

## Introduction,

*Dear brothers and sisters of the Passionist Congregation and Family,*

*Apart from remembering him in our prayers, we want to also commemorate Bishop Paul M. Boyle, who had been Superior General of our Congregation and was lately the bishop emeritus of the diocese of Mandeville, Jamaica, who left this earth and returned to the Father on 10<sup>th</sup> of this month of January, 2008.*

*It has been pointed out to us – and, with our General Secretariat, I realized the truth and have taken due note of the fact for future occasions – that the news of Bishop Paul Boyle's death was not sent out immediately to all the Congregation. No sooner had we received the sad news by fax and e-mail from the Louisville Superior, we published it on the General Curia website, [www.passiochristi.org](http://www.passiochristi.org) and sent an official death notice with a short obituary write-up to the L'Osservatore Romano Vatican newspaper which was duly published in its January 12<sup>th</sup> edition which came out the afternoon of the 11<sup>th</sup>, on page 6. We didn't get off a direct notification to all our Major Superiors, Provincials and Vice Provincials and Regional Vicars, with a request that they in turn inform all their communities, until Friday 18<sup>th</sup> January. Attached to the news of the bishop's death was the text of my personal Memorial Message, in four languages, which was read during the funeral Mass.*

*Obviously the most expeditious way of sending out news of common interest to all the Congregation would be to simply inform each community directly, but in spite of various requests made by our Secretariat for the e-mail addresses of all our communities, many have never responded. So this might be a good occasion to remedy the situation and thus overcome the difficulty. Therefore I am requesting that all local Superiors and Provincial Secretariats send their e-mail addresses to our General Secretariat: [segretariogen@passiochristi.org](mailto:segretariogen@passiochristi.org) or [uffsegrcp@passiochristi.org](mailto:uffsegrcp@passiochristi.org).*

*Alas, this time we failed to directly advise even the Provinces and Vicariates. Perhaps we placed too much confidence in the efficacy of our website which in some cases is probably not visited all that frequently. I am indeed sorry about this and humbly apologize. As I said above, the Secretariat will bear all this in mind for future occasions and hopefully you will all be advised promptly.*

*It is my pleasure to send out to each of you, again in four languages, the letter which Bishop Boyle wrote for the 2007 Christmas. I do believe he sent this to others apart from me, to religious, benefactors and friends. In it he describes the considerable work he is still engaged in, notwithstanding his years, as well as his projects and dreams... It certainly is possible to dream, even at the age of 81! There's a note of nostalgia in his letter, mixed with a sense of the future and some good-humored irony regarding himself and others. Surely he was a courageous man, full of faith, who deeply loved the Congregation.*

*(Most Rev.) Ottaviano D'Egidio  
Superior General, C.P.*

***BISHOP PAUL BOYLE'S 2007 CHRISTMAS LETTER***

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**Most Rev. Paul M. Boyle, C.P Bishop Emeritus, Mandeville**  
Passionist Monastery  
1924 Newburg Road  
Louisville, KY 40205-1400  
Christmas 2007

Dear Friend Ottaviano,

'Tis the Season of blessed and joyful nostalgia. Like you, during these days I reflect on the innumerable joys, and blessings that continue to come through our experience of the goodness and kindness of God our Savior. Years living with the desperately poor have given me a keen appreciation of the loving care and concern of our Savior whether directly or through others. Memories of the past are, indeed, beautiful and pleasant but equally delightful are today's many gifts. I rejoice heartily in the gifts of life, health and friends. This past year has been one of abundant joys.

At times it is strikingly true that absence makes the heart grow fonder. Bishop Gordon Bennett, S.J. was my successor as Bishop of Mandeville, Jamaica. After a short time he had to resign because of poor health. The Diocese is still without a Bishop and the clergy, religious and faithful in their desire for a Bishop recall with exaggerated fondness their founding Bishop. I receive numerous requests asking me to return to Mandeville. While their affection is born of desperation, it is nevertheless appreciated.

At 81 years of age, apart from deteriorating eyesight, arthritis in both hips and a weakened sense of balance my health is very good. Some might quibble about my mental capacity but not all my friends recognize brilliance.

During many years in various countries I enjoyed good health and especially in Jamaica I received excellent medical care from a volunteer American doctor. I didn't have to see specialists or consume pills. The quality of medical care in the USA is famous but doctor's appointments are hard to make. Moreover, the high degree of specialization means that I see several doctors and swallow numerous pills. Is this just old age or is it intense medical care?

In September, for the first time in several years, I took a vacation spending 8 spectacular days in the Canadian Rockies, from Calgary to Vancouver. In June, accompanied by my sister, I went to Rome for the canonization of an Irish Passionist, St. Charles of Mount Argus, Dublin. The canonization Mass was outdoors, in a continually pouring rain. Despite being soaked for three hours, it was a glorious affair. After the Mass I was part of a small group invited to lunch with Mary McAleese, the President of Ireland. She was raised in Passionist parishes and spoke warmly about the contribution of the Passionists in Ireland. It was a moving tribute. In November I returned to Rome a second time for 5 days.

In addition to occasional confirmations, conferences and retreats, on forty-eightweekends I travel to various parishes across the country where I celebrate two to four Masses and preach four to six times to raise money for God's beloved poor. Usually these Masses and preaching are in English but often in Spanish and occasionally in Italian.

Visiting different parishes is an interesting experience. Often the visitor's room in the rectory is quite small with no desk, chair or dresser. My suitcase has to be placed on the floor and as I move around I step over it. If the pastor is away, the rectory is locked and I may wait a few hours for someone to come and open the rectory for me. Normally when the pastor is absent I am taken to a restaurant for Saturday dinner but not infrequently there is no food for breakfast or lunch on Sunday.

Standing while celebrating several Mass, preaching, distributing Holy Communion and greeting people after each Mass is hard on my old legs. Returning home Sunday night after 4 to 6 such Masses the walk down a long airport concourse can be a bit of a struggle. After the last Mass I usually have to dash for an airport and arrive in Louisville late at night, without either lunch or dinner.

The past several weeks the arthritis in my hips has been acting up and the doctors want to start remaking this old chassis. So on December 3<sup>rd</sup> I will have my first hip replacement. Then when I am back in shape, fit for racing or football, they will give me a new one for the other hip. It will be interesting to see what they will replace after that. Some will surely suggest the doctors start at the top, above my shoulders. Because of this surgery I will be grounded for at least two months after each operation. I am fairly sure that will be the first time since 1957 that I will have been eight weeks without flying. It will also put a crimp on a few plans since I am scheduled to go to Rome in early April with our Caribbean Bishop's Conference and in July to attend the World Youth Celebration in Australia. I fear that one of the trips will have to be cancelled.

Even when an Irishman is sober, nostalgia is a favorite occupation. But the "remembering leprechaun" becomes particularly active at Christmas time. So while I frequently think of you and recall shared wonderful times, you are much in my thoughts at this holy and cheerful time of the year. Be assured that in my grateful thanks to the Lord I will remember you and ask that your cherished friendship be suitably rewarded.

May 2008 be filled with friendships, health and happiness.

Most Rev. Paul M. Boyle, C.P.  
Bishop Emeritus of Mandeville, Jamaica