



TOGETHER FOR MISSION

A NEWSLETTER FOR PARTNERS IN MISSION

REDEMPTORIST CONFERENCE OF NORTH AMERICA

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WHAT ARE REDEMPTORIST ASSOCIATES?

Drawn by the way of life, and the spirituality of the Redemptorists, Redemptorist Associates gather regularly for prayer, Gospel reflection, faith-sharing and community. Most are already active in the life and mission of the Church, and participation in the circle of Redemptorist Associates gives the members a foundation and support, a sense of “home.”

Redemptorist Associates are offered an initial period of formation in Redemptorist spirituality, and are then enrolled.

SHOULD YOU CONSIDER BECOMING A REDEMPTORIST ASSOCIATE?

- Do you feel a need for a “spiritual home,” a spirituality that gives your life a foundation or coherence?
- Do you seek a community with whom you can share life, prayer and mission?
- Are you drawn toward the Redemptorist community and their way of life?
- Are you compelled to reach out to those to whom no one else is reaching out?
- Do you want to be “Good News” for the poor, the powerless, the wounded of our world?

If these questions speak to your heart, then you might be interested in becoming a Redemptorist Associate.



WELCOME!

Redemptorist life and ministry has never been possible without the active partnership of lay people who share and are animated by the same spirit, or charism, that drive to proclaim the Good News by witness and word to those who most need to hear it—the most abandoned, particularly the materially poor.

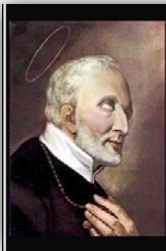
Whether you are a Redemptorist Associate, a Lay Missionary of the Most Holy Redeemer, or a professed Redemptorist, you can probably look back through your life, whether it be long or short, and trace a line of decisions and commitments that solidified and deepened this call to evangelize, and to be evangelized by, people on the margins. You might never have preached a homily, animated a mission or led a retreat, but you might be a volunteer in a food bank, a teacher of English as a second language, a catechist, a driver for cancer patients, a crisis line volunteer, a nurse, a veterinarian, an occupational therapist—the list could go on. The key point is that, in all of these occupations, you might be giving expression to a call to proclaim the Good News of hope, liberation, new life—plentiful redemption. This is the mission—all the occupations and ministries are means of accomplishing it. God has called us all to be partners in the mission of proclaiming plentiful redemption.

Prayer for Vocations to the Redemptorist Family

Provident God, You spoke your dream of plentiful redemption in Jesus Christ. Your Spirit ignited the heart of St. Alphonsus, inspiring him to found a family in the Church, dedicated to proclaiming the good news of plentiful redemption to the most abandoned. Raise up among us strong women and men of faith, afire with love for you and zeal for the mission of proclaiming your word among those who do not know you, or who need to hear your Word proclaimed anew. Guide men to respond with generosity as vowed Redemptorist priests and brothers, and women and men to serve in joy and hope as partners in the Redemptorist mission. We ask this in the name of Jesus, Your Word, who is our Life. Amen.

For more, go to www.cssr.net

A WORD FROM OUR FOUNDER...



Acquire the habit of speaking to God as if you were alone with Him, familiarly and with confidence and love, as to the dearest and most loving of friends.

(Alphonsus Liguori)

A GUIDE TO ALPHONSIAN MEDITATION

St Alphonsus Liguori is known as the "Doctor of Prayer." Here is a simple method of prayer that he taught, that anyone can follow.

Beginning: Make an act of faith and humility, and a petition for light and strength. Say a brief prayer to Mary, Joseph, your Guardian Angel and Patron Saint.

Meditation: Read a few verses from Scripture or a spiritual book. Think about what you read and what it means, or what it teaches you. Ask yourself: What have I done about this in the past? What shall I do about this now?

Act of Love: Pray for the grace to love God. Tell God that you love God.

Prayer of Petition: Pray for the graces that you need both for your daily living and for your spiritual journey.

Resolution: Make one practical resolution that you can do something about today.

Conclusion: Thank God for whatever grace you have received. Renew your resolution. Ask for the love of Jesus and Mary to keep your resolution.



FROM THE DESK OF THE CONFERENCE COORDINATOR...



Fr. Jack Kingsbury, CSsR

Dear Partners in Mission;

Continuing the long tradition that Redemptorists have in collaborating with the Laity in proclaiming the Kingdom of God, the Conference of Redemptorists in North America is taking steps to promote this "Partnership in Mission" with the creation of an office and director.

The focus and goal of "Partnership in Mission" is, of course, **mission**; so we seek people who are already engaged in the church's mission and who are attracted to [or by] the Redemptorist charism. Through association with Redemptorists and other like-minded people we hope to deepen their understanding of the Redemptorist charism as they reach out in service to the most abandoned, especially the poor.

The Redemptorists want to spread the Gospel by interacting with people wherever they are. Partnership in Mission helps the Redemptorists touch peoples' lives in new ways.

The new Office for Partnership in Mission will help the various Redemptorist Units in North America share in a common vision of reflection and structure as they minister with lay people.





PARTNERSHIP IN MISSION: ONE PERSON'S STORY

By Margie Janson
Redemptorist Associate
St. John's, NL, Canada

What drew me to the circle of Redemptorist Associates, and what keeps me there?

My husband, Joe, and I joined the circle of Redemptorist Associates at St. Teresa's Parish, St. John's, NL by way of a January 2000 formal invitation to a "Come and See" event from the Edmonton-Toronto Province Working Group on Lay Collaboration. We immediately and joyfully affirmed that we would love to join with Redemptorists and others who share the Redemptorist charism.

It was a dream come true. Having been partners with Redemptorists working in ministries within our Parish and in interdenominational programs focused on evangelization, we gained a real sense of their commitment to preaching the Good News of plenteous redemption to all, especially the poor and most abandoned.

Today, as we continue to study our Redemptorist saints and Constitutions together, we grow in greater appreciation for the Redemptorist charism and love sharing in that spirit. Monthly we enjoy Redemptorist hospitality by gathering as a community at the Rectory, sharing in a discussion, and praying together. As we leave these gatherings, we carry with us that sense of a shared mission, and we bring that with us into every part of our lives keeping us centered.



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MODELS AND MENTORS

WE COME FROM A LONG LINE OF FAITHFULNESS

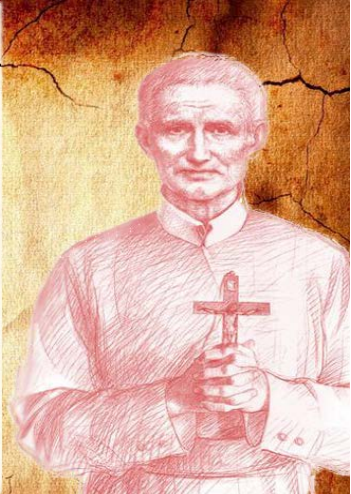
Blessed Donders

Born at Tilburg, in Holland, into a humble family, he was prevented by poverty from following his desire to be a priest until the age of 22. Then, with the help of his parish priest he entered the minor seminary of St. Michiels-Gestel as a worker-seminarist, paying the monthly fees with his wages.

He became a priest in 1841, and followed his missionary vocation by volunteering to work in Surinam, which was then a Dutch colony.

For 14 years he worked in Paramaribo, serving around 2,000 Catholics and also about 8,000 plantation slaves, some Indians, and some blacks. He then volunteered, in 1856, for the government leprosarium in Batavia, where, apart from a couple of brief spells, he remained continuously for 28 years. In 1866 he became a Redemptorist, taking his vows on June 24, 1867. He died in Batavia among his lepers, a poor man among the poor, on January 14, 1887.

John Paul II beatified him on May 23, 1982.



REFLECT AND DISCUSS...

Peter Donders' life gives powerful witness to the old saying that "God writes straight with crooked lines." In his early years, it seemed as if his dream of pursuing a call to priesthood was impossible. He was poor. He had to leave school to go to work to support his family.

- When in your life have you faced adversity?
- In the midst of it all, did you come to know God's faithfulness?

Donders' dream was realized when a kind parish priest intervened. He was accepted into the seminary, and worked his way through. God stepped into Peter Donders' life through another person.

- In your life, how has God's love and faithfulness been mediated through others?

Donders went off to mission in Latin America as a diocesan priest, and joined the Redemptorists much later.

- Have you ever thought that it was too late to change course?
- What do you see or hear in the story of Peter Donders that speaks to you?

Prayer in Honour of Blessed Peter Donders

Healing God, you showed your wonderful mercy toward lepers through Blessed Peter Donders, your priest. By his example and prayers, may we serve you through our loving care for those in greatest need. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. Amen.



CALENDAR OF REDEMPTORIST FEASTS AND COMMEMORATIONS



- January 5:** St. John Neumann
- January 14:** Blessed Peter Donders
- March 15:** St. Clement Hofbauer
- April 16:** Icon of Our Lady of Perpetual Help restored to public veneration (1866)
- June 27:** Feast day of Our Lady of Perpetual Help
- June 28:** Blessed Nicholas Charnetsky and Companions, Redemptorist martyrs of Ukraine
- June 30:** Blessed Gennaro Maria Sarnelli
- Third Sunday of July:** Feast of the Most Holy Redeemer
- August 1:** St. Alphonsus Liguori
- August 25:** Blessed Methodius Dominic Trcka, Martyr
- September 14:** Blessed Maria Celeste Crostarosa
- September 26:** Blessed Kaspar Stanggassinger
- October 5:** Blessed Francis X. Seelos
- October 16:** St. Gerard Majella
- November 6:** Redemptorist Martyrs of Cuenca, Spain
- November 9:** Founding of Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer (1732)
- December 8:** Immaculate Conception of Our Lady, Patroness of the Congregation



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