



**CONGREGATION OF THE MOST HOLY REDEEMER
THE REDEMPTORISTS – DUBLIN PROVINCE**

Letter to Redemptorist Friends: Christmas 2014

Dear Friends,

Fr. Dan Baragry: Provincial-elect of the Dublin Province of the Redemptorists



*On Saturday 13th December, 2014
Fr. Michael Brehl CSSR (Superior General)
confirmed the election of Fr. Dan Baragry CSSR
as Provincial of the Dublin Province of the
Redemptorists (from January 11th 2015 to January
2019).*

*We heartily congratulate Fr. Dan and wish him every
blessing in his new role.*

Fr. Dan was born in Limerick city in 1954, in the “shadow” of Mount St. Alphonsus. He is the eldest in his family and has a sister and two brothers all of whom, along with his mother, continue to reside in Limerick. The family has a long tradition of connection with the Congregation; Dan’s granduncle and great-granduncle were both Redemptorists.

Educated at CBS Sexton Street, in Limerick, he entered the Redemptorist formation programme in 1972, immediately following his Leaving Cert. He completed his studies in philosophy in Galway, his Novitiate in Dundalk and he did theological studies in Dublin before his ordination in 1981. As a student, Dan worked in the Philippines for two years and returned there after ordination, ministering in Iligan and Cebu.

Since returning to the Dublin Province in 1990, Dan has worked in a variety of capacities, as Director of Formation, as Rector of Mount St. Alphonsus in Limerick, Coordinator of the Scala Youth Ministry Community in Cork and as a parish missionary and retreat giver; he has also served on many Provincial Councils, Provincial Boards and Commissions over the years. He is currently a member of St. Joseph's Community, Dundalk where he works with those in formation and as a curate in the Parish.

Fr. Dan will bring many gifts to this role, not least his missionary spirit, his openness and approachability, his experience of patient accompaniment and his capacity for hard work. He is a deeply respectful man and very committed to effective collaboration in ministry with lay co-workers and others (he has worked a great deal with Redemptorist Associates around the country in recent years). Fr. Dan's willingness to take on this challenging role of service is a generous gift to us all.

Friendship: A Great Gift – at Christmas and always

Don't walk behind me; I may not lead. Don't walk in front of me; I may not follow. Just walk beside me and be my friend (Albert Camus).

Christmas is a time when many people give gifts and recognise gifts given. As Redemptorists, we are greatly blessed with the gift of excellent friends in Ireland and beyond who have been faithful to us and walked beside us through thick and through thin; we recognise and cherish these friendships. Thank you to all the Redemptorist Friends I encountered during my time as Provincial; I have no doubt that Fr. Dan and the Province will continue to be gifted with your on-going companionship.

The Story of the Crib and the call to Gospel Friendship

Over the Christmas period, many of us will be "drawn into the story of the crib." In recent weeks, in Ireland, we have been reading and hearing about people living and dying on Irish streets and about people with learning disability not receiving due respect in Irish care-facilities. As we are drawn more deeply into the story of the crib, as we focus on a very vulnerable Jesus whose family had no place to stay in Bethlehem, will we also recognize Jesus made flesh in our World, in men and women of our day? What might Gospel friendship, walking beside the vulnerable and homeless Jesus, mean in our day? How could we better respond to the challenge of Pope Francis (and of the Gospel!) that each Christian and every community "move to the peripheries"?

"Each Christian and every community must discern the path that the Lord points out, but all of us are asked to obey his call to go forth from our own comfort zone in order to reach all the 'peripheries' in need of the light of the Gospel" (Pope Francis, The Joy of the Gospel, #20).

Christmas and New Year Greetings

We always remember our Redemptorist friends in prayer at Christmas, especially those who are in poor health at this time. Please remember Redemptorists in yours, especially Fr. Dan and the other members of the new Provincial Administration due to be elected in January. Please pray that our January Assembly will help us all, as a "Redemptorist family," to go forth from our comfort zones as generously as we can, in order to reach all the 'peripheries' in need of the light of the Gospel.

This Christmas, and in 2015, may we, as individuals and as communities, be ever more aware (especially in our most vulnerable times), of God's walking beside us in astonishing friendship.

"The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us"). Matt. 1:23

Wishing you and yours, a very happy Christmas and missionary New Year,



Michael Kelleher CSsR
Provincial (2008 – 2015)