



CONGREGATIO SS. REDEMPTORIS

Superior Generalis

December 26, 2021
Feast of the Holy Family and St. Stephen

WITNESSES OF THE REDEEMER:
In Solidarity for Mission in a Wounded World

Dear Confreres, Sisters, and Families of Br. Edwin, Br. Bradben, and Brother Keith,

It was with great shock and sorrow that I learned today about the accident which took the lives of our three brothers, Edwin, Bradben, and Keith. I cannot even begin to imagine the pain and grief that this news has caused to all of you - their families, confreres, and the faithful people of Zimbabwe who know them from their generous service in the mission already.

There are no words which can adequately express the depth of compassion and grief shared by the entire Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer around the world. We are with you in solidarity of sorrow and communion of prayer. But we do not grieve as those who have no hope. As St. Paul reminds us, we have a Redeemer who has died and risen so that all who share his death will also rise to a new and eternal life. This is our hope - and I know that this hope is shared by all of you who know and love these brothers.

St. Alphonsus promised a crown of glory to all Redemptorists who die in the Congregation, faithful to their commitment to follow Jesus our Redeemer. Brothers Edwin, Bradben and Keith are now the first of our Zimbabwean brothers to receive this crown. We do not understand 'why' this happened now, in the full strength of their youth and vitality, just as they are beginning their missionary life. All of us share the grief of their families and the sorrow of their Redemptorist Brothers, especially their formators and fellow students. But we are sure that God keeps his promises, and that St. Alphonsus, together with our Mother of Perpetual Help, have embraced them with the sign of peace and presented them to Jesus, their Redeemer and Brother.

They are the first of our Zimbabwean Brothers who go before us. They are the trailblazers who prepare the way for you. I know that they will continue to accompany all of you and the Mission of the Redemptorists in Zimbabwe with their prayers until

the day when you also share their company at that heavenly banquet. Comfort one another with this hope, and place your trust in the faithfulness of God.

On behalf of the Congregation, I offer a special word of encouragement and gratitude to their formators, to Fr. Gideon and Fr. Victor. Never forget the special role you have played during this time of noviciate to prepare them for this ‘crown of glory’. May they inspire you, and all novices, to persevere faithfully in their commitment to the Redeemer, no matter what the cost!

To their parents, brothers and sisters: please accept our heartfelt sympathy in your loss. We experience this loss as well. They are our brothers too. Never forget that they are now interceding for you and for your families, especially in these difficult and challenging times. Count on their prayers, and make sure that future generations of your families remember their names.

In Rome, before the original Icon of Our Mother of Perpetual Help, and around the world, your Redemptorist brothers join you in the Eucharist in communion of prayer for our brothers.

May God comfort you through the grace and gift of the Holy Spirit! May Mary, our Mother, accompany you in your grief! May St. Alphonsus and all our Redemptorists Saints, Blesseds, and Martyrs now welcome Br. Edwin, Br. Bradben, and Brother Keith into the Communion of Saints and eternal life. Lord Jesus, may they help us from heaven to continue your mission of plentiful redemption here on earth.

Your brother in Christ our Redeemer,



Michael Brehl CSSR
Superior General

