



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

9 ii 2025

Dear Confreres, Sisters, Lay Missionaries, Associates, Friends & Benefactors,

When I started to write this letter, I was over the Irish sea, having just left Dundalk, Ireland, where I was with the other Provincials of North Western Europe. They add their greetings with mine as we wish you much joy and peace wherever you are at this moment.

This was the second meeting this year for our four Provincials, as we had a meeting a couple of weeks ago in Rome with Fr General, the General Council and CSsR Coordinators of the world.

Both of these meetings were very positive and helped all of us further clarify our thoughts, and indeed the way forward.

Very shortly, we will have an election for the second person from this Province who will sit on the Federation Council. Obviously, I am on that Council as the Provincial, and then someone else will be elected, and will sit on the Council in his own right.

As the "Federation Agreement" has already been agreed by our Province Chapter, and is in the process of being approved by the other Provinces, it goes without saying that the second person will stand firmly behind this document. It has been discussed and rewritten several times and now it will be the best way forward for the Federation Council to seek its goal of establishing a new Province.

Please give this election some thought, some prayer and some discussion among members of your own community. I attach the Federation Agreement to this letter.

Today I am traveling to Zimbabwe and am accompanied by Br David Nyamuronda CSsR, our Provincial Secretary. This time in Zimbabwe will be a time to be with our confreres as they are engaged in many forms of ministry and study. It will also be a time of great celebration as next Saturday 15th February we will have the Priestly Ordinations of two of our men, Brs Cellestino Magwenzi and Ngonidzashe Magaya CSsR. They will be ordained in St Gerard's Borrowdale,

Harare by the Archbishop of Harare, Robert C Ndlovu, alongside two OFM friars who will also be ordained. Please keep these men in your prayers. Fr Elias Gweme CSsR, the Provincial Vicar will also be with me and Br David during this visit to Zimbabwe.

To give you an idea of some of the things that we will be doing over the next two weeks;

- * Formal visit the Final Professed Confreres.
- * Formal visit to those in Postulancy, and the various levels of formation.
- * Spend time with each community in the Region.
- * Visit our “mission” in Chiweshe and see to the property that is shortly to be under construction.
- * Visit the “Shrine of the Redeemer” and see to its further development; a tremendous amount of work being undertaken by our confreres there.
- * Allowing time to listen to our confreres individually.
- * Attending the Priestly Ordinations of two of our confreres.
- * Visiting our confrere Bishop Raymond Mupandasekwa CSsR.
- * Visiting the Apostolic Nuncio.
- * Hosting a Regional Celebration - Liturgical and Social.

It was an absolute pleasure to have Fr Kenneth Macharaga CSsR, Regional Superior, Br Benjamin Posvo CSsR and Br Simbarashe Mashandudze CSsR with us for the January meeting and the Chapter, in Kinnoull.

I experienced that meeting as a time of real fraternity, friendship and support. So thanks to all of you who were able to be at that meeting. When we gather for such meetings it reminds me of all the good and graciousness that we collectively possess within the Province and Region.

It was also a real joy to be able to welcome the Provincial of Vienna-Munich, Fr Martin Leitgöb CSsR amongst us, a real positive indication of the way our Provinces are moving.

Sincere thanks to the Apostolic Life Secretariat for all the hard work which was obviously put into our meeting in Kinnoull.

During the meeting in Kinnoull Fr James McManus CSsR and the OPC met and during the course of this meeting it was decided that now was the correct time for Fr Jim to stand down from full time ministry after decades of faithful and dedicated service always for the promotion of the Gospel and for love of Jesus our most Holy Redeemer. Fr Jim is certainly an example for all of us, especially the younger men. If we can at least try to be half as good a Redemptorist as he is, we will not go too far wrong. For the time being. Fr Jim remains in Kinnoull as the “Spiritual Father”, available to all who come to Kinnoull seeking guidance.

Fr Jim, the Province salutes you, thanks God for you and earnestly asks for your continual prayers.

Some appointments outside of our remit,

- * Fr Issac Davies CSsR has been appointed Chaplain to the Cameroonians in the Archdiocese of Birmingham.
- * Fr Casper S Mukabva CSsR has been invited to join the Archdiocese of Southwark's Racial Equality & Justice Commission.
- * Fr Elias Gweme CSsR is now the Episcopal Vicar for Religious within Dunkeld Diocese.

We congratulate our confreres on these appointments and know that they have our full support in prayer. Our confreres go out from among us and fulfill their ministry in our name, and for that we praise God.

Already this year we have laid to rest a dear confrere, Fr Joseph Doherty CSsR RIP. Fr Denis McBride CSsR really did justice to Fr Joe's character when he preached at the funeral and really paid a fine tribute to him. You will find attached to this letter Fr Denis' homily. *Requiescat in pace*.

I also attach to this letter upcoming feast days and events that may be of interest to many, if not all of us. Please note that this "year plan" says nothing of the many Retreats and Missions that are being conducted this year. God bless every confrere and associate involved in this; those giving the Missions/Retreats and those at home praying for the success of them.

We have until Tuesday to make any further bookings for our Alphonsian Pilgrimage in May 2025. I was in Napoli and our CSsR sites surrounding, last week making a recce for the pilgrimage ensuring that everything will go smoothly on our trip. Meeting our confreres and some of our OSsR sisters there was very much an excitement for the forthcoming trip. As things develop there will be more reporting on this subject!

Shortly I will be landing in Doha, and then we begin a longer journey that please God will land us in Zimbabwe at some point tomorrow morning. Please know that my prayers and warmest good wishes come to you with this letter. Please pray for the General and the Provincial Councils as we humbly try our best to make sure that we are all walking in the footsteps of our Most Holy Redeemer.

Mother of Perpetual Succour - Pray for us, your children.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Reid CSsR". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

9.ii.2025

Richard Reid CSsR
Provincial Superior