

Resurrection

BULLETIN



RESURRECTION BULLETIN • Spring 2024

The Apostles of the Resurrection

By Fr. Paul S. Voisin, CR

The Apostles of the Resurrection of the Canadian Province is a lay association of men and women who wish to share in the life and mission of the Resurrectionists. Through their association with priests and brothers – in parishes, schools, and other ministries – they have come to admire the spirituality of the Congregation, and desire to deepen their understanding and appreciation of our charism and history. At the present time we have twenty-two Apostles, and three new ‘recruits’. They are from Brantford, Hamilton, and the Waterloo Region (Kitchener-Waterloo, St. Agatha, New Hamburg, Wellesley). There are similar lay associations of the Congregation in Poland, Peru, and Brazil.

Some of our activities are: on the first Tuesday of every month we have a Mass and reception at Resurrection College and Manor; we have formation sessions throughout the year, at least every two months, which provide opportunities to discover and share the history and spirituality of the Congregation of the Resurrection. (We are trying to develop small group activities, centred on the Constitutions of the Congregation to provide a greater understanding of who we are).

When I began leadership of the Apostles, I interviewed all of the Apostles, and we shared about four areas of our program (as I see it):

Prayer – we have a prayer network, and one of the committees has provided us with inspiring and creative reflections during the Advent and Lenten seasons. In the past, there has also been a day-long retreat.



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Formation – we plan a consistent and regular program for our spiritual and religious formation, in keeping with Resurrectionist history and traditions. These are provided by the Apostles and Resurrectionists.

Community – we form a community of Apostles, sharing in one another’s lives, and showing compassion and charity for one another as sisters and brothers. All of our group activities include some social opportunity to get to know one another better.

Apostolate – the fruit of our prayer, formation and community leads us to share our faith and spirituality in the service of others, working for “the resurrection of society” in our parishes or other charitable activities.

On February 16th and April 20th, the Apostles met to reflect on the first three articles of the Constitutions of the Congregation of the Resurrection. These

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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
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Waterloo, Ontario N2L 3G7

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presentations, subsequent discussions in small groups, and sharing in the large group, allowed for possibilities for a greater understanding of who we are as religious in and for the Church. The mornings together concluded with lunch. There are many other presentations that have been prepared, and will be shared in time, for a greater understanding of our history, life, charism, and mission.

If you are receiving this Resurrection Bulletin, perhaps you would consider becoming an Apostle of the Resurrection. It will be an opportunity to know us better, and learn how we follow and share the life of the Risen Lord Jesus. In this journey, we learn from one another. If you are interested, please contact any Resurrectionist, or contact me at frpvoisincr@gmail.com. You can also receive more information by googling ‘Apostles of the Resurrection Canada’ or checking the Resurrectionist website – www.resurrectionists.ca. God bless you!



Catholic Amigos at St. St. Mary's Parish in Kitchener

Introducing ...the Catholic Amigos!

By Andrew Zettel, Outreach Coordinator for St. Mary's Parish, Kitchener

At St. Mary's Parish in Kitchener, the Lord continues to bless us on this great journey of trial & error with new initiatives that bring people together. One of the things we've heard recently from young adults in the parish is a desire to make new friends - specifically, new friends that are Catholic. Many young adults (myself included) are plugged into a number of groups, either through work, school, sports or social settings, where they can make friends, but it gets tricky to share their experiences of faith with non-Catholic, non-Christian friends. Several young people asked us: "where do I go to meet other young Catholics"?

So, in March we launched the 'Catholic Amigos'. In a way, the name says it all. We chose 'amigo' as a fun, alternate way of saying 'Catholic



friends'. (No, the participants don't need to speak Spanish to attend). We also cast a fairly wide net, defining "young adult" as anyone between the ages of 20 and 40.

Our first event was a simple grilled cheese & soup party, thanks to Chef Amy's expert culinary skills. Fr. Raphael Ma, CR invited the group to consider some discussion questions like, "What do you like about being Catholic?", "What do you find challenging or difficult?" and "What helps you live your faith?" We broke up into small groups to discuss, and came back to the larger group to share our ideas. The night wrapped up with a short prayer in the church, and everyone was invited to offer us some feedback on the event.

We were amazed that for the very first Catholic Amigos (CA) event, we had 26 participants! The feedback was also overwhelmingly positive, with many sharing that they were glad a group like this existed. We've since hosted a second CA Quesadilla Night during Holy Week, and we're committing to holding one event the fourth Tuesday of the month at least until the end of June, and then reassess for the Fall.

Our hope is that the Catholic young adults in our area can feel a part of a community, supported in their faith by like-minded friends. We're so grateful that the Holy Spirit continues to inspire new life in the Church. Please pray for the incredible young 'Catholic Amigos' that are boldly sharing their faith, and enlivening the parish experience at St. Mary's.

Resurrection Gala

April 17th was special for Resurrectionists of the Canadian Province as we held our first annual Resurrection Gala. The gala was an opportunity to give thanks to the Risen Lord for calling us to be a Christian community, rooted in the Paschal Mystery, working for the resurrection of society. It was also an opportunity to say thank you to the many people -- Apostles of the Resurrection, lay people on CR committees and other friends of the Resurrectionists -- who support the members of the Canadian Province.

The evening began with Mass at Sacred Heart Church in Kitchener. Fr. Tim Uniac, CR, Provincial Superior, presided and preached at the Mass. Many of the members of the Canadian Province concelebrated.



Fr. Tim Uniac, CR, with Fr. Raphael Ma, CR, receiving the gifts from Fred and Kathy Masters

Mass was followed by a delicious dinner. Very Rev. Msgr. Con O'Mahony, Pastor of St. Andrew Parish in Oakville, and Episcopal Vicar for Education for the Diocese of Hamilton, was the guest speaker. He spoke of the many contributions of the Resurrectionists to education and parishes in the diocese, and of the influence that many CR's had on him, personally.

In his talk, Msgr. Con said: "As a young priest and a new immigrant to Canada, your community and the priests serving in parishes and in education in the diocese, were a great example of what Vatican II could look like in pastoral ministry. You were not afraid to be creative, read the signs of the times, and try to find ways to be a missionary church, often pushing the boundaries a little...Over the last few years we have become very familiar with words like; "Missionary church", "having the smell of the sheep", "synodality" "going out to the peripheries." These are not new ideas but in my experience, they are woven through the pastoral approaches that I have experienced from so many of the members of your community. Taking a closer look at those ideas that are now so connected with Pope Francis, you cannot help but notice that, maybe in a slightly different form, they are at the heart of the charisms of the Resurrection community."

Msgr. Con continued: "The Resurrection story in this community is about taking risks, having a long view,

not being afraid to forge ahead, innovate and respond to the signs of the times with confidence. Out of those challenges, your historic footprint on Catholic education in this community is rich and strong. Today, your footprint, bringing creative solutions to hunger and homelessness in the community, lavishly dispensing the balm of mercy and love, is a prophetic act.” (If you wish to read Msgr. Con O’Mahony’s complete address at the Resurrection Gala, please go to our website – www.resurrectionists.ca)



Msgr. Con O'Mahoney addressing guests at the Gala

Canadian Province Elections

Each year, elections take place for positions on the Provincial Council of the Canadian Province of the Congregation of the Resurrection. This year, the terms of two Provincial Councillors – Fr. Sudie MacDonald, CR and Fr. Michal Kruszewski, CR, ended. On April 27th, Fr. Pawel Szymanowski, CR and Fr. Paul Voisin, CR were elected to serve a three-year term on the Provincial Council. They join Fr. Tim Uniack, CR, Provincial Superior; Fr. Joseph deViveiros, CR, Vicar Provincial; Fr. David Mowat, CR, and Fr. Phil Reilly, CR. Thank you to Fr. Sudie and Fr. Michal for their years of service, and Congratulations Fr. Pawel and Fr. Paul!



A Visit to Tanzania!

The Canadian Province is the first to respond to the last General Chapter's recommendation that we stay more in touch with the growing mission in Tanzania. Perhaps there is something there to lift our spirits? Fr. Toby Collins, CR is off to find out and you can check for pictures and videos from his visit at www.resurrectionists.ca or on the YouTube channel: Vocation Culture.



Fr. Toby at the airport on his way to Tanzania

Interview with Fr. Maciej Braun, CR

By Fr. Jim Donohue, CR

Fr. Jim Donohue travelled the 1100 km from Morogoro to Butiama in order to assist Fr. Phillip and Br. Mosses at the Butiama Parish during Holy Week and the Easter Octave. During this time, he had an opportunity to make the 40-minute drive to the Buhemba Parish to interview Fr. Maciej Braun, C.R., the Director of Resurrection pre-primary and primary schools.

Fr. Jim: How are things in the pre-primary and primary schools?

Fr. Maciej: Well, the biggest excitement is that the primary school has finally reached its full capacity with students now in Standard Seven (the highest grade in primary school in Tanzania). We started with the pre-primary school and that cohort of about 30 students has moved up one grade each year. This year marked the first time that we have students who have reached the final grade in the primary school. Between the pre-primary and the primary school, we now have maxed out at 300 students.

Fr. Jim: But that is not the end for the students who will graduate in December, 2024, right?

Fr. Maciej: No, it is not the end for them! The Resurrection secondary school will be set to open in January, 2025. This will be just in time for those who graduate from Standard Seven to enter Form One of the secondary school. Just as we did with the primary school, we will add one grade each year in the secondary school. When finished, from Form One to Form Four, we will eventually have 120 secondary school students.

Fr. Jim: Did you always imagine having a secondary school?

Fr. Maciej: No! You lived here for a year, and you know first-hand the overwhelming task of building a school. It is not just the planning and the fund raising. Trying to secure quality materials and skilled labor adds to the challenges. In addition, materials such as the steel that is used for the reinforcement of the concrete comes from Dar es Salaam, so the movement of the trucks from such a distance over some very bad roads is only one of many challenges. I thought that I was finally finished! However, at a parents' meeting, several parents asked what will happen to their children when they graduate from Standard Seven. Our school results in the primary school have been outstanding. Over the last three years, we have ranked #1 in the Mara Region and #3 in all of Tanzania with our results. Unfortunately, the public school system is terrible. Parents saw how well their children were doing and now they were afraid that this progress would be wasted if their children needed to transfer to the public secondary schools. We began to plan. But I told the parents that they would have to secure the land and donate it for the purpose of the secondary school. I

told them that if they were able to do this, I would try to find the money and the energy to complete this final piece.

Fr. Jim: So, what did the timeline look like for this project?

Fr. Maciej: The purchase of the land went through in June, 2022. We spent the next six months cleaning up the area and preparing the land for construction. You and Fr. Paul blessed the land in December, 2022. By that point, we had only laid the foundation of the school. In another six months, in June, 2023, the outside framework, walls, and roof were completed, and then we added the windows and doors. Much of the inside of the secondary school was completed by March, 2024, and right now, we are finishing the three science laboratories for biology, physics, and chemistry, as well as a fourth computer laboratory.

Fr. Jim: What needs to be completed if you are to open in January, 2025?

Fr. Maciej: We still need furniture, laboratory equipment, computers, and books. As you know, each of these is a challenge. The book publishers, for instance, keep changing the editions and there are often digital components that we must be able to accommodate.

Fr. Jim: Do have a sense of the cost?

Fr. Maciej: I think we would be in good shape if we could raise about \$20,000 USD. If any of our readers are interested, we would appreciate any donation that they might make!

Fr. Jim: I want to go back to something about the public schools. How would you describe the differences between the education that is provided in the Resurrection schools and the education provided in the public schools in the area around Buhemba?

Fr. Maciej: There are many different factors. First, the environment is clean and conducive to learning. The chairs and the desks, the blackboards, the washrooms are kept in good working condition for the students and the teachers. Through the generosity of donors,

we have been able to purchase computers for the primary school and have screens and videos for the pre-primary students. I would also say that we have created a culture of learning by selecting good teachers and supporting them in their continued professional development. Something that might be taken for granted is the food that we provide for every student. We have a simple breakfast of porridge and milk, but then we also have a lunch of beans and rice with some fruit. For many students, this is the only food that they will have all day. For other students, this food will supplement the small amount that they might get at home. We also provide transportation for students who come a long way. I know that you have seen this, but when you or I drive around in the daytime, we constantly see young people walking to school. It can take them hours to get there, and many times they come late or are exhausted from the long walk.

Fr. Jim: You talk about a culture that you are creating. But it is more than just a culture of material upgrades, right?

Fr. Maciej: Thanks for asking this! You are absolutely correct. I think, most importantly, we are providing hope for these young people and their families. A recurring message here is: “Never give up! You can be someone! You can better yourself so that you can make a difference in the world!” Most of these young people come from poor families in small villages. Their eyes are open when they come here. They begin, slowly, to see possibilities for the future. After being here for a few years, I ask students what they want to be when they grow up, and they will tell me that they want to be doctors, pilots, engineers, teachers, nurses—and some say priests and religious! We are doing all that we can to provide them with the foundation to be successful in college so that these dreams will be realized...not just for themselves, but for their families, their villages, and for the country of Tanzania. I often think of a gospel image for this future of hope. It is like the story where the man is living in the tombs. He can see nothing but darkness and death with no future. But Jesus calls him out of the tombs into the light of life.

It seemed like he had no future, only death; but now he has a future, new life. We are doing our best to call the young people in our schools to a new future, to new life.

Fr. Jim: Any other final thoughts?

Fr. Maciej: I am convinced that this work in education is worth all the challenges and difficulties that I have encountered. But every day I feel supported by generous people who are equally committed to making our world better. I will always be very appreciative of all that they have done to educate the young people in the Buhemba area.



Fr. Paul Voisin, CR with Fr. Maciej Braun, CR and Fr. Jim Donohue, CR



The new secondary school, opening in January, 2025



Resurrection Primary School. From left to right is the dining room, the kitchen, 4 classroom buildings and the administration building. The tall building is a dormitory (not yet open) for students studying for their national examinations.



Fr. Yohana Kachwele, CR teaching religion to Standard Six students.



A Day of Life in Morogoro

By Fr. Jim Donohue, CR

Sometimes people ask what I do each day. I thought that I would put together some thoughts and photos of what transpired over one weekend a month

ago. We have a plan to fix the area where we do our laundry. There was a large tree that prevented clothes on the line from drying. The ground is muddy so if you drop any clean clothes, you will have to begin again. Our plan was to cut down this tree and to eventually put paving stones on the

ground. So, the first step was to cut down the tree. It was a community undertaking, but we hired a local “fundi” (handyman) with his chain saw to help. Two aspirants—Sebastian and Timotheo—climbed the tree to start hacking off its branches.



Sebastian and Timotheo preparing to cut branches

There was a fair bit of “watching” at first, but then we got down to business, cutting the branches and hauling them away.



Watching and waiting



Meanwhile, the goat that we were planning on butchering for our “feast” was getting away. Only the quick footwork of Adrian “saved the day!”



Hauling away branches



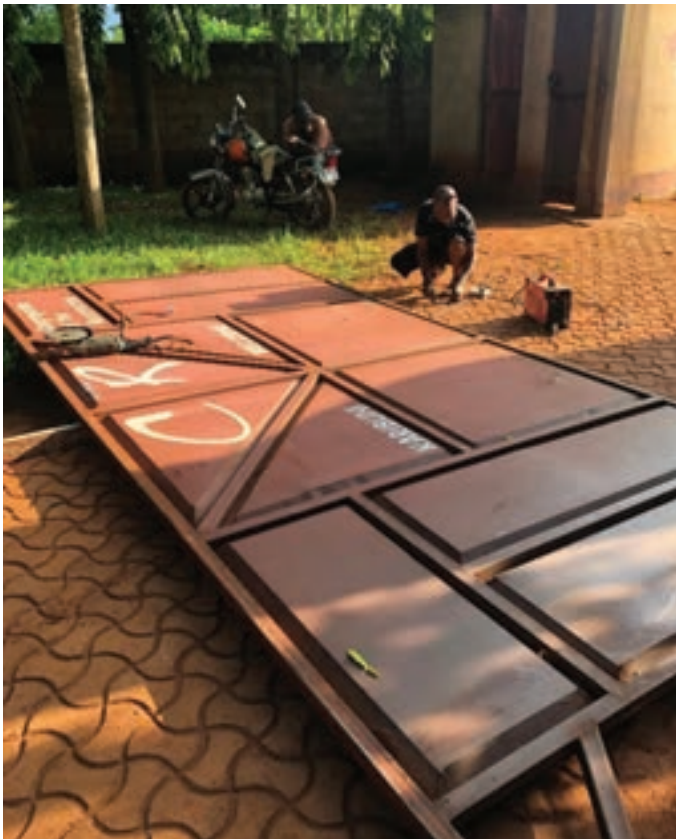
Adrian chasing the goat



Got it!



Oops! The fallen gate



A “fundi” (handyman) fixing the gate

Later in the afternoon, I took four of our seminarians for driving practice. Br. Michael and seminarians Gervas, Petro, and Audax each earned their driver’s license over the summer. The problem is that they still cannot drive. They lack proper judgment about distances and spaces, they constantly stall the vehicle, they get stuck changing gears, they cannot back up or park...the list goes on. I called Fr. Andrzej to talk about this and he said, “Oh, Jim, I forgot to warn you. When they get their license, they still cannot drive! They need hours of practice.” Fr. Andrzej then related the story of taking Phillip for a driving lesson when he was a seminarian. Fr. Andrzej told Phillip to get the pickup and that he would open the gate. Fr. Andrzej said that all of a sudden, he heard a big “bang.” Phillip had backed up into one of the metal poles that supports the garage! So, for the last number of months, I have been taking the four new drivers for practice. I did not know that I “signed up” for this. There were many close calls. I felt like kissing the ground when we returned home each time. In any case, there were a few “accidents.” Most noteworthy was that one of the seminarians hit the gate. He thought he was putting his foot on the brake pedal, but he put his foot on the gas pedal. Like Fr. Andrzej, I heard a huge “bang” and then an even louder “kaboom.” The first sound was the pickup hitting the gate. The second sound was the whole metal gate being knocked off its hinges and falling to the ground! This metal gate weighs a ton, so we had to get a different “fundi” to come to fix it. A little welding and it was as good as new!

The tree is down, the goat was caught and eaten, and the gate is back in business. Just a regular day at the formation house in Morogoro.

(Fr. Jim has many interesting and entertaining blogs about life in Tanzania on the Resurrectionist website – www.resurrectionists.ca. Check them out!)





The Novitiate farming team

An Abundant Harvest

Fr. Andrzej Duda, CR, Director of Novices for the Resurrectionists in Tanzania, shared photos of the abundant harvest at the Resurrectionist Novitiate in Buhemba. Corn and beans were planted by Fr.

Andrzej, the novices and a group of friends, and grew quickly, producing a bountiful crop. Fr. Andrzej thanked the Lord of the harvest for giving them an abundance of much needed food.



Weeding the field



Novices and friends helping with the harvest



Sowing the beans and corn



An abundant harvest



First fruits of the harvest

"That person is like a tree
planted by streams of water,
which yields its fruit in season
and whose leaf does not wither
– whatever they do prospers."

Psalm 1:3

How You Can Help the Missions

Donations in aid of Resurrectionists working in the missions (Brazil, Bulgaria and Tanzania) will be gratefully received. It would be helpful if funds were not designated for a particular project or area; this would give the Congregation flexibility to use the money where it is most needed. Thank you for your ongoing support. Because of you, our Congregation is able to continue to serve the missions in Brazil, Bulgaria and Tanzania and all of the people in our care.

Cheques payable to Resurrectionist Missions can be forwarded to:

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Please check out the Canadian Province's website at:

www.resurrectionists.ca

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