



THE CHARISMATIC FAMILY SOME AREAS TO CONSIDER AS WE GROW

Anne Walsh – CMSM Pre-Assembly 2022

(using the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer as a Case Study)

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PONDER AND DISCUSS...

- When you hear the term “Charismatic Family” what response is evoked within you?



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WE ARE



Strong in faith, rejoicing in hope,
burning with charity, on fire with zeal,
in humility of heart and persevering in prayer.

The Redemptorist Family as missionary apostles and genuine disciples of Saint Alphonsus follow Christ the Redeemer with hearts full of joy; denying themselves and always ready to undertake what is demanding, they share in the mystery of Christ and proclaim it in Gospel simplicity of life and language, that they may proclaim plentiful redemption by witness and word to all.

#RedemptoristFamily #Mission #Together #Vocation

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CHARISMS: GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT TO THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD

- All over the world, we witness a growth of evangelical, mission-oriented relationships between the laity and professed religious of countless institutes.
- Charisms are gifts of the Holy Spirit to the Church and the world, gifts to be poured out for mission.
- Thus, it is not the Institute that opens the doors to the laity to participate in the same missionary charism, but rather it is the Spirit who opens the door, granting to certain laity the same gift-- the charism of proclaiming plentiful redemption
- By the very diversity of our Redemptorist Family, we proclaim God's bounteous love and Christ's plentiful redemption.

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GRASS ROOTS MOVEMENT, CONGREGATIONAL PRIORITY, OR MOVEMENT OF THE SPIRIT?

- There has to be a happy meeting of all three dimensions
- The movement of the Spirit can certainly be in the present, but there may also be a return to the sources, to re-discover the wellspring
- Structures are vital



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PARTNERSHIP IN MISSION IN RECENT REDEMPTORIST HISTORY AND DOCUMENTS

- In the Beginning: St. Alphonsus and St. Clement Hofbauer
- The *Constitutions and Statutes* of the C.Ss.R
- Final Document of the XXI General Chapter (1991)
- *Communicanda 4: Collaboration between the Redemptorist Community and the Laity* (1995)
- *Called into Communion for Mission* (2009)
- The XXV General Chapter (2016)
- *Communicanda 1, Revitalizing our Vita Apostolica* (2017)
- *General Directory for Partnership in Mission* (2020)
- *Ratio Formationis for Partnership in Mission* (2021)



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WHY PARTNERSHIP IN MISSION?

- Partnership *in* Mission is Partnership *for* Mission.
- Partnership is not an end itself; it is never the goal. The goal is the ever more effective proclamation of the Good News of plentiful redemption to the most abandoned.
- Together, all the members of the Redemptorist Family, professed, ordained and lay, are witnesses of the Redeemer in a wounded world.
- A vision of true partnership in and for mission goes beyond friendship, and beyond seeing each other as collaborators or coworkers in the vineyard. All members of the Redemptorist Family share the charism of St. Alphonsus and those who have followed him, and live it fully according to their varied callings and states of life.

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PARTNERSHIP *IN* MISSION IS PARTNERSHIP *FOR* MISSION

In the Redemptorist Context, we distinguish 3 types of priorities:

■ **Missionary Priorities**

- Answer the question: *To whom are we sent?*
 - The Materially Poor;
 - Youth and Young Adults;
 - Migrants, and those affected by the mass movement of peoples, including those left behind;
 - Victims of human trafficking;
 - Victims of violence, racism and intolerance;
 - Those who are excluded, on the peripheries of society, and often, on the margins of the Church; and
 - Africa and Madagascar

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PARTNERSHIP *IN* MISSION IS PARTNERSHIP *FOR* MISSION

- **Apostolic Priorities**
 - Answer the question: *What we do or what we offer* in order to serve those to whom we are sent?
- **Fundamental Priorities**
 - Those which are essential to support and carry out the Mission.
 - Partnership in Mission,
 - Formation,
 - Community Life,
 - Leadership and
 - Financial Sustainability.

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AN EXAMPLE THE REDEMPTORIST FAMILY FORMS OF BELONGING

THE CONGREGATION OF THE MOST HOLY REDEEMER (The professed members)
THE ORDER OF THE MOST HOLY REDEEMER
LAY MISSIONARIES OF THE MOST HOLY REDEEMER AND
GROUPS OF REDEMPTORIST LAITY/ASSOCIATES (Associates, Confraternities, Associations of former students, Members of affiliated or inspired NGOs)
LAY COLLABORATORS (Employees, Benefactors, People who collaborate in parishes, shrines, missionary centres, etc, Relatives and friends)
OBLATES

The nature, duration and depth of formation may differ, depending on the form of belonging, but there must be a consistent core

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FOLLOWING CHRIST THE REDEEMER

► Following Christ the Redeemer as the Source of our Being

- All members of the Redemptorist Family, professed and lay, share a common purpose, which is "follow the ex-ample of Jesus Christ, the Redeemer, by preaching the word of God to the poor, as he declared of himself: 'He sent me to preach the Good News to the poor'." (Constitution 1)
- This common call is rooted in a profound, meaningful and life-changing encounter with the person of Jesus Christ, who we experience as Friend, Companion and Redeemer.

► Vocation

- This encounter with the person of Jesus propels inward in relationship with Him, and also outward in loving service, as companions to all, particularly the wounded of our world, proclaiming the Good News of plentiful redemption in deed and in word.

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RECIPROCAL RELATIONSHIPS: DISCOVERING NEW FACETS OF THE CHARISM

► The Gift of the Professed Members

- Professed Members share with lay people the gift of the *source of the charism* with its radical strength and equally radical orientations.

► Identifying Laity who Embody the Charism: Mutual Discernment

- Lay partners in mission offer religious the gift of *daily immersion in the joys, hopes and challenges of the world*, which flows from their baptismal commitment, and
- they promote the mission primarily in the secular web of the world.

► Today, there is a new awareness of the integral and vital importance of partnership in mission between professed members and Christ's lay faithful.

► In the spirit of the *Constitutions and Statutes* of the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer it can be said that, as a Redemptorist Family:

- ... together we "continue" today the "example" of the Redeemer in the evangelization of the poor. (*Communicanda 4, Collaboration Between the Redemptorist Community and the Laity: Guidelines and Norms* (1995) # 42)

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PONDER AND DISCUSS...

- Where are you or your own charismatic family along the path toward true partnership in and for mission?



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**IT MAY HELP TO ENGAGE IN
SOME SERIOUS, COLLABORATIVE REFLECTION
ON PRINCIPLES AND STRUCTURES THAT
SUPPORT PARTNERSHIP IN MISSION**



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FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLES: COMMUNION AND MISSION

➤ **Communion**

- Religious and lay people must start from this concept in order to move forward together. This means that both will respect and value the other's call.
- The primacy of prayer and the tradition of meditation will be evident in the lives of Redemptorists and those who share their charism.
- Redemptorists and partners in mission will be in communion with one another in the search for the face of God.

➤ **Mission**

- Since the Redemptorist community exists for mission, those who share the charism and labour with professed Redemptorists in the vineyard of the Lord are "partners in mission". They are not simply "helpers." They exercise their baptismal responsibility in shared mission with professed Redemptorists.

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WORKING PRINCIPLES:

(from the CSsR Constitutions and Statutes)



➤ **Principle of Co-Responsibility**

- All those involved in the Redemptorist mission are taken into account when it comes to discerning, planning, executing and evaluating in service to the mission. Thus, professed Redemptorists, in collaboration with lay partners in mission, share responsibility for carrying out the mission of the Congregation.

➤ **Principle of Decentralization**

- Local issues concerning partnership in mission should be addressed within the local unit. If and when this is not possible, issues are referred to a higher level.

➤ **The Principle of Collegiality and Synodality**

- Decisions and tasks with respect to the mission must be undertaken in communion, and not arbitrarily by any party.

➤ **Principle of Subsidiarity**

- As much as possible, human needs and corresponding decisions about them should be met by local institutions.

➤ **Principle of Solidarity**

- Solidarity implies communion and equality of partnership among those serving the mission and those being served (without dividing these into 'separate' groups).

➤ **Principle of Adaptability**

- The Redemptorist Family exists for Mission and, therefore, is always open to restructuring so as to enable the Charism and the demands of Apostolic Life to be put into practice, with renewed fruitfulness, in every time and place.

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FOSTERING SAFE ENVIRONMENTS AND PROTECTION OF MINORS AND VULNERABLE ADULTS

- The protection of minors and of vulnerable persons must be seen as an integral part of our proclamation of the Good News.
- Creating and maintaining safe environments for all is one of the means through which all members of the Charismatic Family care for the most vulnerable, and are authentic witnesses, proclaiming through our deeds and words Christ's love, healing, and reconciliation.
- All members of the Charismatic Family must know and implement the policy on safeguarding of the Congregation and of the Unit in which they are affiliated.

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STRUCTURES SUPPORTING, FURTHERING AND DEEPENING PARTNERSHIP IN MISSION

- **AT THE LEVEL OF THE CONGREGATION OF THE MOST HOLY REDEEMER**
 - Permanent Office
 - General Commission for Partnership in Mission
- **AT THE LEVEL OF THE CONFERENCE**
 - Commission for Partnership in Mission
 - Assembly of the Laity of the Conference
- **AT THE LEVEL OF THE UNIT**
 - Commission for Partnership in Mission
 - Tasks
 - Leadership
 - Membership
 - Assemblies of Redemptorist Partners in Mission
 - Assemblies of Lay Missionaries of the Most Holy Redeemer
 - Network of Groups of Redemptorist Laity/Redemptorist Associates
 - Participation of Laity in Unit Retreats and Chapters/Assemblies
- **AT THE LEVEL OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY**

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PONDER AND DISCUSS...

- What have you experienced that is affirming?
 - What has challenged you?
 - What gives you hope?



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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.

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