



*The Redemptorists Denver Province
Mission Advancement Ministry*

WINTER 2011

Hope



Keeping Faith with The Faith

**PARISH MISSION TEAMS
& SCHEDULES**

MEET THE PREACHERS



**Abandoned in Nigeria
Noble & Ready**

**Our New Leadership –
Denver Provincial Team**



Fr. Harry Grile (left) being congratulated by his predecessor, Fr. Tom Picton, at last November's convocation in St. Louis, MO.

Dear Friends of the Redemptorists,

God is a "God of surprises" and I think that holds for my election as Provincial of the Denver Province of Redemptorists. Going into the electoral assembly I did not think I would be elected as Provincial but here I am.

I'm grateful for the trust that my confreres have placed in me and I will with the help of God try to live up to that trust.

I'm very grateful to Fr. Tom Picton and his six years of service to the province. We as a province are in a stronger position to meet the obligations to a growing number of people who find themselves living on the margins of society or cut off from God and the Church. My debt to Fr. Tom and those who worked with him gives me hope that we can build on the legacy that is left to us.

I am blessed to have on my team Fr. Bob Halter (vicar) and Fr John Schmidt (consultor). Together we form the Ordinary Provincial Council. We will be helped by the members of the Extraordinary Provincial Council: Brother Larry Lujan, Fr. Mat Kessler, Brother Gerry Patin and Fr. Steve Wilson. I think we have a strong team with a great variety of talents and experience.

I arrived from Seattle, WA where I was pastor of Sacred Heart Parish for the last three and a half years. Sacred Heart Parish has many wonderful and generous people. The parish is noted for its outreach to the poor; we have two shelters on the property, plus a very active St. Vincent de Paul Society. The parish is also noted as the "confession" capital of Seattle. Much good work goes on in the confessional room of the church. Leaving was not easy.

I was born in Grand Rapids, MI. After my ordination in June 1968 and a pastoral year in St. Louis, MO, I went on for studies in history. I was originally slated to teach at our college seminary in Wisconsin. I ended up, though, teaching Church History at our theologate, Mt.

St. Alphonsus Seminary in Esopus, NY. From 1971 to 1984 I was on the faculty at Mt. St. Alphonsus with a couple years (1973-75) at the University of Chicago for studies in Church History. In 1984 I was assigned to the parish mission team in Chicago and spent two years preaching parish missions in the Midwest. In 1986 I was assigned to St. Alphonsus Parish in Minneapolis, MN and in 1987 was appointed pastor of the parish and superior of the Redemptorist community.

In 1993 I was called back to Chicago to be formation director with our students in Chicago. At that time we lived on the west side of Chicago. In 1995 we moved to the Hyde Park section so that the students could be nearer to the school, Catholic Theological Union. In 1996 we purchased a building that is now called Seelos House.

In July 1999 I was named president and publisher of Liguori Publications in Liguori, MO. Many of you are probably familiar with the Liguorian magazine, which we publish at Liguori along with many books, pamphlets and Sunday bulletins. It was a good seven years. Lastly I was called in July 2007 to be pastor and local superior at Sacred Heart in Seattle.

To our many friends of the Denver Province, I extend my thanks for your many years of faithful support. I trust you will continue to keep us in your thoughts and prayers as we work together to bring God's plentiful redemption to so many, especially those who live without hope.

In Christ the Redeemer,
Fr. Harry Grile, C.Ss.R.
Provincial Superior, Denver Province

Hope

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Winter 2011

Hope, published by the Redemptorists of the Denver Province's Mission Advancement Ministry, is distributed quarterly to friends and supporters of the Redemptorists. With this publication, we hope to inspire an even larger following of friends and supporters eager to help because they know our cause is all about providing love and hope to the poorest of the poor.

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Threshold Of New Life In The Spirit *Fr. Tom Pieton, C.Ss.R.*

In some cultures one does not say “good-bye;” instead, it is “until we meet again.” As outgoing provincial, I say “until we are missioned together again” in the new quadrennium! When you elected me provincial six years ago, I reflected upon the words of St. Paul: “How can they preach unless they are sent.” With some fear and trepidation – aware of my own vulnerabilities – I accepted the leadership role in the Denver Province.

My six years as provincial have been amazing. I want to thank you for your prayers, support and collaboration during my two terms of office. It has been my privilege to serve you. I realize that I did not always live up to my own expectations, much less the many expectations you may have had of me. I also want to thank my current and previous OPC and EPC members, as well as the various staff members at the provincial office in Denver. Without their assistance, my job would have been impossible.

It is time for fresh eyes, fresh ears, and a fresh vision for the

sake of the province. I wish Fr. Harry Grile, the new provincial, and his leadership team only the very best as they begin their new roles of service. There are no barriers to God’s possibilities. The Denver Province must continue to overcome seemingly permanent obstacles, and fearlessly dream new dreams. It is impossible for a provincial and his leadership team to envision the future without the full participation of all members of the province. A provincial’s most difficult task is to challenge the status quo and inspire his confreres to be daring and courageous in their reflection on the past and plan truly meaningful actions for the future.

I believe the current administration is passing on to the new administration good protocols for establishing and improving the financial situation of the province. We must continue to control spending and increase revenues.

More than anything else, we must trust in the Providence of God as we attempt to remain faithful to the charism and mis-

sion of evangelizing those most in need. We must transcend our obsession with security and make sacrifices that challenge our comfort levels – take risks to serve the mission. Yes, there are many challenges ahead. In my own false sense of omnipotent grandiosity as your outgoing provincial, I wish I could leave you a province without any problems to solve. But the kingdom of God is at hand, and yet to be fulfilled!

The journey ahead is filled with endless possibilities. It is an exciting time to be a consecrated religious and Redemptorist in the Church. The founding of our Congregation illustrates the future of the Congregation: St. Alphonsus and his first band of confreres gathered with the Mother of God and the anointing fire of the Holy Spirit. The Congregation is founded for mission, enlivened by the Spirit of the Redeemer for proclaiming Good News to the poor, especially those most in need.

Redemptorists live today for this grace of the out-

pouring of the Spirit and say “Yes” to mission. We pray that all who are united with us in the mission of proclaiming the Gospel and teaching the faith share our fervent commitment to God’s mission ad gentes – to the nations. The mission of the Congregation does not end until the end of time, when Christ the Redeemer’s mission on earth is finished.

Fr. Pieton, the former provincial superior, addressing the province in his farewell letter.

On the Cover

Photo : Parishioners attending a recent Redemptorist parish mission event at St. John Neumann Parish in Irvine, CA.

Our Mother of Perpetual Help: In 1866, Pope Pius IX entrusted to the Redemptorists the original icon of Mary, Our Mother of Perpetual Help, and with it the responsibility of “making her known throughout the world.” This icon and shrine are housed in the Church of St. Alphonsus Liguori in Rome, Italy.

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Remembering Haiti: One Year Later

In January 2010, more than 200,000 Haitians lost their lives in a destructive earthquake that leveled Port-au-Prince. Today, this island nation is still struggling to rebuild while trying to deal with a cholera outbreak and another in a long series of political upheavals.

In response to last year’s humanitarian crisis, the Denver Province raised more than \$80,000 to assist the Redemptorists working in Haiti as members of the Canadian province, Saint Anne

de Beaupre in Quebec, to get needed supplies of food, water and medicine to the thousands of Haitians left homeless and devastated by this natural disaster.

We would like to thank you again on this sad anniversary for your generous support and ask that you continue to keep the long-suffering people of Haiti in your thoughts and prayers.

Thank you – The Redemptorists of the Denver Province.

Keeping Faith with The Faith

*Bringing people closer to God,
and each other, one parish at a time*



“These popular missions have been developed as a stable and solid form of pastoral activity in the Congregation. They have always revealed your closeness to the people. The missions, on which St. Alphonsus left such an indelible mark and which I myself recommended in various documents, must take on among you a new vigor for the good of the whole Church. In missionary preaching, as in every other form of your apostolic work, you should have a particular concern for those aspects which have always constituted what is peculiar to the sons of St. Alphonsus: the eternal truths must be announced with the pastoral sensitivity required for today.”

Pope John Paul II speaking about parish missions in his address from the Vatican to the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer (Redemptorists) on the bicentenary of the death of St. Alphonsus Liguori, August 1, 1987.

Parish missions – also called parish retreats – have been a part of the fabric of the Catholic Church since the 1600s. A mission is a preaching event at a parish,

most lasting four to six days, although in the past it was common for missions to extend as long as a month.

The Redemptorist order, whose name is synonymous with mission preaching in the United States, has been offering missions since St. Alphonsus Liguori founded the community for this purpose in Naples, Italy in 1732. Many other religious orders of men and women also include

mission preaching as part of their ministries. The unique quality of a Redemptorist mission is based on the order’s motto, “In him there is plentiful redemption.”

Typically, missions begin with invitational talks at weekend Masses. Most missions center around the evening talks each night, but also include Masses with homilies each morning.

The goal of a mission is conversion – either an initial conversion to Christ and the Catholic Church or a renewal of the continual conversion that occurs in a person’s life. Through the conversion of its individuals, the parish also is renewed. The impact of a successful mission can last far beyond the closing night’s talk.

Mission preparations vary depending on the preachers. Most parish missions really start several months ahead of time, when the preacher meets with a volunteer planning team. How well a parish publicizes and involves others in the preparations are crucial to the success of the mission.

“To hear confessions in a mission is a task with little splendor but with the greatest value and glory to God.”

*St. Alphonsus Liguori, C.Ss.R.
on hearing confessions during a mission*

“Words cannot express my gratitude for bringing us such an extraordinary event. I was moved so spiritually I cannot possibly explain in words. I sometimes take my faith for granted. Thank you for making me aware of how special my faith is to me.”
— Parishioner

Anatomy of a Redemptorist Parish Mission

Redemptorist parish (or popular) mission: a form of ministry intended to re-awaken or reinforce the spirit of faith through a deeper appreciation of the Mass and the Sacraments. The goal of a Redemptorist mission is to provide a positive experience of God, leading to personal and ongoing conversion in a community setting. Essential elements of the Redemptorist mission are preaching, reconciliation, fellowship, prayer, sacred and sacramental ritual, Scripture, and healing of relationships.

The Redemptorist mission teams conduct two unique and distinct five-night missions. The first five nights cover symbols associated with Conversion themes. The second five nights discuss symbols involving Sacramental themes. The missions run from Sunday to Thursday. Following the service each night, participants

gather informally with the Redemptorist mission team to share common experiences, thoughts and perceptions.

If you haven't experienced a Redemptorist parish mission, we encourage you to consider the idea by talking with your pastor, your parish council, and other members of your parish community. Our preachers travel the country conducting parish missions in both English and Spanish. If you're yearning for spiritual renewal either as an individual or as a member of your faith community, please contact one of our two mission preaching offices:

Chicago, IL – 312.642.1669 or visit st-mikes.org.

St Louis, MO – 636.464.6999 or visit liguorimissionhouse.org

As one attendee put it, “Without a doubt, it will change the parish and the lives of its parishioners.”

CONVERSION THEMES

Sunday Evening

Symbol: Bible

Topic: God's plan of salvation and our response.

Goal: Deepen our awareness of God's love

Monday Evening

Symbol: Crucifix

Topic: Who is Jesus for us?

Goal: Grow in our faith in Jesus.

Tuesday Evening

Symbol: Paschal Candle

Topic: Sin, reconciliation and healing

Goal: Experience God's healing power

Wednesday Evening

Symbol: Bread

Topic: Jesus as nourishment for the journey of faith

Goal: Enrich our celebration of the Eucharist.

Thursday Evening

Symbol: Altar

Topic: Our Mission: to share in the work of Jesus and the Church.

Goal: Renew our commitment to proclaim the Good News.

SACRAMENT THEMES

Sunday Evening

Symbol: Water

Topic: Baptism - We are blessed and called to be God's people.

Monday Evening

Symbol: Oil

Topic: Confirmation - The Holy Spirit penetrates all and anoints us as a holy nation and God's own people.

Tuesday Evening

Symbol: Ashes

Topic: The sacrament of reconciliation brings forgiveness and healing.

Wednesday Evening

Symbol: The Cross of Christ

Topic: The Spirit brings us together in one vocation, but different lifestyles. We are called to live in a way that will build the Kingdom of God.

Thursday Evening

Symbol: Bread, Wine and Collection

Topic: Symbols of ourselves given to God through the celebration of this Eucharist.

Mission Preaching Team

St. Michael's Community

1633 N Cleveland Ave. • Chicago, IL 60614
312.642.1443 rpmt.org

Fr. John Paul Andree, C.Ss.R.

Hometown: Detroit, MI

Professed: 1963 **Ordained:** 1968



Fr. John joined the Redemptorist parish mission preaching team in January of 2008. From 1983 to 2005, Fr. John was director of the Co-Redemptorist Association. He has worn many hats in his Redemptorist life: parish missionary, retreat house director, retreat master, and the vice-president of business affairs at the former Redemptorist seminary, Holy Redeemer College, in Waterford, WI. Fr. John is the second oldest of 12 children. His younger brother Dan is also a Redemptorist priest.

Fr. Tony Judge, C.Ss.R.

Hometown: St. Louis, MO

Professed: 1973 **Ordained:** 1979



In September of 1980, Fr. Tony was sent to the Amazon in Brazil, where he lived and worked as a missionary for almost 10 years. Upon his return to the states, Fr. Tony spent the next 10 years in Colorado as an associate pastor and then pastor of a largely Hispanic parish in Denver. He then spent two years preaching parish missions, mostly in the western United States, with an emphasis on both multicultural and bilingual (English and Spanish) parishes. From 2001 until 2008, Fr. Tony was a member of the Redemptorist Hispanic Missionary Project in the Diocese of Dodge City, KS, which included parish mission preaching, lay leadership formation and parochial ministry.

Fr. Tony has been a member of the Redemptorist Parish Mission Team in Chicago since 2008.

Fr. John Kuehner, C.Ss.R.

Hometown: St. Louis, MO

Professed: 1998 **Ordained:** 2003



Since his ordination in 2003, Fr. John has been traveling throughout the United States preaching parish missions. Before entering religious life, he co-directed a hermitage retreat center.

He also worked as an architectural renderer, an independent designer and was head creative director for one of the largest advertising agencies in the world.

Fr. Jose Arturo Uribe, C.Ss.R.

Hometown: Irapuato, Guanajuato, Mexico

Professed: 1986 **Ordained:** 1995



Fr. Arturo Uribe was born in Mexico in the city of Irapuato, Guanajuato. On finishing his seminary studies he was sent to the United States to minister to newly arrived immigrants, which he did for four years.

Following his ordination, Fr. Arturo spent the next three years preaching parish missions in both Spanish and English all across the country. For six years, from 1999 to 2005, he was pastor of St. Mary of the Assumption Parish in Whittier, CA. Today Fr. Arturo directs the St. Michael Parish Mission Preaching Team.

PREACHING SCHEDULE

January

- 15-20 SS Peter & Paul, Hopkinsville, KY
Tony Judge
- 29-Feb 3 St. Mary of the Hill, Hubertus, WI
Arturo Uribe
- St. Michael, Madison, MN
Tony Judge

February

- 5-10 St. Alfred, Taylor, MI
Arturo Uribe
- 5-10 Sacred Heart, Marengo, IL
Tony Judge
- 19-24 St. Mary Visitation, Elm Grove, WI
Tony Judge
- 19-24 St. Joseph, Richmond, IL
Arturo Uribe
- 26-Mar 3 St. Eulalia, Chicago, IL
Tony Judge
- OL of Guadalupe (Sac), Bay City, TX
Arturo Uribe & (English & Spanish)
John Kuehner

March

- 12-17 OL of Perpetual Help, Dallas, TX
Arturo Uribe & (English & Spanish)
John Kuehner
- 12-17 Holy Trinity, Casco, WI
Tony Judge
- 19-24 St. Joseph, Apple Creek, MO
John Kuehner
- St. Mary, Cleveland, TX
Arturo Uribe (English & Spanish)
- St. Alexander, Villa Park, IL
Tony Judge
- 25-April 1 St. Mary, West Chicago, IL
Tony Judge & (English & Spanish)
Arturo Uribe

April

- 2-7 Our Lady of Sorrows, Jacksonville, TX
Arturo Uribe (English & Spanish)
- 2-7 St. Michael, St. Cloud, MN
Tony Judge
- 9-14 St. Edna, Arlington Heights, IL
John Schmidt & Rich Thibodeau
- St. James, Arlington Heights, IL
Tony Judge & Kevin Fraher
- Mission San Juan, Arlington Heights, IL
Arturo Uribe & Diego (Spanish)
John Fahey
- Our Lady of Wayside, Arlington Heights, IL
John Kuehner & Joe Morin



We now have a Mission Preaching Team on the west coast.

Check the back page for details.

“You brought tears to my eyes; you made me laugh; you deepened my faith; you touched my heart in so many ways.” — Parishioner

Mission Preaching Team

Liguori Mission House

Ten Liguori Drive • Liguori, MO 63057-9999
636.464.6999 liguorimissionhouse.org

Fr. Joseph Butz, C.Ss.R.

Hometown: Norway, IA

Professed: 1964 **Ordained:** 1970



After serving four years in the U.S. Air Force, Fr. Joe joined the Redemptorists. One year after his ordination he was sent to the Redemptorist mission on the Amazon River. There he was named director of the Brazilian seminary and later superior of the Redemptorist Mission in Manaus. After 37 years, he returned to his American heartland in 2007 and now adds a special "Brazilian Tango" to the parish mission team.

Fr. Victor Karls, C.Ss.R.

Hometown: Middleton, WI

Professed: 1964 **Ordained:** 1970



Soon after his ordination, Fr. Vic began his missionary work along the Amazon River in Northern Brazil. Upon his return to the United States, he became involved in a number of apostolic activities including parish ministry, directing retreats, directing the marketing of the Liguorian magazine and the preaching of parish missions. He served as provincial consultor and is presently the director of the Liguori Mission Preaching Team.

Fr. Vic began his missionary work along the Amazon River in Northern Brazil. Upon his return to the United States, he became involved in a number of apostolic activities including parish ministry, directing retreats, directing the marketing of the Liguorian magazine and the preaching of parish missions. He served as provincial consultor and is presently the director of the Liguori Mission Preaching Team.

Fr. Don Kirchner, C.Ss.R.

Hometown: Omaha, NE

Professed: 1961 **Ordained:** 1966



Fr. Don spent nearly 40 years in the Redemptorist foreign mission along the Amazon River in Brazil. While assigned to Brazil, he studied moral theology in Rome. He's been a pastor; preached retreats, taught theology, authored books and articles; was spiritual director to many lay groups; counseled seminarians; and held administrative positions. He is happy being able to tell stories and jokes now in English instead of Portuguese!

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Fr. Andy Meiners, C.Ss.R.

Hometown: St. Louis, MO

Professed: 1962 **Ordained:** 1970



The eighth of nine children born to a St. Louis policeman and his bride, Fr. Andy responded to God's call to Redemptorist life while studying engineering and mathematics at Washington University in St. Louis.

Ordained in 1970, he has served the Church and the Redemptorists as parish priest, mission preacher, retreat master, and promoter of the Catholic press, specifically the Liguorian magazine. His ministry has taken him across the country to Chicago, Denver, Minneapolis, Amarillo, Wichita and Kansas City.

Fr. Peter Schavitz, C.Ss.R.

Hometown: Chicago, Illinois

Professed: 1970 **Ordained:** 1976



Fr. Pete has been involved in a wide variety of apostolic ministries: he has worked with youth, adults, married and divorced couples; he has conducted nuns' retreats; taught in the seminary; worked in vocation

promotions; parish ministry; was president of the Denver Province development office from 2005 to 2008; and has been involved in several radio and video projects.

Fr. Pete has been preaching parish missions now for more than 25 years! One of Fr. Pete's weaknesses is that he is a die-hard Cubs, Bears, Bulls and Blackhawks fan. Pray that he may recover from this infirmity.

PREACHING SCHEDULE

January

22-26 St. James, Sequin, TX
Vic Karls

29-Feb 3 Santa Catalina, Tucson, AZ
Pete Schavitz

February

5-10 St. Alphonsus, Biloxi, MS
Vic Karls & Don Kirchner

12-16 St. John Neumann, Yuma, AZ
Don Kirchner

12-17 Our Lady of Fatima, Inverness, FL
Pete Schavitz

19-23 Sacred Heart, Abilene, TX
Don Kirchner

26-Mar 2 Holy Angels, San Angelo, TX
Don Kirchner

26-Mar 3 St. Bernard, Middleton, WI
Pete Schavitz

St. John Neumann, Farragut, TN
Vic Karls

March

5-9 Guardian Angels, Wallis, TX
Joe Butz

12-16 Sacred Heart, Diberville, MS
Andy Meiners

St. Bonaventure, Columbus, NE
Don Kirchner & Brian Gilles

St. Mark Evangelist, Indianapolis, IN
Vic Karls

Holy Family, Ft. Worth, TX
Joe Butz

12-17 Christ the King, Topeka, KS
Pete Schavitz

19-23 St. Bernadette, Bellevue, NE
Don Kirchner

19-24 St. Bartholomew, Katy, TX
Vic Karls

St. Patrick, Yorkton Heights, NY
Pete Schavitz

St. Martha, Kingwood, TX
Joe Butz

26-30 Our Lady of Victory, Columbus, OH
Andy Meiners

St. Charles Borromeo, PISCAYUNE, MS
Vic Karls

St. Gerald, Ralston, NE
Don Kirchner

Blessed Sacrament, San Antonio, TX
Joe Butz

26-31 Our Lady of Guadalupe, Helotes, TX
Rudy Papes

April

2-7 St. Joseph, Ft. Atkinson, WI
Pete Schavitz

Church of Holy Spirit, Montgomery, AL
Vic Karls

St. Jude, Jacksonville, AR
Don Kirchner

St. Michael, Houston, TX
Joe Butz & Greg May

9-13 St. Luke Evangelist, Houston, TX
Vic Karls

St. Catherine of Siena, Metairie, LA
Andy Meiners & Brian Gilles

Sacred Heart, Crystal City, MO
Don Kirchner

9-14 St. Theresa, Little Rock, AR
Rudy Papes

St. Hyacinth, Deer Park, TX
Pete Schavitz & Joe Butz

"How can anyone walk away from your missions and not feel closer to God?"

— Parishioner



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:** Preparing men to be sensitive to the faith needs of ordinary people, especially the poor.
- **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.



Blitzed with the Good News

GRANDE PRAIRIE – Nearly 20 Redemptorist priests from across North America descended on the Grouard-McLennan Archdiocese for an unprecedented program of faith renewal.

The missionary priests worked in two teams to give parish missions to all the Catholic communities throughout the northwestern Alberta archdiocese in Canada. The missions took place over the weeks of Nov. 7-10 and Nov. 14-17, 2010.

“The mission is an occasion to feed spiritually not only those who regularly share in the life of faith, but also to reach out to those who are on the edge of the parish’s activity,” says an article on the archdiocese’s website.

“This is an opportunity for individuals and the whole community to reach out a

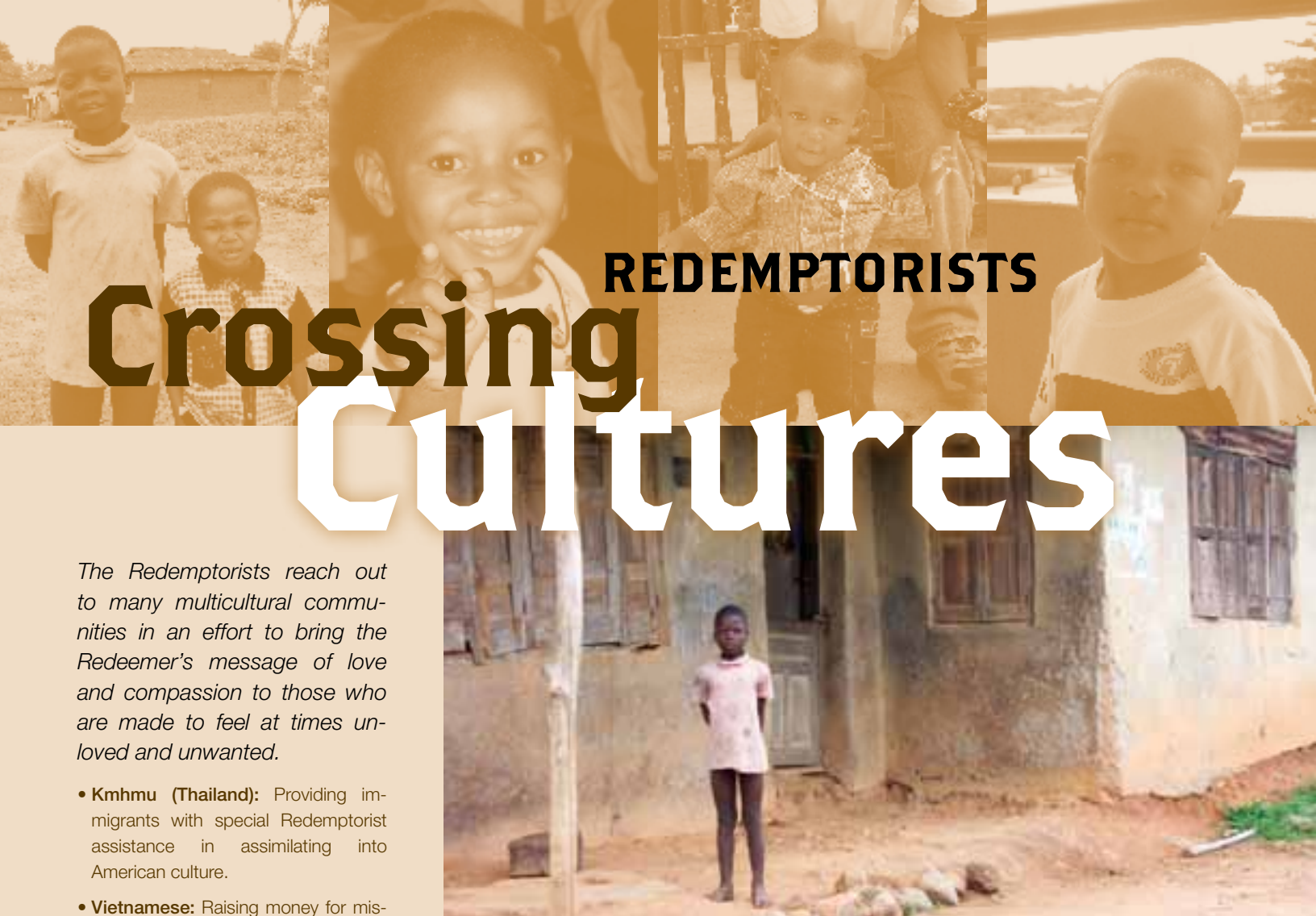
welcoming hand.”

This regional mission concept, where a mission is preached to 20 communities in two weeks, is unheard of in Canada but has proven effective in the United States, said Redemptorist Fr. Ed Eherer, associate pastor of St. Joseph’s Parish at Grande Prairie and a member of the mission team.

Fr. Eherer said Archbishop Gerard Pettipas launched the mission as a way to revive the faith of the people in his large archdiocese.

“The archbishop was quite keen to ask the Redemptorists to come as a way of bringing the Good News and trying to get people excited about their faith again.”

Ramon Gonzalez is a writer for the Western Catholic Reporter. Reprinted with permission.



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.

Abandoned in Nigeria

The Redemptorist orphanage in Abuja, the capital city of Nigeria, hasn't been open that long and already plans are underway to expand the six-room bungalow.

St. Fabian's Orphanage, located next to St. Fabian's Catholic Church, was built a year ago by a local developer and philanthropist to provide a shelter for the growing numbers of children and babies abandoned on the streets of Abuja. Mr. Fabian Nwora left it to the archdiocese of Abuja, which in turn handed it over to the Redemptorists to operate. The Redemptorists have been in Abuja for roughly six years ministering primarily in parishes.

The plan and hope is to develop a larger facility that can accommodate up to 50 abandoned children and babies. The six little ones in residence today showed

up sick, hungry, hurt and traumatized. A small staff which includes a nurse, a visiting doctor and three guardians provides them with food, clothing, medicine and love.

The orphanage accepts babies from a day old to seven years old and will take care of them until they can take care of themselves or are fostered out legally to good homes.

If you would like to help support our work with the orphanage, please call us toll free at **866.788.0343**.



...None of the
...od it, for if they had, the
...sified the Lord of glory. 9
...tten:
...e has seen,
...ear has heard,
...nd has conceived
...at God has prepared for
...love him" b—

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.



The Space Needle in Seattle, WA. Photo by Stu Alden of Idaho Stew.

Noble and Ready:

St. Alphonsus Liguori Lives Up to His Name

Growing up in the suburbs of Seattle, WA, I was officially a Catholic but was in fact barely even a Protestant. I was bored with the Mass, not because I knew what was taking place but precisely because I knew nothing about what was taking place. When in high school, someone invited me to pray before the Blessed Sacrament, and I thought, "Huh... there are seven sacraments, but I wonder which one is the 'blessed' one..."

It was at Saint Alphonsus Parish in Seattle's Ballard neighborhood that I began to learn more about the Faith, and where I had my first experiences with orthodox Catholicism. It was quite a new thing to hear a priest teaching what the Church

teaches, and it was also new to go to confession. Confession was one among many topics about which Saint Alphonsus has taught me so much. It has been said that someone could read only the works of Saint Alphonsus and not be lacking in anything about the Catholic Faith.

In 1889 Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish was founded in downtown Seattle by the Redemptorists, who would later head north to found Saint Alphonsus Liguori Parish in Seattle's Ballard neighborhood. Sacred Heart is staffed by the Redemptorists to this day, and is located across the street from the Space Needle, which was built for the 1962 World's Fair.

Sacred Heart was the site of my grand-

parents' first date in 1943, when they attended the Our Mother of Perpetual Help devotion there. Their devotion would be rewarded later in life. When my father was five years old, he was lying on the ground near a neighbor's car. As the neighbor was backing out of the driveway, he did not see my father and proceeded to run over his

peating as long as I live, that our whole salvation depends on prayer; and therefore, all writers in their books, all preachers in their sermons, all confessors in their instructions to penitents, should not inculcate anything more strongly than prayer...



I say, and repeat, and will keep repeating as long as I live, that our whole salvation depends on prayer; and therefore, all writers in their books, all preachers in their sermons, all confessors in their instructions to penitents, should not inculcate anything more strongly than prayer... If you pray, your salvation will be secure; but if you leave off praying, your damnation will be certain.

head. Of course my grandmother was terrified, and took my father to the hospital. My grandparents prayed the Perpetual Help devotion all the more fervently, and their prayers were answered. My dad suffered no consequences from being run over by a car!

My grandparents' legacy lives on visibly to this day. Because of their generosity in helping to fund the construction of a new church building for Saint Alphonsus Parish in 1962, their names, along with those of many others, remain on a large wall plaque in the vestibule.

While I have been deeply influenced by many of the writings of Saint Alphonsus, perhaps the most influential is *The Great Means of Salvation and Perfection*. Saint Alphonsus himself wrote in its introduction that he could not think of a more useful work, and that he wanted to give a copy of it to every Catholic in the world. Of the many things I've been taught by Saint Alphonsus, this one from *Great Means* stands out:

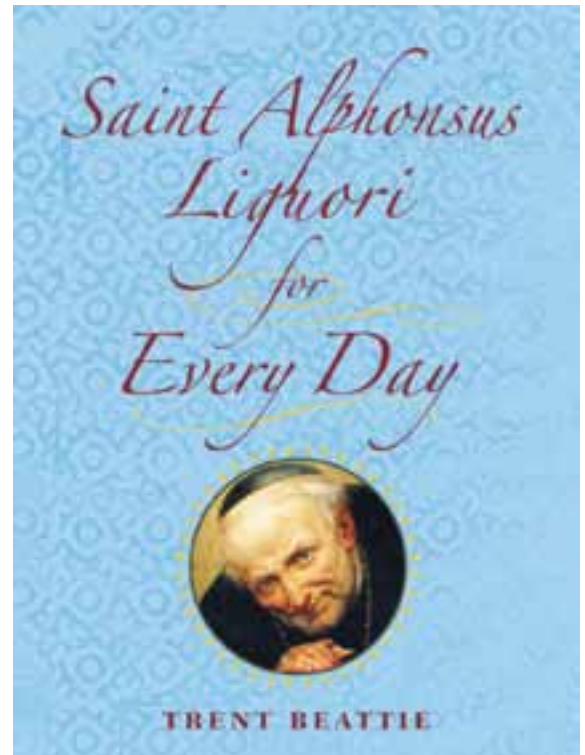
"I say, and repeat, and will keep re-

If you pray, your salvation will be secure; but if you leave off praying, your damnation will be certain."

Obviously there are many other topics regarding the Catholic Faith that are extremely important, but none of them matters to the individual believer if he does not pray. A man can live in a goldmine, but if he doesn't know how to extract the gold, it profits him nothing. As our saint has said, "No matter what my sermon may seem to be about, the real topic is always prayer."

I couldn't keep such sentiments to myself, so in 2008 I started arranging a book of meditations from our saint, which was released in 2010 under the title *Saint Alphonsus Liguori for Every Day*. It includes a separate topic for each month and a daily meditation corresponding to that topic. I am grateful that God has allowed me to share some of the wisdom of our saint.

Saint Alphonsus continues to live up to his name by being noble in aim, and ready to share the Catholic Faith with anyone interested. I have experienced this through



two churches founded by the Redemptorists, and also through the writings of our saint, which I want to share with as many others as possible. What else could I do when these writings elicited the following laudatory words from Pope John Paul II:

Saint Alphonsus "had, as few others did, the *sensus Ecclesiae* [sense of the Church], a criterion that remained with him in his theological research and pastoral practice in such a way that he became, in a certain sense, the voice of the Church."

Saint Alphonsus Liguori for Every Day is available through Paulist Press at paulistpress.com.

Trent Beattie, a freelance writer based in Seattle, Washington, has written for 'Inside the Vatican' and 'Catholic Men's Quarterly' and is a regular contributor to the National Catholic Register.



Meet Our New Leadership

2011 Denver Province Team



Congratulations to our new provincial leadership team.

“I am blessed to have on my team Fr. Bob Halter (vicar) and Fr. John Schmidt (consultor). Together we form the Ordinary Provincial Council (OPC). We will be helped by the talented members of the Extraordinary Provincial Council (EPC), which includes Brother Larry Lujan, Fr. Mat Kessler, Brother Gerry Patin and Fr. Steve Wilson. I think we have a strong team with a great variety of skills and experience. Please keep us in your thoughts and prayers. Thank you and God bless.”

Fr. Harry Grile, C.Ss.R.

Fr. Harry Grile, C.Ss.R.
Provincial Superior
Hometown: Grand Rapids, MI
Professed: 1963 / Ordained: 1968

After his ordination in June 1968 and a pastoral year in St. Louis, MO, Fr. Harry went on for studies in history. He was originally slated to teach at the college seminary in Wisconsin but ended up teaching Church history at the theologate at Mt. St. Alphonsus Seminary in Esopus, NY for the next 13 years.

In 1984 Fr. Harry was assigned to the parish mission team in Chicago and spent two years preaching parish missions in the Midwest. In 1986 he was assigned to St. Alphonsus Parish in Minneapolis, MN and in 1987 was appointed parish pastor and superior of the Redemptorist community.

In 1993 Fr. Harry was called back to Chicago to be formation director. Six years later, Fr. Harry was named president and publisher of Liguori Publications in Liguori, MO. In July 2007 he was named pastor and local superior at Sacred Heart in Seattle. He served there until taking up his new position as provincial superior of the Denver Province in January 2011

Fr. Bob Halter, C.Ss.R.
Vicar
Hometown: Wagner, SD
Professed: 1965 / Ordained: 1970

The first eight years of Fr. Bob's life as a Redemptorist priest were spent as assistant director of students at St. Joseph's Preparatory College in Edgerton, WI. In June of 1979, he was named retreat master at Our Mother of Perpetual Help Retreat Center in Oconomowoc, WI. In August of 1981, Fr. Bob was named pastor and local superior of St. Joseph's Parish in Denver, CO, where he remained for nine years.

The following nine years, from 1990 to 1999, he spent in Detroit, MI as pastor of Holy Redeemer Parish. After a sabbatical year at the novitiate in Glenview, IL, Fr. Bob joined the mission preaching team in Chicago in June of 2000. He would conduct missions all across the country for the next eight years in both English and Spanish. In January 2008, Fr. Bob was elected to serve as consultor as a member of the Ordinary Provincial Council (OPC). In November 2010 Fr. Bob was elected to serve again on the OPC, this time as provincial vicar consultor.

Fr. John Schmidt, C.Ss.R.
Consultor
Hometown: Oakland, CA
Professed: 1985 / Ordained: 1989

Fr. John's first appointment as a Redemptorist priest was with the St. Alphonsus Parish in Chicago, IL, where he served for six years, from 1989 to 1995. From Chicago Fr. John would go to Fort Lupton, CO to serve for almost two years as parish priest with St. Williams Parish.

In 1996 Fr. John went back to Chicago to pursue his doctoral studies at the Catholic Theological Union. Three years later he was named pastor of St. Michael's Parish in Chicago. He would remain there for six years until being named in 2005 superior and co-director of the formation program at the Redemptorist Theology Residence (Seelos House) in Chicago. In November 2010, Fr. John was elected to the OPC as provincial consultor.

“The provincial superior, together with his provincial consultors, who are co-responsible with him in dealing with the affairs of the province, form the provincial government, which is a permanent directive and executive body. The provincial superior, as moderator of the province and president of the provincial council, has a mandate to direct and govern the province in accordance with the constitutions and statutes, both general and particular. Let the provincial superior exercise his office as a pastor, leader and coordinator of all the communities and members of his province.”
 – from the ‘Constitutions & Statutes’



Fr. Steve Wilson, C.Ss.R. – EPC
Hometown: Seattle, WA
Professed: 1997 / Ordained: 2001

Before becoming a Redemptorist, Fr. Steve was a certified public accountant for many years. Following his ordination in 2001, Fr. Steve was assigned to both Blessed Sacrament and Our Lady of Lourdes parishes in Chicago, IL. In August 2005, Fr. Steve was named pastor of Our Mother of Sorrows Parish in Biloxi, MS, just weeks before Hurricane Katrina hit. He has since been named pastor of the Blessed Francis Seelos Parish as well, which is also in Biloxi.

Last year, Fr. Steve was assigned to be internal auditor of the general government in Rome, for a period of six years, from July 2010 until June 2016. In November 2010, he was elected a member of the Extraordinary Provincial Council.



Brother Larry Lujan, C.Ss.R. – EPC
Hometown: Denver, CO
First Profession: 1999
Final Profession: 2002

Following his final profession in 2002, Brother Larry would spend the next two years in Denver at St. Joseph’s Parish. In late 2004, Brother Larry was assigned to the Hispanic Mission Project and St. Anthony’s Parish in Liberal, KS. He would continue there for four years until his appointment in 2008 to be co-director of vocation recruitment first in Whitestone, NY and then the Bronx, NY at the Redemptorist Formation Residence. He will continue in that role while serving as a member of the Extraordinary Provincial Council, which begins its four-year term in January 2011.



Brother Gerry Patin, C.Ss.R. – EPC
Hometown: Grand Rapids, MI
First Profession: 1968
Final Profession: 1972

After his novitiate year at the Blessed John Neumann House in Clinton, IA, Bro. Gerry was assigned in 1968 to a maintenance position at St. Joseph’s Preparatory College in Edgerton, WI, where he remained until 1986.

For the next 14 years, Bro. Gerry directed the maintenance at Holy Redeemer Parish in Detroit, MI. From there he would go to Hamtramck, MI in 1999 to work in the youth apostolate from the Hofbauer Residence. In 2002 Bro. Gerry was assigned to the Perpetual Help Retreat Center (PHRC) in Oconomowoc, WI where he would minister for six years. In 2010 he was appointed director of the PHRC and will continue in that role while serving as a member of the Extraordinary Provincial Council.



Fr. Mat Kessler, C.Ss.R – EPC
Hometown: Wichita, KS
Professed: 1987 / Ordained: 1991

For the first several years following his ordination, Fr. Mat would serve as a parish priest, first in Davenport, IA for two years at St. Alphonsus Parish and then in Greeley, CO at Our Lady of Peace Parish for four years, from 1993 to 1997.

For the next three years Fr. Mat would serve on the St. Michael Mission Preaching Team until his appointment in 2001 as editor of the Spanish-language publications at Liguori Publications, in Liguori, MO. Four years later he would be named president and publisher of Liguori Publications. He will continue in that role while serving a second term as a member of the Extraordinary Provincial Council.

The Will to Give

The Redemptorists are the beneficiary of many gifts from thousands of donors on an annual basis. These gifts support our many ministries of bringing the Good News to the poor and most abandoned. The following is part of a conversation I recently had with a donor in which he shared his thoughts on the act of giving.

“Being born a Catholic, one of my fondest memories of going to Sunday Mass as a kid was putting a dollar into the collection basket. My kids also got great joy out of doing the same thing when they were young. This was my earliest memory of giving and as I look back, the joy I experienced was to become the common thread in all of the giving during my lifetime. As I entered my teen years, my dad would have car

trouble from time to time and our neighbor Jim was always there to help. One day I asked my dad how he was planning on paying Jim back. He said Jim won’t take any money so I help others when they need it. My dad taught me this principle long before the movie Pay It Forward came out.

“Some of my most memorable feelings of joy have come when I have an opportunity to help a cause. If I hear of one at church, during the collection I empty my pockets. This is such a great feeling! I have learned that it isn’t how much you give, but the fact that you think unselfishly and are willing to help others. I have also learned that the more I give, the more I receive! This always seemed counter-intuitive to me, but I have seen it time

and again to know this universal principle is true. As I enter the later stages of my life I con-

Redemptorists and the ministries they are involved with are among my favorites.”

I have learned that it isn’t how much you give, but the fact that you think unselfishly and are willing to help others. I have also learned that the more I give, the more I receive!

tinue to consider how I might help others. On a daily basis I am unable to give significant amounts but through my will I plan on making probably my most substantial gift. Certainly I will take care of my family first. I will be able to give my final gift as a tribute and gratitude to God for my life and all of the blessings He has given me during my lifetime. I support many good causes but the

To put the Redemptorists in your will can be done easily using some simple language. For a sample of this language, visit our website at poorandmostabandoned.org and click on the tab for wills to view the PDF file. Feel free to call me in the Mission Advancement Ministry at 303.565.5432 for more information.

Joe Roos
Director, Mission Advancement Ministry



Join Us As We Celebrate The Life & Work Of St. John Neumann

A Redemptorist bishop of Philadelphia and founder of the Catholic school system in the United States. Please visit redemptorists.net to learn how you can participate in our Neumann Year.



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.

Next Issue: A Story of Inspiration

Several times after his morning walk, Gerard returned home flushed and animated, recounting his playful adventures with “a very beautiful boy.” Each time, he presented his mother with a small snow-white loaf of bread that he said the boy had given him. Curious, Benedetta secretly followed him one day. Gerard slipped into the chapel of Capotignano and approached a statue of the Madonna and Child.



From a shadowy corner of the chapel, Benedetta witnessed an astonishing sight.

What happens next is truly amazing. In our spring issue of *Hope*, we will explore the life and work of St. Gerard Majella, the 18th century Redemptorist brother who is known the world over as the patron saint of expectant mothers. We believe this will be one of those issues that our readers will share and treasure for many years to come.

If you would like to receive a hard copy or our e-magazine version of this special issue, please contact Bruce Crane, the editor of *Hope*, at bcrane@redemptorists-denver.org.

Redemptorist

HEADLINE NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS TO DEACON PARTIN

Deacon Lamar Partin will be ordained to the priesthood Saturday, February 26, 2011 at St. Gerard Majella Parish in Baton Rouge, LA. Bishop Robert Muench of the Diocese of Baton Rouge will officiate. Deacon Lamar currently works at the parish on weekends and is a full-time nurse at Our Lady of the Lake Hospital. He completed his M. Div. degree and all the requirements for ordination at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, IL and Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans, LA. He professed final vows in 2000 and is distinguished as the first Brother in the former Vice-Province of New Orleans to earn a M. Div. degree.

FLICKINGER HONORED FOR SERVICE IN BRAZIL

The Redemptorists of the Denver Province recognized Jim Flickinger with the honorary status, Oblate of the Redemptorists, at St. Alphonsus Parish in Grand Rapids, MI on Sunday, November 14, 2010, for his service and dedication to serving the poor and most abandoned in the Amazon Valley of Brazil. The Reverend Thomas D. Picton, C.Ss.R., former provincial superior of the Denver Province, presented the honor to Flickinger on behalf of the Most Reverend Michael Brehl, C.Ss.R., superior general of the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer in Rome, Italy.

“Recognizing the movement of the Holy Spirit within the Church and in Redemptorist life, and seeing the great work already accomplished by those who respond to the call as lay participants in their commitment to our Congregation, we confer and wish to honor Jim Flickinger today as a Redemptorist Oblate,” said Fr. Picton.



Don't Miss the Boat – Miracle Ship is Setting Sail

Remember 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

Interested in Pursuing Religious Life

As a Redemptorist Priest or Brother

If so, please contact Fr. Tat or Brother Larry, our vocation directors in the Bronx, N.Y., through their website at redemptoristvocations.com.

If God is calling you, they will do everything they can to help you answer his call.



Update: Francis Seelos' Cause for Canonization



Church in Annapolis, MD, had been cancer-free since January 2005, even though the disease had spread to her liver, lungs, back and sternum. Medical treatment had failed. The cancer disappeared one week after she helped begin a weekly Seelos novena in her parish.

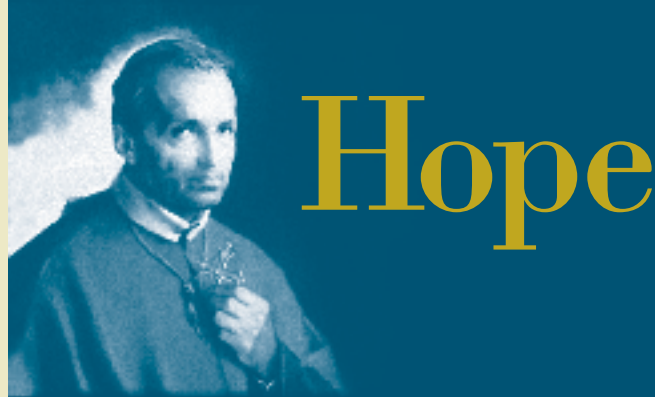
On October 11, 2010, the Redemptorist Postulator General, Reverend Antonio Marrazzo, submitted the results of this investigation to the Congregation for the Causes of the Saints at the Vatican. With the Diocesan Phase of the canonization process now complete, Fr. Marrazzo's formal petition for the Decree of Unsealing the Acts effectively begins the Roman Phase.

On September 25, 2010, the official Diocesan Inquiry into an alleged extraordinary healing through the intercession of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos was finalized. Most Reverend Edwin F. O'Brien, archbishop of Baltimore, had convoked the Diocesan Inquiry Phase in May 2009, and his Inquiry Panel members exercised the greatest diligence in gathering the necessary proofs and extensive documentation.

The fact-finding Inquiry Panel investigated the case and heard the testimony of Mary Ellen Heibel, her primary physician and nurse, and other key witnesses, concerning Heibel's cure of metastasized esophageal cancer. Heibel, a devout Catholic and parishioner of Saint Mary's

At some point in the near future, the case will undergo proper scrutiny by Vatican authorities who will determine if the cure meets the criteria for the one miracle needed in Fr. Seelos' canonization.

Fr. Byron Miller, C.Ss.R., is executive director for the National Shrine of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos in New Orleans, LA. seelos.org



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Share His Passion Through Song, Prayer Featuring Liam Neeson

You can wait to hear this beautiful production on EWTN worldwide radio on Good Friday. Or you can order your own copy today. Our guess is you won't want to wait. Go to littlelambmusic.com or call them toll free at 888.753.0333. Proceeds benefit our missions in Brazil and Nigeria.

Keeping Faith with the Faith, West Coast Style

The Denver Province has established a third mission preaching team. The West Coast Mission Team will include Fr. Bill Adams, Fr. Enrique Lopez, Fr. Anthony Nguyen and Fr. Richard Schiblin. They will conduct missions in English, Spanish and Vietnamese throughout the western region of the United States.

The new west coast team, operating out of our residence in Berkeley, CA, will begin conducting missions throughout the west in September 2011. To discuss scheduling a fall preaching event at your parish out west, please call our Redemptorist residence in Berkeley at 510.981.9005.



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