



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

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

“May is the Month of Mary, the lovely month of May!” A hymn I am sure many of us remember from our school days! I would like to ask each of us to pray a rosary, five decades, with the intention being for more *good* vocations to the Redemptorists, Fathers and Brothers, world wide, but particularly for our own Province and our Region.

Most of us were surprised when last month Pope Francis approved the promulgation of the decree on the **Martyrdom of 12 of our confreres in Madrid**. Six Brothers and Six Fathers were martyred in the year 1936. We now have 23 martyrs among our Saints and Blesseds. I believe this is something we should be extremely proud of and at the same time, humbled. From a Brother aged 77 years down to a Father aged 27 years, and ten others in between, they died simply for being Redemptorists; trying to be holy men of God.

I sent the following message to the Provincial of Madrid on all our behalf.

“Congratulations! We are so delighted that Pope Francis has recognised our brothers as Blessed Martyrs. They are a great example to you all in Spain, but also for us Redemptorists in every part of the world! We feel a strong union with all our brothers in Spain!

United in the Redeemer. Peace, Richard CSsR (¡Ricardo!)”

I found Google Translator and also sent the message in Spanish - some of you can tell me how badly it sounds!

¡Felicidades! Estamos muy contentos de que el Papa Francisco haya reconocido a nuestros hermanos como Beatos Mártires. ¡Son un gran ejemplo para todos ustedes en España, pero también para nosotros los Redentoristas en todas partes del mundo! ¡Sentimos una fuerte unión con todos nuestros hermanos en España!

Unidos en el Redentor. Paz, Richard CSsR (¡Ricardo!)

Find here a link that introduces our Martyr Confreres; a study written by Fr Antonio. M. Quesada CSsR <https://www.cssr.news/2021/03/our-madrid-martyrs/>

Our Blessed CSsR Martyrs of Madrid

<i>(Blessed) Br Nicesio Pérez del Palomar Quincoces CSsR,</i>	<i>77 years</i>
<i>(Blessed) Fr. Antonio Girón González CSsR,</i>	<i>65 years</i>
<i>(Blessed) Fr. Donato Jiménez Viviano CSsR</i>	<i>63 years</i>
<i>(Blessed) Fr. Vicente Renuncio Toribio CSsR</i>	<i>60 years</i>
<i>(Blessed) Br Aniceto Lizasoain Lizaso CSsR,</i>	<i>59 years</i>
<i>(Blessed) Fr. Crescencio Severo Ortiz Blanco CSsR</i>	<i>55 years</i>
<i>(Blessed) Br Gregorio Zugasti Fernández de Esquide CSsR</i>	<i>52 years</i>
<i>(Blessed) Br Bernardo (Gabriel) Sáiz Gutiérrez CSsR</i>	<i>40 years</i>
<i>(Blessed) Br José Joaquín (Pascual) Erviti Insausti CSsR,</i>	<i>34 years</i>
<i>(Blessed) Br Rafael (Máximo) Perea Pinedo CSsR</i>	<i>33 years</i>
<i>(Blessed) Fr. Ángel Martínez Miquélez CSsR,</i>	<i>29 years</i>
<i>(Blessed) Fr. José María Urruchi Ortiz CSsR</i>	<i>27 years</i>

Pray for us

We now welcome **Fr Isaac Davies CSsR** here among us, as he has finally travelled from Zimbabwe and landed on the 1st of May. Even though he landed safely we were unable to greet him in person as Zimbabwe is on the Red List as far as COVID is concerned. Fr Isaac had to isolate himself in a hotel at Heathrow for 10 full days before he received a warm CSsR welcome! Strange days, but thanks be to God he has 'survived' and is now free among us. The OPC have appointed him to the community of Erdington Abbey in Birmingham. He will travel there this week. *Welcome Fr Isaac!*

Last week I received a phone call from **Fr Johannes Römelt CSsR**, the **Coordinator of the Redemptorists of Europe**, he passes on very good wishes to you all. He was on the phone to tell me about an appointment that he had recently made and wanted to check it was okay by me. I am delighted to tell you all that **Nicole Barber**, one of our **Lay Associates** has been invited to be a member of the **CRE Partnership in Mission (PiM) Secretariat**. Her talent, commitment and apostolic energies are being recognised on many levels. For those who know little of Nicole's story...she is

a Lay Associate of the London Province

a Member of the London Province PiM Secretariat

a Member of the General Commission for PiM

Now invited to be a Member of the CRE PIM Secretariat

Appointed as Deputy Publishing Director for Redemptorist Publications in 2013

(member of the RPTC since 2007)

Congratulations Nicole!

During a recent OPC meeting, permission was granted to some of our confreres in Zimbabwe to profess vows; **six novices to profess their temporary vows**, and **Br Adam Mukabva CSsR** who will profess his **Perpetual Vows on the 17th of July** and be ordained to the Diaconate the following day. The ordaining prelate being our own Bishop Raymond Mupandasekwa CSsR. Great rejoicing in Zimbabwe and here in the *older* part of the province! *Makorokoto!*

On the 10th of May in St Joseph and the English Martyrs Church at Bishop's Stortford, **the funeral of Tony Barrance *RIP*** was celebrated. I attended on behalf of all the members of the Province. Also in attendance was Fr Ed Hone CSsR and Tony's good friend Fr John Trenchard. The Parish Priest, Fr Peter Harris was the main celebrant and was assisted by the Assistant Parish Priest Fr Antonio Pineda. Tony's son-in-law, Nick Mayhew, led a beautiful tribute in the name of the wider family. It began by simply listing some of the words that people used when they sent their messages of condolence; a wise man, a good man, a true man, a quiet man etc., it was totally fitting for the man who "cared" for us and our finances in a truly good way. *God grant him eternal rest.* Let us also pray for Tony's wife Kate in these difficult days after the funeral. A copy of the Order of Service can be found on our web site http://www.redemptorists.co.uk/images/pdf_documents/TonyBarranceRIPOrderofService.pdf

After the burial, Fr Peter the PP took Frs Ed, John and myself to a part of the cemetery where we discovered more confreres! Not only are we buried in the monastery grounds but in the cemetery as well. Fr Vassall Phillips CSsR and Fr Thomas Creagh CSsR to name just two. *Requiescant in pace.*

The **Provincial Councils of North Western Europe** continue with the meetings and we can feel some progress made as we begin to understand each other and where we are coming from and where we are going to... At the moment there are three things current.

- i) A meeting of all our Finance Directors/Provincial Bursars.
- ii) A member of each province will meet to discuss the whole issue of Formation.
- iii) There will be four Video presentations detailing what each provincial has put together. Every one is welcome but there will be two members of each province invited to watch and ask the Provincials any questions that may arise.

Also in line with everything the Provincial Councils are doing is the whole issue of "who is who" in all the provinces. Find attached a **form for the Redemptorists** and **another for Lay Associates**. It should be simple enough. They also ask us to "Please provide a recent digital photograph of yourself (head and shoulders shot)." Most mobile phones can do these photos perfectly well! Ask someone in the community to take on this role for your community. Please remember this is for a Four Province Directory, which will be around for sometime, so you might really want to think of your attire! Please return these "forms" immediately.

The **Preparatory Commission for 26th General Chapter** met recently to collate all the reports that came in as a result of the Presentations given by the General Government and our community meetings. Thank you all most sincerely for the very inspiring and deeply reflective thinking that came through. I attach the report that is going to Rome in our name. May I thank also the Preparatory Commission for the hard work they gave to this project and their faithfulness and care to what you presented.

I will try and send some photographs of the monastery here in Clapham. I know it is difficult for some of you to really appreciate what is going on here in a house

loved by so many of us, hopefully some pictures will help. If it is possible I will send them with this letter

I am in preparation for the **EPC** which meets at this time. Many things are on the agenda and one of these things is the **St Mary's Redemptorist Hall in Clapham**. A further two meetings will be held at the end of this week and the beginning of the next to really work out what offers lie before us and how we are to decide. Please keep this intention especially in your prayers.

Remember **our confreres** who are **struggling** at this time with **illnesses of whatever kind**. Please remember the Bishop Eton community as it tries to rebuild itself after the terrible time it had with COVID. There are of course other members in each of our communities who are in need of prayer. We could all use a prayer or two, so let us raise our voices and hearts in prayer for one another.

The next great Solemnity that we will celebrate is the **wonder of Pentecost**, our ecclesial birthday. As we await for the Holy Spirit let us all pray deeply that the gifts of the Holy Spirit may once again renew us and give us strength.

May our Holy Father Alphonsus, our Blessed Mother Maria Celeste Crostarosa, our Redemptorist Saints, Blesseds and Martyrs, pray for us and all within and connected to this wonderful religious family!

Please pray for me as I do for each one of you.

Peace,

Richard Reid



Richard Reid CSsR
Provincial Superior CSsR

Attached: CSsR Graves Bishop's Stortford, Forms for the NWE Provincial Directory, Report from Province going to Rome, Photos of building work in St Mary's Monastery, Clapham