



*The Redemptorists Denver Province
Mission Advancement Ministry*

FALL 2010

Hope



Serious Radio On Air in the Amazon

GIVING VOICE TO THE WORD OF GOD
RADIO COARI HISTORY
MAKING WAVES



Our Winning Website
Hope & Pain in Baton Rouge
**Denver Province
Election Preview**



A History of Hope in the Amazon

In October of 1942, the Very Reverend Francis J. Fagen, C.Ss.R., provincial superior of the St. Louis Province, received in his office at the 'Rock' Church in St. Louis, MO, a very important letter.

It had been delivered by a special messenger with the United States government. The letter Fr. Fagen held in his hands was the English version of the original which had been written in Portuguese.

Fr. Fagen assembled his consultants and read them the following words:

As your Reverence must already know, there is great interest on the part of the North American Government in collaborating with the Brazilian public powers in the economic development of the vast Amazon region. For this reason, certainly, we shall be receiving in our territory numerous North Americans for the technical and social works which will be established there. Now, we should indeed wish that our most vital religious interest not be sacrificed.

This is the reason why I come now to propose to Your Reverence the request that you accept the creation, which I offer you, of a mission in my diocese of Manaus, the future center of all the activities in consideration. The Brazilians would be most happy over the coming to their country of a Redemptorist mission, thus to render more solid the spiritual ties which bind us. So that Your Reverence may have in mind a concrete idea, I offer you now two parishes, in a zone of forty thousand (40,000) inhabitants, located in the townships of Coari and Codajaz, being able, also, to have a residence in the See of my diocese, the City of Manaus, capital of the State of Amazonas.

Hoping for a definite acceptance, on the part of Your Reverence, of my official invitation, I sign myself your...

*Servant in Jesus Christ,
Dom Joao da Matta Andrade e Amaral
Bishop of Manaus*

In February of 1943, Fr. Fagen wrote back to his Eminence in Manaus with the happy news that he was preparing to send "a community of five Fathers and one Brother to Brazil shortly after Easter." In July of 1943, the five pioneers left for the Amazon: Fr. John McCormick, Fr. Joseph Buhler, Fr. Joseph Elworthy, Fr. James Martin, and Brother Cornelius Ryan, C.Ss.Rs. Fr. Andrew Joerger, C.Ss.R. was added later to the team because of his linguistic abilities and was named the first "Superior" in Amazonas.

Since our arrival 67 years ago in this most unforgiving environment, our work on behalf of the Brazilian people in the Amazon Valley has changed very little. It is still very much the description provided by the Bishop of Manaus to Fr. Fagen when the provincial asked, "What was to be the nature of the work?"

"It will be missionary work; to travel up and down the rivers, baptizing, marrying, catechizing; to cast into the immense rivers the nets of the miraculous fishing; an apostolate which fills with satisfaction the missionary's heart..."

Radio Coari has been a God-send, literally, for those villagers who own radios and live within range of the short wave signal. But we can never be truly satisfied until all of God's people living in the deepest and darkest parts of the Amazon Valley are experiencing the Word of God together on the same wavelength.

Help us to increase the power of God's Word! Thank you and God bless.

**The Very Reverend
Thomas D. Picton, C.Ss.R.**
Provincial Superior, Denver Province

Hope

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Bearers of the Gospel Message Fr. Jacson Damasceno Rodrigues, C.Ss.R.

I believe that St. Alphonsus Liguori himself would not hesitate to live and missionize Amazonia. Some of his sons have been here for 50 years (actually 67 now), and continue the Gospel challenge: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, therefore he has anointed me... to bring glad tidings to the poor” (Luke 4:18). He has sent us to Amazonia to be living memories of the Redeemer in the midst of a people who are poor and in need of evangelization.

They are the poor who receive the message of salvation, who understand and announce it in their own distinctive manner even without or before our own missionary arrival and presence. “The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us” (John 1:14). Just as the Lord himself became human, shared our weaknesses, spoke our language, lived our values, and taught us to discover the signs of God, he also at the same time showed us that the road to evangelization necessarily passes through the mystery of incarnation with all its past and future consequences.

There is a process of emptying oneself “he emptied himself, and took on the form of a slave, being born in the likeness of men” (Phil 2:7), and a process of kenosis which sensitizes and makes one aware of the presence of another “he pitied them for they were like sheep without a shepherd” (Mark 6:34). Because Jesus emptied himself of his divine condition, it was possible for him to be born and to be of

the people. To be inculturated is to be born into life, into the values of the “people,” all the while respecting one’s own identity and enjoying life. It is to perceive the “seeds of the Word” already existing in the root of the people. A solidarity which is born from direct contact with their battles and their trials, their pains and afflictions at living always on the edge – it is from this kind of thing that we will comprehend that “to be with them” is a deeper dimension than “to be

be no evangelizing the poor without sharing their life. It is not enough to visit them, to assist them, to have compassion for them and afterward return to our houses to enjoy the silence and the “comfort of the presence of God.” Let us permit ourselves to be surprised by the Gospel which brings before us this inexhaustible and new perception: just as when we stand before the person of Christ, so also when we stand before a poor person, there is a new Incarnation of

This essay is taken from the book, *Redemptorists On The Amazon: The First 50 Years* by Fr. Norman Muckerman, C.Ss.R. Fr. Muckerman, who died in 2009, served for nearly 15 years in the “Green Hell” of the Amazon River Valley.

Our history has taught us that the poor people along the rivers, the dispossessed of the lakes and those who eke out their bitter existence on the outskirts of the cities... these are not only the privileged receivers of the Gospel message, they are its bearers as well.

for them.” This is truly what makes it impossible for us not to realize that we are also evangelized by them.

Our history has taught us that the poor people along the rivers, the dispossessed of the lakes and those who eke out their bitter existence on the outskirts of the cities, in alleys and swamps... these are not only the privileged receivers of the Gospel message, they are its bearers as well. They are its bearers in the way in which many of them display in their lives the Gospel values of solidarity, of service, of simplicity, and of being open to welcoming the gift of God.

For the future we will have to understand that there will

Christ through his Spirit. With the poor and in the midst of the poor, in our community experience of life and faith, we discover the face of the poor. They challenge us to change our lifestyle, our confused and often well-intentioned excuses, and demand of us a radical sharing of their life, of their history, a history of salvation, and the condition of our own salvation and liberation with them. This is what “Copiosa Redemptio” really means.

On the Cover

Photo : The Amazon River snakes its way through the heart of Brazil, the home to the voice of Radio Coari and the villagers who listen to its spiritual daily broadcasts.

Saint: St. Alphonsus Liguori founded the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer (Redemptorists) in Naples, Italy in 1732. He is a Doctor of the Church and the official patron of moralists, confessors and people who suffer from arthritis.

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SERIOUS RA

Giving Voice to the Word of God

Every morning before dawn Fr. Joao Baptist de Almeida, C.Ss.R. enters his small studio located in the city of Coari (in Amazonas, Brazil) and switches on the radio station's 5,000 kilowatt transmitter to begin a full day of broadcasting. Miles away, deep within the interior of the world's largest jungle, villagers lucky enough to own battery-powered radios tune in to make one of the few connections they have with the outside world.

Fr. Joao has been performing this function for the past two years as managing director of Radio Rural Education Coari, or Radio Coari, the spiritual and educational lifeline in this vast corner of the Lord's vineyard.

Radio Coari is a ministerial outreach founded and operated by the Redemptorists since 1964. Its listening audience numbers roughly 180,000 people, most of whom live in huts along the remote reaches of the upper Amazon River and its many tributaries. Fr. Joao and his small staff of religious and lay people broadcast a variety of programs in Portuguese that deliver a mix of religious instruction with daily Masses and educational advice on matters related to health, agriculture and social issues.

These rural jungle communities are made up of native peoples



who support themselves principally through fishing, agriculture and the extraction of products, such as hemp, beans, Brazil nuts, rubber and lumber from the jungle. One can also find the occasional sawmill and pottery shed.

Radio Coari, which is under the authority of the bishop of the diocese but belongs to the Redemptorist Vice Province of Manaus, has an operating budget of roughly \$10,000 a month. Most of its funding comes from the Vice-Province of Manaus, which is part of the Denver Province. Additional funding also comes in the form of private donations and advertising revenues.

The mission of Radio Coari, according to Fr. Joao, is to work for the human, civic, cultural and religious identity of Amazon people. In pursuing that mission, Fr. Joao and his staff attempt to educate their listeners on ethical, moral, civic and religious issues while directly providing them with the necessary knowledge to exercise their rights and duties as citizens and to live the faith they profess.

Coari, a city today of roughly 50,000 people, is located some 1,500 miles up the Amazon River. Originally, Coari was one of four parishes served by the Redemptorists upon their arrival in the Amazon in 1943. Today they minister primarily in Coari and Manacapuru.

With an increase in transmission power in 2004, from 2,500 kilowatts to 5,000 kilowatts, Radio Coari's signal now reaches roughly 60 miles into the interior and covers the two parishes mentioned above plus Anori, Anamã, Beruri and Caapiranga.

But in order to reach those people who live beyond the short-wave signal, Fr. Joao has applied to the federal government of Brazil for a license to broadcast over the AM frequency. The one-time fee to the government is \$65,000. "Broadcasting on an AM frequency is not only more reliable but it will allow us to expand our reach and minister to many more deserving souls yearning to hear the Word of God," said Fr. Joao. "If we are to connect with all the people of God, and then connect them with the Word of God, we must find a way to raise these funds to secure our AM license."

The switchover to AM (10,000 watts) will allow Radio Coari to reach roughly 150 miles further into the interior and as far east as Manaus, the capital of the State of Amazonas (see map above).

Radio can in no way substitute for the presence of a priest. What it can do, however, is prepare the ground for a more fruitful use of his presence and the sacraments that he brings when he does arrive.

With every flip of the transmitter switch, Fr. Joao understands that his role changes significantly. He is no longer just the individual manning the controls but instead becomes the voice of liberation for a people condemned by geography to a life of physical and spiritual isolation. Because of Radio Coari, many have been delivered from their sense of abandonment. But others still labor in the darkness and in the belief that their circumstance is proof that God has forgotten them.

Help us to deliver the Word of God to all those praying to be remembered.

History of Radio Coari

The presence of a Catholic priest this far into the interior is a rare event. Villagers can go months and sometimes years without receiving Communion or having their confessions heard. For the first 20 years or so of their presence in the Amazon, the Redemptorists relied solely on the use of boats to reach those living along the shores of the mighty Amazon River. But in 1964, an opportunity developed that would allow them finally to evangelize the thousands of other villagers living out of reach of the missionaries' boats.

In the early 1960s, the Brazilian government working with the Brazilian bishops began an effort to establish throughout the less developed areas of the country a national program for providing basic education and community development among



the people. The agency called MEB (Movimento de Educacao Basica) was created to promote not only literacy and good health programs among the faithful but also religious instruction and evangelization.

Out of this initiative was born Radio Coari in 1964. The Redemptorists were responsible for locating the hardware, the broadcasting equipment, and securing the license to broadcast.

The equipment came from south of Brazil. The signal was to be broadcast on a fixed wave length. It was the only wave length that could be picked up by the battery-powered receiver sets which the Redemptorists received from MEB and distributed gratis to villages and settlements in the interior.

The broadcast studio was set up on the second floor of the Hospital Santa Maria in Coari. A transmitting tower was erected on the outskirts of the city. On June 30, 1964, the first experimental program was broadcast from 12 noon till 3 p.m. and again from 6 p.m. till 9 p.m.

Radio Coari was officially inaugurated and on the air on July 26, 1964. In the beginning the station broadcast regular programs on weekday evenings, going on the air with the Angelus at 6 p.m. and continuing to broadcast until 9 p.m. The programming would later include religious education, inspirational messages and instruction in other areas such as agricultural development, medical advice for physical hygiene, healthier living and avoiding disease. Other programs taught literacy and the alphabet.

Left & above: Archival photos from 1972 of Radio Coari.

Radio Schools: Once a blessing, now considered a threat

The teacher greets her students. “Good morning class.” The students reply, “Good morning Senhorita Conceicao.”

What’s different about this exchange is that the students can hear their teacher but she cannot hear them. She is addressing them over a radio microphone and they are responding to a small transistor radio set up in a small hut deep

in the Amazon jungle.

These Radio Schools or Centers have proven to be a huge blessing for the people living deep within the territories of the Amazon jungle. There is much illiteracy here. And in the few schools that do exist outside the population centers the teachers are poorly prepared and the learning substandard.

A Radio School is created when several adults from a rural community express an interest in learning and one of those adults can demonstrate an ability to draw or design letters. Once that community applies for a Radio School, several of the lay staff with the radio station will travel by boat to that locale to assess the best spot for setting up the center.

The person with the writing skills (now referred

to as a monitor-professor) is then brought back to the mission center in Coari for a course of instructions. When his training is completed he is sent back home with a blackboard, a Coleman lamp and a battery-powered radio.

The monitor-professor is now ready to begin sharing intelligence with his eager jungle listeners. He transfers onto the blackboard the lessons coming to him over the radio waves from Coari on subjects ranging from planting and harvesting to physical hygiene, cooking, prenatal care and how to build an outhouse.

Adapted from an article by Fr. Richard Weninger, C.Ss.R. in the 1964 issue of Redemptorist Missions

The Radio Schools that continue to work so well in the state of Para, in the other half of the Amazon region of Brazil, were discontinued by the politicians in Coari. Fr. Joao Baptist is fighting to have them restarted. The local politicians play tricks with the radio station to minimize the prophetic effect we are having on the people living in the jungle.





Making WAVES

Besides being the educational lifeline for hundreds of thousands of rural villagers, Radio Coari also serves as the trumpet for announcing important news and events in the life of the people. One such event the jungle communities always look forward to with great anticipation is the arrival of the Redemptorist priests.

News of their pending arrival creates a wave of excitement all along the main waterway and its many tributaries. Canoes of people will travel miles to join the settlements along the major artery where the Redemptorists will stop for several days at a time to say Masses, administer the Eucharist, hear confessions, perform weddings, anoint the sick and bury the dead.

These mobile missionary teams consist of several Redemptorists, a catechist, a public health worker and an agricultural advisor. The teams concentrate their visits in those areas where a stable population already exists and where community leaders have been identified and trained. The rationale behind this approach is that the larger, more structured communities will in time be able to help the smaller villages nearby develop similar programs of self-help grounded in the Gospel message.

The people of the Amazon will travel far and wide to enjoy the benefits of membership in God's universal church. As one Redemptorist once said, Christ walks now where he has never walked before.

We tried very hard to get interviews with the people about their feelings toward Radio Coari and its effects on their lives in the jungle. But they were afraid to be interviewed because they do not want it known how much Radio Coari means to them in defending them against the powers that so often abuse.





A Typical Day On the Air

- | | |
|--|---|
| 6:00 - Today Newspaper | 12:30 - Times Petrobras |
| 6:30 - Awaken The Amazon | - Sports Program |
| 6:30 - Times Petrobras | 13:00 - Late Show |
| 7:00 - Gospel Day | 13:30 - Times Petrobras |
| 7:30 - Times Petrobras | 13:31 - Walking With Maria |
| 7:31 - Walking With Jesus | 14:00 - Consecration To Our Lady Of Aparecida |
| 7:40 - Newsflash | 14:30 - Times Petrobras |
| 8:00 - Daily Mass | - The Voice Of The Shepherd |
| 9:00 - The Listener Club | 15:00 - The Listener Comanda Success |
| 9:30 - Times Petrobras | 15:30 - Times Petrobras |
| 9:31 - Newsflash | - Newsletter |
| 10:00 - Religion Also Learn | 16:00 - Religion Also Learns |
| 10:30 - Times Petrobras | 16:30 - Times Petrobras |
| 10:31 - Newsflash | - Newsletter |
| 11:00 - Moment Evangelisation | 17:30 - Times Petrobras |
| 11:00 - The Pointers Point To Infinity | 17:55 - The Angelus Prayer |
| 11:15 - Meeting With Life | 18:00 - The Voice Of Brazil |
| 11:20 - We're The Church | 19:00 - Message Pouch |
| 11:30 - News From The Vatican | 19:30 - With The Mother |
| 11:35 - Bible, God With Us | Tuesdays - Novena To Our Lady Of Perpetual Help |
| 11:45 - In The Beginning Was The Word | |
| 12:00 - Religious Music | |

Top: The Radio Coari building. Below: The happy staff of lay Brazilians who work with Fr. Joao to broadcast the Word of God throughout the upper Amazon River Valley.

REDEMPTORISTS Crossing Cultures

The Redemptorists reach out to many multicultural communities in an effort to bring the Redeemer's message of love and compassion to those who are made to feel at times unloved and unwanted.

- **Kmhmu (Thailand):** Providing immigrants with special Redemptorist assistance in assimilating into American culture.
- **Vietnamese:** Raising money for missionary work, vocational training and education as a labor of love for the Hmong people.
- **Laotian:** World-wide, Laotians find spiritual refuge in the presence and ministry of Redemptorists.
- **Hispanic/Migrant:** Providing spiritual services and a sense of community to the migrant workers of America's farms and fields.
- **African-American:** Missions, soup kitchens, food banks and summer job training programs for youth have served African-American populations in some of America's poorest neighborhoods.

To support one or more of our many good works, visit our website poorandmostabandoned.org to make a secure online donation.



The Redemptorist boat travels regularly out of Coari and serves about 200 communities along the Amazon River.

Providing Amazon Relief

In 1991, war broke out in Croatia, and subsequently in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo. A few months later, along with two friends, I began organizing, collecting and delivering needed medicine and medical relief supplies (about \$6,000,000 worth) to hospitals, refugee centers and parish collection points in Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo, Albania and Macedonia.

In 1995, some acquaintances, knowing of my work in Eastern Europe, told me about a need for clothing for children in the Amazon. I told them that with the work I was doing in Eastern Europe I had access to semi-loads of clothing; yet I did not take clothing to Eastern Europe, but only medicines and medical relief supplies. I told my friends that I was willing to go down to the

Amazon, see what was needed, and then make arrangements to get the clothing (or whatever) to them.

Before I traveled to the Amazon for the first time, I was given a copy of the Redemptorist's video titled "The Green Hell." This introduced me to the poverty, the heat and the diseases, including leprosy, that I was about to encounter. On my first trip to the Amazon in April 1995, I realized that clothing was indeed needed. But even more important was a need for education. There were thousands of families who had moved to Manaus, the capital city of the state of Amazonas, from remote areas of the jungle. These families lived in absolute squalor, crowded into wooden shacks teetering on stilts above raw sewage. The city had a

public school system, yet the children who came from these families rarely “made it” in school. Their parents couldn’t read or write or help with homework. And many of the children were severely malnourished.

On my first trip I was also confronted with the reality of leprosy. Those suffering from this disease were good people, but with extreme physical, financial, social, and spiritual problems. The end result of my first trip was a commitment: I told the people “I cannot do everything; but I will do everything I can.”

I then went to work to find funding for an alternative school where we could take children from this community, provide them with an intensive, personalized education, so they would be in a position to transition into the public school system. We would also provide the children with a meal each day. I also sought funding to provide food, medicine, and clothing for victims of leprosy and their families.

Amazon Relief was then formed as the non-profit entity through which funds flowed.

A couple years later, I was told that there was a Redemptorist Brother from Grand Rapids, Michigan (my home town) who was also working in the Amazon — Brother Leo Patin, C.Ss.R. His work was in the city of Coari, about 300 miles from Manaus. I wrote Brother Leo and told him that I would like to visit with him on my next trip to the Amazon. He responded, inviting me to come, but told me later that he was flabbergasted when I came, for nobody had ever visited him in “The Green Hell.”

For many years, I have focused my spiritual reading on the writings of the Doctors of the Church; and my favorite writings have been those of St. Alphonsus Liguori. Maybe it’s because, like St. Alphonsus, I also trained in the law, and I appreciate the logical progression of his teachings. My admiration for him and the Order he founded also increased as I met with Brother Leo, and later with many other Redemptorists working in the Amazon. I was impressed



*“I cannot do everything;
but I will do everything
I can.”*

by the vocational high school that Brother Leo oversaw in Coari. San Gerardo School (named after the 18th-century Redemptorist Brother, St. Gerard Majella, patron saint of mothers) teaches the students woodworking skills along with religious instruction in the faith.

I was also impressed by the commitment of the Redemptorists to serving communities deep in the jungles of the Amazon. I also witnessed their commitment to the poor, their service to those in prisons, and the attention given to the spiritual development of their parishioners.

Jim Flickinger, founder of Amazon Relief, shares his experiences of working with the Redemptorists while witnessing their love for the poorest of the poor in the world’s largest jungle.



Jim Flickinger in Brazil with two individuals suffering from leprosy.

REDEMPTORISTS Reaching Out

No matter how desperate the situation, Redemptorists can always be found offering hope to those in need in the form of a meal, a bed or a prayer.

- **Food Banks:** Packaging food for the hungry in locations where it's needed most.
- **Soup Kitchens:** Nourishing the body and renewing the spirit.
- **Senior Services:** Helping the aged and infirm to grow old gracefully.
- **Prison Ministries:** Preaching the Gospel to those who are cut off from society.
- **Marriage Preparation:** Helping couples understand and appreciate marriage as a sacrament of the Church and their responsibility to one another.
- **Youth/Young Adult Ministries:** Helping youth to reflect on the life Christ led as they begin to make choices for themselves.
- **Deaf Ministry:** Serving the hearing-impaired and deaf.
- **Fallen-Away Catholics:** Many former Catholics find their way back to the Church after attending one or more Redemptorist parish mission preaching events.

To support one or more of our many good works, visit our website poorandmostabandoned.org to make a secure online donation.



Fr. Joao at the controls of Radio Coari.

The Power of Radio

The most democratic of all means of mass communication is the radio. Everybody has access to it; it reaches all levels of society and is especially appreciated by the poor. Here in Brazil there is at least one radio per home, regardless of how poor the family might be. In the north and northeast sections of the Amazon, there are plenty of places without electricity, thus the great popularity of battery-powered radios there. Since the 1950s, the Catholic Church in Brazil has been using radio as a powerful instrument for spreading the Good News. The largest is Radio Aparecida, run by the Redemptorists of Sao Paulo. The American Redemptorists working in the Amazon jungle also felt a great need for this evangelizing ability. So, in 1964, the Rural Education Radio

of Coari was started with 1,000 watts.

After a long delay, the Brazilian government today is once again issuing radio licenses. And now the opportunity presents itself to get an AM station of 10,000 watts at the price of \$65,000. A major difficulty of our pastoral work here is reaching the people who live immense distances from the population centers. With this increased radio power, we can make a daily connection with the people of God living in some of the most isolated areas of the world. Once again, we turn to the generous Catholics of the United States for help.

For all those who are in solidarity with us we beg heavenly blessings. You can be sure of our profound gratitude. God bless.

*Fr. Joao Baptist de Almeida, C.Ss.R.
Managing Director, Radio Coari, Brazil.*



REDEMPTORISTS

Renewing Spirit

The Redemptorists welcome anyone who is looking for the Lord. And our many renewal, educational and inspirational choices combined with new media can help guide the way.

- **Mission Preaching:** Bringing the Gospel to the world, one spiritual renewal at a time.
- **Retreats:** Motivational “days away” focused on spiritual and educational messages in natural locations surrounded by God’s beauty.
- **Pilgrimages:** Exploring the roots of our faith in places made famous by the Church and her saints and martyrs.
- **Seminaries:** Bringing the Redemptorist faith to students around the world.
- **Faith-Filled Correspondence:** Keeping Redemptorists and benefactors current with website, electronic communications and direct mail.
- **CDs:** The music and prayers of St. Alphonsus beautifully rendered for the first time on CD for your home or car.
- **Liguori Publications:** Books, magazines and other devotional items to help believers bring their faith to bear on the decisions they face.

To support one or more of our many good works, visit our website poorandmostabandoned.org to make a secure online donation.



Hope, Pain in Baton Rouge

Redemptorist parishes around the country observed the feast day of St. Alphonsus Liguori on August 1 by invoking his name in a nationwide blessing of arthritis sufferers. St. Alphonsus is the patron saint of arthritics.

As people approached me for the blessing of arthritis sufferers on Sunday, August 1, I could see both hope and pain in their eyes. Word of the blessing brought people from all around the city and state. As a result, the congregations at all the Masses tripled. At the 10:00 a.m. Mass, I blessed people continuously for almost 30 minutes. The next day my arm was noticeably sore.

One line stretched almost the length of the center aisle. Several individuals showed up in wheel chairs and more than a few with walkers. Brother Clem Furno

managed to find a relic of St. Alphonsus, with which I conducted the blessings. (Note to myself: get a second relic for next year!)

Some who had heard of the blessing could not make it to church. So, over the past couple of months I have traveled extensively throughout the state to administer the blessing. We distributed prayer cards to our parishioners, their family members and friends.

At our parish, St. Gerard’s, we plan to offer the blessing again next year. We are hoping for even greater crowds in 2011.

Fr. Sam Maranto’s account of his blessing event for arthritis sufferers at St. Gerard Parish in Baton Rouge, LA. If you would like to receive a video blessing, go to redemptoristsdenver.org.

A Taste of Heaven in “Green Hell”

Jim Flickinger

Over the years I have helped the Redemptorists with many projects — funding of the vocational school in Coari, church construction, costs for traveling to the distant communities up and down the Amazon with respect to personnel and the purchase and repair of boats and motors, costs associated with the formation of Redemptorist seminarians, and music and arts programs.

I have been to the Redemptorists’ radio station in Coari, and I can assure you that it is an extremely important and effective ministry. Out of Coari, the Redemptorists serve more than 200 remote communities along the river and in the interior. It takes many weeks of river travel to reach some of these communities; and many can only be reached when the Amazon River is at a certain high-water level. Because of the number of communities, their remoteness, and the inability of always being able to reach them, Radio Coari is the only regular source many people have of hearing the word of God and growing in their faith.

I continue to work with the Redemptorists, and I travel to

the Amazon at least twice each year. I was last there in April of this year, and I returned again at the end of September and will stay into October. And my work with the Redemptorists doesn’t end when I return from my trips. We are continually in contact about our many current and new projects.

The Amazon is an area of contrasts. I think of it as bittersweet. The area where the Redemptorists serve, known as “The Green Hell,” is filled with extreme heat and humidity, extreme poverty and malnutrition, leprosy and fatal diseases. Yet in some respects the area is “A Taste of Heaven.” Here you have people who are loving, sharing and seeking the best for their children and families in spite of the problems that surround them. For most of the people who live in areas served by the Redemptorists, it is the Redemptorist presence that fills them with faith, hope and love.

Yet the Redemptorists’ ability to serve depends in great part on financial help from outside the Amazon. Parishes in the Amazon are poor, and collections from the local peo-



For most of the people who live in areas served by the Redemptorists, it is the Redemptorist presence that fills them with faith, hope, and love.



ple cannot cover the expenses related to the needs. The areas being served by the Redemptorists are huge, and transportation to these areas is difficult and expensive.

I would encourage you to become co-missionaries with the Redemptorists serving in the Amazon. Help them to bring the Gospel to the Amazon by praying for and financially supporting their work. We Americans know the graces we have received as a result of

the early missionaries who risked, and often sacrificed, their lives to bring Christ to our country (or to the country from which we or our forefathers came). We have been given much. We now have an opportunity to share our blessings with others.

God Bless You,

Jim Flickinger is the founder of Amazon Relief.



We do a lot. But we can't do it alone.

We are involved in a variety of ministries, all of which depend upon the generosity of our supporters. Please help us by donating to one or more of the many good causes described at poorandmostabandoned.org. Make a secure donation by selecting Donate Now or sending a check (your chosen mission written in the memo section) to:

**Mission Advancement Ministry, Redemptorists Denver Province,
1230 South Parker Road, Denver, CO 80231.**

Name the Redemptorists in your will...

or bequest as a way to establish a permanent legacy of support for our missions. For more information, call Joe Roos at 303.565.5432.

Province Wins Web Award

The Redemptorists of the Denver Province has been honored with a 2010 Web Award for "Outstanding Achievement in Web Development" in the "Faith-Based Standard of Excellence" category by the Web Marketing Association.

Since 1997, the Web Marketing Association's annual WebAward Competition has been setting the standard of excellence for website development. Independent expert judges from around the world review sites in 96 industries. The best are recognized with a WebAward which helps interactive professionals promote themselves, their companies and their best work to the outside world. The WebAward Competition is the premier award recog-



nition program for Web developers and marketers worldwide.

"We are extremely honored to have been recognized by this prestigious panel of experts from around the world for our website," said the Very Reverend Thomas D. Picton, C.Ss.R., provincial superior of the Denver Province. "We hope with this honor we can now encourage a larger number of young men and women interested in pursuing religious life to consider our congregation as one of their options for serving Christ here on earth." See the winning site at

redemptoristsdenver.org



Sail the Seas with Mother Mary

Don't forget to book your spot on this first-ever cruise named in honor of Our Mother of Perpetual Help. We leave March 3, 2011 for an eight-day pilgrimage throughout the southern Caribbean aboard the aptly-named Carnival cruise ship, "Miracle." Fr. Allan Weinert, C.Ss.R. and Brother Dan Korn, C.Ss.R. will lead us in Masses, devotions and discussion groups on the icon and its sacred mysteries.

For more information contact:

Kevin West

Carnival Cruise Lines/

Personal Vacation Planner

Toll free: 800.819.3902 ext 85344

Alternate Phone: 786.246.7502

Email: KWestII@carnivalpvp.com

Reference Booking #: 54TP81



Who Will Lead the Province in 2011?

In our winter 2011 issue of Hope, we will profile the seven Redemptorists who have been elected to lead the Denver Province for the next four years, starting in January 2011.

Redemptorist

HEADLINE NEWS

DENVER PROVINCE ELECTIONS

The voting process that will determine the next group of Redemptorists to lead the Denver Province for the next four years, beginning in January 2011, is well under way. For the past several weeks, Redemptorists from throughout the province have been meeting to elect the three members of the Ordinary Provincial Council and the four members of the Extraordinary Provincial Council. In November, we will announce the results of the vote on our website and profile the members of our next leadership team on the website and in the winter 2011 issue of Hope magazine.

CONGRATULATIONS TO FR. EUGENE

On October 2, at Holy Ghost Parish in Houston, TX, Deacon Eugene Michael Tiongson-Batungbacal, C.Ss.R. was ordained a Redemptorist priest. The Sacrament of the Holy Order of the Priesthood was celebrated by the Most Reverend Vincent M. Rizzotto, D.D., J.C.L., Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus, Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston. Fr. Eugene becomes the first Filipino-American to be ordained a Redemptorist priest in the Denver Province. Our thoughts and prayers are with Fr. Eugene as he begins the next chapter in his Redemptorist life.

CONGRATULATIONS TO NEW ARCHBISHOP

Fr. Joseph Tobin, former superior general of the worldwide Redemptorist congregation, was ordained Archbishop on Saturday, October 9, 2010 in St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. (We will run a full story in our winter 2011 issue of Hope and post pictures from the ordination on our website as soon as they become available.)

CALENDAR

Preaching & Events

October

- 9-13 **St. John Evangelist**
McAlester, TX
- 9-14 **Immaculate Conception**
Washington, PA
- 9-14 **St. Pius V**
St. Louis, MO
- Holy Family**
Williston, FL
- 16-20 **St. Joseph**
Brazoria, TX
- St. John the Evangelist**
Carmichael, CA
- 23-28 **St. Charles Borromeo**
Lima, OH
- St. Paul**
Vienna, IL

November

- 1 **All Saints' Day**
- 6-10 **Grand Prairie**
Canada
- 6-11 **St. Bernard/St. Henry**
Watertown, WI
- 6-11 **Grouard-McLennan Diocese**
Alberta, Canada
- St. John the Baptist**
Piopolis, IL
- St. Matthew**
Ripley, MS
- 13-14 **Sts. Cyril and Methodius**
North Judson, IN
- 13-17 **St. Cletus,**
St. Charles, MO
- Manning**
Canada
- 13-18 **Church of St. Anthony**
Watkin, MN
- 13-18 **Grouard-McLennan Diocese**
Alberta, Canada
- St. James the Less**
Corinth, MS

- 27-
Dec 1 **St. Andrew Cathedral**
Little Rock, AR
- Immaculate Conception**
St. Mary's, KS
- St. Agnes**
Roeland Park, KS
- St. Michael**
W. Memphis, AR
- 27-
Dec 2 **Our Lady of Lourdes**
Seaford, DE
- 27-
Dec 2 **St. Steven**
Sun Lakes, AR
- 28 **Advent**

December

- 4-8 **St. Bernadette**
Bellevue, NE
- 4-9 **Holy Redeemer**
Odessa, TX
- 4-12 **Novena – OL of Guadalupe**
Wichita Falls, TX
- 8 **Immaculate Conception**
- 21 **1726, Alphonsus is
ordained a priest**
- 11-16 **Sacred Heart**
Crosby, TX
- 11-16 **Boyne Valley Cathedral**
Boyne City, MI
- 22 **1844, Francis X. Seelos
is ordained a priest**
- 25 **Christmas**

January

- 11 **1819, Francis X. Seelos
is born**
- Chicago Mission Preaching Team
312.642.1669
 - Liguori Mission Preaching Team
636.464.6999
 - Special Redemptorist Days

Happy October Feast Days



October 5
Blessed Francis X. Seelos
1819-1867
His cause for canonization is underway



October 16
St. Gerard Majella
1726-1755
Patron saint of expectant mothers

Corrections: In our previous issue (summer 2010) we inadvertently used the wrong flag for the country of the Philippines; the correct flag is shown here:



This same issue (summer 2010) should have been labeled Volume 2 Issue 1. Every summer issue begins a new volume to coincide with our fiscal year, July to June.

Hope

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Our Saint's Music for Advent

Give the gift of Liam Neeson's voice and the music of St. Alphonsus Liguori for Christmas this year with *Praying the Rosary with St. Alphonsus Maria Liguori*, *Praying the Seven Sorrows of Mary featuring Fr. Pablo Straub* and *Praying the Way of the Cross featuring Liam Neeson*. These are the first CDs produced in the U.S. to feature the music of this great saint and doctor of the Church. Order all three for just \$44.95 by calling Little Lamb Music toll free at 888.753.0333 or going online at littlelambmusic.com.

Merry Christmas from the Redemptorist Fathers and Brothers of the Denver Province.