



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

Dear Confreres, Sisters, Lay Missionaries, Associates, friends and benefactors,

Lent is fast approaching! On Wednesday we will be celebrating the beginning of that holy Season that challenges us to grow, convert and to be renewed. My prayer for us all is that we have the conviction that this Lent will be different and that we may truly engage with the spiritual battle that lies before us as we head towards the celebration of Easter. Whatever Lenten observance we choose to undertake, either individually or as a community, let us make 'peace in our world' one of our main intentions. We desperately need real peace in our world, and that has to begin with ourselves. As Fr Bernard Häring CSsR once wisely said to our Province,

"spending five minutes in the morning and in the evening, breathing in deeply the Spirit of God, and breathing out all that is not the Spirit of God, will make us contemplatives and people of the Spirit of God."

Let us be people of the Spirit of God by being people of Peace, spreading the wonderful gift of the Lord's Peace to whomsoever we meet, in the community, in the Church, on missions, wherever we go. Make Lent of 2024 special.

Coming immediately to each one of you in the community is **Communicanda 1** from the General Government. *"You are the Light of the World."* It is the hope of the G Government that this document be

"an instrument which we hope will enable us to revitalise our vita apostolic. The purpose of this Communicanda which is the fruit of the reflection of the entire General Council emerges as a result of the special situation that we are experiencing as a Congregation today."

Find it attached in electronic form and expect it in your home shortly in paper form.

Some resources

I am attaching to this letter various resources that I hope you will find useful.

On the 2nd of February the General Government organised an online session entitled "Ongoing formation or Permanent Frustration" the speaker being Fr Amedeo Cencini a Canossian Priest.

<https://www.youtube.com/@scalaneews8920> Unfortunately there were some issues when it came to translating however **I also include the notes** that might be of some help for your own reflection and study.

The following is from the Scala CSsR News website, speaking about Fr Serafino Fiore CSsR giving a talk to the Community of San Alfonso in Rome. **I also attach a translation of Fr Serafino's talk.**

"The 20th January 2024, Saturday, was a day spent as part of the ongoing formation for the entire community of San Alfonso (The members of the General Government, the confreres working for the General Curia, the confreres of the Alphonsian Academy, the confreres of the Collegio Maggiore, the confreres working in different capacities in the Church and community). Fr Serafino Fiore, C.Ss.R., former General Consultor and provincial of the province of Naples gave the reflection on Community life. He chose to speak on the challenge to Build Community Today as Redemptorists. In the reflection during which Fr Serafino spoke with much passion and enthusiasm reminding the confreres that our Redemptorist Constitutions and Statutes have perhaps the best presentation on Community Life ever written taking into account the various dimensions of Community (Community of Prayer, of Persons, of Work, of Conversion, an open Community, etc.)."

I also **attach some resources** from Ireland that were sent to me as a possible resource material that might be of use.

Gars

The Four Provincials and the Coordinator of Europe, Johannes Römelt CSsR met in Gars for a meeting to further engage ourselves with the Federation draft Agreement. You will see the **communiqué attached**.

Those of you who have been to our monastery in Gars will know that it is a very special and significant place for Redemptorists. I attach a few pictures from this trip. The hospitality that we received from the community was exceptional. The community are a wonderful group of men of various specialities and experiences. I was speaking to one Father who was 91 years old and had just graduated with his Doctorate a few months ago! A real pleasure.

I remembered each of you at the altar where the remains of **Blessed Caspar Stanggassinger** lie. For future vocations I sincerely prayed to this, one of our 'younger' blessed, and I also gave thanks for the vocation that each one of us has been blessed with.

Also attached is a picture of Fr Bernard Häring's grave stone, you may notice that he died the night before my ordination!

Word on Fire UK

Recently I was invited to a lecture and lunch hosted by the Word on Fire UK initiative. It was a truly uplifting and inspiring meeting where we heard Brendan Thompson speak.

"I was recently appointed as [UK Programme Director for Word on Fire](#). The Senior Director of the [Word on Fire Institute](#), Professor Matthew Petrussek, is visiting London for various meetings and engagements on short notice and I wanted to use it as an opportunity to bring Catholic leaders together."

To hear the faith being spoken about with so much passion and intelligence was truly powerful. Even more so was the realisation that the powerful speakers were on the whole all thoroughly committed lay people who are and have invested themselves in following Jesus. I am telling you this simply to share the really good news that the Gospel is still being loved and proclaimed in all sorts of wonderful ways. Please pray for these committed men and women of the Gospel.

Redemptorist Garden Masses are still being celebrated by Fr Denis McBride CSsR in Chawton on a weekly basis. Fr Denis attracts a very substantial audience of the faithful who join him every week at the table of the Lord. Feel free to pop in and see what is going on in Chawton.

<https://www.rpbooks.co.uk/holy-mass-online>

Sick confreres

Fr Gerry Mulligan CSsR and Fr Bev Ahearn CSsR are quite poorly at the moment and would certainly benefit from your prayers. Both of our confreres are in hospital at this time. Prayers much appreciated.

Safeguarding

We have had a Safeguarding Secretariat meeting on January 25th and this was attended by all with the apologies being given by one member. There is the AGM of *Religious Life Safeguarding Service* the 29th February and the 1st March which will be attended by our Safeguarding Lead, Safeguarding Trustee, Safeguarding Consultant and myself as the Provincial. We are ensuring that Safeguarding is a *Gospel* matter of prime importance.

OPC

The Ordinary Provincial Council have met on the 12th of January and will meet again on the 26th of February, then on the 19th of March and on the 23rd of July in Kinnoull.

EPC

The Extraordinary Provincial Council had an 'extraordinary' meeting on the 2nd February and will meet again on the 20th of March, followed by a meeting of the EPCs of the Four Provinces of NWE on the 23rd of April in Kinnoull and then again on the 12th of June

Retreats

I am booked in to make my retreat on April 8th until April the 12th. I say this just to encourage those of you who have not made any arrangements for 'private' retreats to see and get that done. Our spiritual lives are what really keeps us going.

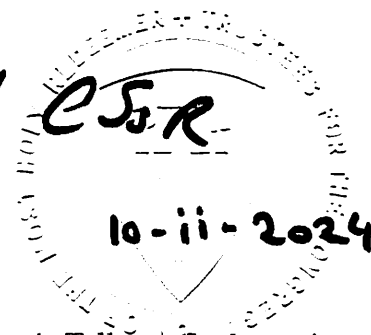
While in Zimbabwe I shall only be an email away, however should you require the Provincial in person, contact Fr Elias Gweme CSsR. He will be only too delighted to help you.

My prayers and affection go to you with this letter. Please pray for me!

Peace,



Richard Reid CSsR
Provincial Superior



Attached: Communicanda 1, Ongoing Formation, Fr Serafino Fiore's Talk on Community, Resources from Ireland, NWE Communiqué, Photo's of Gars,