Dear Reader,

The Advent season is upon us and Christmas is just around the corner. It is a busy time filled with shopping, cleaning, decorating and baking. It is also a time of preparation and expectation, of hope and of longing for the coming of the Lord. In the midst of the busyness, let us remember the real “reason for the season” and take some time to prepare our hearts for the birth of our Saviour.

This edition of the Resurrection Bulletin contains a number of items that we hope you will find interesting. We have a letter from Fr. Andrzej Madry, CR of the Congregation’s Tanzanian mission, in which he updates us on the area in which he works, and some of the challenges he faces there.

The Provincial Superior of the Ontario-Kentucky Province, Fr. Murray McDermott, CR, shares with us his vision for the Resurrectionist community that he has been elected to lead for the next three years. Fr. Murray has also written a message to you, our readers.

In this edition there is a profile of St. Agatha Parish, the Congregation of the Resurrection’s first mission in Canada. Each future edition of the Resurrection Bulletin will feature one of the Resurrectionist parishes of the Ontario-Kentucky Province.

St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Oakville is highlighted in this issue. Resurrectionists ministered at St. Anthony’s from 1975 until earlier this year.

Also included is an update about our novice, Raphael Ma, as well as other news about the Resurrectionist community.

Please read the important information about how to receive your Resurrection Bulletin by email and how to access our website. The www.resurrectionist.ca website is being renewed, but there is already a lot of interesting information about the Resurrectionist community on the site.

As always, we give thanks to God for your continued support of the men and ministry of the Congregation of the Resurrection and ask for your prayers. Be assured of our prayers for you.

We hope that the Advent season is a grace-filled time of preparation for the coming of Our Lord. Have a blessed Christmas.
Donors to the Congregation share in the following Spiritual Benefits:

1. Daily prayers said in all the houses of the Congregation of the Resurrection for living and deceased benefactors.

2. One Mass said each month in each house of the Congregation of the Resurrection for the living benefactors.

3. One Mass said each month in each house of the Congregation of the Resurrection for the deceased benefactors.

4. One Mass said annually in November in each house of the Congregation of the Resurrection for the deceased benefactors.

“If the faithful help even one candidate for the priesthood, they will fully share in all the future masses and in all the fruits of sanctity and apostolic works that will be his.” Pope Pius XII.

Contributions to the Congregation may be sent to:
Congregation of the Resurrection
Provincial Office, Treasurer
Resurrection College
265 Westmount Road North
Waterloo, Ontario N2L 3G7
Charitable receipts for income tax purposes will be issued to all donors.

A Message from the Provincial Superior to our Readers

MUCHAS GRACIAS ALMIGHTY FATHER!

Gratitude to God for multiple and various reasons was a constant theme during my recent Provincial Visitations with the men of our religious community. Greatest among things to be grateful for was the gift of daily Eucharist. Eucharist itself means “thanksgiving.” Time in one’s senior years to think, ponder and pray was seen to be important. Gratitude for the gift of Religious life and Priesthood was high among the thoughts within the hearts of many. A number of our men are extremely grateful for Resurrection Manor, our retirement centre; it is a place of refuge, of safety, of comfort, of security, of kindness and brotherly support for many who feel the vulnerability of old age. Tremendous thanksgiving among many of our men is given to God for allowing them to be instruments of His grace through their various ministries over the years. Much gratitude was expressed for the gift of preaching and teaching and listening. Just being alive and able to live a new day was expressed by many and reflects our aging population. Being able to serve fellow religious was seen to be a moment of gratitude to be owned, named and claimed. Resurrection and healing from the wounds of the past was mentioned by some.

Yes, we Resurrectionists have much to be grateful for. We also carry you within our grateful hearts; you who are our benefactors, our families, our friends, our colleagues, and all who have loved us and supported us. Muchas Gracias Amigos!

Very Rev. Murray McDermott, CR
Provincial Superior

St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Oakville (1975-2014)

On June 24th, 2014, the short history of the Congregation of the Resurrection’s ministry in Oakville came to an end. This fruitful ministry involved many CR’s who came from Poland.

The Interior of St. Anthony of Padua Church.
The beginnings of the Congregation of the Resurrection's pastoral work in Oakville can be identified with the activities of the Polish Catholic Mission. On behalf of the Resurrectionist order, Fr. Joseph Capiga, CR initiated the Polish Catholic Mission in 1975. In fact, Fr. Capiga, a long time pastor of St. Stanislaus Parish in Hamilton, was the first Rector of the Mission until 1983. The Mission's temporary location was at the English speaking St. Andrew's Church, where the Holy Eucharist, other sacraments as well as various devotions were celebrated by priests from St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish in Hamilton.

Fr. Joseph Capiga’s successor was Fr. Joseph Kamieniecki, CR who served as Rector of the Mission until 1995. In January of 1994, during his tenure at the Mission, the Polish community in Oakville purchased the former Bethel Pentecostal Church and adapted the building to Catholic worship. On January 23rd, 1994 Bishop Matthew Ustrzycki consecrated the building and designated the Mission as St. Anthony of Padua.

On September 1st, 1995 Fr. Chester Chmurzynski, CR took over this fledgling Mission and immediately proceeded to build a rectory so he would not have to reside in the parish hall. Besides the new rectory, Fr. Chmurzynski proceeded to improve the church building with the help of some prominent financial supporters. The alterations included a new roof, a steeple with a cross, a driveway and an entrance for disabled parishioners. On June 29th, 1997 the Polish Catholic Mission received the status of a parish and Fr. Chester Chmurzynski became its first Pastor. He was the Parish Priest of St. Anthony of Padua until June 24th, 2014.

A noteworthy legacy to Fr. Chmurzynski’s tenure as Parish Priest was the significant increase in the number of parishioners. On September 1st, 1995 the Mission had 196 families registered and, upon his departure, the parish registry listed 660 families.

Father Chester Chmurzynski, by his pastoral dedication and by his example of living the Gospel, inspired the parish to grow both materially and spiritually.

Finally, after almost 40 years, the Congregation of the Resurrection under the banner of the Risen Christ has finished a faithful and dedicated ministry at St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Oakville, Ontario.

“Ad Maiorem Dei Gloriam” – “To the Greater Glory of God”

**Veritas et Caritas Award**

**Congratulations to Fr. Salvatore (Sam) Restivo, CR, Provincial Superior of the Ontario-Kentucky Province of the Congregation of the Resurrection from 2008-2014.**

Fr. Sam was recently honoured by the USA Province of the Congregation of the Resurrection with the Veritas et Caritas Award. In the words of Fr. Gene Szarek, CR, Provincial Superior of the USA Province, this award recognizes a member of the Congregation of the Resurrection who embodies the Spirit of the Resurrectionist charism, by promoting the spirit of the Resurrection in his ministry, and who works for the resurrection of society. Fr. Sam was recognized as a man who exemplifies the spirit of this award, a man “who not only listens with a gentle spirit, but is also a tireless leader”.

Congratulations and thank you, Fr. Sam.
Jean Vanier says that, “the poor are a privileged way of entering into the heart of Jesus, the heart of the Gospel and the heart of the Church”. The first time I sat down on a mattress in the Chapel at L’Arche, Stratford, in 1980, and I looked around the room at the Community that had gathered there that evening, I began to laugh! I laughed because for the first time in my life I felt at home; my heart spoke to me in a powerful way telling me that I belonged there. This was the moment that called me to own, name and claim in a deeper and clearer way, my ordination to Priesthood, which officially took place on May 14, 1977. I have journeyed with L’Arche now for close to 35 years. As Provincial Superior, I no longer live in one of the L’Arche houses during the week, as I did while I worked for the Children’s Aid Society in Stratford. Nevertheless, L’Arche continues to be home for my heart. Jean Vanier began L’Arche in France 50 years ago. This is our Golden Jubilee!

During our superior’s conference in October, Marie Antoinette Parisio, a friend of Jean Vanier and a leader in L’Arche, Ontario, gave a talk to the men of our province on “Servant Leadership”. This is my vision of what my role as Provincial Superior must be; I must be a servant leader. I must accompany our men on their journey wherever it may lead them. For the younger members this could be reflecting with them on their ministries, their visions, their passions and their dreams. For some older members this could mean walking with them through their diminishments, illnesses and eventually death and Resurrection. Yes, and there is much more and much to be discovered.

Included in my vision is the fact that, as Resurrectionists, we know that when the people of God laugh with the joys and blessings of life, we as Resurrectionists need to be there with them to sing their songs, dance their dances and laugh their laughs; we need to touch the graces and blessings of God in the lives of others and to own and claim God’s blessings in our lives. As Pope Francis would teach us, we, as Resurrectionists, need to smell like sheep. As Resurrectionists, we pray to have the courage to climb to the mountain tops to be with those who would have us join them there. As Resurrectionists, we pray also for the courage to have the compassion to walk into the valley of tears when we hear the cries of God’s people.

As Resurrectionists we need to dare to live the dream of God as it is written upon our hearts through the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. We begin to live the dream of God by allowing the scriptures to break open our hearts and to touch our lives and the lives of those to whom we minister. As Resurrectionists, we know that when we touch those moments of our belovedness before God, we also believe and are affirmed in our Faith in the Resurrection. As Resurrectionists we are called to embrace the suffering of the world and to live in Hope, no matter what the darkness may be.

In Paris, France on Feb. 17, 1836, a group of men under the leadership of a layman by the name of Bogdan Jański sought to live the dream of God by forming a Community by the name of the Congregation of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. On Easter Sunday, March 27, 1842, Peter Semenenko and Jerome Kajsiewicz, along with five other clerics, professed their first Religious Vows in the catacombs of St. Sebastian in Rome. The Vision and Dream of these men was to dedicate themselves to the Risen Saviour and call themselves, “Brothers of the Resurrection”. These men are our elder brothers whose lives we seek to emulate!

Very Reverend Murray McDermott, CR
Provincial Superior of the Ontario-Kentucky Province of the Congregation of the Resurrection
Raphael Ma

On August 15 the Ontario Kentucky Province of the Congregation of the Resurrection welcomed Raphael Ma into our novitiate as he continues to discern with the Lord God’s call in his life. Raphael comes from Markham, Ontario and had been living with the CR Community at Louis Hall at St. Jerome’s University since January while he continued his theological studies. Raphael is making his novitiate in Chicago, Illinois under the direction of Father Len Krzywda CR who is his novice director. He is residing at St. Hedwig’s Parish in Chicago.

The novitiate is a year-long experience of prayer, learning and discernment. Raphael will be learning more about the history, life and mission of the Congregation of the Resurrection in formal classes each day as he continues to discern in prayer and spiritual direction whether God is calling him to our Community. Once a week Raphael and Father Len participate in an inter-novitiate experience. They join the novices and directors of several other religious communities centred in the Chicago area to learn more about the religious life and to support one another in their vocational discernment.

It is our hope and prayer that Raphael and the community will discern together that he is ready to take his first vows of poverty, chastity and obedience next August 15 and become a full member of the CR community. After that he would continue his theological studies to prepare for ordination to the priesthood.

Fr. Paul Szymanowski, CR

Fr. Paul Szymanowski (shim-an-off-ski), a member of the Polish Province, has come to Canada to study English and hopefully to minister in our local Church. He is living at Louis Hall at St. Jerome’s University and studies English at Renison University College. Born in Poznań, he studied Philosophy in Kraków, and then Theology in Rome. He has been ordained six years and has worked in parishes in Zlocieniec, in the north of Poland, and in Vienna at Holy Cross Parish. We wish him success in his studies and in his future ministry.

Fr. Frank Reitzel, CR

65 years of Priesthood

At the annual priests’ seminar in Burlington in October, Bishop Douglas Crosby, Bishop of the Diocese of Hamilton, Ontario, acknowledged and thanked Fr. Frank Reitzel, CR for his sixty-five years of service as an ordained priest. Fr. Frank, at the age of 91, is still involved in ministry, wherever and whenever he can.
Greetings from Tanzania!

Following is a letter from Fr. Andrzej Madry, CR, who has been working in Tanzania since the inception of the Congregation’s mission in 2000.

Dear Friends,

Greetings from Kahangala, Tanzanian Mission of the Congregation of the Resurrection. Here in Tanzania it is now warm and will soon become hotter, especially in December, January and February. In these months we have summer, here in the southern part of the world. Actually, now it is the rainy season, but in the territory of our parish there is very little rain. Our parishioners depend on rain water for drinking, so little rain means little water for us at our Mission. We collect rain water in tanks, but when there is little rain there is not enough water. People need to walk a long way to find water. In the few places where you can fill your buckets, there is a long line of people. Some wake up at four o’clock in the morning because they need to look for water. Finding and bringing water to homes is the work of only women and girls. Many girls have to bring one bucket of water home before school, and another after school. There is no running water in the houses of the people.

Another area where there is a great need is education. There are not enough teachers, classrooms, books, etc. Almost four years ago we started a library. In the library, students from elementary and secondary schools can come to study after school. We bought books, tables, chairs and installed solar panels as a source of light. We need more books and more furniture. It would be amazing if we could start this kind of library in more places, in more villages.

I would like to thank you, my Friends, for your support of The Resurrectionist Mission in Tanzania. With your generous assistance we have helped many people and made their lives happier. Thank you very much.

Regards,
Fr. Andrzej G. Madry, CR
Tanzanian Mission

How can we help our parishioners? What can we do for them? One of the solutions would be to dig a deep well, but unfortunately (and there is always but!) the cost of one well is about $5,000 USD. We hope that soon we can start to dig our first well.
Where are they now?

Fr. Joseph Scollard, CR has returned to Ontario after ministering for the past nine years in Bermuda. Fr. Joe is residing at Resurrection Manor in Waterloo, and can be reached at 265 Westmount Road North, Waterloo, Ontario N2L 3G7, Room 302. His phone number is 519-772-2942.

Fr. Toby Collins, CR has moved from Louis Hall to St. Agatha Parish, 1839 Notre Dame Drive, St. Agatha, Ontario, N0B 2L0. He can be reached at crvocations@gmail.com. Fr. Toby now has his vocation office at Resurrection College. His phone number is 519-885-3030 x128.

After 20 years at St. Agatha Parish, Brother John Cline, CR is now residing at Resurrection Manor, Room 304. His new phone number is 519-772-2943 and his email address is brojohncr@gmail.com.

Fr. Chester Chmurzynski, CR has retired and is now living at St. Joseph’s Parish in Brantford. His address is 235 Brant Avenue, Brantford, Ontario N3T 3J4. The parish phone number is 519-304-7774.

Fr. Sam Restivo, CR, is currently completing a three month sabbatical program at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkley, California. He will return to Resurrection Manor in December and will begin a new assignment in January, 2015.

First CR Mission in Canada

St. Agatha Parish, in St. Agatha, Ontario, first became a community of faith back in the early 1800’s, when Catholic settlers emigrated to the area from the Alsace-Lorraine area of Europe. The community continued to grow, and in 1834 Fr. John Wiriath, an Alsatian priest, established a two room log church/school as the centre of a mission area that included 26 townships and over 400 families. The mission was also served by Redemptorist and Jesuit priests until Fr. Eugene Funcken, CR arrived from Europe on August 14, 1857 at the request of Bishop Armand de Charbonnel of the Diocese of Toronto. Bishop de Charbonnel had gone to Rome to visit Fr. Jerome Kajsiewicz, CR, Superior General of the Congregation of the Resurrection, and had requested a resident German-speaking priest because the community in Canada had grown in population and the Jesuits could no longer supply personnel to minister there. Fr. Kajsiewicz agreed to accept the mission, and Fr. Eugene became the first of a continuing line of Resurrectionist priests and brothers to minister at St. Agatha Parish. Fr. Dan Lobsinger, CR has been the pastor since 2010.

The parishioners of St. Agatha Parish over many generations have benefited from the Resurrectionist priests and brothers who have ministered in the parish. The Charism of the Paschal Mystery, the message of God’s unconditional love and the hope that flows from them have been foundational in the lives of many people. This message, along with the welcoming hearts of the people towards the Resurrectionists, has allowed St. Agatha to be a vibrant, welcoming community for those who have settled there. The Resurrectionist priests over many generations have also been foundational in collaborating with the laity and empowering them to use their gifts to embrace the message of Christ and radiate that message to the world.

The people of the parish have embraced and welcomed other faith denominations in the area by hosting ecumenical celebrations. A Taizé service is held on Palm Sunday each year, and a popular ecumenical music and prayer service is held annually on the First Sunday of Advent. The service includes congregations from St. Agatha Church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church, the Mennonite Church as well as the Salvation Army Band.
Most importantly, the sacramental life of St. Agatha has served as the source and summit of who the people are as a community of believers. The presence of Christ in the Sacraments has been a catalyst for the people to be the presence of Christ to others in the parish and throughout the wider community. Music is an important ministry at St. Agatha, and the parish boasts three choirs. There is also a vibrant children’s liturgy program and several active committees. The Catholic Women’s League is very involved in the life of the parish, and also hosts social events such as the annual Mother-Daughter banquet. The parish has a strong presence in St. Agatha School, with regular school Masses and visits by the pastor.

The people of St. Agatha parish are known for their generosity in helping various charities in the local community through their volunteer work and their financial contributions.

St. Agatha Parish is also responsible for the care of the Shrine of the Sorrowful Mother, located beside the cemetery in St. Agatha. The shrine was built in 1857 under the direction of Fr. Eugene Funcken. It is open for pilgrims from May to September each year.

Today, St. Agatha Parish continues to grow as neighbouring communities expand. Currently there are approximately 450 families in this faith community. The welcoming hearts of the parishioners of St. Agatha have served to help the parish community grow and flourish.

### Provincial’s Pitch to Benefactors for Donations

Our greatest need at present is to assist our Mission in Tanzania. We are far behind in raising the necessary funds needed this year. If you are able to help, please make your cheque payable to Resurrectionist Missions.

Supporting our retired men is an ongoing need in light of our aging population. Any assistance that we receive is always greatly appreciated. Cheques can be made payable to the Congregation of the Resurrection and designated for the Retirement Fund.

All donations can be forwarded to:
Congregation of the Resurrection
265 Westmount Road North
Waterloo, ON N2L 3G7

For inquiries, please contact us at 519-885-3030.
Thank you!

### Resurrection Bulletin by Email

For your convenience, the Resurrection Bulletin is now available by email. You can request an emailed copy by visiting our website: www.resurrectionist.ca or by calling Patti at 519-885-4950. Because of the rising cost of postage, we encourage you to consider this option.

Please check out the Ontario-Kentucky Province’s website at www.resurrectionist.ca. Prayer requests are always welcomed and encouraged.