



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

Dear Confreres, Sisters, Lay Associates and friends,

I write this letter from my desk in the Provincial's Office in our monastery here in Clapham, and this gives me great joy to be back "home" with the community.

This is the end of our liturgical year where we begin all over again with the First Sunday of Advent tomorrow evening. At the spiritual year-end I feel compelled to look back over this liturgical year and try and discern how and in what ways the Lord was guiding us and speaking to us.

St Paul says an interesting thing to the Ephesians, and this thing I feel we all ought to remember and contemplate deeply,

*"Always giving thanks to God the Father for everything,
in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."* Eph 5:20

Let us raise our voices in prayer expressing our gratitude to God the Father for everything that has happened; the good, the bad and the ugly. Let us not be stunted in our prayer by only remembering the comfortable things, those things which give us harmony and peace. No, let us also bring, in thankfulness, to the Lord all the other things that have left us deflated and dispirited. Being the person who is at the service of the Lord, let us look at life in a whole hearted way and bring it all to God. *Always give thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.* No one told us life was going to be easy, and the more we reflect on the scriptures they point us on a tough road. Let us renew our faith in our most Holy Redeemer and embrace the road that lies at our feet.

All that said, I truly believe that the Redemptorists, in this part of the world and the world over, have so much to give thanks and praise to God. Let us, in particular say thanks for the gift of our vocation, and for the confreres and lay associates who accompany us along the way. Let us enter the new year, tomorrow, committed afresh to the Holy Redeemer and live our lives in the best and most fruitful way

possible. Remember anew the day of your profession and the joy and thanksgiving that went with that ceremony.

Fr Michael Creech CSsR RIP

I am sure the news of Fr Michael's death has circulated around and prayer is being offered for him. He was a tireless worker and a dedicated soul and we pray that he will be enjoying his "crown" with the Lord in heaven. As a Province we owe a huge debt of gratitude to the Little Sisters of the Poor, who gave Fr Michael all the possible help, care and comfort he ever needed. So I say publicly, thanks to Mother Kathleen, all the Sisters and Staff at St Peter's Residence, Oval, London.

Fr Michael's remains will return to the monastery on Monday the 5th December, and then the community will transfer him to the church that evening. His requiem Mass will be concelebrated, with Fr Andrew Burns as the Main Celebrant on Tuesday the 6th of December at 12.30pm. This will be followed by a cremation at 2pm at South London Crematorium. *Requiescat in pace.*

Fr Jim McManus' brother Miles RIP

We offer our sympathy to Fr Jim McManus and his family over the death of his brother Miles. Our prayers rise to the Lord for Miles that he may now enjoy eternal rest and peace.

St Marys Monastery Clapham London SW4

The community are settling back into the monastery after almost two years of absence. It is taking us some time to get the place back to a fully functioning and prayed in building, however we are getting there and we have received a great deal of help from many people.

Guests have come in their number considering we have only moved back in mid October. We have had the EPC here twice, and it was a real pleasure to have these confreres as our first guests. We had a group of military personnel and chaplains here for two nights for the Remembrance weekend. Added to that we have had Redemptorist visitors from the USA and Mexico. So life is resuming gradually and it is wonderful to be back home. You are all very welcome, as always, to come and be with us!

Archives, St Mary's Clapham

Fr Maurice O'Mahony CSsR, our Provincial Archivist, has been with us as he has had the job of trying to get the archives back to their original splendour. The *Lubienski Archive* has for the past two years played host to much material and furniture from different places, meaning that there was little room to walk. The dust

and soot were everywhere meaning it was impossible to pick up a book without being covered oneself. He and a parishioner, Francis Brennan, worked exceptionally hard and the results are there for us all to see. So, Fr Maurice and Francis, our sincere thanks.

Christmas Novena - St Alphonsus Liguori

I am attaching a Christmas Novena by our Holy Father, that you might use it for community, personal or parish reflections. The Novena is meant to be used "from December 16-24, the nine days before Christmas, and can be done either privately or as a group."

Welcome Br David Nyamuronda CSsR

At the beginning of this week a couple of us went to Heathrow to welcome our new confrere to the Clapham Community, Br David Nyamuronda CSsR. He joins us from Zimbabwe after working for many years with CARITAS in Harare. A very warm and sincere welcome to you Br David.

A Brother CSsR who is now a Doctor

We are so proud of our Br Tendai Lemayu who has recently graduated as a Doctor of Educational Psychology. Brother and Doctor, we offer you our sincere congratulations on this achievement. *Mokorokoto!*

CSsR Zimbabwe

On Tuesday I am going to Harare for a week and I am very much looking forward to seeing all our confreres. Sadly this means I will miss Fr Michael's Funeral, however the prayers will be offered in Zimbabwe by us all there on the 6th December.

Fr Peter Morris CSsR - St Anselm's Rome

Fr Peter has been asked to go to St Anselm's in Rome to do a course for future formators. He hopes to attend there, mid January until mid May 2023. Please pray for this important ministry and all who are engaged in it.

Vocations Work and Vocations Weekend

Fr Royston Price CSsR continues his work on the Vocations front, travelling most weekends to parishes where he gives homilies and talks all about the many vocations there are and in particular to our Redemptorist way of life. He has spoken at a few university chaplaincies and was invited to Gibraltar to give input. So we thank him for his unstinting efforts. He has also planned a Vocations Weekend here in St Mary's Clapham from the 16th - 18th December 2022. Please keep that date in mind and pray for all who will participate in it.

Provincial Chapter

The results of the Provincial Chapter have been published and I thank everyone involved in the electoral process. As we prepare for the Chapter there are a number of reports that are to be presented at the Chapter. These reports will be available as part of the minutes of the Chapter and therefore available to us all.

The reports are:

Provincial's Report, Finance Report, Formation Report, Zimbabwe Report, Apostolic Life Report, Lay Associates Report, and a Vocations Report. These reports should be written and send to me by *Saturday 31st of December 2022.*

Postulatum to be submitted for discussion at the Provincial Chapter is to submitted to me in writing by *Saturday 31st December 2022.*

Month of Prayer for Holy Souls

As this month of prayer for the Holy Souls comes to an end we ought to make sure that we have said all our necessary masses and prayers, as written in the Provincial Statutes, in particular No 5.

As we begin a new liturgical year and enter into the Season of Advent, let us hold one another in prayer, remembering that we don't know what the people next to us have to face. In our strength, our weakness, our good health, our sickness, our certainty and our doubt, let us resolutely continue

walking as Missionaries of Hope in the footsteps of the Redeemer.

"In all my prayers for all of you, I always *pray with joy.*" Phil.1:4

Please pray for me.

Peace,



Richard Reid CSsR
Provincial Superior

25 xi 2022

Attached: Christmas Novena, Picture of Dr Br Tendai Lemeyu CSsR, Vocations Weekend Poster, Fr Michael Creech CSsR RIP Funeral Arrangements