



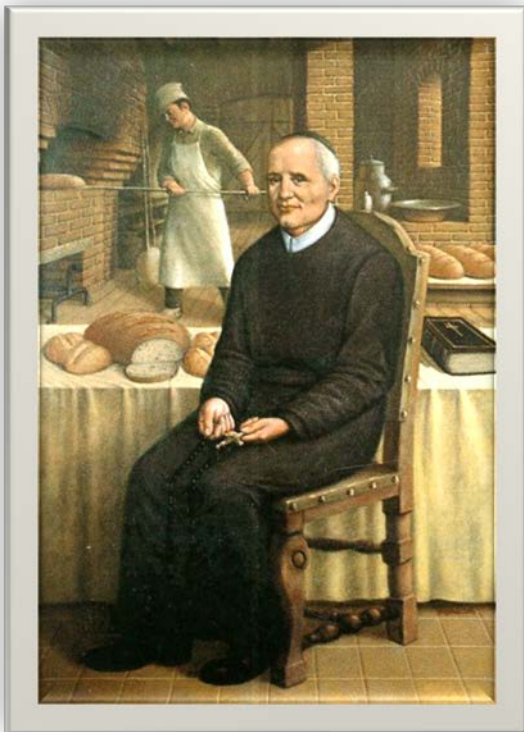
TOGETHER FOR MISSION

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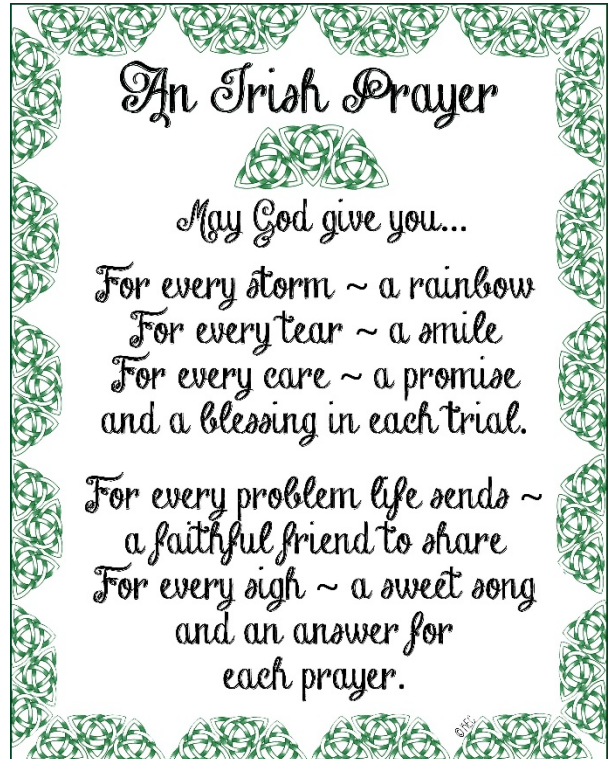
IN THIS ISSUE:

March 15 is the feast of St. Clement Maria Hofbauer, CSsR, co-patron of Vienna and Warsaw, and pioneer of partnership in and for mission.

The Our Lady of the Desert circle of Redemptorist Associates recently celebrated their enrolment. In this issue, they share their story and some of their reflections.



HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY!



“Courage, courage, God takes care of everything. We must hope against all hope, for what appears impossible to human beings, is possible for God.”

St. Clement Hofbauer





TUCSON REDEMPTORISTS WELCOME REDEMPTORIST ASSOCIATES
**ENROLMENT OF
OUR LADY OF THE DESERT REDEMPTORIST ASSOCIATES**

by Jane Duquette-Cummings

After a year of study, prayer and discernment led by Fr. Paul Coury, C.Ss.R, and Lee Morrison, M.Div., the Redemptorist community in Tucson received their first group of Redemptorist Associates. At Our Lady of the Desert Church, a conventual church at the Redemptorist Renewal Center in Tucson, Arizona, thirty-one lay parishioners became Redemptorist Associates of the Denver Province for the remainder of the Quadrennium. Four of us received certificates acknowledging our year's participation, and may choose to be enrolled at a later time.

The commitment ceremony was held January 20, 2019 during the 10:00 a.m. Mass. The associates processed in two-by-two with the celebrant, Fr. Paul Coury, and sat together at the front of the church. After Fr. Paul's homily, we stood and prayed together our Statement of Belonging, each stating our own names. Father Paul received us with joy as Redemptorist Associates!

While standing in front of our family, friends and congregation, Lee called our names one at a time. We stepped forward to receive a beautiful pin and St. Alphonsus holy card, as well as congratulations, from Fr. Paul. We then stepped to the altar to sign and date our Letters in which we stated our commitment action and personal mission. Our church community congratulated us all with a heartfelt round of applause.

After Mass, our community celebrated with us at a reception in the dining hall of the Renewal Center generously provided by the Redemptorist priests of Tucson. We are most grateful to Lee Morrison and Fr. Paul Coury for the love and guidance they have showered on us this past year, as well as the guidance of Anne Walsh and Fr. Greg May. We are thrilled to be newly committed Redemptorist Associates in the Tucson Circle of the Denver Province!



Fr. Paul Coury and Lee Morrison were the best spiritual leaders, they instructed us as well as lead us by example, which to me is very important, to see your leaders live their Faith.

At the Commitment Ceremony I felt the love and support of my family and my Church Community also I felt the Spirit's presence in me, His peace, love and confirming this is where I belong. I am so looking forward to the next step of study and prayer. - Angela

Our ceremony reflected the commitment we were making to share Gospel love with all we meet, seeking out most especially those who are outcast, crushed, or burdened by society. - Diana



Sunday's ceremony was beautiful in its simplicity. The invitation to stand before the entire Lady of the Desert Community and profess a desire to become a Redemptorist Associate helped to bring home the solemnity and joy of the occasion. It was... a proclamation, a celebration, a standing together with others of the same intent and humbly proclaiming the willingness to be in community, to grow spiritually, and to be of loving service. I am so grateful for all of you. When I come to this desert, I do indeed find my heart, and He does speak. -Linda

OUR LADY OF THE DESERT REDEMPTORIST ASSOCIATES TUCSON, ARIZONA REFLECTIONS

It meant so much to me personally, to have the rest of the community present, including my own family. I hope with these sown seeds, not only will our own faith journey grow with possibilities, but our Redemptorist Community as well. – Julie



Thanks to Fr. Paul and Lee Morrison's hard work, Tucson had its own chapter of Redemptorist Associates. This included married couples and single men and women. It certainly was a proud moment for me as I felt blessed to be both in communion with these brothers and sisters and a part of something far greater and holier than myself. - Jenny

On January 20th, when our group made our commitment. I was so Joyful!! I knew that I was in the right place, at the right time. Now I am looking forward to the next chapter of this journey of faith. Genie

This past year has encouraged and strengthened my spiritual growth and personal mission of sharing the Redemptorist charism in the desire to help those less fortunate or in need. - Colleen



The Ritual of Enrollment of the Redemptorist Lay Associates at Our Lady of the Desert Church was a very powerful and empowering moment for me. Although the ceremony was a simple one, it was important in that I made a public commitment to live my Catholic faith. Margaret

Very few things in life rise to the level of a “life changing” experience. But our journeys to becoming Redemptorist Associates have been life changing.- John

ST. CLEMENT HOFBAUER, CSsR PIONEER OF PARTNERSHIP IN AND FOR MISSION

St. Clement Hofbauer was born Johannes Hofbauer on December 26, 1751, in Tasswitz, Moravia. He was the ninth child of a butcher and his wife. His father died when he was only 6 years old. Clement believed priests were “the light of the world and the salt of the earth,” and he began studying Latin in the home of a local priest. When the priest died, Clement was unable to continue his studies and needed to learn a trade. He became a baker’s apprentice, and in 1770 he found work in the bakery of a priory.



In 1784, while on a pilgrimage to Rome, Clement and his friend Thaddeus Hübl decided to enter the Redemptorist novitiate at the Community of San Giuliano in Rome, and on March 19, 1785, the feast of St. Joseph, they made their profession of vows. Ten days later they were ordained to the priesthood. Their first directive, given by the superior general, Fr. Francesco de Paola, was to return to establish the Redemptorists in northern Europe. They headed back north.

In Warsaw, the two newly-minted Redemptorists found a hundred-year-old German charitable organization called the Confraternity of St. Benno, which had been established to provide shelter for the sick, the orphaned, and poor German nationals. Their church was now without a pastor, and the Confraternity was hard-pressed to be able to continue its charitable works any further. When the presence of the Redemptorists became known, members of the Confraternity urged them to take over the Institution. Clement accepted the proposal.



The members of the Confraternity became the nucleus of a circle of partners in mission, whose members became known the “Congregation of Oblates.” They were selectively chosen from the most exemplary and devoted followers, and were permitted to wear habits and participate with the Religious Community in the Divine Office. With the help of these Oblates, a small printing plant was also operated at the Institute. Religious writings were published and disseminated as a means of further increasing the community’s outreach.

Clement also organized sodalities and confraternities, through which lay people were offered opportunities to grow in spirituality and offer their service to the poor of Warsaw.

The Redemptorists were not permitted to preach their usual style of popular missions, and so Clement and his band of Redemptorist priests and lay Brothers began what they called the Perpetual Mission. Instead of having just a morning Mass in the church on a weekday, they had a full-scale mission every day of the year. You could attend St. Benno's every day and know that you would hear five sermons in both German and Polish. There were three high Masses, the office of the Blessed Virgin Mary, public visits to the Blessed Sacrament, the Way of the Cross, vespers, prayer services, and litanies. And priests were available for confessions all hours of the day and night.

By 1802, growth could be seen both in the work at the church and in the Redemptorist community. Reception of the Sacraments increased massively. Some 11,000 children were educated at St. Benno's during its ten years under Clement's direction. The religious community had grown to fourteen priests, six seminarians, four lay brothers, and two novices.

But in 1808, Napoleon Bonaparte pronounced: "The expulsion of these priests from Warsaw must be demanded and insisted upon." Clement and the

other Redemptorists were expelled from Poland. Clement went to Vienna, where he ministered in the Ursuline convent and church. Soon, the church was filled with people hungry to hear the Word of God preached once again in Vienna, and by one with such knowledge and passion. He drew the attention of a widening circle of influential personages from nobility, academia, the literary world, and government that formed the backbone of what came to be called the Hofbauer Circle.

As this Circle became infected with Clement's fire, it evolved into something that resembled the Oblates of St. Benno's. This circle was more loosely structured than its Warsaw counterpart, yet its apostolic fervor was equally as resolute, if not more so. The members dedicated themselves to spreading the faith throughout all levels of Austrian and German society. This was, in fact, was the seminal origin of the Catholic Movement which, in later decades, would rekindle the light of faith across most of Europe.

Clement died in Vienna on March 15, 1820. He was canonized by St. Pius X on May 20, 1909, and his feast is celebrated on March 15. He is co-patron of both Vienna and Warsaw. He is regarded as the second founder of the Redemptorists for his efforts in establishing the Congregation north of the Alps. His shrine is in the church Maria am Gestade in Vienna, Austria.



Prayer of St. Clement Hofbauer

It is enough to have courage.
O, God you are the master.
You guide all for the sake of your
glory and for what is best for us,
and no one can resist you.
All our plans, however well they
may be thought out,
serve only to fulfill your will.

GO TO JOSEPH

By St. Alphonsus Liguori

From the Magnificat for March 19, Solemnity of St. Joseph

St Bernardine of Siena used to say; "There is no doubt about it; in heaven, Jesus Christ not only continues to show St Joseph every sign of the familiarity and respect with which he showed him during his life on earth, as Son to father, but adds to them with fresh honors." Notice these two words: familiarity and respect. The Lord, who on earth honored St Joseph as a father, will certainly not refuse him anything he asks in heaven.

At this point we ought to add that St Joseph had on earth no authority over the humanity of Jesus Christ as a natural father would have, though he did, in a certain sense, have authority over him as husband of Mary who had authority over him as his natural Mother. Whoever has the right to a tree, also has the right to the fruit it bears. Consequently, on earth Jesus Christ used to respect Joseph and obey him as his superior, and it follows that St Joseph's prayers in heaven are treated as orders by Jesus Christ. This is Gerson's thought: "When a father prays to his son," he says, "his prayers truly are commands."

Now let us listen to what St Bernard has to say about St Joseph's intercessory power on behalf of his supplicants: "There are some saints who have the power of protecting in certain specific circumstances; but St Joseph has been granted the power to help us in every kind of need, and to defend all who have recourse to him with pious dispositions."

That was how St Bernard put it; St Teresa confirms his opinion from her own experience and tells us: "It would seem that God has only granted the other saints power to help us in one kind of necessity; but experience shows that St Joseph can help in every kind of need."

There is no doubt about it: just as Jesus Christ wanted to be subject to Joseph on earth, so he does everything the saint asks of him in heaven. When Egypt was laid waste by the great famine, Pharaoh told his people- Go to Joseph! So if we are in trouble, let us listen to the word of the Lord and take Pharaoh's advice; let us go to Joseph if we wish to be consoled...Above all, I most strongly urge you to ask him for three special graces: forgiveness of sins, love of Jesus Christ, and a happy death.



God, because of the great love He bears us, and His great desire to see us saved, has given us among other means of salvation the practice of devotion to the saints. It is His will that they, who are His friends, should intercede for us, and by their merits and prayers obtain graces for us which we ourselves do not deserve.

But everyone must know that, after the Mother of God, St. Joseph is, of all the saints, the one dearest to God. He has, therefore, great power with Him and can obtain graces for His devout clients. Let us then frequently say: St. Joseph, give me the greatest confidence in thy powerful intercession.

- St Alphonsus Liguori

