

North American Secretariat for Partnership in Mission

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 10, 2022 (Zoom)

Opening Prayer: Francis

Kristine shared an ad-hoc personal reflection.

We sang "happy birthday to Anne!

A Tour of the Ratio Formationis for Partnership in Mission

Chapter 5: FORMATION OF LAY MISSIONARIES OF THE MOST HOLY REDEMER (Fr. Francis) **This chapter was not covered at the February 10 meeting. Will move this to the March 2022 meeting.**

Chapter 6: FORMATION OF PROFESSED REDEMPTORISTS IN THE CONTEXT OF PARTNERSHIP IN MISSION (Lucy) Lucy's presentation is at the end of these notes.

So where do we go from here? Discussion points:

- Fr. Jack said that this comes from NASPIM. He thinks that this is a process outside of the chapter;
- You have to develop a directory;
- It has to be unique to your unit;
- Dialogue must happen;
- We tell the EPC/OPC: here are the tools. Next step: brief presentation to formators is possible.
- The NASPIM becomes the training wheels for each unit;
- Anne will "raise" it for the conference and produce a draft outline of topics and tell them what we would like to see happen.

Thursday, March 10: Appendices: Lucy has volunteered to walk NASPIM through this piece.

Events for 2022

Gathering of PIM Provincial Committees (working groups/commissions) of each Unit of the North American Conference (Anne and Greg working together)

The General Commission for PIM is going to be offering a gathering for the entire world. Details from email sent by Greg May, 2/15/22:

MEETING OF UNIT-LEVEL COMMISSIONS AND WORKING GROUPS FOR PARTNERSHIP IN MISSION: MARCH 19, 2022

Dear members of v/provincial commissions or working groups for partnership in Mission,

In recent years the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer — at all levels— has taken significant steps in developing, supporting and furthering Partnership in *and* for Mission.

The Redemptorist North American Commission for Partnership in Mission now invites you to an online gathering of all members of Commissions or Working Groups for Partnership in Mission in the units that make up our Conference— the Provinces of Baltimore, Canada, Denver, and Mexico and the Vice Province of Extra Patriam, on Saturday, March 19 at the following times:

1:30-3:30 pm (Newfoundland time)

1:00-3:00 pm (Atlantic)

12 noon-2:00 pm (Eastern)

11 am-1:00 pm (Central)

10:00 am – 12 noon (Mountain)

9:00 – 11:00 am (Pacific)

Together, we will:

- Pray and reflect
- Get to know each other, our groups, and units
- Begin to get to know, firsthand, how we understand and live our role as leaders and coordinators for Partnership in Mission, what we celebrate and what are our challenges
- Plan future meetings or initiatives

At the beginning of the gathering, each Commission/Working Group will have 10 minutes to introduce each member, and to describe the work and focus of the group. It might be helpful to designate one person who will lead this introduction. You may find it helpful to prepare a PowerPoint or a video— everyone loves to see pictures! There will be lots of time for questions, clarifications and sharing.

Please confirm your attendance as soon as possible so that we can send you the Zoom link.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEsce-qqTosHdUD3IlvHN8mC-1OXNWYjupN>

Invite members of the Formation Committee to discuss and discern the practical application of our three formation ratios. How do we impact formation of all levels of professed to inform and excite them with the reality of PIM? We need to determine our vision. This will remain as an agenda item for the March 2022 meeting.

Explore and coordinate a “mentor/buddy program” ...so that recently professed and/or the professed with no prior experience with PIM can receive direct exposure to PIM activities in our local circles. Put together events, opportunities, and sessions to meet and share significantly on what matters most in spiritual life; share on the animating aspects of life. Produce a series of encounters to find ways to match up a lay partner with a professed. Should be informal; an invitation to join or work on a concrete item like the chapter videos. These are topics we’d like to explore with the Secretariat of Formation.

Organize a Zoom gathering specifically for the Redemptorist Associates of the North American Conference. This event remains on the agenda and will be planned after the gathering of the Working Groups/Commission.

1. General Chapter

2. Other Business

1. Pilgrimage: Anne is planning a pilgrimage to Italy in May of 2023 (tentatively) Based mostly in Chiorani. Bus drive is booked.
2. Sharing of Working Group Meeting Minutes: Add it as an agenda item for the NASPIM meeting agenda.
3. Availability of the Redemptorist cross: Anne is working on this. Nothing new to report since the November meeting.
4. Spanish Translation of *Living Redemptorist Spirituality is complete and formatting is in progress.*

Closing Prayer: Fr. Francis

Next meeting: Thursday, March 10, 2022

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82143911902?pwd=UUIINDdJY3FGeWJ0RkEzYWREN2tZdz09>

Meeting ID: 821 4391 1902

Passcode: 667928

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,82143911902#,,,,*667928# US (New York)

+13017158592,,82143911902#,,,,*667928# US (Washington DC)

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 821 4391 1902

Passcode: 667928

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kbd9HuaPB>

Summary of Ratio Chapter 6 [Lucy]

6. FORMATION OF PROFESSED REDEMPTORISTS IN THE CONTEXT OF PARTNERSHIP IN MISSION 44

6.1 In Shared Mission 44

- Holy Spirit is credited for moving the Congregation to share our charism with the laity.
- Commitment to PIM via 25th General Chapter: Five Lay Redemptorists, representing each Conferences, allowed for a prophetic presence at our General Chapter.
- The request for the creation of this Ratio Formationis recognizes the need for formation of both lay and professed Redemptorists for this new relationship.

6.2 A New Vision 46

Highlighted difficulties on this path of shared mission:

- many religious still live with distrust, and/or disinterest and/or a reluctance to embrace change regarding this reality.
- lack of a common project and a well assimilated structure, have seen the seed of shared mission grow and wither at the same time.
- view that the charism belongs exclusively to the religious.
- view that the presence of the laity as simple collaboration, or, free labor.
- view that the presence of the laity represents a threat to their identity.

It is a grace, which is *greater* than the noted difficulties, to discover that many lay people have felt the call to fulfill their vocation and mission within our charismatic family.

Good, intentional, integral human and ministerial formation will help in the reorientation of the professed to learn to really dialogue with lay partners and collaborate in life, ministry and mission.

Best place to meet and share is the mission itself!!!!

[In my opinion, this is the most important sentence in this Ratio!]

[If you have seen my witness video, recognizing "the mission" is the epiphany moment that I referenced (speaking with Father Pat Woods by the tabernacle in my church) where/when I became a "partner in mission."]

6.3 The Necessary Formation [to share mission with the laity] 46

- Formation of the professed is required both in their initial formation and in their ongoing formation.
- Creative fidelity to our charism calls for the formation of the professed today to welcome the mission shared with the laity.... to live, guard, deepen, and develop our charism.
- Laity need a truly qualified formation.

- Recommended to systematically program meetings between religious and lay people in order to reinforce the bonds of fraternity, strengthen mutual trust, deepen the charism and propose ways forward.
- It would be a good principle if the provincial formation meetings were open to the participation of the laity.

6.4 Formation for Partnership in Mission 47

Fr. Juan Manuel Lasso de la Vega, in 1995 recommended formation of the Redemptorist community for collaboration with the laity.

6.4.1 Initial Formation 48

- The *Ratio Formationis* of the Congregation [and our Conference Formation Ratio and this PIM ratio are all consistent!], updated in 2020, now speaks directly to "Formation and Partnership in Mission" in such a way that the consecrated men feel comfortable with the laity, with whom they collaborate in a shared mission.
- Recommends formation of work teams for Youth and Vocation Ministry, with the presence of religious and lay people, as a place of meeting, knowledge and partnership in mission. Each Unit shall designate *full-time* teams that include Clergy, Brothers, and Laity.
- Necessary to facilitate meetings with the laity to foster mutual understanding and create a family atmosphere.
- The formation of a professed member of the Congregation must be connected in every way possible to the initial and continuing formation of the Lay Missionaries of the Most Holy Redeemer.
- Initial formation of our professed members should enable them to work in Shared Mission.

6.4.2 Continuing Formation [of those no longer in initial formation] 50

- Recognizes that many confreres have not been formed in the PIM dimension
- All Redemptorists are in a process of ongoing formation throughout their lives.
- Important aspect of their training will be the preparation for the spiritual accompaniment of lay candidates to LMMHR or Lay Associates, which will enable them to welcome diversity and to be an instrument of motivation and support for the processes and people.
- Each Unit and each Community will draw up a concrete plan of formation, including the possibility of the presence of Lay Missionaries of the Most Holy Redeemer, Lay Associates, Lay Collaborators, and Oblates.
- Necessary to encourage the presence of religious at meetings organized by Redemptorist Laity.

APPENDICES 52 [Lucy]

APPENDIX A: Elements of a Formation Program for Lay Collaborators 52

- Action-reflection-action methodology where learning is based on reflection from experiences.
- Exposure to mission areas facilitates understanding and appreciation of our charism and mission.

Level I. Basic Orientation

- They are the first face of the Redemptorists that people see and encounter, and thus should be able to show care, compassion and closeness to the people, characteristics of a Redemptorist.
- Designed to suit the nature of the involvement of the lay collaborator.
- Understanding by lay collaborator that his/her community is part of an international family.

Level II. Skills Development

- Content of this level depends on the specific task of the collaborators and programs of the community.

Level III. Specialization

- Unit will have to support the cost of trainings and seminars.

APPENDIX B: Formation of Redemptorist Associates/Laity - A Proposed Breakdown of Topics for Formation and Faith-Sharing over a **Four-Year Period 55**

- Resources are available on the website of the General Secretariat for Evangelization at <https://www.csr.news/news-partnership-in-mission/> [Secretariats > Evangelization > PIM > Resources]
- This list is not meant to be prescriptive, but to highlight the richness of the Redemptorist charism and spirituality.

Initial Retreat

Year 1: Basic Theology and Elements of Redemptorist Spirituality

Year 2: Continuing Formation

Year 3: Continuing Formation

Year 4: Continuing Formation

APPENDIX C: Initial Formation for Lay Missionaries of the Most Holy Redeemer 61

- Initial formation lasts for a **two**-year period and takes place on a cyclical basis.
- Responsibility of the PIM Coordination Team to formulate the precise way in which Formation is to be carried out.
- Annual LMMHR retreat takes place the weekend before November 9.
- Minimum of one one-day meeting to be held in each quarter.

The fourth quarter of each year will not have a defined theme and will be chosen and prepared in a way that corresponds to the particular circumstances.

Contents and Accompaniment

Year 1:

- **Quarter 1: The Mystery of the Human Person**
- **Quarter 2: The Mystery of Christ**
- **Quarter 3: The Mystery of God**

Year 2

- Quarter 1: The Gospel of Community**
- Quarter 2: The Gospel of Mission**
- Quarter 3: The Gospel of Redemption**

APPENDIX D: Continuing Formation for [professed and] Lay Missionaries of the Most Holy Redeemer .. 65

- One Continuing Formation program for all Redemptorists of each CSsR Unit, whether professed or Lay Missionaries of the Most Holy Redeemer.
- Minimum of a joint formation meeting and an annual retreat.

Topic for continuing formation over a **four**-year period.

YEAR 1: Spirituality

YEAR 2: Mission-Apostolic Charity

YEAR 3: Community-Relational Faith

YEAR 4: Vocation: Refreshed Perseverance

Please refer back to each Appendix for the respective detailed topics for each theme.