



C.Ss.R. Associates Commissioned

by Jane Duquette-Cummings
Redemptorist Associate

After a full year of study, prayer and discernment led by Fr. Paul Coury, director of the Redemptorist Renewal Center, and Lee Morrison, M.Div., the first group of Redemptorist Associates for the Denver Province in Tucson were commissioned at Our Lady of the Desert Church on January 20.

Thirty-one parishioners signed commitment letters for the remainder of the quadrennium. Four of us received certificates acknowledging our participation in the program, and may choose to formalize our commitments later.

The soon-to-be commissioned Redemptorist Associates processed into the church as a group behind Fr. Paul, the celebrant. After his homily, we stood and prayed together our Statement of Belonging, each stating our own names. Fr. Paul received us with joy as Redemptorist Associates!

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COMMUNITY SCHEDULE

January/February

Immaculate Conception –
Bronx
Inter-Provincial Novitiate –
Toronto
NA Conference Theologate –
San Antonio

March/April

St. Mary of the Assumption –
Whittier
Sacred Heart – Seattle
St. Michael – Chicago

May/June

St. Clement Community –
Liguori
St. Alphonsus “Rock” –
St. Louis
Our Lady of Perpetual Help –
Kansas City

July/August

St. Gerard – Baton Rouge
St. Alphonsus – New Orleans
Hispanic Initiative – Greenwood

September/October

St. Alphonsus – Grand Rapids
St. Alphonsus – Minneapolis
Holy Ghost – Houston
St. Gerard & C.Ss.R. Apostolic
Center – San Antonio

November/December

Redemptorist Renewal Center –
Tucson
Desert House of Prayer – Tucson
Pagani House & Redemptorist
Retreat Center – Oconomowoc



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

After Mass, the entire congregation celebrated with us at a reception in the dining hall of the Renewal Center generously provided by the Redemptorist community in Tucson. We are most grateful to both Lee and Fr. Paul for the love and guidance they have showered on us this past year, as well as the guidance of Anne Walsh, Special Assistant for Partnership in Mission and Co-Chair of the Redemptorist North American Secretariat for Partnership in Ministry, and Fr. Greg May, Denver Province liaison to the Secretariat. We are thrilled to be newly committed Redemptorist Associates in the Tucson Circle of the Denver Province!

Cover:

Fr. Paul Coury leads the congregation in applauding the newly commissioned Redemptorist Associates for the Denver Province in Tucson.

Above:

Fr. Paul (*seated at left*), Anne Walsh (*standing fifth from left in second row*) and Fr. Greg May (*standing right of center in last row*) with the Redemptorist Associates in Tucson.

Welcome, Redemptorist Associates!

- Joel & Lidia Allen
- Margaret Beymer
- Genie Bowsher
- Joan Callaghan
- Emma Chavez
- John & Diana Davenport
- Jane Duquette-Cummings
- Robert & Christine Francis
- Jeane Granacki
- Jane Gurevitz
- Jan & Robert Keogh
- Jenny Martin
- Carol McDonald
- Deacon Ken & Margaret McNealy
- Luis & Blanca Montiel
- Lee Morrison
- Carmen Murrieta
- Tom & Linda Nally
- Colleen O'Leary
- Mary Phillips
- Julie Robins Ramirez
- Frances Schlack
- Angela Schneider
- Mary Laurie Siebert
- Jason Smith
- Maddie Spezia
- Andrea Webb
- Virginia Wuebold



From top:
Fr. Greg May with members of the Our Lady of the Desert parish community in Tucson who enjoyed his presentation on Christ the Redeemer last December; and Fr. Greg makes a point during his presentation.
For more information about forming a Circle of Redemptorist Associates at a ministry site, please contact PIM@redemptorists-denver.org.

Reflections from Our Redemptorist Associates

Our ceremony was beautiful in its simplicity. The invitation to stand before the entire Our 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 not a graduation, and could not even be called a commencement in the sense of a new beginning. I believe this journey began at least a year ago, and probably long before that in God's Plan. It was instead 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 Nally

Fr. Paul Coury and Lee Morrison were the best spiritual leaders; they instructed us as well as led by example. It is very important to see your leaders live their faith.

During the ceremony, I felt the love and support of my family and my Church community, as well as the Spirit's presence in me – His peace and love, confirming that this is where I belong.
Angela Schneider

I felt very honored that we were able to celebrate our commitments with Mass! I believe that it was the perfect way for the Lord to give His blessing, so that we may go forth to serve Him faithfully in our daily lives. I also felt a strong sense of community with our Circle of Associates and am very proud to be a part of it.

Blanca Montiel



From top:
New members
of the Working
Group:
Wendy Barnes,
a Lay Missionary
of the Most Holy
Redeemer in
Liguori, and
John and Dianna
Davenport, new
Redemptorist
Associates in
Tucson.
Photos submitted by
Fr. Greg May



The Denver Province Working Group (above, left to right): Fr. Kevin Zubel, Fr. Dick Mevissen, Fr. Greg May, Anne Walsh, Fr. José Chavez and Fr. Joe Thong Ngo.

Our ceremony reflected the commitments 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 Davenport

Very few things in life rise to the level of a “life changing” experience. But, I think that many of us who benefited from your hard work this past year would agree that our journeys to becoming Redemptorist Associates have been life changing.

The Redemptorist Associates program has provided the kindling and the Holy Spirit has ignited the spark of Redemptorist spirituality within us.

We are more prayerful, we are more giving, we are more loving. Where will this lead us? I don’t know. But, I do know this: it’s a place I want to go.

Thank you for your dedication and perseverance creating and fostering the development of the Our Lady of the Desert Circle of Redemptorist Associates.

John Davenport

Although the ceremony was simple, it was empowering and important in that I made a public commitment to live my Catholic faith. By the grace of God, and with the help and guidance of the clergy here at Our Lady of the Desert and my fellow Associates, I have resolved to preach the Gospel not only with words, but more importantly with actions – to reach out to others in friendship, especially the elderly, who sometimes need a friend to offer a kind word or gesture to remind them that God loves them.

Margaret Beymer

Although we were committing to a full year and at times it was difficult to juggle work and family commitments, it was well worth it. Learning about Redemptorist Spirituality was amazing – I can’t wait to learn more. I was impressed that when a member of our group was facing a challenge, you brought the group together to say a prayer, have a moment of silence, sign a card, or just listen if someone needed to talk – modeling behaviors that we can emulate when we are serving the community.

Mary Phillips

Line up in alphabetical order according to height! That's what the preparations seemed like, but it added to the fun and camaraderie in anticipation of the ceremony. It had been a year in the making, and all of us were ready to be finally blessed in as Redemptorist Associates.

Thanks to Fr. Paul and Lee Morrison's hard work, Tucson has its own Circle of Associates, which includes 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 Martin

It was a very well planned and carried out ceremony. All of us were proud to have achieved a goal a year in the making. I was happy to be near the altar with my wonderful wife, celebrating the ceremony with her. We have shared many experiences in our journey together, and each one has enriched our marriage. I believe I can say the same about becoming Redemptorist Associates together.

Joel Allen

I was delighted that the day of enrollment came and grateful that my husband and I were part of the group in celebration. Truly, leading up to the day of the ceremony, in our outcome was the lesson that "With Him there is plentiful redemption." As the year in formation came to an end, the teachings of St. Alphonsus and the Redemptorist saints of the past came alive and I could not have predicted the transformation witnessed in my fellow associates. JOYFUL, humbled, and a welcomed community of friends is how I would describe it. My gratitude to Fr. Paul and Lee Morrison.

Lidia Allen

The ceremony formalized my commitment to participate in the Redemptorist mission and spirituality and marked the successful completion of my year of study of the Redemptorist history, saints and Constitutions, as well as my growth in a greater appreciation for the Redemptorist charism and love-sharing spirit. The ceremony itself was dignified and well planned, and impressed all who were present.

Joan Callaghan



Fr. Peter Connolly celebrates Mass at Casa Maria Soup Kitchen in Tucson, where many Redemptorist Associates help make sandwiches or serve meals to as many as 700 people every day. Fr. Peter introduced the volunteer opportunity to the Circle of Associates.

Submitted by John Davenport

January 20 brought me joy and made me feel accountable to the Associates and Redemptorist charism. I find myself better equipped to teach religious education and help those in need. Having my brothers and sisters in Christ, other new Associates, standing by me and knowing they support my ministry especially through prayer gives me courage to live the charism. Thank you, Fr. Paul and Lee. I appreciate your time, effort and prayers. Knowing that I have you two as my spiritual leaders brings me the courage to serve as a Redemptorist Associate.

Emma Chavez

The ceremony at the Church of Our Lady of the Desert was a blessing of the commitment of the Redemptorist Associates, an expression of coalescing the participants to a spiritual bond of assistance in fulfilling each individual's dedication to serving the poor and the needy; and in the process aiding one another in our Life Journeys.

The ceremony was a fitting culmination of a year of Redemptorist spirituality, prayer, and guidance led by Fr. Paul Coury and Lee Morrison, including visits by Fr. Greg May and Anne Walsh: all bound in Christian love!

Virginia Wuebold

“Faith without works is dead,” or put another way, I have to live my way into good thinking – these two sayings signify the importance of service in my pursuit of spirituality. Standing before the parish and making the commitment to serve others as a Redemptorist Associate reinforced the importance of those actions and the commitment I made. Thank you for forming a Circle of Redemptorist Associates and guiding me through the process of discernment and growth towards Christ.

Thomas R. Nally, Jr.

Our ceremony was very inspiring, especially receiving a pin and handshake from Fr. Paul and signing our commitment documents on the altar. All of us filing in as a group was so impressive because it showed how devoted our group is to doing good work.

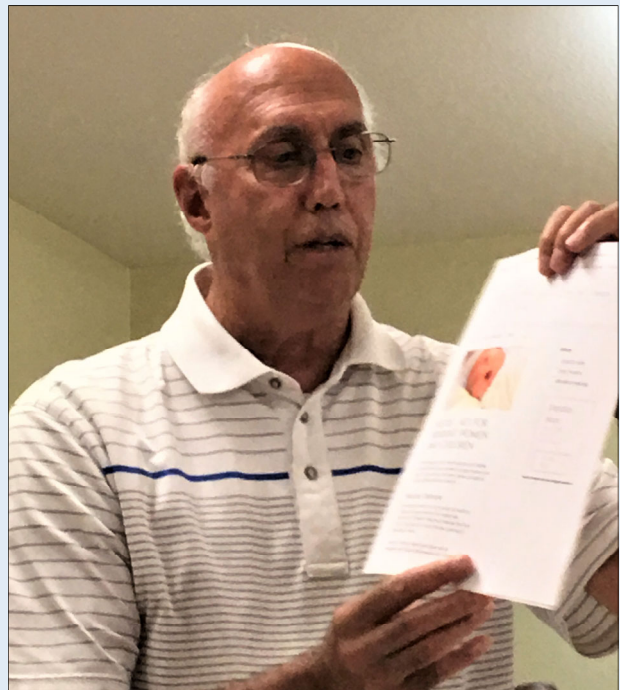
Jeane Granacki

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. The ceremony was wonderful and a realization of all we have done as a group and to my commitment as an Associate in the Redemptorist tradition.

Fran Schlack

Thank you so much for helping me find a happier way of life. The Redemptorist tradition has inspired me to be more active with those less fortunate. When Lee and Fr. Paul asked us to join them, I knew my life was about to change and I have found myself to be in a better place. This past year has been deeply fulfilling because of Fr. Paul, Lee and the Circle of Associates, and I know my life has improved as well. I will continue to be the best member our Lord wants me to be.

Carmen Murrieta



Associates Respond to Asylum Seekers

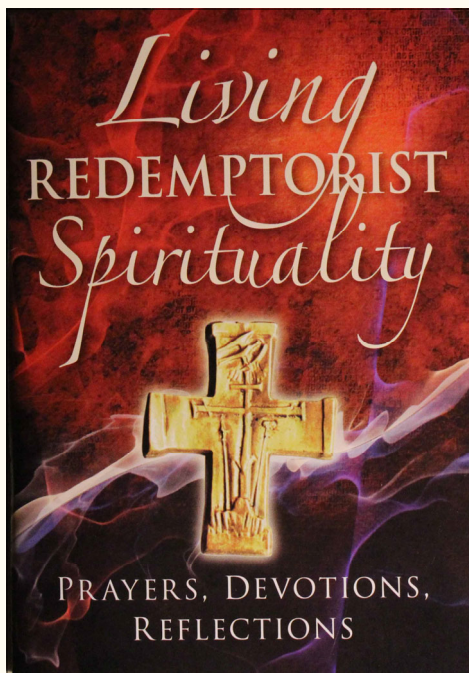


Redemptorist Associates were quick to respond when Fr. Paul Coury (above) presented the growing care crisis for asylum seekers crossing the border into

Arizona last November. Colleen O’Leary and Joel and Lidia Allen (left to right, below) enjoyed the lively discussion, and several Associates quickly teamed up with other volunteers. Collectively, they have already helped Catholic Community Services’ Alitas program house, feed and transport more than 1,000 asylum seekers – most of them women and children.

Submitted by John Davenport





“An act of perfect conformity to the will of God unites us more to Him than a hundred other acts of virtue.” St. Alphonsus Liguori

Our Commitment Ceremony was a joyous beginning of growing closer to God. I can only hear Him when I am in close relationship with Him. That relationship will continue to develop with the guidance and prayers of my Circle.

I will continue to attempt to make an altar of my time to God, to be wholly present to God every day. And I will continue to serve those within my Circle, my congregation, my workplace, my family. I am finding that most people have an abandoned place in their hearts, a place that craves to be acknowledged, listened to, comforted.

I try to serve others by listening to and uplifting those around me in my daily life. I do long to take on the ‘big’ missions, but I am not there yet. In five years I retire. I have faith that by then I will hear from our Lord about any new direction He wants me to take.

Jane Duquette-Cummings

“Joy is the serious business of heaven.” C.S. Lewis

When presented with the opportunity to participate as a Redemptorist Associate, I was all in. Actually, I felt a soft push to proceed. During the ceremony, 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 Bowsher

Thank you so much for a year of guidance, instruction, and the formation of this amazing group of individuals who are all keen on spreading the message of plentiful redemption. My heart and mind have gained insight, inspiration and focus through your gentle direction. I look forward to continuing to gain more insight and to sharing the message of God’s love with others.

Colleen O’Leary

After a year of social, informational, and spiritual meetings, I felt that our ceremony provided a sense of completion. It also served as a signal to me that the steps to ministry were now up to me. I had the sense of one door closing behind me and another one opening. The fact that our meetings will continue to give me community and spiritual support makes it more comfortable for me to walk through that newly opened door.

Jan Keogh

I am fortunate to have shared the spirituality of other Associates and their enthusiasm to learn about St. Alphonsus Liguori. It was such an honor to participate as the deacon on the day of the ceremony. (Seeing all those new Redemptorist faces was very exciting!!!) Looking forward to future sharings, learning more of the journey that lays ahead for all of us Associates.

Ken McNealy

I remember sitting in Fr. Pat Hawk’s office in about 2005. I said, “I want to be a Redemptorist.” He answered, “Margaret, be careful what you ask for.” On January 20, I became a Redemptorist Associate!!! Our parish is so unique. All of you are so faith-filled and full of great ideas. I was filled with happiness and honored to be standing with all of you. More wonderful things will happen at our parish!!

*Margaret McNealy
Class of 2019*

A Message from the OPC



Provincial Visitations Underway

We are busy conducting Provincial Visitations of each ministry site in the Denver Province, dealing with weather delays, missed connections and all that goes with travel these days. First world problems.

Yet when we arrive, we find ourselves at home – at home with our brothers who graciously greet us with that famous Redemptorist hospitality.

Although visitations always create anxiety – What are the visitors going to say? Am I going to be transferred or moved to another community? What is this all about? – these questions soon fade away as the dialogue begins.

It is in this dialogue that we discover who we are as the Denver Province and where the Lord is calling us as a group to minister.

It truly is a moment of grace – especially for those of us conducting the visitations. Although we may arrive or depart tired in body, we are nonetheless nourished in spirit to see the various ways confreres reach out and minister to the wounded world. It is inspiring to see how we are Witnesses of the Redeemer. Maybe a bit older and maybe a little tired, but we are still on fire with zeal, apostolic men of prayer who are living out that message of Plentiful Redemption we have been given to proclaim. No, we are not perfect, nor are our communities perfect. But it is very clear that we take seriously what it means to be a religious in the world in which we find ourselves, and that we know that we can always strive to live better lives.

What do the next four years hold for us? What direction will we be going? We must trust the power of the Holy Spirit and the dialogue underway in the Denver Province as we discover TOGETHER to whom God is sending us to preach Plentiful Redemption. Let us commend ourselves to the Great Mother of God, Our Perpetual Help, asking her intercession that we build a future as Witnesses of the Redeemer, in Solidarity for Mission to a Wounded World.

Laurence Luján, C.Ss.R.
Provincial Consultor

St. Alphonsus Formation Community in the Bronx



From top:

Confreres and students at prayer in the chapel at St. Alphonsus Formation House; and José Montoya, who is in his second year of formation.

Greetings from New York!

by Joseph Thong Ngo, C.Ss.R.

The St. Alphonsus Formation Pre-Novitiate Program serves students for the Baltimore and Denver provinces. The program provides an environment for students to discern their calling to the religious life, with an emphasis placed on the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer. Students attend St. John's University or Hostos Community College and are involved with a variety of apostolic ministries, including Youth Group, Children's Liturgy of the Word, Religious Education and a Soup Kitchen for the homeless in the area. They also share in the daily life of the Redemptorists in the Bronx community, participating in prayer, the Eucharist, meals and recreation.

This year, five students in the Pre-Novitiate Program are studying for the Denver Province: José Montoya (2nd year), Steven Urban (2nd year), Scott Partin (1st year), Won Lee (1st year) and Brandon Biagioli (1st year). Enjoy their vocation stories below!

José Montoya

Hello! I am José Antonio Montoya. I am 26 years old and was born and raised in Mexico, but my family moved to Houston when I was 17. I finished high school in Texas and for the first time saw the Redemptorists when they were preaching an Advent mission at my parish. I did not attend the mission, but Fr. Arturo, who celebrated Mass that Saturday evening, happened to be from the same state in Mexico. After a few months of discernment, I went down to Mexico to live an experience with a Society

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St. Alphonsus Formation Community in the Bronx



of Apostolic Life for six months. During my time there I learned about religious Brothers and felt a strong attraction and calling to the Brotherhood. I returned to the United States and worked in a loan collection center about three years as I continued to discern my vocation, and finally applied to the Redemptorists. I have been in formation as a postulant for two years. During this time, I continue to know God, the Redemptorists and myself as I discern my vocation.

One of the different things that attracted me to the Redemptorists was the mission to serve the most abandoned and the poor. In retrospect, seeing the Redemptorists 10 years ago in my parish preaching a mission and hearing about the mission team was very inspiring.

Steven Urban

I am in my second year in the Redemptorist formation house in the Bronx. I am going for the certificate of philosophy, which I will complete in May. I previously worked as an accountant in a large public accounting firm. My job took me to Kansas City, which is where I met the Redemptorists. I felt called to the priesthood, and as I got to know the Redemptorist community I became convinced I was called to be a Redemptorist as well. I would like to dedicate my life to serving the poor and abandoned.

This past summer I was stationed at the Shrine of Saint John Neumann in Philadelphia. I developed a devotion to St. Neumann by attending daily Mass at the Shrine, reading his biography, and viewing his personal items in the museum. My main assignment for the summer was to create an inventory listing of the Denver Province archives moved to Philadelphia last year. I inventoried 2,512 boxes of material (if anyone was wondering!) Going through all of the boxes gave me a deep appreciation for the rich history of the Denver Province and the dedication of our confreres to their various ministries.

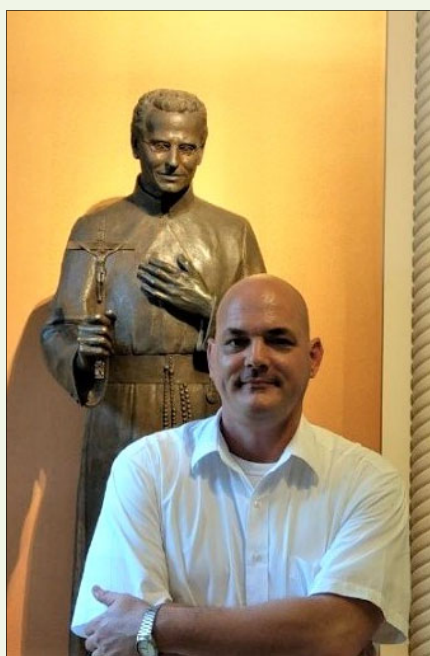
Scott Partin

Two reasons led to my decision to join the Redemptorists:

The first is praying the Liturgy of the Hours. Liturgy of the Hours, or Divine Office, is the universal prayer of the Church that marks the time of the day. I was introduced to the Divine Office during a retreat given by a confrere. In a group setting, praying the Divine Office during the morning and evening is enjoyable, and led me in the decision to experience community life.

The second is Blessed Seelos. For about four years, I was a volunteer at the National Shrine of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos at the Redemptorist Church of Saint Mary's Assumption in New Orleans. I worked at the gift shop, gave tours and prayed with people asking for his intercession. Blessed Seelos' life and selfless good works are my inspiration. With the help of Blessed Seelos' prayers, one day, I hope to be a Redemptorist priest and bring the Word of God to the most abandoned and poor, and guide the faithful to the welcoming arms of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

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From top:
Redemptorist students in formation, Steven Urban and Scott Partin.

St. Alphonsus Formation Community in the Bronx



Won Lee

I was born in Seoul, South Korea but my parents and my younger brother and I moved to the United States when I was 13 years old. We were received into the Catholic Church. My family had many difficulties as immigrants in this country. During my college years, I was introduced to St. Andrew Kim Korean Catholic Church in Seattle. I was welcomed into a vibrant and loving parish community and began falling in love with Christ, His Church and Our Lady. I became a catechist for youth and children and was an altar server. In the meanwhile, my father was diagnosed with terminal cancer. Although my family was devastated, we received heart-warming support and prayers from the parish community and the Sisters of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. A thought of being a priest or religious to dedicate my entire being to Christ and His Church seemed attractive and occasionally occurred to me. However, I would dismiss it quickly, as I dated and once was engaged to be married. While I was working as a social worker in Washington, my father passed away after a long battle with cancer. I lost my best friend a year later. During this period of tremendous loss, grief and darkness, I often visited the Redemptorists at Sacred Heart Parish in downtown Seattle for confession. I received great spiritual guidance from Fr. Denis Ryan and from my parish pastor, Fr. Yang. Encouraged by the gentle gaze and helping hands of Our Mother of Perpetual Help that I discerned after praying a novena, I contacted the vocation directors for the Denver Province. Although this is a new challenge, I am very grateful to have been accepted into the formation program. I'm enjoying the program and the formation community in the Bronx. Please pray for us in our vocation journeys!

Brandon Biagioli

During the summer of 2012 while I was in law school, I happened across the story of St. Alphonsus' life. It seized my attention in a strange way. Intuiting that this was God's way of calling me to the priesthood, I began discerning joining the seminary for the Joliet Diocese in Illinois because I lived in Naperville. I found that the more I prayed, the more I wanted to be a priest. When my interest in joining the Diocese seemed to wane, I decided to learn more about the Redemptorists, the Congregation St. Alphonsus founded. It turns out that St. Alphonsus was the bait and the mission was the hook: when I learned that the Redemptorist mission is to preach the Gospel to the poor and the most abandoned, it seemed the most natural thing in the world. I started formation in the Bronx this past August.



From top:
Redemptorist students
in formation, Won Lee
and Brandon Biagioli.

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