



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

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

I sit here writing on Holy Saturday, when the entire Church sits in silence awaiting whatever is going to happen next. Following the Lord's crucifixion and death there is an uncertainty for the followers of Jesus and they must remain in silence and wonder what on earth is going on. Fortunately for us we know exactly what is happening and the fact that Jesus Christ is Risen. Nonetheless, the Sacred Triduum invites us to wait, and watch, and wonder and pray.

In the Province and Congregation we have experienced three deaths recently. Fr Beverley Ahearn CSsR in his 95th year, Fr Gerard Mulligan CSsR 81 years old and Fr Johannes Römelt CSsR 63 years old. Two of these deaths we prayed for, asking the Lord to welcome his long serving servants back home. The third death caught us all by surprise, proving that none of us know what is around the corner, and indeed what are God's plans for us. Let us continue to hold all our departed confreres, loved ones and benefactors frequently in our prayers.

Requiescant in pace. Vivant in aeternum!

At the Chrism Mass this year in Southwark Metropolitan Cathedral, Archbishop John Wilson asked the 250 priests present to open their hands and look at them. All of us duly did this and then listened to a further statement made by the A'bishop, "Remember what you felt like the day your hands were anointed on the day of your ordination." It was an interesting question and it was an interesting spiritual experience!

Obviously I know all of us are not priests and so I would simply change the question to, 'Remember what you felt like the day of your first profession?' It bears some consideration.

As we celebrate the wondrous mysteries of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, let us humbly renew ourselves to the service of the Gospel and the whole hearted following of the Redeemer, in whatever way is appropriate for each one of us.

Most Rev'd Fr General CSsR, Rogério Gomes gives his Easter Greeting to all of us,
<https://www.cssr.news/2024/03/easter-message-by-the-superior-general/>

There is also a letter from Fr General CSsR attached to this one concerning 'A Year Dedicated to Formation For Mission'.

The Confreres in Zimbabwe

Immediately after my last letter I was en route to Zimbabwe where I spent two weeks with our men, our confreres, there. It was a good experience as always, as the young men, and the few my age(!), demonstrated their passion and love for the Congregation and the Church they so willingly and lovingly serve.

Much was done while I was there and many a kilometre was travelled. Frances Sibert, one of our Lay Missionaries from Bishop Eton was there with me also. She was a great travelling companion and also interested from her heart about all things CSsR and Zimbabwean.

One of the places I was taken to was 'The Redeemer's Rock, Shrine to Our Lady of Perpetual Help.' I had been there once before, about five years ago and to be honest, as I told the confreres on this visit, I was struggling to see what we were really doing there. However my experience this time was quite different as I saw the recent building works that have been finished recently and the various plans were explained to me as to how the site was envisaged to pan out. I can't do it justice here in this letter but I will attach some photographs to let you see something of how this 'Shrine' will turn out to be.

Frances and I had the privilege of spending a day being shown around the Diocese of Masvingo by our own confrere Bishop Raymond Mupandasekwa CSsR. He sends good and fond wishes to all in the Province.

A moment in Zimbabwe Ecclesiastical History occurred on the 21st February 2024 when the Board of Holy Trinity College (HTC) met for the final time, bringing together all the last pieces of the jigsaw that are currently overseeing the closure of our College (seminary). HTC will have its Final Mass on the 17th May 2024, and Fr Aidan McGrath ofm the Minister Provincial of their Province in Dublin will travel to be present to be the main celebrant at that mass.

Might I take this opportunity to express my thanks to, **all** our men, past and present, who lectured there, held Office there, were students there and who were involved in anyway whatsoever. *Maita basa.*

Here I would like to formally acknowledge the Sisters of Nazareth for their pivotal rôle in HTC's existence, in as far as we rented half of their property and called it,

HTC and the fact that the Superior General, Sr Brenda McCall allowed us to keep the rent at a most generous rate. Without the Sisters life would have been so much more difficult. For these reasons, I say **Thank you Sisters of Nazareth.**

When I returned from the Region of Zimbabwe I received two formal letters asking for permission to Profess Final Vows. When the OPC next met they discussed the two requests and voted in their favour. This means that later this year

Br Simbarashe Mashandudze CSsR and Rev'd Br Ngonidzashe Magaya CSsR will make their Perpetual Profession. *Makorokoto.*

AGM RLSS (*Religious Life Safeguarding Service*)

This AGM was held on the last few days of February in a conference centre in Milton Keynes and was very well carried out and attended. We were all brought up to date with many things, all of which I have copies of and if you want I will forward them on separately. The evening of the AGM finished with a 'Gala Dinner' with the British Ambassador to the Holy See, Christopher Trott, giving the after dinner speech. At this Meeting there were about 200 Religious and the ir representatives present.

The next day there was then a 'Safeguarding Conference' which opened up to a further 100 people, bringing our number somewhere over 300. The two key speakers, apart from the RLSS staff, were Fr Stephan Kappler and Prof Lisa Oakley. Fr Kappler, a German Priest who had worked for sometime in the Southdown Institute in Canada spoke extremely well on the subject of 'Mental Health in Ministry.' While Prof Oakley who had come from the University of Chester spoke on the subject of 'Spiritual Abuse'. These were two days well spend with valuable input and many encounters with Religious up and down the country. Five of us from our Redemptorist Family were present,

Br David Nyamuronda, the Safeguarding Lead,
Fr Andrew Burns, the Safeguarding Trustee,
Ms Anne-Marie Boardman, Safeguarding Bishop Eton,
Ms Tina Campbell, Province Safeguarding Consultant,
and myself, Fr Provincial CSsR.

Fr Bev Ahearn CSsR RIP Funeral

The Funeral was a beautiful experience as it was a happy funeral although with understandable tears. For the last few months Fr Bev's health was slowing and obviously leaving him, however he had a strong heart and his senes right to the end. Fr Andrew Burns CSsR and Fr Timothy Buckley CSsR both preached at the funeral and indeed did a wonderful job that I am sure Bev would have been rightly pleased

with. His family and his confreres stood side by side as we laid him in the grave. Confreres in Australia and South Africa watched via the Internet.

Fr Johannes Römelt CSsR RIP Funeral

Br Michael Duxbury and I travelled to Bonn to be present at the funeral of Fr Johannes. It was a very surreal and difficult funeral for all of us who gathered there on the day. Br Michael had a meeting with him just a few days before Johannes' death and I was in Gars (Germany) last month at another meeting. Many other Provinces were represented. Fr General and Fr Vicar General travelled from Rome, Fr Brendan O'Rourke Provincial of Dublin, Fr Martin Leitgob Provincial of Vienna-Munich, Fr Dominic O'Toole, the Polish Provincial, the Provincial from Bratislava, the Indonesian Provincial, Fr Rui Santiago former Provincial from Portugal and many others were present joining the Province of St Clemens and really being a CSsR family in reality.

Fr Gerard Mulligan CSsR RIP Funeral

Considering it was on the evening of Palm Sunday that the reception of his body took place and the Funeral on Monday of Holy Week the church was packed to capacity as we gathered there to say à Dieu to Fr Gerry. Confreres, the Mulligan Family, Priests from three diocese and many other Religious joined together with a wonderful crowd of Lay People for the Funeral Liturgy. Gerry's dear friend Fr Ronald McAinsh CSsR shared his few and very good thoughts on the wonderful person Gerry was and the profound ministry that Gerry undertook over many years. We laid him to rest, as it rained.

Eldercare

At a recent OPC and EPC meeting we discussed further the documents that need to be filled out concerning what we want done in the event of any (God forbid) sudden disabling sickness or death. The Documents for your consideration and filling out were previously distributed to you. However the Provincial Secretary will check with the Rectors and see if further copies of these documents need to be sent again. Vis-à-vis what I was saying at the start of this letter - we, none of us, know what is around the corner.

Casa San Alfonso in Roma

In Rome our House of San Alfonso has now begun a whole process of Renovation and Restructuring. As a Province we support this new development - which has been on the drawing board for many years now - in a financial way and in a spiritual way by our prayers.

Province Retreat 15th - 19th July 2024

The Apostolic Life Secretariat have organised our Province Retreat from 15th - 19th July in St Mary's Monastery Kinnoull and the Retreat Giver will be Fr Piotr Chyła CSsR. Please put this date in your diary and be ready to receive the invitation letter that will be coming out very soon.

From the 8th - 12th of April I will be away on my personal retreat. I will check my email once a day and will respond if something is urgent, however for the most part I am sure the Provincial Vicar will see to any thing that requires attention.

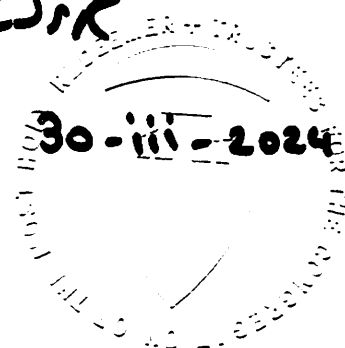
For now I really pray that we all have received the graces we've needed as we tried to live this Lent in a most sincere way.

May we all be able to really sing out '*Alleluia*' in heart felt rejoicing
as we celebrate our
Risen Lord and Redeemer
this Eastertide!

Peace,

Richard Reid CSsR

Richard Reid CSsR
Provincial Superior



Attached:

Pictures from Zimbabwe
Pictures from the AGM RLSS Gala Dinner,
Pictures from Fr Römelt CSsR Bonn Funeral,
Letter from Fr General CSsR 'A Year Dedicated to Formation For Mission'