

Plentiful REDEMPTION



Redemptorist dreams

Redemptorist theology students in residence at Mission Church in Boston for the 2011-12 academic year. Inset: Students Carlyle Blake (left) and Richard Poetzel (right) with Fr. Bernard Häring at Mount St. Alphonus Seminary in Esopus, NY, circa 1964. Read more about the men in formation on [page 9](#).

PROVINCIAL'S PREFACE



Dear Friends,

Mount St. Alphonsus was our home, the place where generation after generation of young men grew up together to become a community and a family. It was the place where we grew in our understanding of what it meant to be Redemptorists. We prayed together, ate together, and studied together. We had both good times and tough times, and through it all, by the grace of God, we grew as a religious family and a community.

For the majority of the Redemptorists in our Province today, the Mount is where we were educated, where we were

formed. For some of us it is where we made our novitiate. For the majority of us it is where we publically pronounced our final vows, and where we were ordained as priests of the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer. It is the place where more young Redemptorists have been ordained to the priesthood than any other place on Earth.

It will always have a unique position in Redemptorist history and will probably always be the most famous Redemptorist seminary. The provinces of Baltimore, Campo Grande, Denver, Edmonton-Toronto, Manaus, Paraguay, Puerto Rico, Quebec and Thailand, and the vice-province of New Orleans all sent young men to be formed here.

The Mount will not be remembered as just one more scenic place among others in the Hudson Valley. Rather it will be remembered as a sacred place — a uniquely holy place. It will be remembered as a place where many of our brothers who have gone before us in service to the Lord now wait for the trumpet call of God to sound on the last day, when they will hear his voice call out: “Arise my sons and walk with me again.”

The Mount is truly a place where God walked with us — in the early morning mists down by the river, and in the quiet cool of early evenings on the sidewalks around the grey granite walls of the main building. He was with us in our joys and in our pains, in sunlight and in rain.

Let us thank our gracious God for those years when he showed us his Father’s love in the beauty of the leaves of early spring, in the powerful thunderstorms of high summer, in the coat of many colors that is the Mount every fall, and in the winter snows that have bathed it in a mantle of purest white year after year. Above all let us thank God for the

quiet beauty of the ordinary days spent here in his service, for the daily liturgies that we were privileged to celebrate in his honor in the beautiful chapel.

We thank him for the friendships that began here and have lasted for a lifetime. We thank him for the professors who spent their lives teaching us so that we could go forth as not just good priests but as well-educated priests to serve his people. We thank him for our prefects who helped form us and guide us.

We thank him for our parents and families who supported us with their encouragement, example and love, and who sacrificed to visit us here in those years when it was unheard of that a student at the Mount would leave the property while still in formation. And we thank him for the people of God that he entrusted to us to serve as we went forth from here.

We thank him for our sisters, the Redemptoristines, who have been with us at the Mount for so many years and have supported us with their prayers and their friendship. We are also grateful for the sisters who have gone before us, who alongside our brothers await the Lord’s call on the last day.

It is God’s will that his people be a pilgrim people, willing to follow him wherever he may lead. He has called us to follow him in faith. And in faith we will gladly go wherever he may ask us.

We pray that God will bless the future residents of the Mount. May this place always be for them, as it was for us, a holy place where God met with us and spoke with us in love.

Love and prayers,

Rev. Kevin Moley, C.Ss.R.

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Plentiful Redemption is distributed quarterly to friends and collaborators of the Redemptorists. We aim to tell the story of God’s bountiful love and inspire our readers to partner with us to continue spreading the Good News to all people, especially the poor and most spiritually abandoned.

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Advancing the Mission



My column in the summer edition of *Plentiful Redemption* inspired one reader to tell his own story about Redemptorists and connections. This is his story:

“*Father Phil Dabney, a Redemptorist in Boston, introduced me to a middle-aged man. He’s nobody famous. In fact, some would probably call him a nobody. He just hangs around Mission Church and does whatever someone might need him to do — whether it’s doing something for one of the priests or for a parishioner.*

The guy is probably in his 50s, not married, has no children, and has no job. He lives in a room that someone has given to him in

the neighborhood around Mission Church. He isn’t mentally ill, either. In fact, he seems quite tuned in to the world around him. Father Phil says that Charlie just lives day to day, and trusts that God will provide. He calls him a modern day St. Francis of Assisi.

Father Phil said one day he saw him walking around barefoot in the church. When told he had to put his shoes on, he told the priest he didn’t have shoes anymore. When Father inquired why, he said that he gave his shoes away to someone who didn’t have any.

Charlie was influenced by the great Mission Church Redemptorists, Fathers Manton and McDonough. Talk about the Redemptorists impacting lives!”

My thanks to Mr. Jim Seeberger (who once studied to be a Redemptorist) for sharing this reflection. We Redemptorists may be getting smaller and somewhat older; we might be making hard decisions to leave some ministries and say goodbye to cherished buildings and happy memories, but the Redemptorist charism lives on.

Thank you, our friends and donors, who help us advance the mission.

Fr. Daniel Francis, C.S.R.

Rev. Daniel Francis, C.Ss.R.



Mark Oural/Courtesy

Thank you, Tampa!

On a visit to Florida this fall, I had a chance to meet and greet friends of the Redemptorists — old and new — like Carol and Marcelo Martinez (pictured here), at a small reception in Tampa.

**Redemptorist
preaching near you!**

For updated mission
and retreat information,
visit redemptorists.net

Jan. 1-5

Our Lady of Peace
Williamstown, NJ
Fr. Bill Gaffney

Jan. 15-18

St. James
Gulfport, MS
Fr. Bill Gaffney

Jan. 15-19

St. Charles
Orlando, FL
Fr. Daniel Francis

Jan. 20-29

Epiphany
Port Orange, FL
Frs. Patrick Woods & John McGowan

Jan. 28-Feb. 2

St. Edmund
Montreal
Quebec, Canada
Fr. Kevin MacDonald

Feb. 5-9

St. Peter
Beaufort, SC
Fr. Daniel Francis

Feb. 12-16

Queen of Peace
Gainesville, FL
Fr. Daniel Francis

Feb. 19-23

Divine Mercy
Merritt Island, FL
Fr. Daniel Francis

Feb. 25-March 8

Our Lady of the Angels
Rego Park, NY
Bilingual
Frs. Alex Ortiz & Gerard Brinkmann

Feb. 26-29

St. Anastasia
Newtown Square, PA
Fr. Paul Bryan & Sr. Mary Sninsky

Feb. 26-March 1

St. Mark
Summerfield, FL
Fr. Daniel Francis

Feb. 27-29

St. Mary's
Middletown, NJ
Frs. Patrick Woods & John McGowan

March 3-8

St. Martin of Tours
Bethpage, NY
Fr. Kevin MacDonald

Continued on page 11

Neumann: A quiet, but powerful life

By Rev. Richard Boever, C.Ss.R.

Often enough it happens that the worth of an individual is never fully recognized until he or she dies. This is true even of saints. Archbishop Gaetano Bedini passed through Philadelphia at the end of July 1853, to give an opinion about St. John Neumann to a papal office in Rome. In Bedini's opinion, John Neumann's "neglect of the fashions" made him unsuited for a diocese made up of people who were so "rich, intelligent, full of life and importance." The opinion expressed by the faithful and the clergy concerning St. John five-and-a-half years later, on the day of his funeral, was quite a different assessment.

The former vicar general of the diocese spoke plainly: "He knew very well, my dear brethren, that when he came to this proud city, there were many who have wished, as an occupant of the episcopate of this Diocese, a man more according to the judgments and tastes of the world ... (Yet) he has labored through every part of the Diocese, and has undoubtedly done more for its better organization, and for the spread of piety throughout the various congregations than might have been otherwise done in ten or even twenty years by another individual." In death, the true worth of a person is finally recognized!

For three days the body of John Neumann lay in state in the Bishop's Chapel near the cathedral while the faithful solemnly paid respects to the remains in a constant flow of sincere grief. Along the route of the funeral procession to the church, the accounts reported that "roofs in every direction were completely covered with spectators and every window was lined with gazers." Archbishop Francis Patrick Kenrick of Baltimore preached at the funeral Mass: "We have reason to believe, my brethren, that after those few sighs and groans, his spirit soared on high to mingle with the saints of God." Earlier, the



Baltimore Province Archives

rector of St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, Father William O'Hara, had sent word to Rome of the bishop's death: "The American Church has suffered a great loss." Brother Christopher Froelich wrote to the Redemptorist confreres in Europe: "A man so humble and simple walked the streets without being recognized. He lived so unnoticed. Now, after his death, such grand honor is bestowed upon him from the noble and simple, from young and old, from poor and rich ... Yes, the crowds on the streets and on the roofs were tipping their hats to express their respect."

The full recognition, the sincere tip of the hat, acknowledging greatness would be finally capped when Pope Paul VI canonized St. John Neumann in 1977. In a very real sense, the canonization also gave Neumann back to us — he who walked our streets, was

concerned about our devotion, worried about the education of our children, saw to the care of the sick; he is with us, caring and always ready to help us in our needs, even unto our own day. St John Neumann, pray for us!



Fr. Boever began his acquaintance with St. John Neumann 30 years ago while writing his doctoral dissertation. He recently published a new biography, "St. John Neumann: His Writings and Spirituality," written in the first person and based on major personal documents of the saint. A member of the Denver Province, he is currently stationed at the Neumann Shrine in Philadelphia.

Editor's Note: Thank you, Fr. Boever, for celebrating the Neumann Year with us and for showing us the personal side of this bishop and saint. Our new series begins in the spring with Fr. Matthew Allman who will highlight the 180th anniversary of the Redemptorists' presence in America.

Celebrate the Neumann Year through June 2012



- Visit the Neumann Shrine (stjohnneumann.org, 215-627-3080)
- Second annual middle & high school essay contest (deadline: Feb. 13)
- Neumann Relic Tour (check online for schedule)

For more information, visit redemptorists.net/neumann

The Madonna's Lullaby

Mary sings, the ravished heavens
Hush the music of their spheres;
Soft her voice, her beauty fairer
Than the glancing stars appears:
While to Jesus, slumbering nigh,
Thus she sings her lullaby:

"Sleep, my Babe, my God,
my Treasure;
Gently sleep; but ah! the sight
With its beauty so transports me,
I am dying with delight;
Thou canst not Thy mother see,
Yet Thou breathest flames to me.

"If within your lids unfolded,
Slumbering eyes, you seem so fair;
When upon my gaze you open,
How shall I your beauty bear?
Ah! I tremble when you wake,

Lest my heart with love should break.

"Cheeks than sweetest roses sweeter,
Mouth where lurks a smile divine,
Though the kiss my Babe should waken,
I must press those lips to mine.
Pardon, Dearest, if I say
Mother's love will take no nay."

As she ceased, the gentle Virgin
Clasped the Infant to her breast,
And, upon his radiant forehead
Many a loving kiss impressed,
Jesus woke and on her face
Fixed a look of heavenly grace.

Ah! that look, those eyes, that beauty,
How they pierce the Mother's heart!



ROMA

Shafts of love from every feature
Through her gentle bosom dart.
Heart of stone! can I behold
Mary's love, and still be cold?

Where, my soul, thy sense, thy reason?
When will these delays be o'er?
All things else, how fair so ever,
Are but smoke: resist no more!

Yes! 'tis done! I yield my arms
Captive to those double charms.
If, alas, O heavenly beauty!
Now so late those charms I learn,
Now at least, and ever, ever
With thy love my heart will burn,
For the Mother and the Child,
Rose and Lily undefiled.

Plant and fruit, and fruit and blossom,
I am theirs, and they are mine;
For no other prize I labor,
For no other bliss I pine.
Love can every pain requite,
Love alone is full delight.

From The Incarnation, Birth and Infancy of Jesus Christ by St. Alphonsus Liguori, edited by Rev. Eugene Grimm, C.Ss.R.



Neumann Year Closing

Saturday, June 23, 2012
Cathedral Basilica of Sts. Peter & Paul
Philadelphia, PA

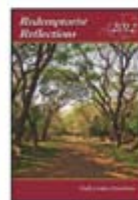
Mass at 2 p.m.
Ticketed reception immediately following
(Ticket price of \$25 will help defray reception costs.)

For more information, visit
redemptorists.net/neumann
or call toll-free 877-876-7662.

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redemptorists.net/store

Our Mother of Perpetual Help Gift Pack \$15 (includes shipping & handling)

Each pack contains:
2 novena booklets
5 Memorare prayer cards
5 blank note cards
1 magnet
2 bumper stickers
1 5x7 print
10 blank thank you cards
5 Icon explanation leaflets



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\$5 (includes shipping & handling)
Reflections written by Redemptorists
and our associates. In English and Spanish.

Available in February 2012

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The main chapel at Mount St. Alphonsus.

The Mount: A place of mission

By Michael Sweeney

More than 400 years ago, explorer Henry Hudson sailed up the river connecting New York City and Albany. In mid-September 1609, his ship sailed by a plot of land that was then inhabited by Esopus Indians. On the west bank of the river that would later bear his name, Hudson saw a piece of land that would one day transform thousands of lives.

During the next several hundred years, the land was cleared and farmed. Eventually, the Robert Livingston Pell family purchased the property. Their farm, which featured more than 25,000 apple trees, became known as one of the finest in the United States. Some of the fruit grown on their land was sent to European markets.

In the early 1900s, the land that fed so many people began to feed people in a new way. The Redemptorists, searching for a place to build a new seminary, viewed pieces of property in Connecticut and Pennsylvania before settling in Esopus, NY. There they established Mount St. Alphonsus, "The Mount." The Redemptorists bought the Pell farm for \$57,000 and spent four years constructing the castle-like building that became a second home to thousands of young men studying to become Redemptorist priests.

The Redemptorists built the Mount with massive amounts of granite shipped up the Hudson River from their quarry in Maryland. The building is more than 400 feet long and 60 feet high with granite

walls more than three feet thick in some places.

The completed 200,000-square-foot building contained more than 200 rooms, including bedrooms, a library, an auditorium, dining room and kitchen, classrooms and the jewel of the building, its cathedral-esque chapel. In more than 75 years as a seminary, more than 1,300 men were ordained to the priesthood in the Mount chapel.

In its seminary days, the Mount's hundreds of acres of rolling fields continued as a working farm, with cattle, horses, pigs and chickens being raised along with crops of corn, potatoes, apples and grapes. The grapes were used to produce the wine used at Masses.

In 1926, a convent was built south of

ROMA



Redemptoristine Nuns at prayer in their convent at the Mount.

the main building for the Sisters of St. Elizabeth. The sisters cooked for the seminarians and the permanent Redemptorist community, and also helped with laundry. The sisters eventually moved on from the Mount, and their convent was torn down. In 1960, another convent was built for the Redemptoristine Nuns, the sister order of the Redemptorists, who continue to live at the Mount.

Over the years, the number of seminarians steadily declined. In 1985, only 16 remained at the Mount, so the Redemptorists moved their students to Washington, D.C. At that point, the building that had been closed to the public opened its doors for retreats for lay people. With the exception of a small plot of apple trees, the land was no longer farmed.

For more than 25 years, an estimated 250,000 retreatants from all over the world, especially from the greater New York City area, came to the

Mount for periods of time ranging from a few hours to several days. Eventually, the Mount extended invitations to non-Christian retreats and non-religious conferences to use the facilities.

All told, it is believed that

millions of people have been taught and touched by the lessons contained within the walls of Mount St. Alphonsus.

In January, another chapter begins for the Mount. The Redemptorists will end their retreat ministry there and

On the Web

Visit redemptorists.net to view more photos and memories of the Mount.

See page 11 for additional photos

plan to lease the property. The Redemptorists and the Redemptoristine Nuns will continue to temporarily live on the property during a transition period.

In the end, God granted use of the land to the Redemptorists for more than 100 years. Now he has given all of those that have graced the hallways of Mount St. Alphonsus the command to go out and share its lessons and blessings with the world. His will be done!

Michael Sweeney is executive director of Mount St. Alphonsus Retreat Center.



Redemptorists at the Mount circa 1953/54.

Baltimore Province Archives

A lasting gift of love

By Elizabeth Góral-Makowski

“This is My Body. This is My Blood.” Every time a priest celebrates Mass and prays these words, Our Redeemer’s love is made truly present. Simple bread and wine become the real living presence of Christ on earth.

As Catholics, we believe the Mass is the most perfect form of prayer. The Mass reminds us that our lives need to be centered on the person, Word, and being of Jesus Christ. Good and faithful priests make that possible.

The world needs priests. And even at a time when scandal and crisis buffet the Church, there are courageous men who come forward, and say “yes” to God’s call to serve. In the United States and the English-speaking Caribbean, there are currently 28 men studying to be Redemptorist priests.

We are grateful that this coming year, Kevin Bellot, a native of the Commonwealth of Dominica, West Indies, will be ordained a priest. We invite you to share in his priestly life in a special way. We are asking you and friends of the Redemptorists for contributions to help form a chalice that he will use and that will hold the sacred Body and Blood of Christ. The chalice will be pewter, lined in gold, and will be presented to Kevin on his ordination day.

The chalice will be a reminder to him of all who have prayed and supported him through his education and formation as a Redemptorist. Each time he raises the chalice he will be lifting up your prayers and intentions as well.

Your gift will help create the chalice as well as support seminary education. You will help form future priests, who, one day, will invite others to realize that we are all formed in God’s love.

To make a donation, please use the enclosed envelope and check “seminarian education.” You can also give safely and

securely online or become a monthly sustaining donor by visiting us at redemptorists.net.

Even if you cannot make a contribution, please pray for all priests. Please pray for vocations, especially to the religious life and the Redemptorists. God works through your prayers to bring more and more people to know his bountiful love. Thank you!

Elizabeth Góral-Makowski is director of development for the Redemptorists of the Baltimore Province.

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.



ROMA

On the Web

Kevin Bellot was ordained a transitional deacon in October, and will be serving in the Caribbean. Visit redemptorists.net for regular updates from Kevin about his activities and reflections leading up to his priestly ordination next summer.



Kevin Bellot (second from right) was ordained a deacon in October.

What tomorrow may bring

By Rev. Richard Bennett, C.Ss.R.

My sixth-grade teacher would correct me for staring aimlessly out the classroom window. “Oh, Mr. Bennett? Are you with us today or are you lost in space?” I was caught red-handed! Daydreaming, fantasizing about my future, and wondering what tomorrow might bring.

Although I wasn’t engaged in the task at hand that day, I believe all of us have a natural, human interest in our future. We will be forever fascinated with films that tap into the future and the unknown. Films like *2001: A Space Odyssey*, *Star Wars*, *Star Trek*, and *Independence Day* will always capture our imaginations.

We want to know. And so we seek out horoscopes, fortune tellers, fortune cookies, and we turn to prayer. We ask God, through the guidance of his Holy Spirit, to help us navigate the journey that lies ahead — what could be, what might be — into the limitless possibilities of a hope-inspired future.

We all look toward the future and wonder what our lives will look like. The men discerning a call to the religious life as Redemptorist priests or brothers are asking those same questions, too. They’re staring out the window and wondering where God is leading us and what tomorrow might bring.

Years ago, the men in Redemptorist formation all went through one, enclosed seminary system. After graduating from eighth grade, most 14-year-old boys were sent to St. Mary’s High School Seminary in North East, PA. Many of the seminarians would occupy entire train cars as they traveled from Boston or New York City. How many of them spent that long ride daydreaming out the window?

Prior to 1964, students completed high school and two years of college at St. Mary’s before continuing to Mount St. Alphonus in Esopus, NY to finish college and graduate work, and to prepare for ordination. After 1964, the students attended St. Alphonus College in Suffield, CT followed by their final years of theological study and ordination at the Mount. Thousands of men passed through the Redemptorist formation system; more than 1,300 of them were ordained to the priesthood in the Mount’s chapel. How many of them stood on the banks of the Hudson River or looked out from the rooftops of the Mount and dreamed about the future?

Today’s formation system is quite different. In years past, seminarians often entered from large families, they came from a supportive culture and entered with large numbers of classmates. Today, candidates typically come from small families, from a society and culture that is repeatedly unsupportive and sometimes even hostile toward them. Entrance classes are small.

In a self-contained system, seminarians would simply roll out of bed and walk down the hall to attend their classes. Today’s Redemptorist seminarians pile into vans every day and



Stephen Kessinger/Courtesy

commute to and from a major university where the academic classes are much larger, and filled with students that vary in ethnicity, age, gender, and sometimes diverse religious beliefs. In the past, there was rarely much insight into ecumenical perspectives, or talk of how women might see and understand an issue differently. Both are commonplace today.

Advances in technology have brought sweeping changes as well. Students used to spend hours in the library. Today, a student may choose not to leave his seat, finding the necessary information with a laptop computer and a wireless Internet connection.

For all the technological advances and cultural changes, the daydreams of yesterday’s students and today’s are remarkably alike. Yesterday’s Redemptorist seminarian looked out the window and imagined a future spent taking the good news of plentiful redemption to every isolated village and poor farmer’s hut he could find. He envisioned a life spent praying with people, bringing God’s love to a hurting and lost world. He dreamed of following in the footsteps of saints.

Today’s students have the same dreams.

Our seminarians still learn to pray within an environment that cultivates and supports a fruitful prayer life, a vital life that will deepen their relationship to Christ. Students learn to strike a delicate balance between their academic, communal, and pastoral responsibilities following the rich legacy of St. Alphonus and a strong lineage of Redemptorist saints and martyrs. They come with a passion and zeal to serve the poorest of their brothers and sisters in Christ, and they learn to follow Our Redeemer’s example of generosity and plentiful redemption for all.

Today, we Redemptorists continue to be fascinated by the future, to stare out the window and daydream about where God might take us next. For those who embrace the charism of our religious life, the reward Christ promises is something “out of this world!”

Fr. Bennett is vocations director for the Baltimore Province.



Rev. Joseph Oppitz, C.Ss.R.

Born: August 12, 1926
Professed: August 2, 1948
Ordained: June 21, 1953
Died: October 6, 2011

Redemptorist author, missionary, pastor, professor, and priest who survived the sinking of the *Andrea Doria*, Father Joseph William Oppitz died October 6 under the care of his religious community at the St. John Neumann Residence at Stella Maris in Timonium, MD.

From 1954-56 he studied at the Angelicum in Rome where he received his doctoral degree in philosophy. For nearly 22 years he taught at various levels in the province formation system and at Dunbarton College in Washington, D.C.

The last 20 years or so of his active ministry were spent in parish work and mission preaching in Philadelphia; Baltimore; Annapolis, MD; Ephrata, PA; Pittsburgh; and Canandaigua, NY. He retired in February 2000, first to the St. John Neumann Residence in Saratoga Springs, NY and finally to Stella Maris.

His enthusiasm when preaching and teaching had a riveting effect on his listeners. No

one ever fell asleep when Father Oppitz was in the pulpit or in the classroom. He introduced students to the importance of making fine distinctions. When he taught ethics he offered practical examples of the principle of double effect, and when he taught philosophy he expounded on the difference among essence, form, matter, substance, and accidents. But above all he provided his pupils to learn how to think and to never be afraid to wallow in “wonder,” which he insisted was the beginning of true wisdom.

Father Oppitz is perhaps most fondly remembered for his captivating rendition of what he called “The Sinking of the *Andrea Doria*: One Man’s Story,” his personal account of surviving the sinking of the ocean liner that went down off the coast of Nantucket, MA, in July 1956.

Father John “Jack” Smyth, a Redemptorist missionary who spent 20 years in Brazil before bringing that same passion for souls to the home missions and parish work in the U.S., died November 3 at the St. John Neumann Residence at Stella Maris in Timonium, MD.

Father Smyth was born in Pittsburgh, PA and spent the first 20 years of his priesthood in the missions in Brazil. He began working in Guaratuba in 1966, and continued to serve in South America for the next nineteen years in Ponta Pora, Aquidauana, Tibagi, and Ponta Grossa. After returning to the United States in 1984, Father Smyth joined the home mission team, preaching parish missions throughout the Eastern seaboard and the Caribbean.

In 1995 he was transferred to the Vice-Province of Richmond where he served in Hilton Head, SC; Griffin, GA; Concord, NC; Venice, FL; Wauchula, FL; and New Smyrna

Beach, FL. He was the last superior of Holy Family Retreat House in Hampton, VA. In addition to these varied pastoral responsibilities he also served the Vice-Province in an administrative capacity as a consultor and vicar.

“What stands out most in my mind was his deep spirituality,” said fellow confrere and classmate Father Frank Nelson. “This wasn’t always obvious because Father Jack liked to sport a bravado exterior. But the truth is that he made a holy hour every day and never missed his private devotions. I’m sure most folks didn’t see this side of him and I doubt that he would want them to. But they did see the fruit of his prayer life — his priestly dedication. People knew there was something special about him and they never forgot him. Even when he was gone from this parish for over three years, people asked about him every day.”



Rev. John Smyth, C.Ss.R.

Born: March 13, 1938
Professed: August 2, 1959
Ordained: June 21, 1964
Died: November 3, 2011

“Let us not lose the beautiful crown which I see prepared for everyone who lives in observance and dies in the Congregation.” — St. Alphonsus Liguori

“IN THE FOOTSTEPS” OF ALPHONSUS

Redemptorist Preaching

(from page 3)

March 4-7

St. Joseph
Danville, PA
Fr. Paul Bryan & Sr. Mary Sninsky

March 4-8

St. Ann
Clayton, NC
Fr. Daniel Francis

March 10-15

St. Bernard
Levittown, NY
Frs. Patrick Woods & John McGowan

Holy Name
New Rochelle, NY
Fr. Kevin MacDonald

March 11-14

Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Bernardsville, NJ
Fr. Paul Bryan & Sr. Mary Sninsky

March 11-15

St. Paul
Cranston, RI
Fr. Bill Gaffney

March 17-22

St. Joan of Arc
Spring Hill, FL
Fr. Kevin MacDonald

March 17-29

St. Mary of the Annunciation
Boston, MA
Bilingual
Frs. Alex Ortiz & Gerard Brinkmann

March 18-21

St. Bartholomew
Philadelphia, PA
Fr. Paul Bryan & Sr. Mary Sninsky

March 18-22

St. Bonaventure
Davies, FL
Fr. Daniel Francis

March 24-29

Mary Help of Christians
Parkland, FL
Fr. Kevin MacDonald

March 25-28

St. Luke/St. Andrew
Ocean City, MD
Fr. Paul Bryan & Sr. Mary Sninsky

March 25-29

St. Gregory
Plantation, FL
Fr. Daniel Francis

May 19-23

St. Christopher
Kent Island, MD
Fr. Daniel Francis

To schedule a mission at your parish,
have your pastor contact Fr. Daniel
Francis at missions@redemptorists.net
or call 877-876-7662.



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A century of blessings

Thousands of souls have found welcome, love, and healing at Mount St. Alphonsus. The Redemptorists have been blessed by the people who have shared this place with us and we pray for them and for all of you. May we all keep our eyes fixed on Our Redeemer as we continue to follow in his footsteps.





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MINI MEDITATION

At the red light

By Rev. Andrew Costello, C.Ss.R.

Sometimes a red light seems like it takes forever.

Sometimes she didn't dare to play music in her car. A love song from the past would drive her to tears and to anger. So she just sat there in a silent car with nothing but her own thoughts.

Sometimes a red light seems like it takes forever.

She looked in the rear view mirror and the couple in the car behind her was laughing, laughing, laughing. She couldn't hear them, but she could see they were laughing.

It was a life changing moment, that very moment at that red light.

She had heard about such moments. Just last week at Mass she even prayed for such a moment. She had been angry for 3 years and 3 months now — ever since he walked out on her for another woman. Everyone said, "Get a good lawyer. Better: get the best lawyer. Soak him. Teach him a lesson!"



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She did and she made him pay. "Hey," she thought, "I have this brand new car. I never had one of these before, especially when the kids were still with us and

hadn't gone off to college with their bills. Then they drove off into their own lives."

A good car, a house that was paid for, money, it all helped, but nothing was a substitute for sitting in a car with another — your husband — laughing and traveling the roads of life together.

Sometimes a red light seems like it takes forever.

Just then she spotted a bumper sticker on the car in front of her. It had just 3 words, "Life is good!"

The light turned green. It was then and there — in that split second — under that light that she decided, "Enough's enough! From now on I'm going to enjoy life."

And that she did for the rest of her life. And after that she never ever minded red lights. Even if sometimes they seemed to take forever.

To read more of Fr. Andy's work and some homilies, visit his blog at <http://reflectbay.blogspot.com>.