

# PARTNERSHIP IN MISSION CONGREGATION OF THE MOST HOLY REDEEMER

REDEMPTORIST ASSOCIATES

—

PARTNERS IN THE MISSION  
OF PROCLAIMING  
PLENTIFUL REDEMPTION  
TO THE MOST ABANDONED,  
PARTICULARLY THE  
MATERIALLY POOR



# WHAT'S A REDEMPTORIST ASSOCIATE?

- *Redemptorist Associates* are those lay people, secular clergy or members of other religious communities who have been invited into a circle of Redemptorist Associates connected with some Redemptorist missionary centre, group or project.
- Redemptorist Associates live out their commitments in independent lifestyles, answering the call to proclaim the Good News of plentiful redemption within the context of their daily lives.
- Having participated in a process of initial formation, they are enrolled as Redemptorist Associates. Circles of Redemptorist Associates meet regularly for the purposes of fostering a stronger spiritual growth and a more explicit commitment to the evangelization of the poor, exploring Redemptorist charism and spirituality. They may share in some aspect of the Redemptorist Mission.

# REDEMPTORIST ASSOCIATES

- Redemptorist Associates feel called to and drawn toward Redemptorists, Redemptorist charism and spirituality.
- They do not seek more involvement in ministry; rather, they seek a “spiritual home,” and environment in which they can be strengthened and empowered to do better what they are already doing.
- Already drawn to and offering service to the poor and abandoned, they seek coherence and support as they live out this call within the Redemptorist family.



# Word of God...

Luke 4:16-20

# PONDER AND DISCUSS

## What did you hear?



- Turn to a neighbour and share your reflections...

# THERE ARE MANY FACETS OF JESUS CHRIST...



- Each facet is a charism, a gift of God which is poured out into the world in Jesus...
- And in His Church
- Each religious community is oriented toward one facet or charism.

# CHARISM

- What does the word “charism” mean for you?
- Charisms are gifts of the Holy Spirit to the Church.
- Charisms are gifts through which Jesus remains alive and active in the Church and in the world.

# THE REDEMPTORIST FACET OF THE DIAMOND

- TO EVANGELIZE THE POOR AND BE EVANGELIZED BY THE POOR
- JESUS IS THE DIAMOND– THIS IS ONE FACET OF HIS BEING
- TODAY, REDEMPTORISTS SHOW THIS FACET TO THE WORLD
- How have you experienced being drawn to and by the poor in your own life?
- How have you seen vowed Redemptorists living this out?
- What has struck a chord within you?



# CHARISM and IDENTITY are closely linked...

- God calls in my deepest being
- God calls through who I am
- God calls through my gifts, talents, skills and training
- God calls through other people
- God calls through my weaknesses and inabilities, through my “holes”
- God calls through life experience
- My vocation is the response I make, with my whole life, to this call of God

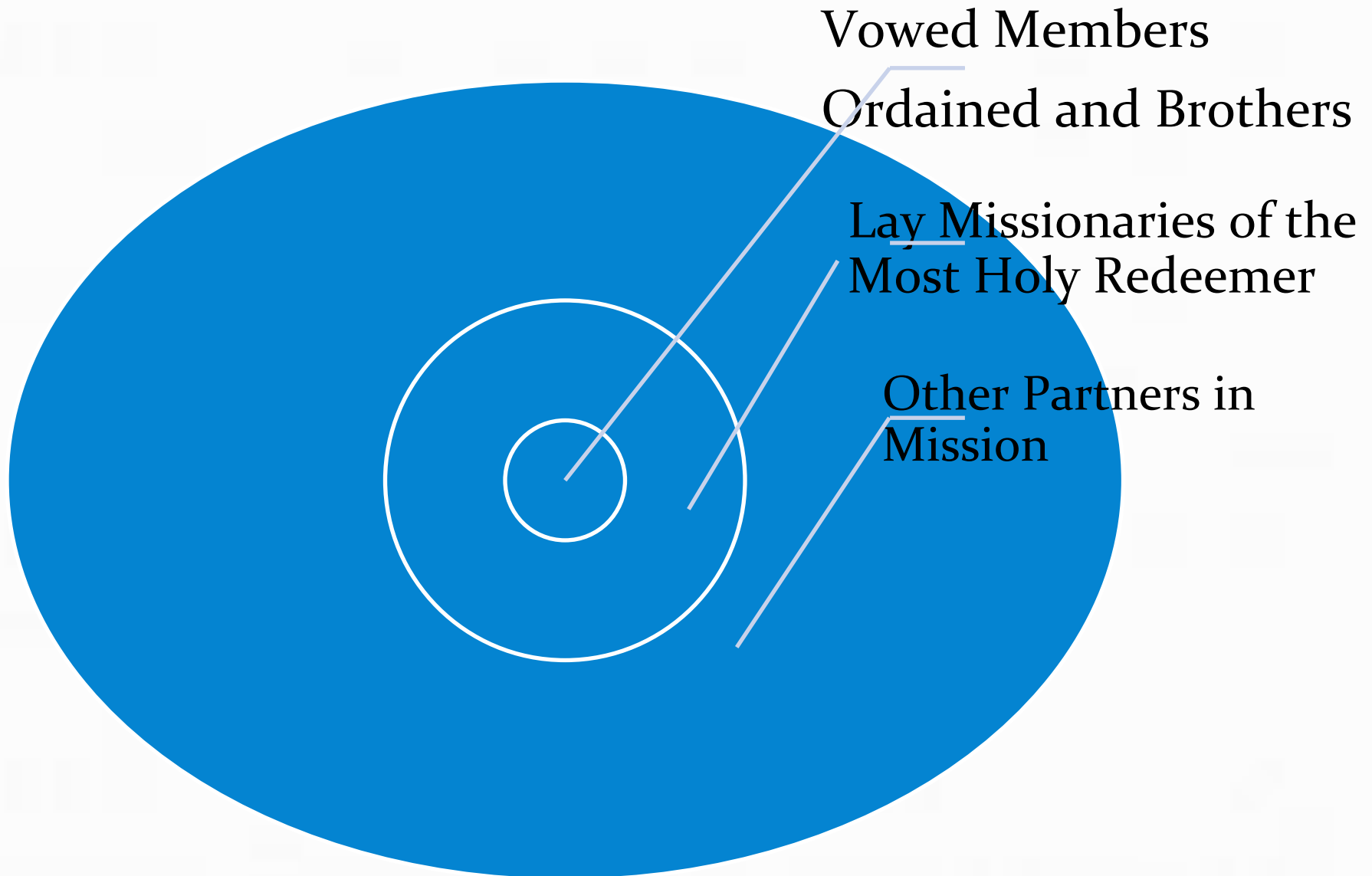
# THE “EVANGELICAL FAMILY”

The evangelical family constitutes a community of belonging, not in the sense of a life under the same roof, but in that of interdependent proximity which is rooted in the welcoming and implementation of a particular aspect of the Gospel, of a certain face of Jesus Christ...

What drives the different ways of living the privileged evangelical aspect is to witness, to participate in the same mission. [\[1\]](#)

[\[1\]](#) Laurent Boisvert. *Charism: An Evangelical Visage to Incarnate and Manifest* (Québec: Éditiones Franciscaines, 1994), p. 44

# THE REDEMPTORIST IMAGE: CONCENTRIC CIRCLES OF BELONGING



# 1. VISION... SEEING OR PERCEIVING

- Perceiving the Gospel from one particular aspect.
- In the case of the evangelical family to which you have been called, the Redemptorist Family, what would this aspect be?
- What aspect of the Gospel has become the “lens” through which you view the world?
- How does the evangelical “Redemptorist family” perceive, read or interpret the Gospel?
- How is your way of reading the Gospel shaped by your vocation as Redemptorist Partners in Mission?

# HOW THE REDEMPTORIST FAMILY READS THE GOSPEL



# CONSTITUTION

## 1



- The Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer, founded by Saint Alphonsus, is a clerical missionary religious Institute of pontifical right, enjoying the privilege of exemption, and having members belonging to various rites.
- Its purpose is to "follow the example 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'."
- In this way the Congregation shares the mandate given to the Church, which, since it is the universal sacrament of salvation, is missionary of its very nature.

# Who are the most abandoned?

- Constitution 3. The most abandoned, to whom in particular the Congregation is sent, are;
  - those for whom the Church has not yet been able to provide sufficient means of salvation,
  - those who have never heard the Church's message, or at least do not receive it as the "Good News",
  - and finally those who suffer harm because of division in the Church.
- Among whom and for whom do you proclaim Good News?

# CONSTITUTION 4



- Among groups of people more in need of spiritual help, they will give special attention to:
- the poor,
- the deprived and
- the oppressed.
- The evangelization of these is a sign of messianic activity (cf. Luke 4:18), and Christ, in a certain sense, wished to identify himself with them (cf. Matt. 25:40).



# CONSTITUTION 5

- Preference for situations where there is pastoral need, that is, for evangelization in the strict sense together with the choice in favour of the poor is the very reason why the Congregation exists in the Church, and is the badge of its fidelity to the vocation it has received.
- Indeed the Congregation's mandate to evangelize the poor is directed to the liberation and salvation of the whole human person.
- The members have the duty of preaching the Gospel explicitly and of showing solidarity with the poor by promoting their fundamental rights to justice and freedom.
- The means employed must be effective and at the same time consistent with the Gospel.

# INCARNATION– LIVING FROM THE ASPECT OF THE GOSPEL THAT ANIMATES US



## 2. INCARNATION... LIVING

- INCARNATION means living the Gospel from the aspect that gives you life, that draws you.
- INCARNATION means that God continues to take on flesh in us.
- In the case of the Redemptorist “family,” what is distinctive about the way the professed members choose to live?
- How do Partners in Mission share this way of living?
- How is your way of living shaped by your being a Redemptorist Partner in Mission?

# MISSION

- What is the mission of the Redemptorist family?
- How are you called to live out this mission in and through your daily life?
- What does this actually look like in your life?
- How can vowed Redemptorists and Partners in Mission complement each other on the path?



# 4. FRUITFULNESS...

## GROWTH AND FLOWERING

- “Fruitfulness” has to do with how we build up and nurture the Reign of God through the witness we bear.
- This would have to do with the expansion of the institute through the incorporation of professed members as well as the inclusion in the “family” of associates or Partners in Mission.
- Today, in North America, there are over 57,000 lay associates of religious communities.

# FRUITFULNESS...

- Do you see the development and flowering of the relationship between Professed Redemptorists and Partners in Mission as “new life” for the community? ... for the Church? ... for the world?
- What fruit do you see being borne?
- How do you think that your being a Partner in Mission bear fruit in daily living?

# MOVING FORWARD ON THE PATH...



- With what hope are you going forth from this place?
- What are you willing to do to make this hope an ever more present reality?

# 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.

