that Brothers can now be superiors within our institutes, Brother Benjamin, previously our superior in Harare, is now officially our Regional Superior today. So congratulations to Brother Ben and to all our other confreres who have so generously accepted this new role within the Region.

Before I travelled to Zimbabwe I met our own **Bishop Raymond Mupa CSsR** in Kinnoull and then in Clapham. He took the opportunity to celebrate all our Sunday masses in St Mary's Clapham and then visited **Fr George Webster CSsR**, (a man who inspired him many years ago) in the Little Sisters of the Poor in South London.

I had one day in London when I returned from Zimbabwe and then I had to go to **Rome** for a **four day** meeting with the other **Provincial Councils of North Western Europe**. I think I can safely say that no one attending the meeting had come with any energy or positive hopes for the outcome of the meeting. Therefore you can well appreciate that we could hardly believe where we had come to by the end of the meeting. We had a Jesuit as our facilitator and he was joined by a young married man called Pablo. Father David SJ is an American Jesuit who works with many senior people within the Vatican and other Superiors General in Rome concerning leadership. We all had a very positive

experience with Father David SJ and we were all open to whatever would emerge within the meeting. I am not being pious when I say that **the Holy Spirit was truly present** during our time together. Profound conversation was had and equally profound listening was experienced. There now seems to be a consensus that the four Provinces of Dublin, London, St Clemens, Vienna-Munich, will become one fully fledged and inaugurated Federation by mid 2025. I shall say no more at this moment until further work has been done with the materials that emerged from the meeting. Please do keep the four Provinces of North Western Europe in your prayers as we carefully, and prayerfully continue on the road together.

St Mary's Redemptorist Hall Clapham has finally been sold. Plans have been submitted to the council and once they are approved we can begin planning the new hall that will form part of the future developments on that site. It has been a long time coming but all it seems to have worked out well.

St Mary's Monastery Clapham is still unfinished. Letters are being exchanged backwards and forwards as we try to get the job completed. The first floor and the second floor are essentially completed, however we still don't have gas coming into the property, and therefore can't get on with the water pipes. Exasperation rules! Please pray that we can return to our monastery as soon as possible.

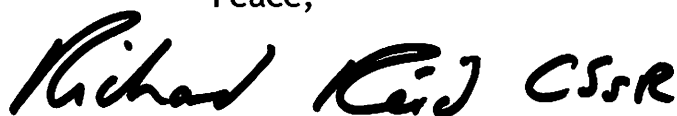
Confreres on the move. The paper work has gone to Rome notifying them that the two Provinces of Vienna-Munich and London are happy for **Fr Dominic O'Toole CSsR** to become part of the **Vienna-Munich Province**. This makes sense after all the years Fr Dominic has worked there and that he is now the Rector of our monastery Maria am Gestade in Vienna. Paper work was also done for **Br Richard Maidwell CSsR** to transfer from the Province of South Africa to becoming a member of this province. We look forward to welcome him shortly. God bless both these confreres.

Vocations ministry is still being carried out by Fr Royston CSsR as he moves about the country preaching on the need for Vocations and the essentialness of prayer for this important intention. I attach a letter Fr Royston wrote for Vocations Sunday some weeks ago.

100 years in Erdington will be marked tomorrow evening 10th June with a Mass of Thanksgiving. This will bring to an end a week of Mission given by Fr Charlie Corrigan CSsR, Fr Timothy Buckley CSsR and Fr Charles Randall CSsR. Let us pray in thanksgiving for all our men, living and dead, who have ministered there over the last 100 years and gave something of their lives in service to the Abbey, both the parish and the monastery.

Mother of Perpetual Succour Feast this month 27th will be celebrated all over the Congregation and in particular in all our communities. I wish you a very joyous and holy celebration of this wondrous feast. May of Blessed Mother intercede for us in all our needs and trials. We can never lose heart when our Mother is perpetual in her succour and assistance!

Peace,



Richard Reid CSsR
Provincial Superior

9.vi - 2022

Attached; 1 Vocations letter, 2 140yrs Oceania from Clapham, 3 Preaching platform - Ed Hone et, 4 Westminster Safeguarding doc, 5 Lay Associate News and Dates 6 Province gathering, 7 Photos from Zimbabwe, 8 Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice photos 9 Discernment in Common