



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

26 x 2025

Dear Confreres, Sisters, Lay Missionaries, Associates, Friends & Benefactors,
this letter comes with deep affection and in a spirit of prayer and fraternity for each one of you. It has been quite some time since I last wrote a Provincial's letter, this is due to the fact that there was always something happening in the moment, causing me to think, I will write about this later. So the story goes on like this! This letter will therefore be about the recent events and meetings that have happened in the past few months.

Before I start with news I feel I must say something about our vow of poverty, given that much of the time of the EPC, the Financial Secretariat and myself and the Finance Advisor is spent talking about money in general and in the specific. My plan is to write to each one of you the confreres to highlight a few things. Nonetheless I would say here that our vow of poverty, like the other 3 vows, needs attention and care if we are to truly live as sons of St Alphonsus. Our Constitutions are interesting in that they deal with each vow individually. Interesting in as much as, Chastity has 4 Constitutions, Obedience has 5 Constitutions while Poverty has 10. (Cf. Const. 61-70; Stat. 043 - 47). I quote now Fr Manuel Rodriguez Delgado CSsR, for our own reflection, who wrote an article on behalf of the General Secretariat of Formation in Rome,

"all the religious vows and the vow of poverty are not an abstract commitment. This vow touches the deepest part of our being as human beings. The vow of poverty is a commitment between human reality and God's ultimate horizon. The vow of poverty is a deep confession of faith that is made with the heart from the human reality and driven by the Spirit of Jesus. For us, Redemptorists, the relationship of the vow of poverty to the poor is especially essential from the inspiration of St. Alphonsus since, in the Supplex Libellus of 1748, St. Alphonsus mentions the poor seven times as the reason for the existence of the nascent Institute."

<https://forworld.redemptor.pl/en/slub-ubostwa-i-apostolskie-zycie-redemptorystow/>

Zimbabwe. Our Region had their General Fraternal Visitation from Frs Nicolas Ayouba and Paul Vinh CSsR in July this year. Quoting from the article written for Scala News it said,

“For the Region of Zimbabwe, this was a moment of deep reflection, mutual sharing, and spiritual renewal.

Fr Nicolas Ayouba offered a powerful message to the brothers:

“The world needs joyful witnesses, men who live with open hands and hearts, rooted in love for Christ and the poor, and ready to be sent wherever the Redeemer calls. There is a contagious joy in those who give their lives entirely to the Gospel, embracing the Redemptorist mission to bring hope to the most abandoned, especially the poor.”

Fr Paul, in particular, emphasised the importance of ongoing formation, not only as preparation for vows but as a lifelong journey of discipleship and inner growth. He reminded the brothers:

“Formation is not a stage we pass through; it is a way of living. Every day, we renew our ‘yes’ to the Redeemer amid the world’s wounds and hopes.”

<https://www.cssr.news/2025/08/a-joyful-visit-a-renewed-yes-the-canonical-visit-to-the-region-of-zimbabwe/>

Much more was said and you can read it via the link.

There is great excitement among our confreres in Zimbabwe at the moment. **Six** of our CSsR students are going to make their **Perpetual Profession** on Saturday the **8th of November** and the following day five of our brothers will be ordained to the Diaconate by Bp Raymond Mupa CSsR. I will fly out and be there for these two wonderful occasions. Please keep these confreres Brs Terrence, Noel, Phillip, Elvis, Sylvester and Bothwell CSsR very much in your prayers as they prepare now for the forthcoming big day.

I am travelling over to Zimbabwe with the Provincial of the Augustinians as he is keen to see how we go about getting vocations; he is keen to learn for his own province.

Lots of pictures will go onto the website and our Facebook page while these blessed occasions are taking place.

While still in Africa may I ask your continued prayers for our Novices in South Africa. They were clothed in the Redemptorist Habit during a ceremony over which the Coordinator of Africa and Madagascar presided. Remember and pray for the Novice Master, Fr Kudakwashe Kariviro CSsR, a confrere from Zimbabwe.

The Federation Mass held on the 1st August 2025 in Mount St Alphonsus, Limerick, was a warm experience where all the four provincials stood around the altar in solidarity with one another. This was further emphasised by the fact that Fr Rogério Gomes, our Superior General was the main celebrant. I am grateful to the confreres

who travelled from here to Limerick for the occasion. A word of thanks to those who made every effort to travel but were thwarted by the airlines! Equally grateful to our Lay Missionaries and Associates who joined us in person.

The **Federation has begun** and we now have to work out exactly what that means. For this reason Fr Elias Gweme CSsR, the Rector of Kinnoull Monastery and Vicar Provincial, and myself will travel to Bonn this week for the first meeting of our Federation Council.

As many people are unaware of who the confreres are, I list them here. Fr Jan Hafmans, (St Clemens) Fr Ian Niron, (St Clemens) Fr Brendan O'Rourke, (Dublin) Fr Gerry O'Connor, (Dublin) Fr Martin Leitgöb, (Vienna-Munich) Fr Anton Wölfl, (Vienna-Munich) Fr Elias Gweme (London) and myself. The average age of the group is 54 years of age, with 5 of us being under that age. Fr Ciaran O'Callaghan (Dublin) joins us as the Moderator and Mr Eric Corsius (St Clemens) as the Secretary.

A word of **Congratulations** must go to Fr Tim Buckley CSsR and the community of Bishop Eton Monastery Liverpool as they have now handed the Parish of St Mary's Woolton back to the Archdiocese after caring for it and running it these past 14 years. Two videos are worth watching as one sums up Fr Tim's reflection on these years of ministry and the wonderful parish community that makes us St Mary's. The other video is where the parishioners describe something of their gratitude and they even sing a song dedicated to Fr Tim!

1. <https://www.churchservices.tv/woolton/archive/uploads/VqQK9b66DnbEvYn>
2. <https://www.churchservices.tv/woolton/archive/uploads/mOO5xe76Ejd7rIX>

Bishop Eton Community are **hosting two young Fathers from Rome** who are working with the *Religious Life Safeguarding Service (RLSS)* in Liverpool. One is a confrere from Nigeria and another a Religious Priest, both are doing their further studies in Rome on the important subject of Safeguarding.

At the Federation Mass on the 1st of August **Fr General presented** to the Province a **small icon of Our Mother of Perpetual Succour** with a section of the original frame that surrounded the icon from 1866 until 1994. There are twenty such pieces of the original frame, we have number 13. This is the General's thanks to the Province for the money that we gave to S Alfonso for its renovation. A photo will accompany this letter.

Fr Elias Gweme and I attended the Mid Sexennium meeting in Salzburg for ten days at the end of September, the beginning of October. This was a meeting of all the Provincial Superiors of Europe plus all the Vocals from the Provinces. Added to this number was Fr General, the Vicar General Fr Stanula, Fr Piotr Chyla the Coordinator

of Europe, Lay Partners Mr Eric Corsius and Mr Bohus Zivcak, two Notaries Fr Antonio Pupo, Mr Jelle Wind, two translators Fr Andrzej Kukła and Fr Christian Bueno, and our two Moderators, Fr Gianni Congiu, Fr Jacek Dambeck. We were about 40 confreres each representing the Congregation in our own unique way. It was a good meeting with a great sense of fraternity. Many things were discussed over the many days we met together. I include a list here of some of the topics:

*Fr General's Status report on the Congregation,
Videos from Secretariats and Commissions,
Initial and Ongoing Formation,
Communication and Safeguarding in the CSsR,
Shared Mission,
Process of Restructuring,
Representation for the next General Chapter,
Programme of Formation for the 300 years of the CSsR,
Funds for Africa and Madagascar,
Financial Administration,
Rewriting the Redemptorist Missal and the Liturgy of Hours,
XXVII General Chapter 2028.*

I shall also include as an attachment *"Redemptorists serving the poor in North West Europe."* This document was prepared by Fr Gerry O'Connor CSsR for the meeting of CRE in Salzburg and it includes all our works. Those from our own Province include the Ace of Clubs, London, and Mavambo, Harare.

The **General Government and the Brothers of the Congregation** met on line at the beginning of this month, 9th October. Our Br David from the Province and the Brothers from the Region joined in with the large group of 80 Brothers. Fr General said many good things during the course of the meeting such as,

"The presence of each one of you is a sign of your deep love for Redemptorist consecrated life and expresses your desire to live, with renewed ardor, the gift of your vocation."

<https://www.cssr.news/2025/10/world-meeting-of-redemptorist-brothers-with-the-general-council/>

Read the article. Another line from Fr General is,

"The Brother, is a living witness that the mission is not accomplished only with words, but also with a life given and a faithful presence. No vocation is superior to another: all share in the same Redemptorist charism."

It is my genuine belief that we are blessed as a Religious Congregation by our men who are Brothers. *Sincerely Brothers, I give thanks to God for you and pray for your Holy Vocation. Keep living the life you already so faithfully live.*

Next Year is the **300 anniversary of the Birth of St Gerard**. Fr Royston Price CSsR wrote the following piece,

"Inspired by the success of the tours of the relics of various saints around the country in recent years (St Therese, Don Bosco, St John Vianney etc), I'd had in my mind the idea of eventually doing something similar for St Gerard. His 300th anniversary in 2026 was too good an opportunity to ignore, so I'm currently organising a tour of his relics round England and Wales (including Scotland would have been too much this time, but we'll organise something there in the future). I'm planning to get to all 21 dioceses, and have 11 'booked in' already, some with the participation of the Diocesan bishop. I hope this will be a time of grace for the faithful who will participate, as well as increasing devotion to St Gerard, and raising our profile, hopefully leading to increased interest in missions and vocations. Once I get everything 'nailed down', then I'll pass on the full details."

Let us keep this venture very much in our prayers as we congratulate Fr Royston on his hard work and dedication to St Gerard.

These past few months the Province has celebrated three significant Jubilees. Our prayers and hearty congratulations go to

Fr Maurice O'Mahony CSsR who celebrated 50 years of Religious Profession in September in St Mary's Monastery Clapham. **A Golden Jubilarian!**

Fr Timothy Buckley CSsR and **Fr Andrew Burns CSsR** who celebrated 60 years of Religious Profession in Bishop Eton Monastery in October. **Diamond Jubilarians!**

Not so grand but should not be ignored is **Fr Peter Morris CSsR** tenth anniversary of Ordination, today! **Happy Tin Jubilee!**

A sincere word of thanks goes to our **Apostolic Life Secretariat** for organising the Retreat given by Fr Andrzej Wodka CSsR during the Summer. The feedback I received was all very positive and gratitude was expressed to our Retreat Master and the ALS. I think it is safe to say that many of us were shocked when Fr Andrzej introduced the theme of the Retreat; The Book of Revelation. Fr Andrzej generously furnished us with great insight and reflection. Thank you!

If you wants the notes, 57 pages, prepared by Fr Andrzej let me know and I will send them on.

There is an *Ad Experimentum* work book **Missionaries in A Digital World** attached to this letter. This is a work "intended to guide and support members and partners of the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer in their mission to bear witness to their faith and proclaim the Gospel in digital spaces." It was issued in Rome on September 19th 2025 and approved ad experimentum for two year. It is not a long document and deserves attention from all of us.

Fr Peter Morris CSsR has been appointed to the **Commission for Missionary Initiatives** for the the Conference of Redemptorists in Europe CRE. Blessings on all “your” meetings and their outcomes.

You may have already seen on the website redemptorists.co.uk that we received a lovely **letter of thanks** for the donation we made to our mission in **Albania**. The letter was accompanied by several photos with the parishioners there all getting ‘stuck into’ the work. It is wonderful to hear the great things that are going on world wide and not just at home. On a side note concerning the Province’s website, since the last Provincial’s letter there have been thirty five articles added; not to mention Facebook and Instagram. Check us out!

From the photos attached you will see the work that has had to be done on the front of the house in **Erdington**. Trees and more specifically their underground roots have caused **huge cracks in the property** over the years. Work has been undertaken to sort this problem out. Our sympathies go to the confreres in that community!

In the last week of August I had the privilege of **marrying two parishioners** of ours here in Clapham in the Cathedral of Shrewsbury. After the wedding ceremony we were then driven to the reception, which if you will indulge me, was held in **Hawkstone Hall**! The hospitality at the wedding reception was superb and I made sure to tell the Manager of my strong connections with Hawkstone. One of the places I made sure to go was our cemetery and I can assure everyone that it is in perfect condition. I said prayers for our dead before returning quickly to the ball room for the wedding dinner.

We in the community of St Mary’s monastery, Clapham have a **private showing** on Monday 27th Oct., of what has been **built thus far** on the site of our **old hall** across the street. Photos will be put on the web site, so keep an eye open.

The **Ace of Clubs Shop** on Clapham Park Road is to **shut down** after many years of business. This is a sad move however it was pure common sense to close when we examined the books and saw that we, the Redemptorists, were paying thousands of pounds to get the shop out of debt year by year. Please do not confuse the shops closure with the very fine and valuable work done at the top of the road in the **Ace of Clubs**. It remains sterling good work, ministry and mission. **Sincere thanks** to everyone who has anything to do with the Ace of Clubs; the dedicated staff, our benefactors, the Redemptorists on the Trustees Committee and all our Volunteers.

After the meeting in Salzburg I flew back to London and then 20 hours later I flew to Ireland with a fresh suitcase to be part of the **St Gerard Majella Novena**. I wanted to

mention it here as the many things we hear about the Church in Ireland does not seem to be the case in St Joseph's Redemptorist Church in Dundalk. During the Nine Days every morning at 6am the church opened and was full for the first session at 7am! For the final session held by candlelight at 9pm there was not even standing room left within the church. Added to this the bottom corridors are full of chairs and television screens carrying the novena from the church into the corridors and the hall! Even if I do say so myself being one of the preachers, the homilies I heard were extremely well thought through, presented and sent people home with something to think and pray about. 10,000 people a day passed through our Church during this well ran and organised Novena. *Congratulations to the Redemptorist Community and the Dublin Province.*

Important dates for your prayers and diaries are attached at the end of this letter.

Please do take a note of these dates and if you are not directly involved in these any of these events I assure you your prayer will make all the difference. Please pray especially for Religious and Priestly Vocation to our selves, the Provinces within our Federation and our Nuns OSsR. We are a wonderful Congregation and Order within the Lord's holy Church. The more we get to know one another and the circumstances within which we work and pray I find this to be a true blessing and it reminds me that I am not on my own and that our Province is in exactly the same position, united with the Congregation and the Order the world over. Let us not be shy in inviting people to come and share something of our unique Redemptorist spirit, charism and *joie de vie*.

Copiosa apud eum redemptio!

My prayers, my affection and my gratitude go to you who are reading this.

May Our Mother Mary continue to bless us.

Let us hold one another before our Holy Redeemer, remembering that we do not know exactly what each person has to cope with in their lives.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Reid CSsR". The script is fluid and cursive, with the letters "R" and "C" being particularly prominent.

Richard Reid CSsR
Provincial Superior

26 x 2025

Attached:

Photo of:

the Novices at their Clothing,

Federation Mass;

Erdington Abbey House;

Wedding in Hawkstone Hall;

Salzburg Mid Sexennium;

St Gerard's Novena;

Icon of OLPS and 'frame';

Documents:

Missionaries in a Digital Word,

Communicanda 2/2025,

Executive Summary, Tutela Minorum,

Faith in Action in North-West Europe

October 2025

29th - 31st *Federation Council Mtg Bonn Germany*

November 2025

8th *Final Profession of six of our Confreres, Harare, Zimbabwe*
9th *Diaconal Ordination of five of our Confreres, Harare, Zimbabwe*
18th *OPC Clapham London*
19th *EPC Clapham London*

December 2025

11th *RPTC Chawton*
19th - 21st *Vocations Mtg Clapham SW4*

January 2026

5th *OPC Bishop Eton Liverpool*
5th - 9th *Province Meeting Bishop Eton Monastery Liverpool*
14th *Finance Secretariat*
26th - 29th *Federation Council Mtg Dundalk Ireland*

February 2026

18th *Ash Wednesday*

March 2026

10th *OPC*
11th *EPC*

April 2026

5th *Easter Sunday Alleluia*
10th - 17th *Vienna Munich Chapter*

May 2026

4th - 7th *Federation Council Clapham London*
12th *OPC Kinnoull*
13th *EPC Kinnoull*

July 2026

13th - 17th *Young Confreres NWE Meeting Kinnoull*

August 2026

1st *Solemnity of our Holy Father and Founder St Dr Alphonsus*

Sept 14th - 30th 2026

General Fraternal VISITATION